

BARRINGTON  
BROOKFIELD  
DOVER  
DURHAM  
FARMINGTON  
LEE  
MADBURY  
MIDDLETON  
MILTON



NEW DURHAM  
NEWMARKET  
NORTHWOOD  
NOTTINGHAM  
ROCHESTER  
ROLLINSFORD  
SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Commission Meeting  
January 22, 2009  
Minutes**

**Approved at May 28, 2009 Commission Meeting**

**SRPC Members Present:** George Snyder (Somersworth), Carol Vita (Middleton), Lou Vita (Middleton), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Rick McMenimen (Newmarket), Elaine Lauterborn (Rochester), Scott Martin (Northwood), Frank Torr (Dover), Paul Eaton (Strafford), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Ed Jansen (Rollinsford) and Larry Brown (Milton)

**SRPC Members Proxy Votes:** Bruce Woodruff (Milton)

**SRPC Staff Present:** Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), William Proulx (Regional Planner) and Marilyn Barton (Administrative Assistant)

**Guests:** Eric Figenbaum (Madbury), Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD) and Stephen Pesci (UNH)

**1. Convene Strafford Regional Planning Commission**

Chairman L. Brown convened the Commissioners meeting and Public Hearing at 8:20 p.m. and it was determined a quorum was established.

**2. Public Hearing: Draft FY New Hampshire 2009 Coastal Program Grant Application**

Cynthia Copeland, SRPC Executive Director gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the funding proposal to the Commissioners. A handout of the table detailing the projects, funding and scope of work products was available at the meeting. C. Copeland went through the table explaining what each line was and the funding associated with them.

The projects are listed as follows:

Update to Granit database within the Watershed per agreement with DES (well, public water supply, dam, etc.) (Project Investment-\$11,000, Coastal Funds-\$5,500, Local Funds-\$1,000, SRPC Staff/In-Kind-\$4,500)

Culvert Evaluation and pilot study Community vulnerability assessment (Project Investment-\$20,000, Coastal Funds-\$10,000, Local Funds-\$1,000, SRPC Staff/In-kind-\$9,000)

GIS Public Outreach: Fact sheet, map and access guide landowner information on the Isinglass River, online trail access guide and map for Town (Project Investment-\$6,000, Coastal Funds-\$3,000, Local Funds-\$100, SRPC Staff/In-Kind-\$2,900)

Land Use Documents: Needs assessment of Lakes and Watershed Associations in Coastal Watersheds, Innovative Land Use Guide Implementation Activities, Conservation Plan for Coastal Watershed Implementation and public outreach activities in partnership with DES Coastal Program (Project investment-\$30,000, Coastal Funds-\$15,000, Local funds-1,000, SRPC Staff/In-Kind-\$14,000.

C. Copeland stated that SRPC is under contract with The Office of Energy and Planning to do two updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan every year and by using the Coastal Grant would allow SRPC to do three updates per year. C. Copeland noted there are five communities in the Coastal Zone that are eligible to use Coastal funds for these type of projects.

C. Copeland stated SRPC had been working with Coastal Zone Management to extend the boundary of what is actually coastal water and noted only five communities in our region are under tidal influence.

C. Copeland stated T. Diers was very supportive of these projects and was our advocate as he realizes that what happens with these watersheds can have a direct impact on what happens on the coast.

K. Ortmann asked if we can restrict the use of staff resources to those communities that are active SRPC members? C. Copeland stated she and the SRPC bookkeeper had had many discussions on this and that SRPC needs to be very careful providing these funds to communities that are not active members. C. Copeland stated with Federal dollars it's difficult to just not do anything with communities that are not active as SRPC has an obligation with the funds to be fair and inclusive.

K. Ortmann stated that while SRPC is mandated to do certain things, SRPC still needs financial support to do those things. K. Ortmann stated there should be some benefit tied to those communities willing to participate in the regional effort.

C. Copeland stated SRPC would be generous to those communities that are active members and do the projects that SRPC is federally mandated to do to those communities that are not active.

### **3. Close Public Hearing**

Chairman L. Brown closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m.

#### **4. Open Public Hearing to Solicit Public Comments on Isinglass River Management Plan**

Chairman L. Brown opened the public hearing to solicit public comments on the Isinglass River Management Plan at 8:41 p.m.

