

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **May 25th, 2022**
3 **Virtual Meeting**
4

5 The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held using the Zoom platform.
6

7 **Attendance**

8 Commissioners: See attached. A quorum was present to conduct business.

9 Staff: C. Dimitruk, B. Remmers, L. Blasch

10 Guests: Tim Smith, Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC); Andy Julow, Lake
11 Champlain Islands Development Corporation (LCIDC)
12

13 Chair B. Irwin welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
14

15 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

16 There are no adjustments to the agenda.
17

18 **Welcome, introductions, opening remarks**

19 B. Irwin welcomed those attending. Participants briefly introduced themselves.
20

21 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

22 No members of the public offered comments.
23

24 **Minutes of the April Meeting**

25 *K. Waite moved to approve the April minutes as written, and B. Buermann seconded. E. Nance noted*
26 *some typos. Motion carried with three abstentions.*
27

28 **Presentation/Discussion: Economic Development Priorities, FCIDC, LCIEDC**
29

30 B. Irwin introduced T. Smith from FCIDC and A. Julow from LCIEDC. C. Dimitruk noted that NRPC staff
31 met with T. Smith and A. Julow to review project lists that have been submitted to state and the
32 question for Bruno the board is whether to ratify. T. Smith explained that creation of a project list is a
33 requirement for ACCD for regional development corps. A one-page form was sent to towns to solicit
34 local large economic development projects. Creating and retaining jobs was the primary criteria. FCIDC
35 created a list of 25 projects from responses that they then ranked using assessment criteria such as
36 purpose and benefits, timeline and milestones, experience of sponsor, local support and regional need,
37 cost and funding, and job creation. Consensus was reached and the ranked list was shared with NRPC
38 staff (G. Brunswick and K. Lavoie) and they did their own ranking. The final was shared with the board
39 packet. A. Julow explained that he did similar process to solicit projects from towns in that region and
40 used same criteria as FCIDC to rank. Priority was given to “shovel ready” projects and those that result in
41 job creation. Restaurants/breweries and child care were top prioritized.
42

43 B. Irwin asked what projects marked as “to be monitored” meant. T. Smith answered that those are in
44 the discussion phase where some activities may have happened, but there wasn’t a concrete direction
45 for the project. FCIDC wants to keep monitoring to follow progress of those projects for the next few
46 years. Question was asked about how much progress is expected to be made on the list over the course
47 of a year. T. Smith answered that 5-6 projects may see activity, 1 or 2 could be complete from FCIDC list.

1 A. Julow answered that 2-3 on LCIEDC list could be complete by next year. K. Waite asked how will they
2 fill the jobs that would be created. T. Smith answered that the workforce investment board discussed
3 that last year, but no specific plan is in place at this time. The Department of Labor is investing funds in
4 that region. B. Irwin said that child care is a way to get people back to work. T. Smith noted that FCIDC
5 did a new strategic plan and workforce development is key in their plan and #1 topic in the region.
6 E. Nance noted that FCIDC sought funding for projects but were found ineligible after applying due to
7 having the wrong non-profit status. A. Voegelé asked if the NRPC 501c3 non-profit could be used for the
8 grant. C. Dimitruk replied that is possible. B. Morris noted that workforce is also a challenge in Grand Isle
9 county. A. Voegelé noted that the region needs more housing and an advertising and marketing
10 campaign to attract new residents here to fill jobs. E. Nance replied that the Working Communities
11 Challenge (WCC) can help start to address. A. Julow noted that a senior housing project was completed
12 last year in the Islands and thinks more dense housing is possible.

13
14 *K. Waite motioned to ratify both project lists. A. Voegelé seconded. Motion. E. Nance abstained.*

15
16 **Commission Reports:**

17
18 **Finance/Operations**– C. Dimitruk stated that they are working on FY23 budget and meeting next week
19 to review draft. B. Irwin noted that all line items on the profit and lost and the balance sheet are close to
20 expectations.

21
22 **Personnel** – L. Ruple stated that the Committee did not meet but will meet in July for staff reviews.

23
24 **Executive Committee** – B. Irwin stated that the Committee has year end activities coming up and
25 suggested only having essential committee meetings in the summer to give staff and board members a
26 break and a chance to enjoy the summer.

27
28 **Project Review** – B. Buermann stated that the Committee had completed analysis of a proposed mini
29 storage and found no substantial impact, but also that it doesn't conform with the Regional Plan due to
30 lack of sidewalks. A solar project in Sheldon was reviewed but full application wasn't submitted yet.

31
32 **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)** – B. Remmers said agenda item #7, bridge prioritization was
33 focused on this month.

34
35 **Energy Committee**- C. Dimitruk mentioned that there was a review of the comprehensive energy plan.
36 P. Zamore noted it's a complex topic. B. Morris noted that there may not be a need for this investment
37 in the future. C. Dimitruk noted that there will be an electric vehicle fair on June 15 in Swanton.

38
39 **Brownfields Committee** – E. Nance stated that the committee didn't meet. Agenda packet has updates
40 on Young Landfill and South River Street that have been submitted for phase 2 assessment.

41
42 **Regional Plan and Policy Committee**- E. Nance stated that the Committee met and identified areas that
43 need strengthening and things missing. Committee will meet again in June.

44
45 **Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC)** – A. Voegelé had no items from the region for tomorrow's
46 meeting.

47

1 **Green Mountain Transit (GMT)**-C. Dimitruk stated that they reviewed state grant applications to expand
2 service to Stowe, a micro transit project in Barre among others. She voted no due to not having a clear
3 process for project selection and wondered why no projects in NRPC region were selected for
4 expansion.

