Bennington County Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Friday – June 27, 2025
8:30 AM
210 South Street, Suite 6, Bennington, VT and via ZOOM

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:33am.

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

Colvin welcomed Martha Cornwell to the Executive Committee and thanked her for her willingness to serve in the position. The committee then did a series of introductions.

Kearns moved and Garder seconded the approval April 25, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Approved with Cornwell abstaining.

FY26 Budget and Workplan

Colvin provided an overview of the FY26 Workplan and answered questions regarding various projects, how work was allocated among the regions' municipalities and the status of any existing or potential intermunicipal agreements.

Colvin next walked the committee through the proposed FY26 budget noting especially where departures from the FY25 budget were significant. He answered questions on various line items in the budget and the group spent some time looking forward to possible challenges in the FY27 budget.

Salerno moved approval of the FY26 workplan and budget subject to modification due to adjustment in the director's salary, if any. LaVecchia seconded the motion. Garder noted roles he plays in the community which interact with the BCRC and if there was any perceived conflict. The committee agreed there was no conflict. Approved unanimously.

Program Updates

Colvin provided program updates on topics, including:

Community and Economic Development
- SVHC USDA TA
- SVC Campus Redevelopment
- Benn High Redevelopment
- Southern Vermont Economy Summit
- Putnam Phase 2

Planning Programs
- Regional Plan
- Bennington Municipal Plan
- Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Program Applications – Manchester, Pownal, Sunderland, Old Bennington
- Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)
- Emergency Management – Local Hazard Mitigation Plans; FEMA TA
- Transportation – TPI Midyear review

Colvin reviewed with the committee his FY25 Self Report of Accomplishments and Professional Development and answered questions. 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.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made by LaVechhia and seconded by Kearns. Approved.

The committee came out of Executive Session at 10:34am. Garder moved and Kearns seconded to increase the Director's salary by 4% consistent with the raises given to other BCRC staff for FY26. Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36am.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin
Director