C. Copeland stated this was a hearing on the adoption of the Isinglass River Management Plan as an appendix to the Strafford Regional Master Plan. C. Copeland stated there had been a thirty-day comment period during which no comments were received from the public or the Advisory Committee. C. Copeland stated the Plan had been developed with the goals of protecting and conserving the river's many resources; protecting riparian and aquatic habitat; advocating for water quality and quantity to sustain aquatic and recreational uses; and balancing the development of land and water uses for recreation with other public needs within the river corridor and watershed.

C. Copeland stated the Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee (IRLAC) would advocate for implementation of the Plan within the watershed and supports integration of its goals and strategies by communities in the Isinglass watershed in their planning and land use decisions. C. Copeland gave an overview of the summary of the Plan Actions and noted the Plan would be reviewed annually and updated every three to five years, depending upon need.

E. Lauterborn stated the Isinglass River Advisory Council worked with J. LaBranche on various areas and was very pleased with the work she did.

#### **5. Close Public Hearing**

Chairman L. Brown closed the public hearing at 8:45 p.m.

#### **6. Draft Minutes of November 20, 2008 Commission Meeting**

L. Brown entertained the notion to approve the draft SRPC minutes of November 20, 2008. E. Lauterborn made a motion and T. Crosby seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Isinglass River Management Plan**

Chairman L. Brown asked for a motion to adopt the Isinglass River Management Plan as an appendix to the Strafford Regional Master Plan. S. Keans made a motion and P. Eaton seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. FY 2009 Coastal Program Grant Application**

Chairman L. Brown asked for a motion to adopt the FY 2009 Coastal Program Grant Application. S. Keans made a motion and P. Eaton seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. Cocheco River Nomination Update**

C. Copeland stated the Cocheco River Committee met the prior week with Steve Couture from the NH DES Rivers Program and Judith Spang, the Committee Chair and participated in a workshop. She noted the Committee learned about the rivers program and how it operates and the process. She stated there was a great turnout with a lot of excellent questions and that they were very supportive of the

nomination. C. Copeland noted there was a report from DES in the Commissioners packet with more information.

## **10. FY2010 Dues**

C. Copeland stated a memo was sent out in the Commissioners packet and gave a history of as to why there was a discussion for the dues rate to return to the FY 2009 rate structure. S. Copeland noted the Executive Committee at their January 9, 2009 meeting voted to recommend to the SRPC Commissioners that the FY 2010 dues to be returned to the FY 2009 rate structure due to the economic times.

E. Lauterborn asked if this decrease would affect the operations of the organization? C. Copeland stated in the end yes, overall no. She noted there was a great deal of flexibility and fluidity of projects. C. Copeland stated there is always work being done in UPWP and Coastal and noted is a conservative fiscally constrained budget. C. Copeland stated the concern is that a large percentage of dues go for match to the federal programs and are largest sources of funding. C. Copeland stated dues play a bigger role than previously.

K. Ortmann stated the Executive Committee is trying to get SRPC's dues more in line with other Planning Commissions to allow us to utilize the funding as match and provide the services needed by our communities. K. Ortmann stated without that, there are fewer things we can do and things we can point of value and sees that as a negative cycle. K. Ortmann noted on the other hand, it is a difficult time for communities.

C. Copeland stated there is a change in the way UPWP as there is a change in FHA administration and reviewing of evaluation of MPO's and NH Transportation and DOT is very carefully examining fiscal and program compliance.

G. Snyder stated he supported the previous vote of raising the dues rate structure. He noted that we should not back pedal and could cause missed opportunities.

L. Vita stated he thought it was better to receive something rather than none at all.

Chairman L. Brown asked for a motion. T. Crosby made a motion and L. Vita seconded the motion. It was noted there were two votes against the change in dues structure: G. Snyder and L. Brown. All in favor, motion passed.

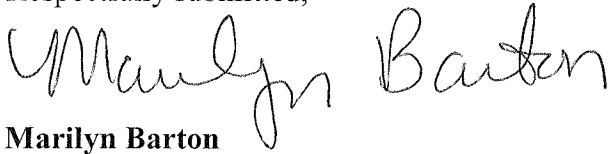
## **11. Other Business**

There was no other business.


## **12. Adjournment**

L. Brown entertained the notion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. S. Keans made the motion and T. Crosby seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Barton".

**Marilyn Barton**  
**Recording Secretary**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Brown".

**Larry Brown**  
**Strafford Regional Planning Committee Commission Chair**

