

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
January 26, 2022

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its monthly meeting in a hybrid fashion, at its offices and via Google meet with Chair, Stephen Pilcher presiding.

ROLL CALL

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Middlebury</i> | Ross Conrad                         |
| <i>Monkton</i>    | Stephen Plicher<br>Wendy Sue Harper |
| <i>Panton</i>     | Jamie Dayton                        |
| <i>Ripton</i>     | Jeremy Grip                         |
| <i>Vergennes</i>  | Shannon Haggett<br>Cheryl Brinkman  |

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Stephen opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

MINUTES

**Minutes: Shannon Haggett moved to adopt the December 1, 2021 minutes. Ross Conrad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Adam delivered the Treasurer's Report through the month of December. He noted that cash on hand as of December 31st remained strong, up significantly from last year because of two new DHCD programs that paid cash upfront. Receivables also remain high. He reported that year to date, revenues exceed expenses by more than \$200,000. However, Adam noted that a lot of those constitute prepaid revenues. When we remove those amounts, revenues are actually slightly behind expenses. Adam noted he believes he will reverse that trend by the end of the year. He reviewed the budget in detail with the Executive Board. Ross asked about the chargepoint chargers, where they were and what they produced. Adam noted he expected they would produce a small loss, even with the formula revisions last year. The head on one of the units is not working properly, but constitutes an unproportionately large expense to replace. Steve asked adam to detail the subscription and licenses charges for next meeting. Adam noted he would do so. **Jeremy Grip moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ross Conrad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 250/248, Housing, Natural Resources, Local Government, and Economic Development Committees: Adam stated that the committees noted above have not met since prior to the last Full Commission meeting.

Energy: Jeremy Grip reported the energy committee had met earlier this month to discuss projects that it would pursue with Maddi to support town initiatives and help towns track their usage accurately.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Shannon noted the TAC met in January. John Van Hoesen presented a transportation planning tool to track repeat damage to town infrastructure from flooding. Mike gave the committee an update on the New haven train station move, the PELS study in Vergennes and surrounding communities and the downtown grants.

## OLD BUSINESS

ARPA and other State Recovery Funding (Flood Resiliency, Housing, Broadband): The Executive Board discussed the American Recovery Plan money municipalities in the Region have received. Adam noted that ACRPC had received funding to support municipalities and to help them navigate the rules regarding how to spend their own funding. Andrew continues to work on outreach to towns. The big news is that the Treasury issued its final rules on January 6th. Those rules contain a large exemption for municipalities that received less than \$10M from the program. The exemption affects every town in Vermont, except Burlington. All will be able to use their ARPA funding to replace the presumed amount of up to \$10M as lost revenue. In essence, towns will be able to spend their allocation an almost any function of government. Therefore, they will have a lot more flexibility on how to spend their money. Adam noted he hoped most towns would continue to focus on transformational changes.

Andrew is pursuing flood resilience grants to replace a culvert and clean debris from a collapsed bridge from Lewis Creek.

Earlier this evening ACRPC hosted a webinar on creating wastewater solutions for small villages to allow towns to create housing. ACRPC is also working with Saint Stephen's church and ACCT to create a program to increase accessory dwelling unit construction in the region. Stephen Pilcher noted that he had recently spoken with Tyler Maas about creating a program using some of Monkton's ARPA allocation.

New ACRPC Funding (Bylaws, Energy, CWSP, CEDS, Brownfields): Adam noted that ACRPC worked with four member towns to apply for new funding to revise bylaws to promote housing development, three of the four received funding. .

Maddi continues to work on Energy issues. She has completed good summaries of both the Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Climate Council's plan. She has also created ACRPC's annual scorecard on how our member towns that produced enhanced energy plan are doing

toward meeting their goals. Lastly, she will present a series of project options to the Energy committee at their meeting in February.

Mike continues to work to set up the infrastructure necessary to create the Clean Water Service Provider and Basin Water Quality Council systems necessary for that program to begin awarding grants in July, 2022.

John is working on drafting both the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for our region and our regional economic development section of our plan.

Adam noted that he and Andrew are working to restart the region's brownfields program with the \$100,000 grant ACRPC received from the Agency of Commerce. Andrew is advertising, and creating an inventory of possible assessment sites. Adam asked the Executive Board for permission to work with the Economic Development committee to vet projects for funding. The Executive Board supported the idea and asked Adam to speak with the Economic development Committee.

Other: Adam noted that ACRPC needed to change the signers on its Vanguard accounts. He will send the paperwork to Ross and Steve and work to make the changes necessary to update the paperwork.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Nominating Committee: Adam reminded the Executive Board that at the February full Commission he would include an agenda item requesting that commission members volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee for officers. At its February Committee meeting, the Executive Committee will consider those requests as it creates a slate to propose for vote at the March Full Commission meeting.

Other: None.

**MEMBER CONCERNS AND INFORMATION:** Cheryl Brinkman reported that Vergennes had been awarded a grant to install new EV fast charging stations at a location to be determined by the city within the city.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ross Conrad moved to adjourn. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Lougee