

**Lamoille County Planning Commission: Regional Plan Meeting Draft Minutes
August 22, 2022**

Members present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marina Meerburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Riki French
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Caldwell Edmonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Braun

Staff: Salvador Morales, Meghan Rodier

Meghan Rodier called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Call to order; Agenda Changes

No changes to the agenda suggested.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The Regional Plan Committee welcomed Trevor Braun as a new member of the Committee. LCPC Board Chair, Caleb Magoon, recently appointed Trevor to the Regional Plan Committee. Meghan Rodier explained how the Regional Plan Committee also acts as the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) as clean water topics arise. Meghan noted the Winooski Tactical Basin Planner, Karen Bates, has asked LCPC to host a topic meeting to inform strategy development for the Basin Plan. The LCPC plans to host a meeting with the CWAC on Knotweed prevention, control, and disposal. The goal is to host this CWAC meeting fall of 2022 (October or November).

Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 18th, 2022

Marina Meerburg moved to approve the July 18th, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Linda Martin. Trevor Braun abstained.

Regional Plan Update

Salvador Morales, LCPC Assistant Planner, guided the Committee through the Regional Plan, Telecommunications and Broadband chapter. Meghan Rodier presented an updated Regionally Significant Ridgelines letter to the committee for approval before sending out to municipalities.

The Regional Plan Committee recommended the following changes to the draft Telecommunications and Broadband Chapter of the Regional Plan:

Telecommunications and Broadband Chapter

Page 131:

- In the first paragraph replace the word proprietary with proprietary rights.
- In the second paragraph under the header “Complete Wi-Fi or broadband coverage...”, add “telehealth” after teleworking.
- The Committee stated that it could be helpful to reach out to VCBB to gain a better understanding of telecommunication in our region. Visit the VCBB website to aid chapter updates regarding Broadband.
- In the second paragraph under the header “Support the adoption of a 10-year plan....” clarify whether “co-location” refers to co-locating towers or co-locating the telecommunications system.

Page 132:

- In the first section of Action items, reword bullet points 2-4 and reduce redundancy.
- Second bullet point on the page, reword sentence to say “Support projects that promote affordable pricing structures...”
- The last bullet point on the page add, “infrastructure that can include” after the word “increase.”

Page 133:

- In the 4th bullet point on the page, define what “core functions” mean.
- In the 1st sentence under the second Policy listed, rephrase this sentence to say, “This Plan recognizes that Broadband can reinforce, strengthen, and build community ties, and be used as a tool to actively bring communities together as well as passively move them apart.”
- In the third bullet point under the 2nd “Action Items” header, break up the sentence and make them separate bullet points.

Page 134:

- Consider mentioning satellite service in the first list of action items on page 134.

Page 135:

- Update the definition for Broadband. The download/upload speeds are out of date.
- Change any mention of FairPoint to Consolidated Communications.

Page 136:

- Under the Broadband Coverage section, when noting a price for service, say that at the time of the plan, service cost ranged from \$xx-\$xxx. Also mention other cable/broadband providers in this paragraph. See VCBB website for price ranges.
- Redo second paragraph so that DSL replaces Dial up as the most basic internet service available.
- Replace FairPoint with Consolidated Communications.
- Under the Satellite subsection, recognize newer satellites service technologies.

Pages 137:

- Under cellular phone service, address 5G and its potential in the region.
- Consider deleting Personal Communication Services subsection as it may not apply to Lamoille County anymore. Research this and consider how to update it if possible.
- Add Elmore to the towns who recently installed hotspots. Elmore has new Wi-Fi hotspots in the Village center.
- In the last paragraph, rename community center to the Town Hall.

Page 138:

- In first paragraph mention that internet-based dispatch is also used as a form of communication in addition to VHF. Not all towns have that available to them though.
- Change “newspaper” subheading to “news media.”
- Under the “News Media” section, add that publications could go all digital in the future, but many people still rely on hard copies especially when power outages occur.
- Add that Hardwick Gazette is digital (online) only.

Page 139:

- Put “For example” in third paragraph where it mentions the 2020 pandemic.
- It could be beneficial to mention the access to battery backups/storage that residents can have and how it could assist people during times of a disaster and power outage.

Maps

- Rename first Broadband coverage map to “Highspeed Broadband Coverage on Lamoille Roads.” Make the background slightly more transparent.

Energy Chapter

Regionally Significant Ridgelines Designation Letter

- The Committee recommended that LCPC should explained the status that is achieved and what happens after a ridgeline is added to the Regional Plan as a “regionally significant ridgeline”.
- Add these clarifications to both the letter and definition page.

Meeting adjourned: Marina Meerburg moved to adjourn, Linda Martin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.