

**Southern Windsor County  
Regional Planning Commission**

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Minutes of Tuesday, April 28, 2015  
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

**Commissioners Present:** Peter Daniels (Chair), Weathersfield; Tom Bock (Vice Chair), Chester; Carol Lighthall (Treasurer), Baltimore; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Joe Wilson, Springfield; Norm Vanasse, Ludlow; Hal Pyke, West Windsor; Tom Kenyon (Alt.), West Windsor; Logan Nichol (Alt.), Ludlow; Walter Martone (Alt.), Springfield.

**Staff Present:** Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Dan Potter, Cynthia Porter.

**Others Present:** Hantz Presume, Aurélie Eybalin-Sebastiao and Dan Poulin (VELCO).

Peter Daniels opened the meeting at 12:00 PM.

1. Presentation of Draft 2015 VT Long-Range Transmission Plan
  - a. Hantz Presume (VELCO) presented the draft 2015 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Peak load growth is flat so not many transmission upgrades are needed at this time. Forecasting is challenging due to a variety of factors, such as Vermont Yankee closing, lackluster economic conditions, increasing energy efficiency efforts, and newer technologies. The draft plan includes two proposed transmission line projects both of which are partially within this region (i.e. Coolidge to Ascutney line upgrade - 2017, Coolidge to Cold River line rebuild - 2028).
2. Presentation on Proposed Connecticut River Area Project
  - a. Aurélie Eybalin-Sebastiao presented the project plans for the Connecticut River Valley Project (i.e. Coolidge to Ascutney line upgrade and related work). The project is needed in order to address line overload problems. The preferred solution no longer involves an additional second line. This project, as being proposed now, will consist of an upgrade to the existing line, an additional bay and equipment at the Ascutney substation, and other upgrades. VELCO intends to submit a Petition for a Certificate of Public Good to the Public Service Board in July or August 2015.
3. Secretary's Report
  - a. *Tom Bock made a motion to approve the March 24, 2015 Secretary's Report as presented. Second by Joe Fromberger. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. *Hal Pyke made a motion to accept the March 2015 Treasurer's Report. Second by Tom Bock. Motion passed unanimously.*
  - b. A Budget Committee will be scheduled soon. A draft FY 2016 budget will be presented at the next Board meeting.
5. Essentials of Land Use Planning & Regulation Presentation

- a. Jason Rasmussen gave a presentation based on recently updated materials developed for the Essentials document. The 2007 document is available at the following website: <http://vpic.info/PlanningZoning.html>. The training materials are available in four sections:
    - i. Town Plan Basics
    - ii. Roles and Responsibilities
    - iii. Plan Implementation Tools
    - iv. How to run an effective hearingJason's presentation at this meeting involved town plan basics and implementation tools.
  - b. Staff are available to give a presentation for local boards if desired (on a limited basis). Contact Jason if you are interested. Tom Bock thought that a presentation in Chester would be helpful.
6. Update on Legislative Issues
- a. The water quality bill includes language that ANR shall work with the RPCs to help towns to understand these new requirements to improve water quality throughout the State. Many of the new requirements involve local road maintenance.
  - b. The town plan bill proposes to increase the timeframe for plan updates – from 5 years to 10 years. The bill has been tabled. It will likely re-emerge next session after a review of the details by a summer committee.
  - c. The energy bill was discussed:
    - i. Vermont sells renewable energy credits to other states, which is becoming a problem.
    - ii. Due to solar project siting issues and the recent Rutland Town project decision, this bill includes siting standards. These standards are becoming very contentious.
    - iii. There are a number of wind power proposals coming soon.
  - d. The Legislature is shooting for a May 15<sup>th</sup> adjournment.
7. Update on EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Plan
- a. Tom Kennedy reported on this effort. Due to new EDA requirements, we need to rewrite our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This process is just beginning.
  - b. There will be a meeting at the Billings farm in Woodstock at 5:45 pm on May 21<sup>st</sup> regarding small-scale agriculture.
8. Old Business – None
9. New Business – None
10. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.