Bennington County Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Friday – April 24, 2026
8:30 AM
210 South Street, Suite 6, Bennington, VT and via ZOOM

Attending: Martha Cornwell, Donald Campbell, Sheila Kearns, John LaVecchia, Dimitri Garder, James Salerno, Bill Colvin (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 8:32am.

Colvin asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. There were none.

Campbell moved and LaVecchia seconded the approval of the February 27, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Approved with Garder abstaining.

Funding Update
Colvin informed the committee of a midyear adjustment to BCRC's core funding because of the Budget Adjustment Act passed by the legislature. Due to lower-than-expected revenues in Vermont's Property Transfer Tax receipts, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development was directed to reduce core funding to the RPCs. BCRC's core funding for FY26 was reduced by just over $9,000. Colvin also noted pressure on TPI funding for FY26 due to BCRC's role in organizing the 2026 Walk-Bike Summit. The May 8th event will take place in Bennington and has demanded a significant amount of staff time to pull together.

Executive Director Review – Staff Input
Colvin reminded the committee that at the June 2025 BCRC Executive Committee meeting: "*The committee agreed it would like to pursue a 360-degree review to gather staff input on the director's performance for next year. Colvin will place this on an upcoming Executive Committee meeting agenda for discussion."* During that meeting it was suggested the Executive Committee develop two or three questions for the staff to complete and establish a contact person on the Executive Committee to receive the responses.

Colvin asked the committee to identify the process it would like to utilize to collect staff input. Garder suggested that the committee enter Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss.

Executive Committee Nominations Discussion
Colvin said the terms of the four officer positions on the BCRC Executive Committee expire this year. Per the BCRC Bylaws, an election for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer positions will be held in conjunction with the BCRC Annual Meeting in May every three years. The current Executive Committee serves as the Nominating Committee.

As discussed at the February Executive Committee meeting, all current committee members expressed a willingness to continue to serve. Subsequently, Colvin put out a call to the full Commission for other volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee. There were no other volunteers and Commissioners expressed broad support for the current lineup of officers.

Garder moved and LaVecchia seconded the proposed slate of officers for consideration at the May 21st BCRC Annual Meeting:

Chair – Martha Cornwell
Vice-Chair – Donald Campbell
Secretary – Sheila Kearns
Treasurer – James Salerno

The motion was approved unanimously.

Colvin thanked the current officers for their willingness to serve for another term.

Colvin provided program updates on topics, including:
Community and Economic Development
- SVHC USDA TA
- Putnam Phase 2
- Monument Place
- Bank of Bennington LIAC

Planning Programs
- FY25 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Program – Manchester, Sunderland, Old Bennington
- FY26 MPG Awards – Arlington, Rupert, Stamford (Dorset, Pownal, Shaftsbury – not awarded)
- Emergency Management – Local Hazard Mitigation Plans; FEMA TA; EMPG
- Brownfield Program

There was no other business.

Executive Session-Personnel
Kearns moved and Salerno seconded that the Executive Committee enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Approved. Colvin was excused from the meeting.

The Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session. It was announced that Sheila Kearns will serve as the point person on the Executive Committee to collect input from the staff as part of the Executive Director's review. A volunteer from the staff will be solicited to work with Kearns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46am.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin
Director