

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 26, 2016
6:00PM
RPC Conference Room
156 Water St., Exeter, NH

- 7:00 I. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2016 **MOTION TO APPROVE** [Attachment 1]
- 7:05 II. Financial Report [Attachment 2]
- September Financial Report for September FY2017
- FY 16 Financial Audit Progress
- 7:15 III. Contract Amendment: Time Only Extension – FY14 Hazard Mitigation Planning Agreement (So. Hampton & Rye) **MOTION TO APPROVE** [Attachment 3]
- 7:25 IV. Raymond Membership Update
- 7:35 V. Legislative Forum – Final Agenda and Preparations [Attachment 4]
- 7:50 VI. Updating the RPC Legislative Policies [Attachment 5]
NOTE: the attached are the polices as they were update; only minor changes are proposed for this year; a draft with those changes will be distributed at the meeting for review & discussion
- 8:15 VII. Other Business
A. Set date for New Commissioner Orientation (with Exec. Comm. subset)
B. December (MPO) / Commission meeting
C. Project Updates
D. Other
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjourn

ATTACHMENT 1

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Rockingham Planning Commission
September 28, 2016
RPC Conference Room, Exeter, NH**

Committee Members Present: P. Wilson (Chairman); M. Turell (Treasurer); B. Kravitz (Vice Chairman); R. McDermott, D. Marshall, P. Merrill, T. Moore (Members At Large); G. Coppelman (Past Chair)

Staff Present: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

Chairman Wilson convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

I. Minutes of August 31, 2016

*McDermott moved to approve the Minutes of August 31, 2016; Coppelman seconded. **SO VOTED.***

II. Financial Report

Revised July: correction was made to show deferred dues in the correct year
August: Sinnott noted that this shows expenses closer to normal status for this point of time in the year, except for equipment & software maintenance which has some up front expenses, related to software licencing

III. New Project & Proposal Status

MS4 Community Assistance Proposal (NHCF): Sinnott stated that staff had tried kickstarting MS4 assistance for communities by applying for funds to assist those towns in need of help last year, however NH Charitable Fund declined the application. This year they have invited RPC to apply again and it appears this could lead to an approval. Coppelman asked how this funding will be affected if the Permit isn't issued right away by the State. Sinnott replied that there will be other tasks that need to be done, some of which can be done w/out the Permit, such as scoping and adopting model stormwater regulations. So the funding opportunity is still viable even w/out the State issuing the Permit.

604B Powwow River: Sinnott stated that the RPC Pre-application was accepted for water quality planning work to create a Powwow River Watershed. Work tasks would include looking at hotspot issues, and identifying the benefits of being part of a watershed.

Projects of Special Merit (NOAA): Sinnott stated this is an effort to implement the recommendations of the Coastal Hazards & Risks project and to implement Green infrastructure project work.

IV. FY 17 Budget Update & Reality Check

Sinnott explained that after diagnosing last year's budget and outcomes, he may have been far too optimistic in anticipating funding sources, so he is striving not to make the same mistake this year. He distributed and reviewed a Funding Budget Table for informational and planning purposes only. Some of the changes he highlighted included removing half the "Miscellaneous" funding in exchange for the actual projects that will hopefully come to fruition; remove Seabrook Travel Plan as DOT has decommissioned this project; change the PREPA amount due to timing of the project; increase the UPWP funds for the current year due to less being spent last year as part of year 1 of the funds; adjust the 5310 project to show pass thru anticipated and add CART funding as they have approved a contract. He noted that there are several instances of shifting funds from one fiscal year to the next. Bottom line is a 2% increase in the operating budget. Miscellaneous questions about specific projects followed.

V. Raymond Membership Update

Sinnott stated that there has not been any progression at the Governor's office on Raymond's membership, due to the fact that Southern NH Planning has raised an issue and is demanding Raymond's unpaid dues be paid.

VI. Legislative Policy Committee

A draft Agenda for the November Legislative Forum was distributed. Kravitz noted that the details with Unitil are all set, however, one speaker changed his mind so another one is needed. Sinnott explained why the speaker reconsidered. He noted that Since this year's topic is Local Economic Development, the intention is to focus on communities and economic development strategies and accomplishments. Thus far they have secured Leon Goodwin and Bruce Stevens. Discussion followed on an additional possibility and the general consensus was either Diane Hardy, Newmarket or someone from North Hampton.

Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation was also discussed and it was general consensus that the Legislative Policy Committee will convene again to investigate the idea of developing an amendment to current legislation if needed. Kravitz thanked Sinnott for the White Paper he recently prepared and presented to the Commission on ADU topic.

VII. Status of Initiatives

Sinnott stated that the Bylaws Committee met this evening and it appears the Bylaws will only need minor tweaks and improvements. The new services planning has not moved forward yet as the staff needs to meet with Marshall to flush out a business plan. This will be the next focus. Discussion followed on how to tackle new services planning and how outreach (including media relations) plays a role in new services planning.

VIII. Other Business

- A. October 12 MPO Meeting: Hampton Falls; STIP Review, population projections, ranking of transportation alternative programs; December 14th MPO meets again for adoption of the STIP.
- B. ADU Workshop: Sept 29th, Exeter Library
- C. New Commissioner Orientation: October 26th? Discussion on keeping this a small sit down with Director and Chairman and making sure they receive a handbook in advance of meeting.

IX. Public Comment – None

Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT 2

Rockingham Planning Commission
Financial Statement
Budget vs. Actual
September 2016

	September 2016	YTD FY 17	FY 17 Budget	Balance	% Budget
Income					
RESOURCES					
Federal Contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Local Dues	\$ -	\$ 132,495	\$ 142,306	\$ 9,811	93.1%
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	0.0%
Local Planning Contracts	\$ 10,812	\$ 81,218	\$ 233,592	\$ 152,374	34.8%
State Contracts	\$ 28,175	\$ 99,253	\$ 693,470	\$ 594,217	14.3%
Total RESOURCES	\$ 38,987	\$ 312,966	\$ 1,075,868	\$ 762,902	29.1%
Total Income	\$ 38,987	\$ 312,966	\$ 1,075,868	\$ 762,902	29.1%
Expense					
Newspaper/Media			\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.0%
Contracted Printing	\$ -	\$ 272	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,728	13.6%
Contracted Services	\$ 9,465	\$ 22,219	\$ 74,590	\$ 52,371	29.8%
Total Salaries	\$ 73,975	\$ 173,915	\$ 648,384	\$ 474,469	26.8%
Travel	\$ 739	\$ 1,414	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,086	18.9%
Reconciliation Discrepancies			\$ -	\$ -	
Payroll Processing Fees	\$ 33	\$ 134	\$ 500	\$ 366	26.8%
Janitorial	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,700	15.0%
Accounting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	0.0%
Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,250	\$ 11,250	0.0%
Bank & Service Charges	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 350	\$ 100	71.4%
**Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 2,250	\$ 3,485	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,015	53.6%
Employee Co Contrib of Benefits					
C Deferred Comp 457	\$ 3,687	\$ 9,088	\$ 33,952	\$ 24,864	26.8%
C Dental Insurance	\$ 1,159	\$ 2,705	\$ 10,907	\$ 8,202	24.8%
C Health Ins.	\$ 5,771	\$ 14,301	\$ 60,737	\$ 46,436	23.5%
C Life Insurance	\$ 112	\$ 262	\$ 1,100	\$ 838	23.8%
C LTD Insurance	\$ 159	\$ 371	\$ 1,881	\$ 1,510	19.7%
C NH Retirement 414E	\$ 4,035	\$ 9,388	\$ 38,350	\$ 28,962	24.5%
C STD Insurance	\$ 116	\$ 270	\$ 1,111	\$ 841	24.3%
**Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,100	0.0%
**Equipment & Software Maint.	\$ 464	\$ 6,506	\$ 12,500	\$ 5,994	52.0%

Rockingham Planning Commission
Financial Statement
Budget vs. Actual
 September 2016

