



Jim Clark	Topsham								
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge								
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)								
Andrea Herrington	Vershire								
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee	X	X						
Don Bourdon	Woodstock		X						
Brad Prescott	Woodstock (Alt)	X							
Meghan Butts	At-Large		X						
Ken Alton	At-Large	X							
Dan Rudell	At-Large								
Andrew Winter	At-Large		X						
Meg Emmons	At-Large	X	X						
Caroline Sherman-Gordon	Youth At-Large		X						

**Staff:** Peter Gregory, Kevin Geiger, Bryan Kovalick, Christina Scott

**Guests:** Lori Church, Observing Citizen from Rochester

**1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Roll Call, and Public Comment:**

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. A quorum after roll call was declared. No changes to the agenda were made. There were no comments from the public.

**2. Approval of September 25, 2024, TRORC Board Minutes**

Commissioner Devoto shared a correction to the drafted minutes under Section 8, to correct wording to “after which unavailable until Spring”. Motion by Commissioner Malmquist, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Board agreed, the minutes were approved unanimously with the correction.

**3. Acceptance of unaudited Financial Reports for September 2024**

Gregory shared that Agency of Administration, MTAP income continues to be quite below expectations, we only receive income when our partner regional planning commissions expend funds on projects they’re working with at the town level, so if they are not spending money, we don’t get it from the Agency.

Regarding Accounts Receivable, we did receive a check from the Agency of Commerce after September 30, in the amount of \$165,000. Receivables are looking good, rather current.

On a motion from Commissioner Berger, and seconded by Commissioner Bourdon, the September unaudited Financials were accepted unanimously.

**4. FY24 TRORC Audit Presentation – John Boulay, RHR Smith  
Management Letter and review of FY24 Financial Audit**

John Boulay presented the results of our FY24 Audit and Management Letter.

There were no findings, questioned costs or internal control issues, and overall, a positive audit. We had an increase to the Fund Balance, which he noted is always good to see revenues increase year over year. He noted a 36% increase to Grant Revenues which with it brings on an expected increase to grant expenses.

Mr. Boulay shared that with the turnover in the Finance Manager position, it was very good to see that controls are still tight and there are no comments for improvement, policies, or procedures, everything is being followed.

Reminder the FY24 Audit is posted on our TRORC website for viewing, along with previous years.

**5. Action on appointing a new Youth at Large Board Member – Caroline Sherman-Gordon**

On a motion from Emmons, and seconded by Echeverria, the Board moved to welcome Caroline Sherman-Gordon as the new Youth At-Large Member.

**6. Thriving Communities Program (THRIVE)  
Presentation by Bryan Kovalick, TRORC Staff Member**

Thriving Communities Regional Pilot is a 3-year grant that TRORC received from the US Dept of Transportation. The funding flows through the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC.

TRORC is in a unique situation; out of the 6 Regional Pilot Grantees selected, we are the only one selected from across the nation out of 150 that submitted an application. We are the most locally based and we are the only application that was comprised of 2 States. We work with Meghan Butts, from Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on this.

We are working with 6 towns with this grant, focusing on transportation resiliency projects, helping defend roadways from erosion or loss in a flood. Advance flood mitigation, and projects that integrate goals from other sectors such as housing safety, economic development and public health.

**7. Resiliency Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER)  
Presented by Kevin Geiger, TRORC Staff Member**

There are currently about 900 hazard mitigation grant applications in the works. We had about 400 application ideas in RIVER towns that we prioritized into about 40 projects.

Buyouts being the lead, followed by floodplain restoration, then bridges, and culverts, then flood-proofing projects.

**8. TRORC Strategic Plan Action Item discussion – Review of the 2022 TRORC Strategic Plan**

Reviewed the TRORC Strategic Plan action items adopted in 2022, Pages 5 – 6.

Staff and Commissioners walked through three Strategies and their action items. This agenda item will be carried over until a future meeting.

## **9. Staff/ Commissioner Updates**

Big Thank You to Bushrod Powers for stepping up and joining the Scholarship committee.

Regional Plan Hearing dates are as follows:

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in person at the Bethel Town Office from 5-7:00pm

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Virtual Zoom ONLY from 6-8:00pm

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in person at the Fairlee Town Office from 5-7:00 pm

Final Public Hearing to be in January or February that would involve the Full Board.

Peter Gregory shared takeaways from his NADO Conference:

NADO – Issues Nationally

Reauthorization of Economic Development Administration

Federal Transportation Bill renews in 3 years

Farm Bill

Gregory moderated: FEMA/ Hazard Mitigation Involvement

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Christina Scott, Finance Manager, November 12, 2024