

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING

Steamboat Room – Chase House
 Meredith, NH
 September 28, 2009

PRESIDING: Robert Snelling, Chairman **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM

QUORUM: Yes **COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 16

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret LaBerge, Alexandria
 Thomas Hoopes, Alton
 John Cotton, Andover
 David Kerr, Barnstead
 Richard Wait, Gilford
 Robert Snelling, Holderness
 Todd Elgin, Holderness
 Herbert Vadney, Meredith
 Herb Farnham, Moultonborough
 Barbara Perry, Moultonborough
 Wayne Crowley, Northfield
 Doug Read, Northfield
 Patricia Jones, Ossipee
 Carmine Cioffi, Sanbornton
 Robert Butcher, Sandwich
 Susan Mitchel, Sandwich
 Tom Peters, Tamworth
 Jay Kitchener, Tuftonboro
 Roger Murray, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT: Lori Sommer, NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES); Joanne Morin, Office of Energy & Planning (OEP); Alton: Sharon Penny; Moultonborough: Hollis Austin, Sam Perry, Judy Ryerson; Ossipee: Roger ter Kuile; Sanbornton: Donald O’Borma, Ian Raymond. Kimon Koulet and Marie Gelinas, LRPC; and other interested parties.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Robert Snelling called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members. He asked for a motion for those present to constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, a motion was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/Perry*

2 Minutes of May 11, 2009 Commission Meeting

Chairman Robert Snelling asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/Perry*

R. Snelling informed attendees that nine meetings were held around the state regarding large groundwater withdrawals to gather feedback. The Groundwater Commission has been evaluating the information to recommend an amendment to the legislature for the Groundwater Protection Act.

3. LRPC FY-2010 Annual Report and FY-2011 Local Appropriations

R. Snelling said the FY-2010 Annual Report summarizes all that LRPC accomplished last year and where we plan to go this year. D. Kerr commented about including a financial report as part of the annual report. R. Snelling said the Executive Board had a discussion on the format of the report that would be easier to grasp, such as graphs, charts, as bullets. A subcommittee has been formed to review this matter. K. Koulet noted that Commissioners do receive detailed annual budget information during the budget approval process, usually in April of each year. A motion to approve the LRPC FY-2010 Annual Report as submitted was approved. *M/S/P Hoopes/Waitt*

R. Snelling said last year the Commission voted to change the way we calculate annual dues and to wait until the 2010 Census. In intervening years, annual dues were tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep abreast of costs. Changes in the CPI declined by -1.3% May over May. The Commission has not made any decision about how to manage a negative CPI. The Executive Board discussed three options 1) the social security policy (which stays level funded when the CPI decreases), 2) the annual CPI, or 3) use three-year average for longer trend indicators. For FY11, he said the executive board opted to continue using the CPI, which would effectively reduce local appropriations from last year. A motion to approve the FY-2011 Appropriations as presented was unanimously approved. *M/S/P LaBerge/Perry*

R. Snelling said a survey was sent to Commissioners last spring to determine what LRPC should strategically be focusing on in the future. The economy rose to the top three in all categories along with water quality/natural resources, and infrastructure. He said the survey results confirmed that our focus is on the right track. He also noted that LRPC is looking at whether it should become an economic development district. For example, he cited that LRPC has been involved in economic development through CEDS, grant monies for Brownfields to clean up polluted/contaminated properties, the Winnepesaukee Subwatershed Plan for water resources management, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is involved in transportation planning for the Lakes Region.

4. Planning, Energy, and NH Communities: Challenges and Outlook

R. Snelling introduced Joanne Morin, Director, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP). She started her talk about climate change and the Climate Change Task Force. This diverse group has been charged with recommending goals

to reduce greenhouse gas. In addition, they have been further charged with recommending specific regulatory, voluntary and policy actions, based on stakeholder input that New Hampshire government, businesses, industry, and residents can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The planning effort included 300 pages of public comments. Some of the objectives include maximizing energy efficiency in buildings and transportation; increasing renewable and low-emitting heat and electric power sources; protecting natural resources to maintain the amount of carbon sequestered; developing an integrated education, outreach, and workforce training program; and adapting to existing and potential climate change impacts.

J. Morin said potential areas RPCs can participate include: land use by focusing on implementing innovative zoning ordinances, promoting local transportation projects to improve traffic flow; and promoting transit and pedestrian oriented development around existing transit stations. She also said RPCs may be effective in supporting local efforts to increase the energy efficiency of communities.

