



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Date:	March 18, 2015
Time:	3:30 p.m.
Location:	JWO Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	2 hours
Facilitators:	Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG Executive Director and Peggy Sloan, Planning Director

Attendees:

- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Ted Cady, Town of Warwick & FRPB
- John Wheeler, Town of Shelburne
- Tom Miner, FRPB
- Marcella Morgan, Town of Conway
- Meg Burch, Town of Conway
- Tracy Rogers, Town of Northfield
- Ariel Elan, Town of Montague
- Judith Feeley, Town of Plainfield
- Judith Williams, Town of Plainfield
- Polly Ryan, Town of Plainfield
- Joe Strzegowski, Town of Conway & FRPB
- Jim Cutler, Town of Ashfield

Staff:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Peggy Sloan, Planning Director

Guests:

- Scott Jackson, UMASS Amherst
- Nat Karns, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

**1 – Introductions: Linda Dunlavy and Peggy Sloan**

L. Dunlavy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A round of introductions followed.

**2 – Update on Kinder Morgan Open Houses: L. Dunlavy & Committee Members**

T. Roger, P. Sloan, T. Cady and other Committee members reported on the Kinder Morgan (KM) Open Houses they attended. A hand-out of the responses provided by KM representatives at the Open Houses in Winchester, NH and Greenfield, MA was

compiled based on the questions distributed at the last meeting and is available upon request.

**3 – Presentation and Discussion on GIS Resource Mapping and Assessment completed by UMASS: S. Jackson, UMASS**

P. Sloan introduced S. Jackson from UMASS to present their assessment of natural resources along the proposed gas pipeline route using GIS mapping and analysis. This study was requested by Senator Rosenberg and addresses the entire proposed pipeline route in Massachusetts. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

**4 – Presentation and Discussion on BRPC Local Technical Assistance to Berkshire Pipeline Working Group including Host Community Agreements: N. Karns, BRPC**

L. Dunlavy introduced Nat Karns, Executive Director from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) to present their work with eleven communities and Fire & Water Districts in Berkshire County that will be potentially impacted by the proposed pipeline. N. Karns outlined BRPC efforts to date to address the KM gas pipeline and provided a copy of the Scope of Services and the Budget they prepared for the communities in their region. They are estimating a total cost of \$75,000 for the pre-filing and Scoping Session phase of the FERC permitting process for technical assistance by BRPC staff, legal counsel, and possibly other consultants (e.g. engineering, hydrogeology, etc.). Eight towns and two Fire & Water Districts have committed funding to obtain the Scope of Services proposed by BRPC. A copy of the Scope of Services is available upon request.

BRPC has obtained a USDOT pipeline safety grant and will be organizing workshops on pipeline safety. They are coordinating with the FRCOG to hold a workshop in Franklin County.

BRPC is preparing GIS mapping and data in response to the AECOM information request. N. Karns asserted that it is very important to provide information on natural and cultural resource impacts as early in the process as possible so that resource impacts and alternate routes can be considered by KM and the FERC. In addition, the GIS mapping will be needed by BRPC and the towns during the FERC permitting process. Discussion followed among Committee members about the advantages and disadvantages of providing information to AECOM, a consultant of Kinder Morgan and/or the FERC.

**5 – Presentation and Discussion on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Other Federal Legislation and FERC Scoping Process for KM/TGP Pipeline: Linda Dunlavy, Peggy Sloan and Committee Members**

Due to the length of the previous agenda items this item was tabled until the next meeting.

**6 –Next Meeting Date/Other Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting/Adjourn: Linda Dunlavy and Peggy Sloan**

AECom has also requested information from the FRCOG. The FRCOG is considering providing publically available data on the natural and cultural resources along the proposed pipeline route to AECom and the FERC to demonstrate the significant impacts that will occur if the pipeline is constructed. B. Perlman requested feedback from the towns about any concerns they may have about providing publically available information. Discussion followed among Committee members about the advantages and disadvantages of providing this information and the timing of the request. L. Dunlavy requested that towns contact her if they have concerns about providing publically available data to AECom.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m. Copies of the handouts are available. Please contact P. Sloan [psloan@frcog.org](mailto:psloan@frcog.org) or 413-774-3167 x133.