

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **February 25, 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, Shaun Coleman, Luke Slomba
9

10 **Other Attendees:** None
11

12 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

13 None
14

15 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

16 Chair P. Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM followed by roll call. D. Broderick, A.
17 Alling, and Y. Dandurand made commissioner introductions.
18

19 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

20 No public commented.
21

21 **Minutes of the January 2026 Meeting (action)**

22 *B. Murphy motioned to accept the January 2026 minutes as corrected. A. Alling seconded.*
23 *B. Murphy asked that the attendance sheet be corrected to reflect her attendance at the*
24 *last meeting. C. Dimitruk responded that the sheet would be corrected. Motion passed.*

25 **Commission Reports - written reports enclosed**

26 Finance/Operations– P. Zamore, in K. Waite’s absence, reported that the committee
27 discussed assignment of funds to long term reserves and will be asking for approval later at
28 this meeting.

29 Personnel – No report.

30 Executive Committee – No report.

31 Project Review– W. Irwin reported on the three projects that are listed on the Project Review
32 Report in the board packet. He updated the board that the City of St. Albans project was
33 found to be in conformance with the Regional Plan and to have no substantial regional
34 impact, which was not listed in the packet. He noted that the G.W. Tatro project to resume
35 and expand operations of a rock quarry in Fletcher was found to have substantial regional
36 impact so it will require a board vote. H. Britch-Valenta asked for a summary of the impact.
37 W. Irwin responded that it’s centrally located in the region so towns will benefit from a new
38 source of rock. H. Demars added that it will also cut down on truck travel in the region. S.
39 Jensen noted that she is on the Act 250 District Commission and reviewed the project in

1 that capacity, and it was determined that she should abstain from the vote. *B. Morris*
2 *motioned to approve the Project Review Committee recommendations on the G.W. Tatro*
3 *project in Fletcher. B. Murphy seconded. Motion carried, S. Jensen abstained. P. Zamore*
4 *noted that in the future Project Review votes should be a separate agenda item.*
5 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – At their most recent meeting, TAC had the chair
6 of the VT House Transportation Committee and a representative from VTrans as guests. At
7 the previous TAC meeting in November, the committee had voted to study local
8 transportation needs and costs in the region. At this meeting, the TAC learned that the
9 legislature and VTrans are also interested in determining what the total financial need is for
10 towns across the state for bridges and highways, etc. so TAC is postponing their project to
11 see what VTrans comes up with and not duplicate efforts. C. Dimitruk also noted that she
12 and a few other RPC Directors are having a follow-up meeting with the House
13 Transportation Committee chair to talk about regional priorities.
14 Brownfields Committee – No report
15 Plan and Policy Committee- L. Ruple reported that the committee met to review the St.
16 Albans City and Richford municipal plans and recommended that both receive board
17 approval. St. Albans City vote will be at this meeting, Richford vote will likely be in March.
18 Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) – C. Dimitruk reported that the council is co-
19 hosting a workshop on the Community Housing and Infrastructure (CHIP) Program with
20 NRPC and St. Albans Town in March.
21 Rural Community Transit- C. Dimitruk reported that she attended her first RCT board
22 meeting and got an overview on how the different routes are doing in terms of cost
23 effectiveness. RCT is working on a budget adjustment to reflect the new service area,
24 which will be discussed at the next meeting. The RCT board meets every other month.
25 Healthy Roots Advisory Committee- No report.
26 Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation- No report.
27 Office- See staff report.

28 **Emergency Management Program Highlights - Shaun Coleman, Senior Planner**
29 **(discussion)**

30 S. Coleman presented on NRPC transportation program highlights:

- 31 • Purposes of emergency planning and its role in regional planning’s web of resilience.
- 32 • Overview of the different types of emergency planning services offered by NRPC to
- 33 municipalities, including project examples.
- 34 • List of committees and organizations that NRPC is involved with in emergency
- 35 planning and management.

- 1 • Challenges: 1. Slight reduction of funding in 2025, state took over funding for
2 updating emergency management plans; 2. Recruiting volunteers for fire and EMS;
3 3. Increasing dispatching costs; 4. Funding uncertainty at federal level, FEMA local
4 assistance is on hold and state hasn't heard anything about the status of current
5 programs.
- 6 • Board's role in emergency management program: Regional plan supports disaster
7 resilience goals. Board also approves budget for cross border collaboration during
8 disasters, and for trainings.

9 P. Zamore asked whether S. Coleman thinks there is an appropriate allocation of staff
10 time/funding to address flooding risks and impacts. S. Coleman responded that there are a
11 lot of different funding sources, including contracts with municipalities who get funding
12 from state/federal sources. The emergency planning fund has provided stable funding for
13 quite a few years. NRPC has been able to do the work we need through current funds, and
14 when there is a disaster we have access to additional money through the Local Liason
15 program.

16 P. Zamore asked how much of the NRPC's focus is proactive vs. reactive. S. Coleman
17 answered that about 80% of the focus is proactive, and there are usually 1-2 major
18 disasters every year that make it reactive. The recovery piece is a whole other thing that can
19 take months to years, NRPC provides initial support during early stages and then takes a
20 lesser role.

21 M. Bishop commented agreeing that getting fire training for people who are interested is a
22 large barrier. He also emphasized the importance of the dispatching costs issue and how
23 much money towns are spending. C. Rosenquist asked whether M. Bishop had any
24 suggestions or ideas on how to lower dispatch costs. M. Bishop responded that towns can't
25 do much locally, dispatch charges per capita so combining jurisdictions doesn't save
26 much. The state has a 5-6 year plan for establishing statewide dispatch with good ideas on
27 how to pay for it, funded by state taxes. At local/regional level we can pressure our
28 representatives to follow through on state plans.