	September 2016	YTD FY 17	FY 17 Budget	Balance	% Budget
General Insurance	\$ 294	\$ 882	\$ 4,625	\$ 3,743	19.1%
Misc	\$ -		\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	0.0%
**Office Supplies	\$ 497	\$ 1,555	\$ 12,750	\$ 11,195	12.2%
Payroll Expenses (C Portion)					
P/R Taxes - Other	\$ 5,571	\$ 13,097	\$ 49,601	\$ 36,504	26.4%
SUTA	\$ -		\$ 500	\$ 500	0.0%
**Postage	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,300	8.0%
Rent	\$ 4,161	\$ 12,323	\$ 49,772	\$ 37,449	24.8%
Telephone & Internet	\$ 377	\$ 1,125	\$ 5,100	\$ 3,975	22.1%
**Training & Workshops	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,825	8.8%
Utilities	\$ 636	\$ 1,767	\$ 6,250	\$ 4,483	28.3%
Total Expense	\$ 113,801	\$ 276,004	\$ 1,066,010	\$ 790,006	25.9%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (74,814)	\$ 36,962			
Unobligated Funds			\$ 4,857	\$ 4,857	
Fund Balance Accrual	\$ -		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
ICR Reserve			\$ -	\$ -	
Net	\$ (74,814)	\$ 36,962	\$ 1,075,867	\$ 799,863	

NOTE: September 30th is 25% through the fiscal year

ATTACHMENT 3



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

Kevin P. O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner

Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Perry E. Plummer, Director

Jennifer L. Harper, Assistant Director



October 6, 2016

Mr. Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director
Rockingham Planning Commission
156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Re: FFY 2014 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant

Dear Mr. Sinnott:

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) would like to inform you that an extension on the FFY 2014 PDM grant was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to HSEM, on your behalf. The FFY 2014 PDM Grant was awarded to the Rockingham Planning Commission on April 30, 2015 to update Hazard Mitigation Plans for the following communities: Rye and South Hampton. The grant's original period of performance completion date was September 30, 2016. This extension will have a new completion date of September 30, 2017 and will provide your planning commission ample time to have the plans reviewed, adopted by the communities and receive formal approvals from FEMA without any implications with the grants requirements.

Due to the fact that there will be a change with the original grant agreement, the enclosed amendment paperwork must be completed, returned and approved by the Department of Safety Business Office before the extension is granted to the Rockingham Planning Commission.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this situation further, please contact me at 603-223-3667. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to emergency management.

Sincerely,

Whitney Welch
State Hazard Mitigation Planner

cc: Heather Dunkerley, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, NH HSEM
Shawna-Leigh Morton, Field Representative, NH HSEM

Retroactive Grant Agreement Amendment
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant CFDA # 97.047
Period of Performance Extension

Rockingham Planning Commission (*Subrecipient*)

It is hereby agreed that the initial Grant Agreement (PO#1043339), approved by the Department of Safety Business Office on April 30, 2015, between the Rockingham Planning Commission as “Subrecipient” and the Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management as “Recipient” for the update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the communities of Rye and South Hampton is “**Retroactively**” amended as follows:

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS, Section 1.6, Completion Date;

Change the project completion date from September 30, 2016 to September 30, 2017

2. EXHIBIT A, Scope of Services, Item 3;

Delete paragraph three (3) in its entirety and replace with:

“The Subrecipient” agrees that the period of performance ends on September 30, 2017 and that the final plan is formally approved and completed. All invoices will be sent to “the State” by October 30, 2017.”

3. All other provisions of the Grant Agreement, approved by the Department of Safety Business Office on April 30, 2015, shall remain in full force and effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE GRANT AMENDMENT: This Amendment shall be effective upon its approval by the Department of Safety Business Office of the State of New Hampshire. If approval is withheld, this document shall become null and void, with no further obligation or recourse to either party. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands:

Rockingham Planning Commission (*Subrecipient*)

By (signature): _____ By (signature): _____
Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____
Title: _____ Title: _____

By (signature): _____ By (signature): _____
Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____
Title: _____ Title: _____

Subrecipient Initials _____

Date _____

State of: New Hampshire

County of: _____

Upon this date: _____, before me, _____,

(print name of notary/justice of the peace)

the undersigned officer, personally appeared *(print name(s) of individual(s) on 1st page)*

_____ , _____,

_____ known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person(s) whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal:

Signature of Notary Public/Justice of the Peace

(Seal)

Commission Expiration

Approval by State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Safety:

By (signature): _____
Steven R. Lavoie, Director of Administration

Subrecipient Initials _____

Date _____

ATTACHMENT 4

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL RPC LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Topic: Challenges & Opportunities for Local Economic Development

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

6:00 - 9:30 P.M.