5
6 **Healthy Roots Advisory Committee**- L. Douglas stated that they did not meet.

7
8 **Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation**- K. Waite had nothing new to report.

9
10 **Office**- B. Remmers stated that NRPC hired a new intern and may hire a second one for the field season.
11 VT Better Roads grant were awarded 6/9 grants were funded in the region. Unfunded ones were large
12 culverts, a highly competitive category. L. Blasch mentioned that she is working to implement projects
13 on private roads around Lake Carmi, and has VTrans projects in Franklin and Montgomery that are
14 progressing through the FHWA process. C. Dimitruk mentioned a new bill that for a job training program
15 for scholarships for trade school training, a pilot program for high school students to take technical
16 certification courses, and a new tech ed construction program for tech schools to build housing.

17
18 **VTrans Project Prioritization, Regionally Driven Potential Bridge Projects:**

19
20 B. Irwin introduced the topic and referenced the material in the packet. B. Remmers noted this is the 2nd
21 year the TAC has done this process to identify new projects. Last year they focused on paving projects
22 and this year focusing on town and state highway bridges and intends to continue that rotation going
23 forward. Eleven bridges were identified by VTrans and 7 identified by the TAC or nominated by a
24 municipality and preliminarily ranked. All projects are scored in 8 categories. TAC approved the scores
25 and the board is being asked to ratify the TAC scores. B. Irwin asked whether projects getting off the list
26 is an assumption that they're complete. B. Remmers noted that the list goes into VTrans and if it isn't
27 built, it could get back on the list in 2 years.

28
29 *B. Buermann motioned to ratify the scores. E. Nance seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

30
31 **Regional Plan Update: Equity and Inclusion input** –C. Dimitruk gave an overview of the regional plan
32 process and a request from the Executive Committee regarding the equity and inclusion work. She
33 presented the equity and inclusion statement and offered the following questions for consideration:
34 How does the statement impact your work? What are the justice, equity, diversity and inclusion goals or
35 objectives related to your topic that can be incorporated into the Regional Plan? Committees are asked
36 to review these questions; staff will compile answers for the July meeting. A. Voegelé asked how we can
37 get insight into understanding the experience of being a minority. It was shared that VLCT has created
38 an equity committee to help towns address this issue. All committees are asked to review the approved
39 equity and inclusion statement and think about how they can incorporate that into our work.

40
41 **Commissioners Announcements:**

42 No announcements.

43
44 **Adjourn:**

45 *S. Jensen moved to adjourn. A. Alling seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting*
46 *adjourned at 8:42 PM.*

Municipality	Board Member	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Frkin Cty Youth	Eagan Murphy	X		excused	X		X	X	X	X	excused	excused	
GI Cty Youth	vacant		N			N							
Alburg Town	Alton Bruso		O			O							
Alburg Town	Terry Tatro			excused			X						
Alburg Village	Terry Tatro		M			M	X						
Alburg Village	Vacant		E			E							
Bakersfield	Bill Irwin	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X		
Bakersfield	Linda McCall		T			T						x	
Berkshire	Vincent Hickey	Excused	I	excused	X	I		X	excused			x	
Berkshire	Claude Charron		N			N							
Enosburg Falls	Leonard Charron		G			G							
Enosburg Falls	Vacant	Excused		X									
Enosburgh Town	Jesse Woods 3/22	Excused		X	---	---	---	---	---	excused	excused	excused	
Enosburgh Town	Jessica Eagle 3/22	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	excused	excused	excused	
Fairfax	Colleen Steen	X					X	excused	X		X	excused	
Fairfax	Sarah Hadd	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Fairfield	Alisha Larocque												
Fairfield	Brian Dubie	Excused		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Fletcher	Lynn Douglas	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Fletcher	Lori Ruple	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Franklin	Yvon Dandurand	X		X	X		excused	X	X	X	X	x	
Franklin	Wesley Kempton	Excused		x									
Georgia	Scott St. Onge												
Georgia	Kirk Waite	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	x	
Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	Excused		X	X		excused	excused	X	X	excused	x	
Grand Isle	Howard Demars	Excused		X	X			X		X			
Highgate	Vacant												
Highgate	Richard Noel	X		X	X		X	X	excused	X		excused	
Isle La Motte	Sylvia Jensen	X		excused				X	X	X		x	
Isle La Motte	Vacant												
Montgomery	Charlie Hancock												
Montgomery	Vacant												
North Hero	Andy Alling	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
North Hero	Vacant												
Richford	Rowena Brown	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Richford	Vacant												
Sheldon	Vacant												
Sheldon	Jeff Kane												
South Hero	Peter Zamore	X		X	X		X	X	excused	X	X	x	
South Hero	Bob Buermann	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
St. Albans City	Marty Manahan												
St. Albans City	L. Scangas/Vacant 1-22	Excused		excused	X		excused	---					
St. Albans Town	Marietta Scholten	---		---	---		---	X	X	X	X	excused	
St. Albans Town	Albin Voegele	X		excused	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	
Swanton Town	Harold Garrett	X			X		X	X	excused	X	excused		
Swanton Town	Ross Lavoie												
Swanton Village	Elisabeth Nance	X		excused	X		X	X	X	X	excused	x	
Swanton Village	Neal Speer	X						X					
# OF MUNICIPALITIES		13		13	16		14	17	13	14			
QUORUM = 12													