



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 16, 2025

**5:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:** Barclay Morris, Kirk Waite, Bob Buermann, Barbara Murphy, Peter Zamore, Andy Alling, William Irwin, Catherine Dimitruk

1. Adjustments to the Agenda and Public Comment

No adjustments, no public comment.

2. Executive Director Updates- personnel, regional plan

C. Dimitruk updated the committee on Kathy's planned leave, the audit field work, the regional plan status and brownfields grant close-out. She also provided an overview of the recent RPC ED retreat, with discussion on a communications plan, performance review, and Council of Governments.

3. NADO Report Recommendations

P. Zamore provided an overview of the NADO report, and summarized that RPCs are generally performing well in all areas. He noted that the report recommends continuing and enhancing existing efforts and highlights opportunities in the COG model, shared services and intermunicipal cooperation.

P. Zamore noted that upwards of 30% of Commissioner slots are empty, or Commissioners do not attend regularly. It is important for the governing body to understand why.

Committee members discussed the Council of Government model, with different ideas about what it could or should do. A University of Vermont study on COGs was outlined for the committee.

Specific comments or questions included:

- Should districts be aligned with other regional boundaries?
- Is it necessarily the RPC that would become a COG?
- How is this better than the current model? Is it more efficient? Less costly? More effective?
- Requiring elected official to serve on a COG Board would be a hardship, it is difficult enough to get people to run for office.
- Huge increase in staff work would require funding support.
- NRPC already does many of the COG items, how would this be different?
- Local official are already overloaded- could create a dynamic where staff is real

decision makers.

- SB members turn over more frequently than NRPC representatives turn over- lack of continuity could be a problem.
- What are the qualifiable impacts from a COG?
- Will the benefits of a new system be worth the extra work?
- Education about what a COG is and about the best practices and value of RPCs would be helpful.

#### 4. September Board meeting

The agenda includes a presentation by Department of Public Service Commissioner Kerrick Johnson and a vote on sending the draft regional plan to the Land Use Review Board for the preliminary review. St. Albans Town Hall is reserved for the meeting.

#### 5. Member and staff announcements

B. Morris noted that the TAC did not have a quorum again, and the presentation on the Lamoille River modelling was fascinating. He noted that it would be a good Board discussion and would be good to find funding to complete the Missisquoi.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.