

Lamoille County Planning Commission

Executive Committee Meeting

January 9, 2024

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leo Clark (Treasurer) <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven (Vice Chair) <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Paus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Riki French
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Magoon (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duncan Hastings <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Goff (Secretary) <i>Video</i>		

Staff: Tasha Wallis, Seth Jensen, Georgeana Little

Chair Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 4:57 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no adjustments to the agenda and no public comment.

Approval of November 14, 2023 Minutes

*Dick Goff motioned to approve the November 14, 2023 minutes. Greg Paus seconded.
Motion carried.*

Flood Recovery Update

Since the last Executive Committee meeting there has been another flood in Lamoille County. Two of the four largest recorded floods in the region have occurred in the last six months. The December flood did not cause as much physical damage as the July or Halloween floods but there are likely psychological impacts to residents. These storms make it clear that there is a need for long-term planning for flood mitigation as well as preparedness. There have been several requests for buyouts in Cambridge, Johnson, and Wolcott. Buyouts are likely to take a minimum of 18 months to be processed.

Financial Services & Budget Update

Nicole will be ending her contract in June. We have begun advertising for a financial manager. In addition to Lamoille County Planning Commission's (LCPC) finances, we plan to contract with Lamoille FiberNet for their finances and possibly with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission as well. If we are unable to secure an employee we would go to a contractual position similar to what we have with Nicole.

The audit is supposed to be sent to the Agency for Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) by January 15th to secure our quarterly funding. The audit will not be ready for at least another 2 weeks. It is important to know that this year we are also having a federal single audit.

It is likely we will need the Board to approve another budget amendment in January because of significant new grants.

The question of the acceptance of the new municipal appropriations by the towns was raised. Tasha Wallis reported that she is working with all the towns.

Legislative Preview & Policy Discussion

This year there will be a lot of legislation relative to planning. Tasha and Seth Jensen would like to know if there are any particular policy issues of importance to Board members that they can raise with our legislators. Renewable energy and townwide reappraisals were raised as important issues.

This will be a hectic session and things could happen very quickly.

Brian Leven suggested that LCPC should be proactive in developing data driven reasons for increased funding for RPCs. Tasha said she hoped that last year's increase would be this year's base.

The final phase of the Smuggs' project should be funded by a federal grant procured by Senator Sanders but it will be necessary to have the match promised before the grant can be accepted. Tasha and Seth are working with the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to secure the match.

Executive Director's Report

- Tasha, Seth, and Carol Caldwell-Edmonds attended the first Welcoming Communities seminar this week.
- The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has been expanded from two communities to six.
- There was a major culvert blowout on the Mountain Road in Stowe in December. LCPC will be working with the Town, FEMA, and the state to address the problems of erosion and older culverts on the Mountain Road.

Meeting Adjourned

Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Riki French seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.