

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
June 5, 2006**

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton: Sal Ardigliano

Deep River: Bruce Edgerton

Essex:

Killingworth: Jere Adametz

Lyme: Frank Skwarek, Ning Rich

Old Lyme: Jane Marsh

Old Saybrook: Dick Tietjen

Westbrook: Bill Neale

Staff: Linda Krause, Wini Olson, Janice Ehle-Meyer, Jean Davies

I. Chairman Bruce Edgerton called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the CRERPA Conference Space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT. 06475.

Chairman Edgerton extended an official welcome to Sal Ardigliano, the Selectmen's representative from Clinton.

Linda announced that we might be joined by two Boy Scouts who are required to attend a local government meeting as part of a badge requirement.

II. Minutes

Ning Rich moved that the minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale and unanimously approved.

III. Correspondence

Linda circulated a printout of the Capitol Region newsletter.

Linda made reference to a news report about the recent approval of the Utopia project. The vote only involved one town. The impact will involve a large region.

IV. Reports

A. Treasurer

Linda distributed copies of the Treasurer's report. She reported that the bulk of the anticipated DOT reimbursement money has been received. The balance will not come until this fall. Of greater concern is \$6,000 from Westbrook for the operating budget of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. CRERPA acts as the agent for the Lower Connecticut Valley Selectmen's Association. Area towns entered into a compact to jointly build and operate the HHW collection facility. Westbrook joined the compact and Westbrook people use the facility. Selectman Raffa has questioned the affiliation and ignored the bill. Letters and phone calls from fellow Selectmen and a personal visit from HHW management have been of no avail. Bill Neale moved that the Treasurers' report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Jere Adametz and unanimously approved.

B. Linda reported that the State Grant in Aid application has arrived offering \$43,246 in support from OPM. It requires CRERPA to send a representative to OPM informational meetings and to serve as a conduit for information.

Bill Neale moved that Chairman Bruce Edgerton be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the Agency. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

C. Linda reported that invoices will be prepared and sent to the towns at the beginning of the fiscal year.

D. Linda reported that the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is offering each region \$15,000 to assist state officials in preparing a regional preparedness plan. In the case of CRERPA, all but a small administrative fee will be used to employ Joel Severance of Hannah-Watrous, who will work on the plan in cooperation with the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) organized by DEMHS.

Jere Adametz moved that CRERPA accept the grant and that Chairman Bruce Edgerton be authorized to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Frank Skwarek and unanimously approved.

E. Transportation

Linda reported that Jean Davies is continuing to work on the Regional Transportation Plan.

Dick Tietjen asked if the question of alternative fuel and fuel conservation is being addressed. Linda replied that individuals within both the towns of Chester and Deep River have called CRERPA about alternative fuels. Linda suggested that alternative energy might be part of the new regional plan.

F. Referral

Linda announced that Torrance is ill but has submitted his written recommendations concerning the proposed changes to the Old Saybrook Zoning regulations.

When reviewing the proposed changes to the Gateway standards, the Old Saybrook Zoning commission chose to be more restrictive and to require site plans for all house over 3500 square feet rather than 4000 square feet as adopted by the Gateway Commission. Other changes are essentially administrative. Torrance recommends that the proposed changes should have no inter-municipal impact. Dick Tietjen asked if the proposed changes have been referred to the Planning Commission. Linda replied that this was an internal matter and he might want to check.

Ning Rich moved that the staff finding of no inter-municipal impact be supported by the Agency. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale and unanimously approved.

Boy Scouts David Lloyd and Zak Merola arrived, accompanied by Jean Davies.

G. Gateway

1. Linda announced that Steve Williams did attend the Gateway meeting, thereby affirming his appointment to represent CRERPA on the Commission. The alternate position, formerly held by Doris Sanstrom, is still available.

2. Chester

Linda reported on the progress of the Barnick case in which the Gateway Commission appealed a ZBA variance of the 100 foot structural setback from the river. At the time, Barnick's attorney claimed his property was unique. This week, the Chester Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing on a special permit for a 6,600 square foot house which does not meet the setback requirements. Linda spoke at the hearing for the Gateway Commission. She reported that CRERPA will be writing the Plan of Conservation and Development for Chester.

V. Old Business

A. Membership

Linda mentioned that the Agency still needs four new members. The death of Alan Bayreuther leaves a Planning vacancy from Old Lyme. The resignation of Doris Sanstrom creates a Selectmen's vacancy from Westbrook. Ray Gastil moved from Essex to Deep River, creating a Planning vacancy from Essex. Sal Ardigliano fills the Selectmen's seat from Clinton. The Clinton Planning appointment is still open.

B. Emergency Planning

Bill Neale commented on reading that nationally, Emergency Management Plans are woefully lacking. He asked Linda about the status of Emergency Management Plans in this region. Linda noted that the key to preparedness appears to be developing good coordination. There have been problems with communication and "turf". The program is being coordinated through the Department of Homeland Security. The most recent coordinator is Mary Rose Dubarek who is well liked and is doing a good job. She is stressing that the key word is "regional". Linda called on Jean Davies for the technical aspects of local communications. The Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association has discussed the problem of inter-municipal and inter-disciplinary communication. Jean mentioned that it is also important for the various departments to be unified in the message they give to the public.

VI. New Business

A. Linda noted that she continues to work on various regulations for Lyme, hoping to complete the task in the near future. The Agency will be working on the Chester Plan of Conservation and Development this summer. At the request of the Old Lyme Zoning Officer, CRERPA will provide a list of roads constructed to different standards around the area so that Planning Commissioners can see examples in the field.

B. Torrance will attend the Connecticut APA meeting on Friday morning. The program will give a review of new legislation that affects planning and zoning in Connecticut.

C. Linda reported that she is enjoying representing regional planning on the newly created DEP Landscape Stewardship Committee. She admires the new DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy who seems to be very organized and is implementing several significant restructuring actions in the Department is suggesting a Planning and Development Committee within DEP. The issue of

sewer avoidance and the possible recognition of alternative solutions are within the scope of assignments.

D. Menunketesuck Marsh

CRERPA has been requested to support the federal acquisition of the Menunketesuck Marsh. The federal interest stems from the contiguous McKinney Reserve. Jane Marsh moved that CRERPA support the \$1.27 million federal acquisition of the Menunketesuck Marsh. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale and unanimously approved.

VII. Other Business

A. Ning Rich noted that she had been reading a lot of news concerning SECOG and asked how it related to CRERPA. Linda explained that the fifteen regions may be organized in one of three ways: as a Regional Planning Agency, as Councils of Elected Officials, or as Councils of Governments. The Southeastern Council of Governments is organized as the chief elected officials of the twenty member towns in that region. SECOG was formerly SCRPA, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, until it restructured in the early 1990s. Linda served as Chair of both SCRPA and SECOG.

B. Linda mentioned that CRERPA is looking at a new color copier that may save money over time. The Agency has also needs a new server to accommodate the maps and the Website.

C. July meeting

Linda noted that Pat Anthony questioned the advisability of trying to meet on July 3rd. An informal poll was taken. Several members would be unable to attend on July 10th. It was agreed to meet on July 3 as scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wini Olson for Bill Neale, Secretary