Bennington County Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Friday – August 28, 2026
8:30 AM
210 South Street, Suite 6, Bennington, VT and via ZOOM

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Attending: Sheila Kearns, John LaVecchia, Dimitri Garder, James Salerno, 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.

Garder moved and Kearns seconded the approval of the June 26, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Approved.

FY26 (draft) Financial Report
Colvin reviewed the draft FY26 financial performance report for the BCRC. He noted that all numbers are preliminary until the outside audit is complete, which is typically the end of the calendar year. The report showed a solid projected addition to the fund balance as income came in above projection and expenses came in below. Colvin addressed questions regarding the investment accounts at DB McKenna and possible future uses for the fund balance.

Proposed Conflict of Interest Policy
Colvin noted that with the passage of Vermont new ethics law covering municipal representatives it made sense to develop a more detailed BCRC policy in line with the requirements of the municipal law (24 VSA Chapter 60). Her reviewed the elements of proposed policy with the committee. The committee agreed it would like to take additional time to review the proposal and act on it at the October Executive Committee meeting.

Proposed BCRC Time Reporting & Payroll Policy
Colvin said that state and federal grants are requiring organizations to have a formal policy regarding tracking of employees' time allocated to the grant and payment procedures for those employees. While BCRC has references in various policies to such procedures, he proposes a single policy covering all aspects of employee time tracking and payment. Colvin reviewed the elements of the proposed policy with the committee and answered questions. The committee will review the proposal and act at its October meeting.

Program Updates
Colvin provided program updates on topics, including:
Community and Economic Development
- SVHC USDA TA
- Putnam Phase 2
- SVC-AWRE

Planning Programs
- Regional Plan
- FY25 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Program – Manchester, Sunderland, Old Bennington
- FY26 MPG Awards – Arlington, Rupert, Stamford (Dorset, Pownal, Shaftsbury – not awarded)
- FY27 MPG Announcement

Brownfield Program

Other Business
LaVecchia said that he expected Rupert would be hiring BCRC to assist in developing that town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. He also inquired about the status of the office after flooding.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38am.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin
Director

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