

**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**9:00 AM  
October 28, 2010**

**In attendance were:** SMRPC Executive Director Paul Schumacher, Chairman Peter Morelli, Secretary Joyce Wood, Nancy Perkins, Gerry Mylroie, Mike Huston, Jan Williams, Dave Bowles, Judy Bernstein and Jim Gulnac. Tom Reinauer, SMRPC's Transportation Planner and Paul Levesque, Jim Gulnac's replacement from Town of Sanford were also present.

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Rob Heard, Treasurer Richard Bicknell, Greg Tansley, and Roxanne Eflin.

**Paul Levesque** was introduced by Jim Gulnac to the committee, as his replacement, as Jim is no longer going to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

Paul Schumacher introduced SMRPC's Transportation Planner **Tom Reinauer** to the committee.

Announcement was made that **Richard Bicknell** had resigned from the committee. Exact years in service will be reviewed. He still wants to come to the Annual Meetings, but cannot commit to the committee monthly meetings. Another Treasurer will have to be nominated. Peter Morelli and Paul Schumacher have a suggestion, but want to discuss with member first before going public. Suggestion was about maybe starting a Nomination Committee, but it was not continued.

1. **Minutes of the August 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Mike Huston made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Jim Gulnac seconded.** *Minutes were unanimously approved.*
2. **Treasurer's Report:**  
**Motion was made by Mike Huston to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Jim Gulnac.** *Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.*

Paul Schumacher explained that we have just started the new year. Dues have been received by all towns except North Berwick, which generally waits. We even received County monies. County pays \$25,000 a year in dues. There are two new county contracts; one \$30,000 Energy Contract and the other the EMA contract. We also have a new DECD Contract of \$37,000 which SMRPC will handle.

### 3. Update from Transportation staff on Important/On-going Regional Transportation Planning Projects

Tom Reinauer passed out a sheet outlining five projects in the works. Tom presented an interesting detail of each of the five projects.

- Maine/New Hampshire Traffic Incident Management Group  
Communication between local Police/Fire/ME State Police and EMA personnel at time of traffic incidents. Working on establishing guidelines for turnpike incidents. Will be complete within the next few weeks. A Call-Tree has been created and utilized to detour traffic during incidents that will last over 1 hour. Makes Depts. and towns aware of incidents.
- York County Public Works Committee  
Possibly hiring a training coordinator to do training requirements for eight communities. A Draft Policy/Agreement has gone out. We are in the early stages.
- Maine/New Hampshire Connections Study (Memorial & Sarah Long bridges)  
New Hampshire just received a \$20 million Tiger II Grant for bridge replacement/repair. A 6-person task force to develop a funding plan will be in place by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Draft final report by November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Memorial Bridge will be the priority. Not cost effective to rehab bridge. Total removal and replacement needed. The Sarah Long Bridge plan is to build a replacement next to the existing.
- Central York County Transportation Study  
How to better move people through towns. A ten-community study area: No Berwick, Wells, Ogunquit, Sanford, Alfred, Waterboro, Kennebunk, Lyman, Arundel and Biddeford. Funding of \$500 thousand in 2 years. Nancy Perkins asked about Route 25, were there any plans to repair. Tom told her a letter had gone out to put this road on DOT's radar.
- Highway Simplification Study  
DOT needs to improve customer service. The classification of roads and the way things are done does not work for customers. Maine DOT would take over both winter and summer maintenance on all Major Collector roadways. Municipalities handle year-round Minor Collectors, once brought up to a 10-Year Standard. Minor Collectors would essentially become Town Ways. Legislature to find ways to fund both the work needed for the Minor Collectors & increases in Urban/Rural Initiative Program (URIP) to compensate municipalities for increased maintenance responsibilities on Minor Collectors. Redefine State Urban Compact. See Maps showing Collectors in York County and Oxford County. No Action Needed.

Rt. 113 – Pawtucket Trail Scenic Byway from Standish to Stow just received DOT funding.

**4. Dues for Upcoming Year:**

**A motion was made by Jim Gulnac to increase dues by 3% and seconded by Mike Huston.** Vote was unanimous.

Paul informed committee that SMRPC has received 100% payment for last year's dues. It was felt that the pressures on municipal budgets would be in the next couple of years. We have a good relationship with the County. Dave Bowles announced that budget was adopted and forwarded without increases to the Budget Committee for final say. Outside service agency's budgets were cut, but SMRPC were not.

**5. Brownfields Update:**

SMRPC just applied for another \$400 thousand Grant. Have a balance of \$1,340,000 in clean-up project money left. See table with breakdown of funds. DEP has started a program of their own. We could team up with DEP. Sanford has received a Pilot Planning Fund, which goes beyond just clean-up portion of projects.

**6. Two Regional Planning Projects:**

HUD Sustainable Communities Grant - SMRPC along with GPCOG applied and received a \$1.6 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant. "Southern Maine Partnership" which will link transportation/land use/housing investments in the region. Focused on models of land use investments.

Considers population growth and cluster developments. Focused efforts to accommodate these areas. Brought together HUD, EPA and DOT funding. Rules – geography tries to make it fit. The final plan did not work in SMRPC's favor, it hugs the coast, and includes Sanford South. SMRPC should receive a \$50,000 budget and may add staffing. SMRPC's role will be to be there during decision making time to be sure our member towns do not get overlooked. Act as a spokesperson. See Press Release.

Mobilize Maine – Economic Development funding from Fairpoint. About \$40,000 budget. Could be helpful to our region. Instead of projects being at State level, they will be at Regional levels. May transcend into a new administration with stronger public involvement. See bulleted version of topics being discussed.

**7. Energy Project with Kittery and six towns:**

Still talking to Kittery and Kittery to Efficiency Maine about the RLF Project. Kittery met with Kennebunk Savings Bank and they are interested in servicing the funds. SMRPC's role will be only to help Kittery administer project. No Agreement yet.

8. **York County Advocacy Project:**

The project last year was very successful. A meeting is scheduled for mid November to discuss concerns of the region with legislatures. Again this year, SMRPC's role will be only administrative support. Rural towns need to be involved in this project. Paul to get a summary of last year's concerns and results to the Committee.

9. **Other:**

Cooperative Purchasing – Should we split off from GPCOG to avoid administrative fees and go out to bid on our own? It was decided that operational activities of SMRPC should be up to the Executive Director. Paul and Marian should collect good models and go out to bid by ourselves.

Paul should send a letter to Dick Bicknell thanking him for his years of service.

How do we get new committee members? We should try and get someone from the Oxford County, maybe from Fryeburg. Paul to speak with the new town manager and see if there is an interest. Maybe someone from the Berwick/So Berwick area? Maybe the committee could meet at a different location once in a while, such as Cornish to be come visible?

It was suggested that SMRPC staff create a Regional Plan like the last one in 1992 combining programs/projects so that we are all working on the same goals during the planning stages. SMRPC has an opportunity to plan a major role/key element with grants and try to get them to work together. Need to focus on plan implementation: formalize the process, prioritize and document. Gerry Mylroie and Paul to work together and present a plan.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:45.**

**Next meeting –**