Unitil Headquarters, 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton



Dear Legislators, Local Officials & Commissioners,

Please join us for the Rockingham Planning Commission's Annual Legislative Forum. We sponsor this forum each year to provide an opportunity for municipal officials, RPC Commissioners and interested parties to meet informally with our Legislative delegation to discuss issues important to our communities.

We have titled the topic for this year's Forum "*Challenges and Opportunities for Local Economic Development.*" It is intended to address an increasing common theme in our communities: how to blend good planning and economic development policy in order to grow and diversify the tax base while fostering vibrant, healthy communities.

The program is structured in three parts. After some introductory remarks and review of RPC's current work priorities and policies, Laurel Bistany, President of the Regional Economic Development Center for Southern NH will talk about key needs, strategies and tools for economic development and provide her perspective on what makes communities succeed and fail in this endeavor. Next, Peter Egelston, the founder of Smuttynose Brewing Company will relate his experiences as an entrepreneur in the region trying and eventually succeeding to expand a growing business in the seacoast. Finally, we will hear three quite different perspectives from municipalities – ones that differ in size, complexity, opportunity and their degree of success in achieving their economic development goals.

The program will conclude with a general Q&A and discussion about this and other topics that Legislators and others may wish to raise. The agenda and directions are attached.

As in the past we will hold the Forum at Unitil's Corporate Headquarters in Hampton. The program starts at 6:45 p.m., following a time for gathering and socializing which begins a 6:00 p.m.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND PLEASE RSVP to Roxanne Rines by Friday, November 4th, by email to rrines@rpc-nh.org or by calling 778-0885.

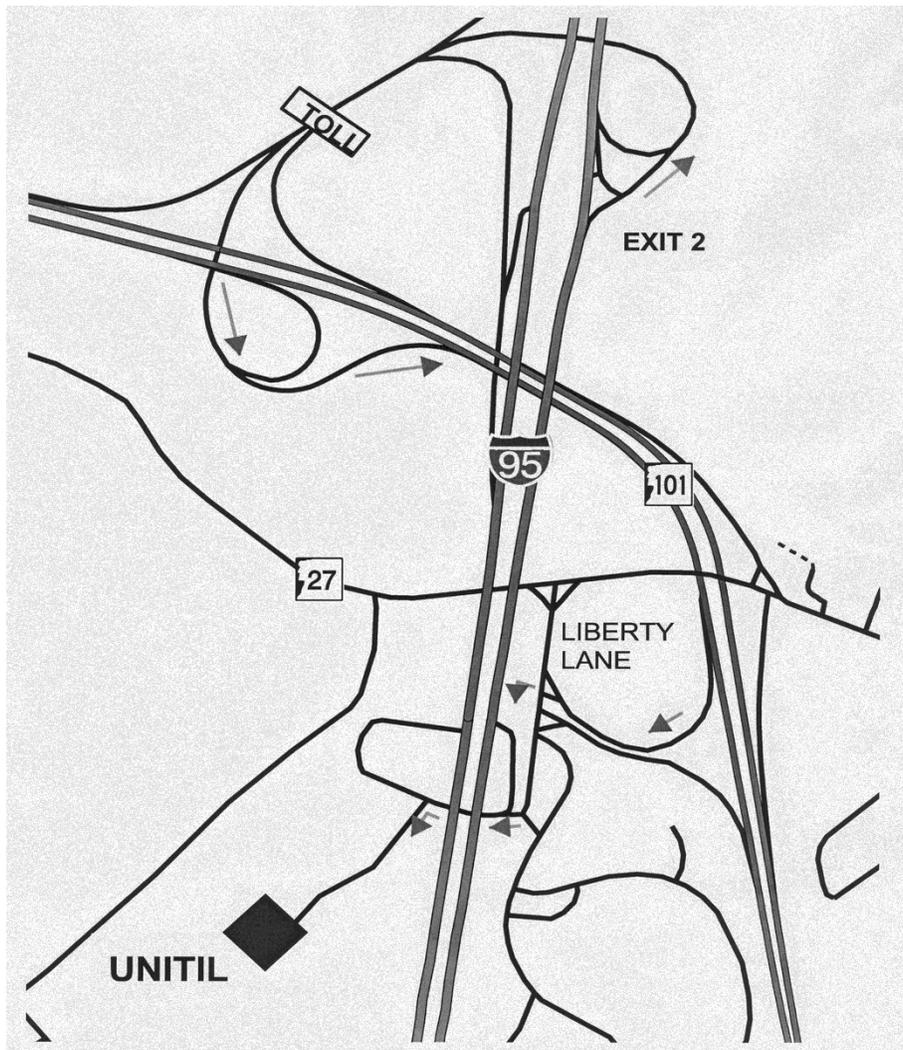
Directions to Unitil Headquarters 6 Liberty Lane, Hampton, NH

From I-95 and NH 101

From I-95 north or southbound take Exit 2 (Hampton-Exeter-101): Go through the on/off ramp toll and bear left onto 101 East, heading toward Hampton. Take first exit on 101 East (exit # 13). Half way down the off-ramp bear left onto Liberty Lane. Pass through the Liberty Lane office park entrance and bear right through a tunnel (under I-95) to a stop sign. Bear left onto Liberty Lane West. Unitil is approx. ¼ mile on the right and clearly marked.

From Rte 27 – (East Bound from Exeter)

Heading East on Rte 27 from Exeter, after crossing over I-95; take first right onto Liberty Lane (this is also the on-ramp for 101 East). Pass through the Liberty Lane office park entrance. Then follow as above.



Rockingham Planning Commission Legislative Forum

Wednesday, November 9th, 2016

6:00 ~ 9:15 PM

Unitil Headquarters
6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, N.H.

AGENDA

6:00 pm Reception

(Hors D'oeuvres & Beverages compliments of Unitil & Rockingham Planning Commission)

6:45 Welcome & Introductions

- *Phil Wilson, Chair, Rockingham Planning Commission*
- *Mark Lambert, Director of Government Affairs, Unitil Corp.*

7:00 RPC Update – Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director, RPC

7:10 Legislative Forum - Barbara Kravitz, Chair, RPC Legislative Committee

- *RPC Legislative Polices*
- *Forum Overview*

7.20 Challenges and Opportunities for Local Economic Development

Moderator: Glenn Coppelman, Immediate Past Chair, RPC

❖ **The Regional and Local Economic Development Landscape**

Laurel Bistany, President, Regional Economic Development Center of So. NH

❖ **An Entrepreneur's Perspective**

Peter Egelston, Founder, Smuttynose Brewing Company

❖ **Three Municipal Perspectives**

- *Leon Goodwin, Town Manager, Salem, New Hampshire*
- *Bruce Stevens, Chairman, Brentwood Planning Board*
- *James Better, North Hampton Business Association*

8:40 Q&A & Discussion

9:10 Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Space is limited. Please be kindly **RSVP if you plan to attend.**

Contact Roxanne Rines by Friday, November 4th, by email to rrines@rpc-nh.org or by calling 778-0885.

ATTACHMENT 5

RPC LEGISLATIVE POLICIES FOR 2015-2016
October 2015

(Approved by RPC Executive Committee 10-28-2015)

Background

Each year the Rockingham Planning Commission adopts a set of legislative policies that support our agency's mission and goals. They are focused in the areas of land use, transportation, natural resources, energy conservation, economic development and historic and cultural resources. The RPC Legislative Policy Committee reviews these policies each year and any proposed changes are reviewed and adopted by the Commission. Ten new or substantially revised policies were incorporated into this document this year and are so indicated.

RPC Legislative Policies

General legislative policy statements for five topical areas are included below. These are used to guide our general response to and positions on proposed legislation. For some issue areas, specific legislative priorities are also included.

General

The following legislative policies are applicable across multiple disciplines:

- A. Support and encourage legislation that will foster cooperation between two or more municipalities in making informed, efficient, and cost effective decisions, and in developing or maintaining shared services and/or infrastructure.
- B. Support the work of the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (RSA 483-E) to evaluate changes in state and local policies, regulations and other actions needed to improve resiliency to increased flooding hazards from coastal storms, storms surge and sea level rise;
- C. Support legislation that will enable and assist municipalities to address climate adaptation strategies and policies in appropriate aspects of local planning, zoning, and infrastructure development, maintenance and preservation.
- D. Support legislation requiring periodic evaluation of coastal flooding risk from climate change and to direct State agencies which construct or fund facilities and infrastructure in tidal areas to account for that increased risk in the planning and design of such facilities, including those recommended in the STAP report of the Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission (RSA 483-E). **(added 2015)**
- E. Support establishing a study commission to evaluate the programs, function, needs and resources of the NH Office of Energy and Planning. **(added 2015)**
- F. Support the establishment and funding of an MS4 technical assistance program within the Department of Environmental Services to provide guidance, technical expertise and grant funding to municipalities in developing MS4-compliant stormwater management programs; consider funding this program from a stormwater mitigation fund as recommended in the final report of Stormwater Commission (RSA 1295). **(added 2015)**