Following the presentation, the audience raised many questions, some of which are as follows:

- R. Snelling asked about the potential role for Regional Planning Commissions to participate and if a representative could serve on the task force. J. Morin said she could not recall if anyone is representing the RPCs, but will get back to him.
- M. LaBerge asked if the state education department has made a commitment to inserting energy efficiency within the schools. J. Morin noted that they have a great program for technical schools because they are working on workforce training. Their goal is to work on developing curriculum levels at the lower levels.
- J. Cotton enquired why we are not considering nuclear energy. J. Morin responded there is not just one solution. She added their action plan supports maintaining nuclear energy.
- An attendee asked about low heat technology. J. Morin said the idea is to increase renewal energy that doesn't have any emissions. We want to encourage low-emitting, fuel efficient heat.

Regarding the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), J. Morin said OEP is currently seeking proposals from qualified firms to administer two unique Loan and Grant Programs for NH businesses. Funding is available for energy efficiency measures to buildings and/or processes, and for renewable energy systems to be installed on or at business-owned buildings. The chosen administrator will develop a business plan that is responsive to market conditions; promote the program to businesses throughout the state; distribute funds to qualified businesses; oversee the program's progress and compliance with all requirements; collect and report on data about jobs created and retained, energy saved, emissions reduced, and other relevant information.

The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning submitted a State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program plan to the Department of Energy. The innovative proposal will offer \$1.2 million in rebates to New Hampshire residents

for the purchase and installation of solar-thermal hot-water systems and for upgrading heating systems, including boilers, furnaces and hot-water heaters to more energy-efficient models.

New Hampshire expects to realize a significant level of energy savings with this plan. The rebate will be available to New Hampshire residents who are replacing an existing appliance listed under the program. Savings for residents, in some instances, could be as high as 50 percent for replacing a wasteful and inefficient hot-water heater, boiler or furnace. Also noteworthy is this program will be available to municipal utility ratepayers in addition to all New Hampshire residents. More information can be obtained from their website www.nh.gov/oep/recovery.

K. Koulet asked if any progress has been made in getting Regional Planning Commissions directly involved with the Office of State Planning in assisting towns with grant writing, technical assistance, developing strategic plans, etc. to better position them for the upcoming funding. J. Morin said there are two different ways for OEP to approach this: in an RFP for an administrator experienced in financing, or creating a separate RFP for grant writers for municipalities.

5. An Overview of the 2009 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund

Chairman Robert Snelling introduced Lori Sommer, Wetland Mitigation Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Wetland Bureau. L. Sommer said NHDES announced that up to \$153,000.00 is available through the ARM Fund for eligible projects within the Winnepesaukee River Watershed. Application submissions are due at the DES Wetlands Bureau office no later than 4:00 PM on December 31, 2009. Any of New Hampshire's communities wholly or partially located within the Winnepesaukee River watershed; Belknap, Carroll, Grafton and Strafford County governments; Regional Planning Commissions; County Conservation Districts; Watershed/River Associations; state agencies; departments within the University of New Hampshire and other institutions of higher education; community public school districts; and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The ARM fund provides an in-lieu fee payment alternative for permit applicants to consider when striving to meet state and federal wetland mitigation requirements. The ARM funds are ready to be awarded to eligible projects in the watershed.

The Winnepesaukee River Watershed will be the fourth of the 16 watershed ARM Fund accounts to be ready for release. As these funds are tied to wetland mitigation requirements, the proposal ranking criteria will favor those projects that restore and permanently protect the functions and values of aquatic resources that were lost within the watershed during the grant cycle. The primary functions lost include wildlife habitat, sediment/nutrient retention and flood flow alteration.

Following the presentation, the audience raised many questions, some of which are as follows:

- T. Hoopes asked what is used as contact points for RFPs (board of selectmen, planning boards)? L. Sommer said hard copies are sent to Conservation Commissions, and DES also uses the Internet and press releases.
- T. Hoopes asked if the Army Corps of Engineers review all applications submitted. L. Sommer said yes as well as does inspections.

6. Other Business

K. Koulet reminded attendees of the third Law Lecture series to be held at the Meredith Community Center on Wednesday, September 30.

He also noted that there will be a Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan stakeholders meeting on October 1 at 6 PM at the Prescott Farm Conservancy in Laconia.

When asked when they would prefer to meet in November, a majority of Commissioners chose November 23.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.