

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Tuesday, September 12, 2023
5 TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda
7

Members Present:	Staff:
Ben Bornstein, Westford Rep	Anne Nelson Stoner, Equity and Engagement Manager
Annie Costandi, CWAC / MS4 Rep	Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep	Sarah Muskin, Planner
Dana Hanley, Charlotte Rep	Taylor Newton, Planning Program Manager
Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep	Darren Schibler, Senior Planner
	Public: None

8 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

9 T. Newton welcomed everyone at 7:02pm.

10 **2. Approve August 8, 2023 Minutes**

11 E. Vorwald made a motion, seconded by B. Henneberger, to approve the August meeting minutes. The motion
12 passed 5-0.
13

14 **3. Review of the Draft ECOS Plan – People sections**

15 T. Newton reviewed the changes to the ECOS People sections since 2022. This includes updates to data,
16 recommended changes from LRPC and PAC, and the addition of language to better incorporate equity throughout
17 the document. He also noted that the document will be copyedited and reformatted in Adobe InDesign prior to
18 adoption.
19

20 **Goals**

21 Health: T. Newton noted that the Health goal is a new goal under which several other topics were reorganized.
22 New content includes addressing systematic barriers to health, defining health equity, and recovery from COVID-
23 19. D. Hanley noted there should be a comma after “Housing” in the second sentence of the first bullet. Under the
24 Health Equity heading, E. Vorwald asked to move the text about walking, biking, and transit under the third
25 bullet, second sub-bullet into the second bullet where it is already discussed. In addition:

- 26 • E. Vorwald asked if there is any data on cannabis usage since it has been legalized (after 2020). M.
27 Needle noted staff had asked this question of the VT Department of Health and CCRPC is still waiting on
28 the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data for 2021 which would inform this topic.
- 29 • E. Vorwald noted that under “Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic,” the second sentence of the last
30 bullet could cite the source of the study in the text rather than just the footnotes.
- 31 • B. Bornstein noted that the graphs for Chittenden County Adult Health Indicators did not print correctly
32 (there was overlapping text in the titles).
- 33 • E. Vorwald asked how the VT Department of Health data captures people who fall into multiple identity
34 categories (i.e., BIPOC and disabled). Staff will confirm with the Department.
35

36 Emergency Management: T. Newton noted that this goal had previously included the topic “Public Safety and
37 Criminal Justice,” but this was removed because it simply discussed data without addressing substantive issues
38 and it is not a statutory requirement. Instead, the focus has become emergency management, and subheadings
39 were used to parallel the five FEMA phases of emergency management described on the first page.

- 40 • B. Bornstein noted that the FEMA phases, the order of the list of under the first bullet does not follow the
41 order of the descriptions. He also noted that these may not reflect the actual FEMA structure. T. Newton
42 said we’d edit to use the FEMA format.

- 1 • E. Vorwald commented that the discussion of regional dispatch does not capture the current state of the
2 effort, which may not come to fruition. T. Newton agreed that it could be stated that this is not a sure
3 thing.
- 4 • E. Vorwald also commented that the document could mention the training that RPC staff must complete
5 in order to staff the State Emergency Operations Center. He also noticed there is an incomplete sentence
6 at the end of the Federally-Declared Disasters section. D. Schibler described the training, which includes
7 the basics of the Incident Command System, how the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center is
8 structured, and section-specific trainings. For CCRPC, this includes Planning and Information Analysis
9 (mapping)
- 10 • E. Vorwald noted that the flood mitigation section that discusses irrigation infrastructure should address
11 planning for both drought and flooding. B. Henneberger suggested discussing the role of USDA in
12 providing farmers with funding for climate resilience and disaster relief. T. Newton suggested getting
13 estimates of crop losses from the July 2023 flooding event.

14
15 Civic Engagement: This goal was edited slightly to talk about trust (specifically influence) in local government, as
16 well as barriers to civic engagement and the feeling of certain communities that government engagement is
17 extractive but ignores their actual input.

- 18 • B. Bornstein noted that the last sentence about barriers to civic engagement needs more foundational
19 discussion to provide context about why these barriers exist, and what CCRPC has done or plans to do to
20 address them. T. Newton agreed this could be discussed through qualitative input from CCRPC's Equity
21 Advisory Committee.

22
23 Social Connectedness: T. Newton summarized this goal, noting that it has been completely revised from the prior
24 text. This includes discussion of the connection between health and social connectedness, and removing the prior
25 language on the index of dissimilarity.

- 26 • E. Vorwald asked if the text regarding outreach done in 2012 will be updated when further outreach is
27 completed for this plan. He noted that the information on prior outreach could be kept but given its age it
28 should be discussed in the context of current work.

30 Strategies

31 Health & Safety: T. Newton noted that the Strategy is the same, but the actions have been completely rewritten.

- 32 • B. Bornstein clarified that under Strategy 8, Action 3 the word “if” should be replaced with “whether” in
33 the statement “An HIA also identifies if any populations will be more impacted than others...”
- 34 • B. Henneberger asked to add “livable communities” to the list of living conditions under Strategy 8,
35 Action 1.

36 Governance:

- 37 • B. Bornstein reiterated that there needs to be more background on the barriers to civic engagement to
38 better support Strategy 9, Action 1. He also commented that Strategy 9, Action 1-f seems to imply that
39 government documents are not accessible, whether this is actually a problem, and what the specific issues
40 are that need to be fixed. T. Newton suggested that the primary barrier might be language access for non-
41 English speakers.
- 42 • B. Bornstein noted that Strategy 9, Action 1-e does not address the availability of civics classes for those
43 going through the naturalization process. T. Newton believed that this action is more related to state and
44 local government, rather than federal naturalization, and B. Bornstein noted that these are very different
45 issues.
- 46 • B. Henneberger commented on the challenge of recruiting younger people to municipal boards and
47 committees due to their lack of time availability. He also noted that UVM Extension used to have classes
48 on local boards and committees, but not anymore.

49
50
51 T. Newton noted that the remainder of the Governance section is relatively unchanged from the prior version.

1
2 Equity: T. Newton and A.N. Stoner noted that this strategy and its actions are totally new, and most of them come
3 from the still-draft Equity Action Plan (EAP). The actions follow the structure of the EAP.

- 4 • E. Vorwald commented that the text could explicitly state that these actions are summarized from the
5 EAP, rather than just referring to it.
- 6 • B. Henneberger commented that getting input from the BIPOC community isn't enough and that members
7 of those communities need to be in the room when policy decisions are made. A.N. Stoner noted that
8 many of the actions in the EAP and ECOS Plan did come directly from engagement with the BIPOC
9 community, but agreed that there should be an action to better involve BIPOC individuals in CCRPC as
10 an organization.

11 12 **4. ECOS Plan Website and Schedule Update**

13 T. Newton updated the LRPC that the RFP issued to convert the ECOS plan into a website has closed and staff are
14 close to selecting a consultant. If all goes to schedule, the website should be drafted by May 2024, which could
15 support community engagement planned for the spring / summer.

16
17 T. Newton also noted that the adoption schedule for the ECOS Plan has been pushed out by an additional 6 months
18 for three reasons.

- 19 • There is a need to do better outreach to underrepresented communities with guidance from the Equity
20 Advisory Committee. Outreach will be starting in earnest in the late winter/early spring and will wrap up in
21 the summer.
- 22 • The HOME Act (Act 47) requires that regional plans now include regional housing targets set by the
23 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment. Initially this was expected to be done after adoption of the ECOS
24 Plan, but it has now been moved up to March 2024. Regional targets must be disaggregated to municipalities,
25 so CCRPC will need to develop a new, defensible method for this process, primarily guided by the Planning
26 Advisory Committee.
- 27 • Staff expect legislative changes this spring regarding how regional plans' future land use maps are
28 constructed. This may have implications for Act 250 jurisdiction and other statewide policies.

29
30 CCRPC staff want to make sure that all these changes are included in the new ECOS Plan and are given sufficient
31 time to be considered carefully. While it is currently unclear exactly how this will affect the LRPC in the long term,
32 in the short term, staff are still planning to continue with review of the Place theme and a final review of the full plan
33 in November. Staff also expect to bring feedback from the public engagement process back to LRPC, along with the
34 regional housing targets and future land use map, in the summer of 2024. T. Newton acknowledged that this is a big
35 ask of the committee members, but hoped that it will result in a better plan and better results for CCRPC's member
36 municipalities. A new ECOS Plan schedule will be presented at the October meeting.

37
38 E. Vorwald asked to revisit the start times for LRPC meetings to avoid late nights. Members still in the meeting were
39 supportive of earlier meeting times, and staff will reach out to members not present to explore this possibility.

40 41 **5. Adjourn**

42 *made a motion to adjourn. B. Henneberger made a motion, seconded by B. Bornstein, to adjourn the meeting. The*
43 *motion passed at 7:54 pm.*

44
45 Respectfully submitted, Darren Schibler