Land Use

Support legislative efforts that advance sound land use and smart growth policies. Specific legislative priorities include the following:

- A. Continue efforts to clarify and strengthen the developments of regional impact process (RSA 36:58-61);
- B. Support legislative efforts that create incentives and assistance to municipalities to adopt land use policies that will discourage sprawl, retain open space and conservation lands, support local agriculture and forestry, and preserve community character;
- C. Support legislation that would require state agencies and local governments to design and construct public infrastructure, including roads, utilities, schools and other public buildings and facilities, so as to reduce the risk and improve resiliency from damage or loss due to increased flooding from large storm events and inundation from projected sea level rise;
- D. Support legislative efforts that assist governing bodies in their effort to preserve and manage historical and cultural resources.
- E. Support legislation that encourages all municipalities to permit accessory apartments in the majority of their residentially zoned districts but does so in a manner that preserves flexibility and discretion at the local level to define reasonable conditions for such use. **(added 2015)**
- F. Support legislation that strengthens local agriculture and the local food economy per the principles outlined in RSA 425:2. **(added 2015)**
- G. Support legislation that provides clear guidance on defining and permitting agricultural activities, including agritourism, but allows for reasonable local regulation when necessary to protect public health, safety and general welfare. **(added 2015)**

Transportation

An efficient, well-funded, multimodal transportation network is critical to sustain a robust economy and high quality of life. The goal of our transportation network should be to safely and efficiently move people and goods along highways, railways, waterways, bikeways and walkways with a seamless interconnection between all modes of transportation.

RPC supports legislative efforts that advance such a network including the following:

- A. Support legislative study commissions or other efforts that propose methods to finance all forms of transportation in a sustainable and affordable manner;
- B. Support the adoption of an appropriate “Complete Streets” (street/road design based on all proposed vehicle, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle uses) policy for the State;
- C. Support the establishment of a study commission to clarify and coordinate state and local policy on the maintenance and liability for sidewalks constructed on state highways;
- D. Support efforts to maintain or increase the minimum funding available for the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Highway Safety Improvement Programs (HSIP) at levels that are at least comparable to those established under SAFETEA-LU; **(revised 2015)**
- E. Evaluate the adequacy of the 4.2 cent road toll (gas tax) increase passed in the previous legislative session to meet ongoing transportation infrastructure needs, and support efforts to transition the core highway funding from the current gas consumption funding mechanisms to one based on vehicle useage and cost to the highway system; **(revised 2015)**

- F. Support an amendment to RSA 261:153 *Local Option Fee for Transportation Improvements* to raise the maximum amount a local government may assess to allow greater use of such fees for road infrastructure and transit support and for use as match to Federal transportation grant funding. **(added 2015)**

Natural Resource Preservation and Management

Support legislative efforts that protect land, water, and air resources and which enable and encourage municipalities to adopt measures that lead to the sound management and stewardship of those resources. Specific legislative priorities include the following:

- A. Support recommendations of the Groundwater Study Commission to clarify and expand the role of municipalities in state permitting of large groundwater withdrawals;
- B. Support unimplemented recommendations of the Stormwater (HB1295), Land Use (HB1579), Infrastructure (SB60), and Flood (HB648) Study Commissions as well as appropriate findings of the Water Sustainability Commission (Executive Order 2011-2);
- C. Support legislative efforts and other initiatives, both technical and financial, that help municipalities comply with the EPA's Stormwater Management (MS4) permit requirements;
- D. Support legislative efforts and other initiatives to provide additional technical assistance to communities working to address provisions of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, the need to adopt new FEMA maps, participating in the community rating system to reduce flood insurance costs, and responding to increased flood risk in general;
- E. Support legislation that strengthens and improves the effectiveness of the Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA); **(revised 2015)**
- F. Support permanent funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and oppose any diversion of these funds to other uses;
- G. Support a feasibility study for desalination as potential water supply in the Seacoast region.

