

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
2 **October 29, 2025, at 6:30 PM**  
3 **Hybrid Meeting ([Zoom](#) and NRPC Office)**  
4 **75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478**  
5

6 **Board Member Attendance:** *See attached.* A quorum was present to conduct business.  
7

8 **Staff:** Catherine Dimitruk, Dean Pierce, Emily Adams  
9

10 **Other Attendees:** none  
11

12 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

13 Chair P. Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM followed by roll call. P. Zamore noted at the  
14 last meeting E. Nance suggested we have extended 1-3 minute introductions by a few  
15 Commissioners at each meeting. For this meeting E. Nance, C. Verderber and M. Sherlund provided  
16 some of their background.  
17

18 **Adjustments to Agenda**

19 None.  
20

21 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

22 None.  
23

24 **Minutes of the September 2025 Meeting**

25 *E. Nance motioned to approve September 24, 2025, minutes. B. Morris seconded. 1 abstention.*  
26 *Motion carried.*  
27

28 **Commission Reports:**

29 (written reports enclosed in board packet)  
30

31 Finance/Operations – K. Waite reported the committee met and reviewed the FY27 municipal rate.  
32 Also discussed were some recent building upgrades and the FY25 Audit schedule in progress.

33 Personnel – B. Buermann noted that there was no meeting but reported one staff member has  
34 resigned.

35 Executive Committee – P. Zamore reported that there were several personnel changes discussed at  
36 the last meeting and noted that the Regional Plan had been submitted to the Land Use Review  
37 Board. NRPC will receive the Business of the Year Award from the Franklin County Economic  
38 Development Corporation. The FY27 municipal rate increase was also reviewed at that meeting.

39 Project Review – W. Irwin reported that there was no meeting.

40 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – B. Morris reported there was a meeting with quorum so  
41 TAC was able to approve minutes and the start time for TAC has changed to 6:00 p.m. The next  
42 meeting will be November 13th. B. Morris noted that K. Grenier is inviting Representatives and State  
43 Senators to this meeting. B. Murphy noted that some Senators are shared with other Counties  
44 outside of Franklin and Grand Isle and to make sure they are also invited to this upcoming meeting.

45 Brownfields Committee – M. Sherlund reported that there was no meeting.

46 Regional Plan and Policy Committee – C. Dimitruk reported the committee met and reviewed the  
47 Franklin Town Plan.

48 Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) – B. Murphy noted she is not a member of the council  
49 she is only a non-voting member. B. Murphy reported VEPC had a retreat last week. P. Zamore asked  
50 if B. Murphy would like to be taken of the agenda list. B. Murphy said she did not want that since  
51 there is information people could get from looking at the materials provided.

52 Green Mountain Transit – B. Buermann reported there were 2 action items at the last meeting: one  
53 to revise the current budget and the other was bringing fares back for ADA access. B. Buermann  
54 also noted that Franklin and Grand Isle County service will be transferred to RCT in January rather  
55 than June. C. Dimitruk noted that the goal for the riders of the transit service is to make the transfer  
56 seamless.

57 Healthy Roots Advisory Committee – M. Scholten reported the meeting was rescheduled to  
58 November and that C. Porcaro was resigning, effective November 21. M. Scholten noted C. Porcaro  
59 is putting together all the HRC programing information and developing strategy for the next steps.

60 Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation – K. Waite reported the Committee met on October 21 and  
61 elected officers for the year, reviewed the financial report and had an audit update.

62 Office – staff, no report.

63

#### 64 **Water Resources Program Overview**

65 D. Pierce gave an overview on the work being done on the NRPC Water Resources Program. D.  
66 Pierce reports how varied the water resource work is and how it ranges from local technical  
67 assistance to sub-regional efforts to broadly regional work supporting the Department of  
68 Environment Conservation tactical basin planning. Also, work is done on stormwater management,  
69 shoreline stabilization and river analysis.

70

71 Following the passage of the law known as Act 76, NRPC was designated the Clean Water Service  
72 Provider (CWSP) for two major basins: Missisquoi Basin (Basin 6) and Lamoille (Basin 7). The  
73 mission is to oversee the delivery of non-regulatory clean water projects and help reach  
74 phosphorus reduction targets. NRPC's initial term runs through June 30, 2027 but terms can be  
75 renewed. NRPC is the only entity in Vermont with responsibility for more than one basin. The key  
76 takeaway is that the required phosphorus reduction targets particularly for the Missisquoi Bay are  
77 substantial. D. Pierce reports according to the modeling the phosphorus loading needs to be  
78 reduced by 60% in the Missisquoi Basin. D. Pierce stated that NRPC's role at the CWSP is to be the  
79 primary engine for tackling the non-regulatory part of this reduction. D. Pierce states that the  
80 primary responsibilities done by NRPC involve core programs and administrative duties. D. Pierce  
81 goes over the targets, cost/budget, financial accountability and the NRPC oversight role for CWSP  
82 getting phosphorus reduction in the region.

83

84 C. Rosenquist asks about the 3-acre rule and compliance and if there is any money available in the  
85 program that could help us in trying to overview and understand the 3-acre ruling? D. Pierce  
86 responds there is a little bit of money in the tactical basin work program that mentions performing  
87 some kind of educational or public session on the 3-acre rule. C. Dimitruk reports there was a bill  
88 passed last year that extended the date of compliance with the 3-acre permit. Additionally, it set up  
89 a legislative study committee to look at the 3-acre permit specifically what structures could be in  
90 place to make compliance with the 3-acre permit easier and more efficient. The committee has  
91 also asked the question if the 3-acre permit is really the right vehicle to achieve its phosphorus  
92 reduction goals. C. Dimitruk states she represents RPCs on this committee, and there will be more  
93 to come, since they have only met once.

94

95 P. Zamore asks about the compliance of Lake Champlain with the federal clean water standards. D.  
96 Pierce explains that within the regulatory realm there are many different types of regulations and on  
97 the non-regulatory side the sectors where the projects can be done are very diverse.  
98

99 D. Pierce was asked how involved is the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain in this process? And  
100 with the recent flooding water treatment facilities upstream were not functioning properly, how  
101 much does that come into play with phosphorus numbers? D. Pierce responds that Friends of  
102 Northern Lake Champlain is one of the partner organizations and has participated in this effort from  
103 the beginning. In terms of the storm events have a real impact on the amount of phosphorus  
104 entering Lake Champlain but we are operating on a model system so it is somewhat theoretical and  
105 it doesn't respond to a seasonal or yearly basis events.  
106

107 B. Morris asks about the targets being annual target or is that in the Total Maximum Daily Load  
108 (TMDL)? D. Pierce responds the targets are annual reductions and so the premise is that if we have  
109 to reduce 100 kilograms of phosphorus and we had one project that could achieve that goal, we  
110 would ask how long would that project continue to function and provide the phosphorus  
111 reductions.  
112

113 W. Irwin and P. Zamore thanked D. Pierce for his overview of the Water Resources Program.  
114

#### 115 **Town of Franklin**

##### 116 [Franklin Draft Plan](#)

117  
118 C. Dimitruk gave an overview of the approval process of a town plan and that it meets all the of  
119 requirements of state statute. E. Nance reported she read the plan and thought it was well done. M.  
120 Sherlund reported the Plan & Policy Committee thought it was a fair town plan.  
121

122 C. Dimitruk reported the Plan & Policy Committee recommendation was for the approval of the  
123 Franklin Town Plan, confirmation of planning efforts and the determination of energy compliance.  
124

125 *B. Murphy motioned to approve the Franklin Town Plan. C. Rosenquist seconded, 1 abstention.*  
126 *Motion carried.*  
127

128 *W. Irwin motioned to approve the Confirmation of Planning Efforts. H. Britch-Valenta seconded, 1*  
129 *abstention. Motion carried.*  
130

131 *B. Morris motioned to approve the Determination of Energy Compliance. W. Irwin seconded, 1*  
132 *abstention. Motion carried.*  
133

#### 134 **FY27 Municipal Assessment Rate**

135 K. Waite reported the Finance Committee met and reviewed the yearly assessment rate. K. Waite  
136 noted in the packets sent out to the Board there was comprehensive information on the current  
137 assessment rates and what the recommendation for an increase would be for these municipalities.  
138 K. Waite state the Finance Committee recommended an increase of 3% for each municipality.  
139

140 *W. Irwin motioned to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to increase the Municipal*  
141 *Assessment Rate to 3% for FY27. B. Buermann seconded. Motion carried.*  
142

143 C. Dimitruk noted that NRPC will be sending out the one-page report that is customized for each  
144 municipality in November to all the municipalities in the Region and that all commissioners will  
145 receive a copy of the letter for their community.

146

147 **Commissioner Announcements**

148 L. McCall wanted to thank NRPC, and G. Brunswick specifically, for working with some people who  
149 have an interest in Brigham Academy.

150

151 B. Morris requested clarification on an award G. Brunswick received. C. Dimitruk stated G.  
152 Brunswick received the Professional Planner Award from the Vermont Planners Association.

153

154 **Adjourn**

155 *E. Nance adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm. B. Murphy seconded.*