

Lamoille County Planning Commission

Executive Committee Meeting

May 15, 2024

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leo Clark (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven (Vice Chair) <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Paus	<input 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, Georgeana Little

Chair Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Opportunity for Public Comment

There will be an update on the Energy section of the Regional Plan after approval of the minutes of last month’s meeting and there was no public comment.

Approval of April 9, 2024 Minutes

*Greg Paus motioned to approve the April 9, 2024 minutes. Leo Clark seconded.
Motion carried.*

Energy Section of the Regional Plan Update

The Energy section of the Regional Plan needs to be updated, requiring 2 Public Hearings. The hearings were scheduled for the May and July Board Meetings. Due to an error at the newspaper the announcement of the May Public Hearing did not appear in the newspaper 15 days prior to the hearing as required. Therefore, the hearing needs to be rescheduled. To avoid undue delay in approval of the plan, it is proposed that we warn the first Public Hearing as a stand alone hearing to which Board members would be welcome, but not required to attend. The Committee agreed to this change in dates.

Clean Water Service Provider Appointment

Currently Dick Goff is Lamoille County Planning Commission’s (LCPC) appointee to the Clean Water Service Provider Board with Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, as alternate. As the alternate, Meghan can not charge her time to the grant so she is requesting that she become the appointee with Dick as the alternate. Dick has no objection to the change.

Greg Paus motioned to appoint Meghan Rodier as LCPC’s appointee to the Clean Water Service Provider Board with Dick Goff as the alternate. Leo Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Draft Budget Review

Tasha Wallis reported that, as usual, the draft budget will be presented to the Board at the May meeting and the final budget will be presented for approval at the June Annual Meeting. The budget presented here is mostly finalized with a few tweaks necessary. Last year 's increase in Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) funding will continue into FY25 with a 3% increase. There is plenty of money in the budget for staff. FY26 may be difficult due to funding cutbacks. Most of our grants are year to year grants with no carryover. Duncan Hastings asked if there were any prospective grants. Tasha said that the Northern Vermont Economic Development District (NVEDD), of which we are a member, had applied for a Economic Development grant (EDA) for \$500,000. There is also an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant which we will be applying for in June. There is \$91 million in Hazard Mitigation funds which our municipalities will be applying for. Finally, the Congressionally Directed Spending for the final project in the Notch has been applied for.

Audit Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

We put out a RFP for Audit services but to date have received no proposals. Sullivan Powers has agreed to do our audit for one more year. We will put out another RFP in the summer for services after next year.

Morristown Town Plan Update

Tasha has met with members of Morristown Selectboard. They have identified two issues:

1. The Morristown Zoning Ordinance is not consistent with the Town Plan;
2. The Plan was not warned as an amendment but as a full plan update. This would further delay approval of the plan.

Executive Director's Report

- We have entered into an agreement with the Communications Union District (CUD) for accounting services up to 1 day per week beginning in July.
- The Housing Needs Assessment is almost finalized.
- The Legislature passed H687, the Act 250 update, and many are confident it will become law. We are not sure yet exactly what is in the legislation. The Legislature also passed updates to open meeting law and municipal tax abatements.
- The chicanes are up at each end of the Notch to prevent "stuckages".

Executive Session

Duncan Hastings motioned to enter into Executive Session. Greg Paus seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Paus motioned to exit Executive Session. Duncan Hastings seconded. Motion carried.

Brian Leven motioned to increase the base salary of the Executive Director by 5%. Duncan Hastings seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

Leo Clark motioned to adjourn. Greg Paus seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.