

# Bennington County Regional Commission

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Friday – March 1, 2024  
8:30 AM  
Meeting Conducted via ZOOM**

Attending: Nick Zaiac, Dan Monks, Sheila Kearns, James Salerno, John Lavecchia, Jr., Janet Hurley (staff), Bill Colvin (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 8:31am.

Zaiac moved approval of the minutes of the December 15, 2023 BCRC Executive Committee meeting. Seconded by Monks. Approved unanimously.

### Midyear Budget Update

Colvin reviewed the proposed midyear budget adjustment. Overall, the budget is tracking close to projections. The most significant areas of disparity between the original FY24 budget and the midyear adjustment are in the areas of the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program (MERP) and remaining questions around the timing of the reimbursement by FEMA of expenses in Sandgate. Increases and decreases in expenses based on actuals through midyear were largely offsetting. The primary driver of increased expenses was a \$21,200 increase to the Brownfields contractor line item, but this is offset by an additional \$25,000 in receipts for that program.

Monks moved and Salerno seconded approval of the midyear budget adjustment. Approved unanimously.

### Letters to Regional Legislative Delegation

Colvin presented a draft letter (attached) to the area legislative delegation requesting support for housing legislation that will assist in easing the housing crisis facing the region and the state. Zaiac moved and Monks seconded approval of the letter and requested Colvin to send to the delegation. Approved unanimously.

A second letter is related to relaxing permitting requirements, specifically the historic review requirements, for bike-ped projects was also presented to the Executive Committee. Several RPCs are developing similar letters regarding H.685. Monks moved approval of the letter to be sent to Rep. Tim Corcoran (House Transportation Committee) and copied to all members of the regional delegation. Seconded by Zaiac. Approved unanimously.

Monks and Zaiac urged staff to prepare additional ideas or legislative changes to ease the permitting of bike-ped projects to be presented in future legislative sessions.

Program Updates: Q&A Time with Bill & Janet

Hurley reviewed various efforts in the planning program with specific focus on the update to the regional plan and an overview of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP).

Colvin provided an overview of community and economic development work highlighting a recently completed project and a new project in Pownal and two perspective projects in Shaftsbury.

Other Business

Hurley noted the upcoming March BCRC meeting to be held at the GNAT offices in Sunderland on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Guests will be Amy Tomasso from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Rep. Seth Bongartz.

Colvin said the BCRC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Arlington Inn. Details to follow.

There being no other business, Kearns moved adjournment. Seconded by Salerno Approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:22am.