

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
2 **April 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM**  
3 **Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and NRPC Office)**  
4 **75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478**  
5 <https://youtu.be/2G58jNRorgg>  
6

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

8 **Staff:** Catherine Dimitruk, Emily Klofft, Dean Pierce

9 **Other Attendees:** Sandra Bruhn, Philippa (“Pippa”) Fourie, AJ LaRosa, Ginger Parent, Chris  
10 Bruhn, Victor Tirrito, Derek J. Jones, Matt Hull, Kevin Delaney, Michael [no last name on  
11 Zoom], and Erik K. [no last name on Zoom]

12  
13 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

14 Chair P. Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM followed by roll call.

15 C. Dimitruk noted that J. Cowan and B. Morris had conflicts and were unable to attend.  
16

17 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.  
18

19 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

20 Several members of the public provided comments about the proposed Industrial Tower  
21 and Wireless LLC tower project on Bordoville Road in Enosburg near the Bakersfield line.  
22 Comments in opposition cited concerns regarding:

- 23 • Impacts to scenic and historic resources, including the Bordoville Seventh-day  
24 Adventist Church and surrounding area;
- 25 • Lack of a recent balloon test with community participation;
- 26 • Need for additional independent technical and aesthetic analysis;
- 27 • Concerns regarding Project Review Committee process, including conflict of  
28 interest and completeness of analysis; and
- 29 • Consideration of alternative technologies and locations.

30 Comments in support cited:

- 31 • Significant deficiencies in emergency communications in the area;
- 32 • Delays in emergency response times due to lack of reliable coverage;
- 33 • Public safety benefits for fire, EMS, and mutual aid operations;
- 34 • Broader regional communications needs.

35 The applicant’s attorney AJ LaRosa noted that prior balloon tests had been conducted for  
36 an earlier proposal and referenced prior regulatory review findings. The Public comment  
37 was closed by the Chair.  
38

39 **Minutes of the March 2026 Meeting (action)**

40 E. Nance noted a correction to clarify the identity of a commenter listed as “A. Foote.”  
41 (Amber Foote and Alice Foote had attended.)

42 E. Nance moved to approve the March 2026 minutes as corrected. Y. Dandurand seconded.  
43 Motion carried.  
44

45 **Commission Reports –**  
46 **Project Review Committee**

47 W. Irwin reported on four projects included in the board packet, highlighting the Section  
48 248a Industrial Tower and Wireless LLC proposal for a 120-foot telecommunications tower  
49 in Enosburg.

50 The committee had determined that the project:

- 51 • Is of substantial regional impact; and
- 52 • Conforms to the Regional Plan.

53 W. Irwin noted the project has been under review for several years and involved extensive  
54 public input. He had abstained from the most recent committee vote.

55 Board discussion included:

- 56 • Confirmation that public concerns raised had been previously reviewed by the  
57 committee;
- 58 • Clarification that any future tower modifications would require additional approvals;
- 59 • Discussion of the advisory role of the Commission relative to the Public Utility  
60 Commission;
- 61 • Statements from commissioners regarding the thoroughness and difficulty of the  
62 review process; and
- 63 • More than one commissioner recused due to potential conflict of interest.

64 W. Irwin moved to find that the project is of substantial regional impact and in  
65 conformance with the Regional Plan. Y. Dandurand seconded. Motion carried.

66 W. Irwin, C. Sawyer, J. Giroux, and L. Ruple abstained.

67

68 **Finance/Operations**

69 K. Waite reported the committee will meet in May to discuss the FY27 budget.

70 **Personnel**

71 No report.

72 **Executive Committee**

73 P. Zamore reported the committee met and discussed legislative updates, Act 181, and  
74 upcoming meeting schedules.

75 **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

76 No report.

77 **Brownfields Committee**

78 C. Sawyer reported the committee did not meet.

79 **Plan and Policy Committee**

80 L. Ruple reported the committee met on April 8. The committee:

- 81 • Received a presentation on the Missisquoi Tactical Basin Plan from watershed  
82 planner Karen Bates; and
- 83 • Reviewed and provided input on a draft letter regarding the Vermont Conservation  
84 Plan (Act 59, 30x30/50x50 initiative).

85 **Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC)**

86 No report.

87 **Rural Community Transit**

88 C. Dimitruk reported attending a recent board retreat. The meeting focused on the  
89 organization’s vision for the future.

90 **Healthy Roots Advisory Committee**

91 M. Scholten reported ongoing food distribution efforts and hiring activities.

92 **Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation**

93 No report.

94 **Staff**

95 No additional report.

96

97 **Act 250 / Section 248 Project Review Process (discussion)**

98 E. Klofft provided an overview of the Project Review Committee’s role and procedures,  
99 including:

- 100 • Jurisdiction over Act 250, Section 248, and Section 248a projects;
- 101 • Evaluation criteria: conformance with the Regional Plan and determination of  
102 substantial regional impact; and
- 103 • The advisory role of the Commission in state permitting processes.

104 Discussion included clarification of how Commission recommendations are considered by  
105 state regulatory bodies. Appreciation was expressed for the staff’s assistance addressing  
106 technical issues.

107

108 **Act 181 Position Paper**

109 P. Zamore reported that the Executive Committee adopted a position paper in response to  
110 concerns raised by multiple municipalities regarding Act 181 provisions, including the  
111 “road rule” and Tier 3 areas. C. Dimitruk provided a legislative update, noting pending  
112 action in the House Environment Committee.

113 Discussion included:

- 114 • Outreach to municipalities and legislators; and
- 115 • Additional municipalities preparing similar letters.

116 No action was taken.

117

118 **Nominating Committee and Election Process**

119 P. Zamore reviewed the process for annual officer elections to be held in June and  
120 requested volunteers for the nominating committee. Y. Dandurand volunteered to serve.  
121 Additional members will be solicited.

122

123 **Commissioner Announcements**

124 None.

125

126 **Adjourn**

127 B. Murphy moved to adjourn. C. Sawyer seconded. Motion carried.

128 Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:39 PM.