29 H. Demars asked whether the current federal administration's reduction of funding will
30 affect S. Coleman's role or the services NRPC is able to offer. C. Dimitruk responded that
31 there are no staff adjustments as a result of the budget adjustment. S. Coleman responded
32 that it definitely limits the amount of services NRPC is able to offer and we can't honor
33 every request for local assistance like we used to.

34 **City of St. Albans Municipal Plan and Confirmation of Planning Efforts**

1 L. Ruple reported that the Plan and Policy Committee met two weeks ago and reviewed a
2 memo and supporting materials from staff that are also available in the report. She
3 recommended that the Board make a motion for approval of the plan and confirmation of
4 St. Albans City’s planning process.

5
6 *B. Murphy made a motion to grant regional approval to the St. Albans City Plan and regional*
7 *confirmation of St. Albans City’s planning process. Y. Dandurand seconded. Motion carried,*
8 *with C. Sawyer abstaining.*

9

10 **FY 26 Budget Adjustment (action)**

11 C. Dimitruk reported that the Finance Committee met last week and reviewed the
12 proposed mid-year budget adjustment. Staff prepared a memo with projected revenues
13 and expenses based on FY26 revenues and expenses so far as of mid-year. The end result
14 of the proposed budget adjustment is that NRPC is still in the positive by a small amount.
15 There were no questions or comments on the budget adjustment.

16 *W. Irwin moved to accept the proposed budget adjustments. H. Demars seconded. Motion*
17 *carried.*

18 **Long Term Reserve Fund Assignment (action)**

19 C. Dimitruk stated that the question before the Board tonight is whether to increase the
20 portion of the fund balance that the Board has already set aside for long-term reserves. The
21 increase would be +\$65,800 dollars to bring in compliance with the new fund balance
22 policy adopted by the Board last month.

23 *B. Murphy motioned to approve the assignment of \$65,800 to long term reserves. as*
24 *presented. C. Rosenquist seconded. Motion carried.*

25 **Commissioner Announcements**

26 E. Nance announced that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns received a Northern
27 Border Regional Commission capacity award to assist municipalities with the new
28 Community Housing and Infrastructure (CHIP) Program. It’s currently live on the VLCT
29 website and they have received interest so far. S. Jensen asked whether this funding could
30 be used to help Isle La Motte with a senior housing project. E. Nance responded that the
31 grant is for technical assistance, if a town reaches out to VLCT they can see if it’s a good fit.

32 Adjourned 7:32PM

FY26 NPRC Board of Commissioners- Meeting Attendance

Municipality	Board Member	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
		7/30/25	No Meeting	9/24/25	10/29/25	No Meeting	12/17/25	1/28/26	2/25/26	3/25/26	4/29/26	5/27/26	6/24/26
Frkln Cty Youth	Vacant												
Gl Cty Youth	Amelia Demars	X		X	E				E				
Alburg Town	Alex McCracken	E											
Alburg Town	Danielle Choiniere	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Alburg Village	Vacant												
Alburg Village	Vacant												
Bakersfield	William Irwin	X		E	X		X	X	X				
Bakersfield	Linda McCall	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Berkshire	Josh Grims	X		E	E		E		E				
Berkshire	Claude Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Leonard Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Vacant												
Enosburgh Town	Jesse Woods												
Enosburgh Town	James Oullette (8/25)				X				X				
Fairfax	Barbara Murphy	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Fairfax	Nicholas Nadeau/Mike Bishop (10/25)				X		X	E	X				
Fairfield	Julia Callan	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Fairfield	Chuck Verderber	E		X	X		E	E	X				
Fletcher	Michelle Frennier	E		E	E		X	X	X				
Fletcher	Lori Ruple	X		X			X	X	X				
Franklin	Yvon Dandurand	X		X	E		E	X	X				
Franklin	vacant												
Georgia	Carl Rosenquist	X			X		X	X	X				
Geogia	Doug Bergstrom 3/26												
Georgia	Kirk Waite	X		X	X		E	X	E				
Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	X		X	X		X	E	X				
Grand Isle	Howard Demars	X		X	E		X	X	X				
Highgate	Jack Pelkey	X			X		X	X	X				
Highgate	Anna Comiskey	X		X	X								
Isle La Motte	Sylvia Jensen	E		X	X		E		X				
Isle La Motte	Mary-Catherine Graziano												
Montgomery	Leanne Barnard												
Montgomery	Mark Brouillette												
North Hero	Andy Alling	X		X			X	X	X				
North Hero	Vacant												
Richford	Marissa Tessier												
Richford	Vacant												
Sheldon	Vacant												
Sheldon	Mathew Stebbins	X		X			X	X	X				
South Hero	Peter Zamore	X		X	X		X	X	X				
South Hero	Bob Buermann	X		X	X		X	X	X				
St. Albans City	Elisabeth Nance	X		X	X		X	E	X				
St. Albans City	Chip Sawyer	X		X	E		X	X	X				
St. Albans Town	Marietta Scholten	X		X	X		X	E					
St. Albans Town	Megan Sherlund	X		X	X		E	E	E				
Swanton Town	Nicole Draper	X		X			X	E					
Swanton Town	Nicholas Brosseau	X		X	X			X	X				
Swanton Village	Heidi Britch-Valenta	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Swanton Village	Damon Broderick	X		X	X		X		X				
	# Municipalities	18	0	18	14	0	15	15	17	0	0	0	0

QUORUM = 12

E= Excused ; X=Present