Energy

The New Hampshire General Court has recognized the growing importance of enabling legislation that creates incentives and assistance to encourage energy conservation and efficiency measures in both the public and private sectors. RPC believes that the next step is vigorous legislative support of the recommendations set forth in the 2014 Office of Energy and Planning and State Advisory Council's 10 Year State Energy Strategy, including making the development and expansion of renewable and alternative energy resources a high priority across New Hampshire. This involves evaluating the potential for technology assistance, innovative financing, and encouraging public/private partnerships to make state and municipal projects a reality. Among the priorities worthy of specific legislative attention are:

- A. Support legislation and municipal efforts to improve energy conservation and efficiency, for example, through buildings codes, tax incentives, and RGGI energy audits and loan programs;
- B. Consolidate information and outreach for public education purposes, including creating a comprehensive web portal to promote sharing and an economy of effort;
- C. Leverage public funds with private financing to assist consumer, business, and municipal efforts for energy efficiency through upgrades-and/or the installation of cost effective improvements;
- D. Support and enable development of renewable/alternative energy resources recognizing the wide variety of potential applications including solar installations, offshore and terrestrial wind, hydro electric, hydrogen, biomass, thermal, and tidal energy;

- E. Urge a Public Utilities Commission initiative to modernize the electric grid system with an eye to rate pricing mechanisms, consumer and municipal access to new technologies, alternative renewable energy sources, as well as fuel diversity;
- F. Encourage access to natural gas for heating purposes and alternative vehicle fuel which would reduce carbon emissions and is economical when compared to the cost of oil;
- G. Consider adopting standards for energy efficiency such as a statewide solar photovoltaic goal;
- H. Support the continuation of local technical assistance programs such as the former Energy Technical Assistance Program (ETAP) to assist communities with energy planning, facility evaluation and prioritization of capital investments
- I. Support broadening the definition of renewable energy to include thermal energy captured and reused in combined heat and power generation facilities.
- J. Support legislation that will substantially raise the existing cap on total net metered energy produced by small renewable systems, and ensure net metering laws adequately promote the effective use of small renewable systems while fairly accounting for base load generation costs bourn by utilities; **(revised 2015)**
- K. Support legislation to review and reform electric utility regulation to ensure more stable electric rates through appropriate regulation to counter the effects of energy commodity price fluctuations. **(revised 2015)**
- L. Support the continuation of the RGGI program as well as the Federal Clean Power Program and resist efforts to repeal or weaken them. **(added 2015)**

Economic Development

Support legislative initiatives to facilitate state and intermunicipal cooperation in economic development. Specific legislative priorities include the following:

- A. Encourage municipal efforts through incentives and other means toward effective regional cooperation in the financing and delivery of municipal services;
- B. Maintain existing State Support for economic development initiatives through tax credit programs and expand outreach and marketing to attract new businesses to New Hampshire communities;
- C. Support legislative efforts that assist municipalities, school districts, water/wastewater districts and other political subdivisions with broadband technology and communications equipment installation and upgrades;
- D. Support expansion of public/private targeted labor force training programs such as the Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships in Education (AMPed) established by the NH Community College System;
- E. Support legislation to foster greater competition among broadband internet service providers including by allowing municipalities to provide access to service by building broadband infrastructure and authorizing use of municipal bonds for such purpose and by removing artificial barriers to competition.

Action on Prior Legislative Priorities

In the prior legislative session, several of the previously identified policies and priorities were fully or partially addressed through legislation or other means. These include:

- Modify the Urban Compact system to allow urban compact communities to compete for Federal highway funding;
- Improve the 10 Year Plan Process to better coordinate project priorities and development between Metropolitan Planning Organizations (RPCs), and the NH Department of Transportation.
- Enact enabling legislation for municipalities to facilitate the local financing of local water supply, treatment, wastewater treatment and other water and stormwater utility districts;
- Modify the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative law in New Hampshire to ensure access to RGGI generated funds for making energy efficiency improvements in municipal facilities;
- Support legislation, appropriations or other initiatives to enable the NH Department of Transportation to purchase the abandoned Hampton Branch line of the Pan Am Railway;
- Restore funding for transit capital and operating support for community transit systems to supplement local matching funds for Federal Transit Administration funding;
- Modify group net metering provisions in electric utility regulation to facilitate municipal and neighborhood use of alternative electric energy production.

NOTES: