

**Lamoille County Planning Commission: Regional Plan Committee Meeting Draft Notes
June 20, 2023**

Members present:

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

Staff: Victoria Hellwig, Salvador Morales, Meghan Rodier

The meeting began at 4:03 pm.

Call to order; Agenda Changes

Meghan asked the Committee to discuss scheduling a September Regional Plan Committee/ Clean Water Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 15th, 2023

Rich Pearson motioned to approve the May 15th, 2023, meeting minutes. Marina Meerburg seconded the motion. All in favor.

September CWAC/ Regional Plan Meeting

The Committee agreed to host a meeting in early September to discuss the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and critical comments on the Regional Plan that may require Committee input before the plan is finalized and sent to the full LCPC Board of Directors to for adoption. Meghan and Sal will follow up with the Regional Plan Committee to schedule the meeting in September. Marina noted she is gone the first week in September.

Equity Impact Assessment Tool and Draft Regional Plan

Tori noted she conducted a review of the Regional Plan policies and actions using the Draft JEDI Equity Impact Assessment Tool. Overall, the review showed that the Regional Plan promotes equity, and no policies were found to be inequitable. Tori made a few minor suggested language changes to Regional Plan policies included in the June 20th meeting packet. Committee members discussed the first suggestion regarding encouraging local/regional recreation guides in multiple languages. Marina noted this would require hiring a translator to create these documents and it would be very costly. Marina suggested looking more into the demand for translation services and translation tools available. Brian made suggested changes to the action item called out on page 81. Change the action item to say “Work to install electric vehicle charging stations in each of the region’s designated Downtowns and Village Centers and at park and ride locations, and encourage or incentivize private businesses to host charging stations.”

Public Service Department Comments on Lamoille County Enhanced Energy Plan

Salvador provided a memo summarizing comments from the Vermont Public Service Department. The Plan is in compliance with Act 174 standards. There were a few areas the DPS provided feedback to improve the plan. The Committee discussed questions raised by DPS such as what communities will be

most impacted by the Energy Plan policies? The Committee suggested adding language in the Energy chapter regarding the following:

-Note that people living in rural, remote areas will be impacted by energy plan policies due to potential power outages and longer response times. Heavy use of electric technology for heating and cooling and transportation needs will put more strain on an already limited grid system in terms of capacity. This could lead to winter blackouts.

-Note that low-income people will be impacted most by energy policies since they don't have the financial means to weatherize their home or upgrade heating/cooling systems.

-Charging stations are more likely to be built in denser areas such as Village Centers, which will be less accessible for people living in rural areas of the county.

-When the LCPC Plan and Project Review Committee reviews energy projects for conformance with the Regional Plan, consider the impact of the project on rural underserved areas and low-income communities.

Regional Plan Review

The Committee revisited sections of the draft Regional Plan that were further revised since the last Committee review. The following suggestions were made:

Cover Page

- Add a photo of a Village Center/Downtown area. LCPC can pull one from a Village Center Designation application.

Transportation Chapter

- Note the percentage in which public transit ridership has gone up in the last decade.
- Use cross-access between development parking lots as an example in the Transportation Demand Management policies/actions.
- Consider adding a policy regarding encouraging vegetative buffers for aesthetic purposes. This may make more sense in the Land Use chapter.

Housing Chapter

- Add a statement about the Vermont Home Act of 2023 (Act 47) and how the Housing chapter will be amended at a future date when new Housing Needs Assessment data is available.

Meeting adjourned: *Marina Meerburg motioned to adjourn, Linda Martin seconded. All in favor.* The meeting ended at 5:17 pm.