

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES
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4 DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2022
5 TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda
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Members Present:

Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep from Winooski
Dana Hanley, Board Rep from Charlotte
Annie Costandi, CWAC Rep from Essex
Abby Bleything, Board Rep, Alt. Winooski
Andrew Watts, Board Rep from Williston

Staff:

Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Engineer
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager

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10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 Regina Mahony welcomed everyone at 7:02pm.

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13 **2. Approve May 10, 2022 Minutes**

14 Eric Vorwald made a motion, seconded by Annie Costandi to approve the May 10, 2022 minutes. No further
15 discussion. MOTION PASSED. Abstain: Andrew Watts

16 **3. Review the DRAFT Energy & Climate Change Section**

17 Melanie Needle provided an overview of the Climate Change & Energy section. Melanie Needle reviewed the
18 impacts of climate change.

19
20 Climate Comments:

- 21 1. Pg. 6 - Two L's in woolly
- 22 2. There was a conversation about the PAC comments that this section reads very doom and gloom. Eric and
23 Abby stated that they are okay with how it reads because it is reality.
- 24 3. Different term than "leaf peeping".
- 25 4. Climate related infectious diseases – West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are these Chittenden County
26 data points? Clarify in the text. Also these data points say "since 2011" – is that correct?
- 27 5. Reference the Climate Action Plan (CAP) throughout the text; we talk about the Comprehensive Energy Plan
28 context but not the CAP.

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30 Energy Comments:

- 31 1. Amperage instead of ampage?
- 32 2. Energy and terminology – suggest the use of "adaptation" because that is essentially what we are doing.
33 Conveys a "we can do this message."
- 34 3. What does "beneficial electrification" mean? Melanie stated that this is a general term that groups electric
35 technologies (EVs, heat pumps, smart grid, etc.). Staff will clarify this in the text.
- 36 4. Is this visually the way we are going to present it? It's a big block of text without graphics and spaces. The
37 eyes get tired. Melanie explained that the online version won't have as much text at the front end. Additional
38 text will be in drop down menus if the reader wants to see more. Regina added that there might still be a
39 large pdf with all the text for download; which would ideally be more succinct but we may not get to that..
- 40 5. "Region is planning for a major shift away from fossil fuels" – is there an actual more specific plan for this?
41 Melanie stated that there isn't. The suggestion was made to rephrase the sentence so it's clear there isn't
42 another more specific plan somewhere.
- 43 6. There was a question about "Currently natural gas prices aren't cost competitive with electricity". Can we
44 quantify this and put actual dollar amounts so folks can understand. In actuality, the cost of electricity is a lot
45 more expensive; and it's unlikely that people are going to switch until it becomes more cost effective. Staff
46 will clarify this and add data on rates.

- 1 7. Do we have a map of the electric utility service areas to show how much of the County is covered by which
2 utility (and benefitting from their RES goals). Melanie stated that there is a map and we can link to it in the
3 text.
- 4 8. Strategy 2 reference in the yellow highlighted section on page 7 – say “ECOS” Strategy 2 if keeping this
5 text. Even with a new strategy, list “ECOS” so it’s clear.
6

7 Strategy/Actions Comments:

- 8 1. The weatherization goals and renewable energy goals are the state level goals. If we have County level goals,
9 please include them.
- 10 2. A.ii. – Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – build out of EV charging network. Eleni indicated that
11 they will be addressing it in the MTP.
- 12 3. A.vi – wide variety of renewable energy types. Work with municipalities to ensure they have the room for
13 transmission and infrastructure needed to support renewable energy generation.
- 14 4. All municipalities in the region should have renewable siting standards.
15

16 Other:

- 17 5. As drafted a reader must hunt for the state energy goals down below the key indicators when the energy
18 section starts with “state energy plan goals”. Need to better align this. Also make sure to include the Climate
19 Action Plan goals and the Comprehensive Energy Plan goals.
- 20 6. In Energy Overview - Include EAN graphic about how much money leaves the state when we pay for fossil
21 fuels. The graphic actually says its 75%, but the draft text doesn’t say that explicitly. There was also a
22 question about Hydro Quebec and how much energy the state imports from them. The comment about money
23 leaving the state could also be made about money leaving the country even though Hydro Quebec is
24 renewable.
- 25 7. Siting policy – would like to see CCRPC exert significant pressure on the all the municipalities to do the
26 enhanced energy plan as there are gaps in the County.
- 27 8. Siting v. – “Locate ground-mounted solar generation, and small-scale wind (1 or 2 turbines, up to 50 meters
28 (164 ft.) in Chittenden County’s areas planned for growth, while allowing infill development wherever
29 reasonably practical.” Is this what we want to say? Melanie explained that we did this to keep the load close
30 to the demand. The question was more about the turbines between the areas planned for growth and the rural
31 planning area. Staff stated that we can clarify the purpose of this siting guideline in the text. Staff can also
32 look at the turbine height, though it may be a moot point because the current wind turbine standards are too
33 hard to achieve.
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35 **4. Meeting Times**

36 Regina Mahony explained that we landed on Tuesdays originally, and she recalls Thursdays were the only other
37 option. After starting at 7pm, we moved it up to 6pm. However, now 6pm won’t work on Tuesdays. Regina provided
38 folks with a poll question to try to get a sense of the best time.
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40 Based on the poll results the next meeting is likely set for August 9, 2022 at 7pm, and the topic will be Land Use,
41 Utilities, Infrastructure & Government Finance.
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43 **5. Adjourn**

44 The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.
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46 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony