

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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CNHRPC Full Commission Meeting DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2024

7:00pm

Horseshoe Pond Community Resource Room w/ Zoom Remote Option

26 Commercial Street

Concord, NH 03301

Commission Attendees:

Barbara Randall, Town of Boscawen
Steve Buckley, Town of Bow
Jim Bibbo, Town of Bradford
Harold Wright, Town of Bradford
Matthew Hicks, City of Concord
Keith Johnson, Town of Deering
Ken Swayze, Town of Dunbarton
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom
Susanne White, Town of Hillsborough
Clarke Kidder, Town of Hopkinton
Stan Brehm, Town of Pembroke
Kathy Cruson, Town of Pembroke
Joe Schmidl, Town of Salisbury
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton
Craig Fournier, Town of Webster

CNHRPC Staff:

Stephanie Alexander, Senior Planner
Matthew Monahan, Senior Planner
Vince Pagano, Regional Planner
Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
Craig Tufts, Principal GIS/Transportation Planner

The meeting was called to order by CNHRPC Chair Clarke Kidder at 7:00pm. Clarke welcomed all attendees and turned the program over to Jennifer Galbraith from NH DES.

Speaker: Jennifer Galbraith, Climate & Energy Program Manager, NH DES Air Resources Division

New Hampshire Priority Climate Action Plan/Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and Clean Transportation Funding Opportunities

Jennifer opened her presentation with an overview the funding and programs of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and the New Hampshire Clean Diesel Grant program that is funded through DERA. The program supports the replacement of diesel vehicles, equipment buses, and marine engines with reimbursements ranging from 25% to 40% of eligible project costs depending upon project type. She also provided a quick overview of the VW Trust Fund, of which NH DES is the lead agency. She described the state's beneficiary mitigation plan that is projected to spend approximately \$31m that New Hampshire received from the VW settlement. Of that amount, approximately \$15.5m was reserved to replace state and municipal vehicles, \$10m was set aside for the now closed Granite State Clean Fleets Program, \$4.6m was reserved for EV charging facilities, and approximately \$6.2m was reserved for competitive projects, although there are no current open VW Trust funding opportunities.

She further shared that the state is currently working under two Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CCPRG), a planning grant, and an implementation grant, both from the EPA, requiring significant planning and deliverables including the development of the Priority Climate Action Plan, the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in 2025, and a Comprehensive Status Report due in August 2027. She then discussed the objectives set by the EPA under the CPRG, focusing on reducing greenhouse gases and creating new jobs in disadvantaged communities. She highlighted the Justice 40 initiative, which mandates 40% of the grant funds for these initiatives to be directed to low-income and disadvantaged areas and noted that all sectors had been surveyed for ready-to-implement projects. She indicated a barrier in the implementation of the plan related to older buildings' lack of readiness for energy efficiency measures. She also introduced the EPA's CEJST mapper, used to identify communities facing specific issues to prioritize resources.

Jennifer then described the community engagement efforts undertaken by her team over the past six months, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Listens program. They organized numerous in-person and online sessions to gather feedback and ideas from various communities, with a focus on addressing New Hampshire's emissions from transportation and buildings. This feedback led to the creation of a revised greenhouse gas emissions inventory and the Priority Climate Action Plan submitted to EPA on March 1.

Next, she provided an overview of the state's involvement in two coalitions aimed applying for EPA Implementation grants is support of a high efficiency heat pump accelerator program and support of resilient local energy coalitions. She highlighted the state's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) implementation measures that support potential of integrating electric vehicle charging stations with public transportation and the need for increased electricity generation through renewable sources, and further noted the importance of workforce development in the context of this plan. She closed her presentation with an overview of next steps, including the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due in August 2025.

Clarke Kidder thanked Ms. Galbraith for her presentation and opened the business meeting. Introductions were made, both in person and virtual.

Approval of Minutes: Upon a motion by Steve Buckley and a second by Craig Fournier, the minutes of the meeting of the January 11, 2024 minutes were approved unanimously. It was noted that the meeting packet also included a summary of the April 11, 2024 Commission meeting, but the summary did not need to be approved as we did not meet the in-person quorum for that meeting.

Report of the Chair: Clarke noted that the past year had been busy and asked Mike Tardiff to provide an overview of some of the activities. Mike highlighted work that Commission staff have been undertaking in Henniker related to a potential crosswalk in Henniker including a public forum, which has led to a short-term demonstration project planned for this summer and noted that the staff would review some of their activities of the past year later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mike summarized the Treasurer's Report through April 30 and noted that it was approved earlier in the evening by the Executive Committee. While expenditures exceeded revenues in April, the overall budget is on target to be slightly ahead for the year.

CNHRPC FY24 Work Program Highlights: Vincent Pagano reviewed some of the projects that he worked on over the last year including a recreational plan for the Mink Hills area, road surface management planning in several towns, and support for the Loudon Trails Committee. He then described some of his work to support the CommuteSmartNH program, including several commuter challenges during the year. Other activities included support of a number of local economic development committees and coordination of the Commission's traffic counting program. Mike then noted that beyond supporting several local economic committees, Vincent chairs the Epsom Economic Development Committee.

Matt Monahan then discussed some of his ongoing projects. He provides circuit rider planning assistance in Allenstown, Bradford and Deering, including work to update ordinances related to surface water in Bradford and Deering. He described recent assistance in Chichester related to their solar ordinance, and work in support of the cleanup of the Tannery site in Boscawen had resumed after a pause. He then provided an overview of support related to Pembroke's range roads and described CNHRPC staff support in Allenstown and Pembroke regarding the MS4 Stormwater planning program.

Craig Tufts described his work on the development of the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that leads to projects being added to the draft Ten Year Plan. He also reviewed progress on several regional trails plans and reported on the completion of the Deering Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) with an accompanying online StoryMap. He further reported that work on the Warner NRI is underway. Following a question regarding the McKee Square project, Craig noted that it was included in the draft Ten-Year plan with funding provided under the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the City of Concord. It was the highest regional priority in the most recent regional TIP.

Stephanie Alexander then discussed the ongoing work under the local Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, highlighting the completion of 19 of 20 municipal plans over recent years utilizing FEMA funding. Over the last year staff worked on 11 of those individual plans. She emphasized the program's aim to mitigate natural disasters and ensure eligibility for construction projects using FEMA funds. She then noted the success of the online surveys conducted by both the Housing Advisory Committee and Economic Development Advisory Committee in Warner, highlighting the high response rates and the effectiveness of the survey distribution methods. She also mentioned CNHRPC technical assistance for their capital improvement program updates.

Proposed FY 2025 CNHRPC Work Program and Budget: Mike provided an overview of the FY25 proposed work program and budget.

He noted that the proposed budget for FY25 is very similar in scale to the past year's budget. On the income side, differences include the funding available to update the regional plan last updated in 2015, a decrease in available local hazard mitigation plan update funding after a very busy FY24, and a potential decrease in InvestNH housing opportunity planning (HOP) program funding - although that figure could increase

depending upon the number of HOP 2.0 projects that are funded in the upcoming year. He also reviewed a number of local projects including a small projected increase in local circuit rider assistance activities. Finally, Mike described how the Commission had received CMAQ funding beginning in FY25 to support the costs of the region's Transportation Demand Management rideshare software, Agile Mile and described how FY25 would be the second year of the two-year transportation planning Unified Planning Work Program agreement with NHDOT.

On the expenditures side, expenses are expected to generally be in line with the previous year. He noted that there were several recent staff changes with Matt Taylor recently moving to Arizona and a new staff office support/outreach coordinator will be starting soon. Expected consulting engineer costs are expected to be higher than FY24, while software costs will be lower as we have received some help from other organizations to support six months of the cost of our Agile Mile software. He also noted that the budget includes funding for an additional radar counter.

Upon a motion by Stephen Buckley and a second by Betsy Bosiak, the FY25 Work Program and Budget was approved unanimously.

Election of FY 2025 Officers: Matt Hicks then presented the proposed slate of CNHRPC slate of officers for FY 2025.

- Clarke Kidder, Town of Hopkinton - Chair
- Barbara Randall, Town of Boscawen - Vice-Chair
- Keith Johnson, Town of Deering – Treasurer
- Matthew Hicks, City of Concord - Member
- Stan Brehm, Pembroke - Member
- Susanne White, Town of Hillsborough – Member
- Joe Schmidl, Town of Salisbury - Member

Upon a motion by Matt Hicks and a second by Steve Buckley, the slate of officers for FY 2025 was approved unanimously.

Clarke then expressed his gratitude towards Steve Buckley for his valuable contributions over the years to the Commission and noted his appreciations for Steve's friendship and advice. He then welcomed Joe Schmidl to the Executive Committee.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:25 PM.