Present: See attached list

A social hour was held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and dinner from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM

BCRC-Vice Chair Meg Cottam welcomed commissioners, local officials, and guests to the meeting and recognized outgoing BCRC Executive Committee member Ed Shea for his many years of dedicated service to the Commission, Woodford, and the Bennington Region.

Cottam then announced results of the election of BCRC officers: Dan Monks (Chair), Meg Cottam (Vice-Chair), Suzanne dePeyster (Treasurer), and Janet Hurley (Secretary).

Elected interest group commissioners: Helen Fields (Local Food and Agriculture), Jonathan Ryan (Housing), Sheilah Printz (Public Health), Wayn Goodman (Energy), Donald Campbell (Conservation), and Greg Van Houten (Local Business). There has been a vacancy in the Economic Development position and Van Houten moved, seconded by Hurley, to elect Dina Janis as the new commissioner representing Economic Development interests. Motion passed unanimously.

Cottam then welcomed BCRC’s newest municipal representative, Gail Acosta from Peru.

Cottam noted that with the change in BCRC officers, a motion needs to be passed that allows the Commission’s officers to sign a corporate authorizing resolution giving power to the officers and staff to conduct bank business, as specified in the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution and authorize officers to sign by Hurley, seconded by Van Houten. Motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from the Executive Director, Jim Sullivan:
I promised everyone a little history as we celebrate the beginning of the BCRC’s 50\textsuperscript{th} year of service to the towns and villages of southwestern Vermont. There is a reason we are not celebrating the completion of BCRC’s 50\textsuperscript{th} year of service this year. In a newspaper article from March of 1966, it was noted that Bennington almost became the second county in Vermont to form a regional planning commission.....Most of the towns in the county had agreed to form a regional planning commission that year, but the initiative was vetoed by Manchester, which apparently felt that the $571 annual cost to the town was excessive given that it already had its own plan.

Another concerted effort to get all of the municipalities in the region to join together to form a regional planning commission was undertaken in 1967, led by such luminaries as: Robert Graf of Rupert, Harvey Carter of Pownal, Douglas Tschorn of Sandgate, John Moore of Arlington, John Page of Bennington, and one Ferdinand “Nundy” Bongartz of Manchester. A series of meetings with local officials and civic groups was held in the winter and spring of 1967 at the Worthy Inn in Manchester – which happens to have been located right on this very spot. John Page, who many of you may remember from his time as county agent, state senator, and district environmental commissioner, led the meetings, arguing that a failure to plan cooperatively would lead to haphazard development, costly mistakes, and lost opportunities for economic development.

The idea was well received the second time around and the Bennington County Regional Commission was formally established later that year. The BCRC has grown and evolved over the past 49 years, and now includes programs in transportation planning, emergency management, environmental quality, and solid waste management, in addition to land use planning and community development. Of particular note is the Commission’s recently expanded role in regional economic development brought about through our partnership with the Bennington County Industrial Corporation. We are delighted to have several members of the BCIC here tonight, including that organization’s President, Dixie Zens.

Sullivan then introduced Patricia Moulton, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, who spoke about recent legislative actions and efforts to improve the economy of southern Vermont, while applauding the recent collaboration between the BCRC and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation.

Sullivan introduced Seth Bongartz, who presented the BCRC’s Annual Bongartz Award for Community Service to Barry Horst, long-time member and chair of the Bennington Planning Commission and a member of the Bennington Development Review Board.
The evening’s featured speaker, Dr. William Moomaw, was introduced. Moomaw gave a presentation (to be posted on BCRC’s website) on the science of climate change, current and future impacts on the region’s environment and economy, and actions that have been taken, and can be taken, to address the problem while taking advantage of economic opportunities through energy conservation and renewable energy development.

After a brief question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.
BCRC:  
Mark Anders  
Bill Colvin  
Stacey Eggware  
Jim Henderson  
Mickey McGlasson  
Allison Strohl  
James Sullivan  

Gail Acosta  Peru  
Judy Boehlert  Sandgate  
Donald Campbell  Bennington  
Philip Chapman  Rupert  
Meg Cottam  Glastenbury  
Suzy dePeyster  Sandgate  
Nancy Faesy  Dorset  
Bob Howe  North Bennington Village  
Janet Hurley  Manchester Village  
Dina Janis  Dorset  
Rick Kelley  Manchester  
Walter Klinger  Pownal  
John Lavecchia  Dorset  
Pauline Moore  Manchester  
Paul Myers  Peru  
Ed Shea  Woodford  
Greg Van Houten  Bennington  

Guest Speaker:  William Moomaw  
Emeritus Professor of International Environmental Policy and Founding Director of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at The Fletcher  
Patricia Moulton  Secretary VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development  

Legislators:  Senator Brian Campion  

Guests:  Leslie Addison  Brian Knight  
Paul Anders  Stephanie Lane  
Rosalie Anders  Brian Lent  
Zirwhat Chodhury  Dennis Madden  
Kayla Becker  Michael McDonough  
Kevin Bisaccio  Sandy McDonough  
Seth Bongartz  Colin Moore  
Chris Bongartz  Maddi Nagel  
Donald Brodie  Scott Printz  
Cindy Brownell  Liz Ruffa  
Nelson Brownell  Barbara Schlesinger  
Linda Chapman  Linda Sciarappa  
Bill Christian  Jay Sciarappa  
Robert Costantino  Timothy Scoggins  
Craig Powers  Maria Scully  
Thomas Dee  Bill Scully  
Valerie dePeyster  Gay Squire  
Jason Dolmetsch  Maryanne St. John  
Dennis Eggware  Dan Strohl  
Bob Faesy  James Trimarchi  
Jim Hand  Nissa Walke  
Michael Harrington  Eric Scott  
Barry Horst  Dixie Zens  
Cora May Howe  
Karen D.  
Peter OBrien