



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee

Date:	June 2, 2015
Time:	3:30 p.m.
Location:	JWO Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1.5 hours
Facilitator:	Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG Executive Director and Peggy Sloan, Planning Director

Attendees:

- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Ted Cady, Town of Warwick
- Tom Miner, Franklin Regional Planning Board
- Meg Burch, Town of Conway
- Tracy Rogers, Town of Northfield
- Ariel Elan, Town of Montague
- Judith Feeley, Town of Plainfield
- Joe Strzegowski, Town of Conway
- Carolyn Shores Ness, Town of Deerfield
- Walter Ramsey, Town of Montague
- Joe Judd, Town of Shelburne
- Brian Noble, Town of Northfield
- Bill Morris, Town of Erving
- Marcella Morgan, Town of Conway
- Polly Ryan, Town of Plainfield
- Andrew Baker, Town of Shelburne

Guests

- Richie Davis, Greenfield Recorder

Staff:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Peggy Sloan, Planning Director
- Gretchen Johnson, Planning Grant Administrator

1 – Introductions and Review of May 13, 2015 Meeting Notes: Linda Dunlavy

L. Dunlavy, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. A round of introductions followed.

The Meeting Notes were not discussed because they had only been sent out earlier that day. P. Sloan asked that any comments on them be sent to her by the following week.

2 – Review and Discussion of Educational Workshop and Draft Scope of Work for Legal Services and Technical Assistance to Towns from FRCOG related to the FERC Pre-filing and Project Scoping for the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Kinder Morgan pipeline project: L. Dunlavy & Committee Members

L. Dunlavy asked what members learned from the Pipeline Educational Workshop. L. Dunlavy stated that the primary items for her were:

- The thickness of the pipe will be less because it is a rural area and therefore will reduce the overall cost of the project (Engineer estimated 20-30%);
- It is not advisable to co-locate a natural gas pipeline with electric transmission lines due to corrosion issues. It is advisable to install the pipeline a minimum of 1,000 feet away from electric transmission lines;
- The Attorney's comment that there are several competing pipeline projects and it is unlikely that all of them will be built; and
- Community Benefit Agreements (also known as Host Community Agreements) can serve to protect the host communities but can be perceived by FERC as cooperation and can result in a faster permitting process.

J. Strzegowski stated that he would like to coordinate and share information with the MassPlan group. Discussion followed if it would be appropriate to join MassPlan. Many towns have joined without obligating any funding.

C. Shores Ness stated that she is concerned about the capacity that is proposed to be built versus the needed capacity. P. Sloan stated that is a concern that hopefully will be addressed by the EIS and is one of the seventeen potential studies being suggested by the RPAs to evaluate the pipeline impacts for the EIS (NEPA)/EIR (MEPA). Discussion followed regarding pipeline capacity and the FERC policy of not "over building."

J. Judd stated that he heard the message at the workshop that there is more benefit to a Community Host Agreement the earlier it is drafted. M. Burch agreed but also heard that a Community Benefit Agreement strengthens the pipeline application with the FERC.

M. Burch stated that she is concerned that pipelines should not be recommended for co-location with electric transmission lines.

L. Dunlavy stated that the FRCOG has allocated funding to work on this project on behalf of the communities. L. Dunlavy asked if there was consensus that the FRCOG should use funding toward:

1. Submitting study requests
2. Review EIS and the pipeline impact studies
3. Hire an attorney to identify conditions that can be used in a Community Benefit Plan or as a request to FERC as part of the Order of Conditions contained in the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
4. Offer assistance to communities to file for Intervenor Status

The consensus of the Advisory Board was in agreement. L. Dunlavy stated that some communities have authorized funding for this project and others have not. At this point, town funds will not be used for the proposed scope Linda outlined. Discussion followed.

T. Cady stated that the gas pipeline projects are usually not denied by FERC but that the environmental and other conditions placed on it by FERC can lead to the applicant withdrawing their application. T. Miner stated that Intervenor Status will grant legal standing to take the company to court if they are in violation of their conditions but it also grants a seat at the table to present testimony during the application process. P. Sloan stated that any additional conditions such as the installation of thicker pipe, noise levels, first responder training, etc. may be requested from FERC and they will determine if the request is justified.

L. Dunlavy stated that Rep. Kulik will consider filing for a more stringent State noise standard if we or another entity asks. Additional concerns voiced included evacuation planning, the potential for added compressor station locations if the pipeline capacity is increased, the blast radius in the event of a fire or damage to the pipeline, the benefits of galvanized pipe, etc. P. Sloan stated that she will re-send via email the list of seventeen potential studies to evaluate the pipeline impacts for EIS (NEPA)/EIR (MEPA).

L. Dunlavy stated that a staff person from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is participating on the bi-weekly interagency phone calls with FERC staff and he has informed the FRCOG that the Scoping Sessions will be starting soon. P. Sloan stated that five Scoping Session Meetings are expected will be held in Massachusetts. Dates and locations have not been announced yet.

P. Sloan distributed copies of a letter sent to Governor Baker seeking technical assistance from the State for the Kinder Morgan pipeline project. It was drafted by the FRCOG and the FRPB Executive Committees.

P. Ryan stated that “smart” pigs are used to monitor the integrity of the pipe in only 7% of pipelines and those are all located in high density population areas. The State can take on the monitoring responsibility and bill the pipeline company for the service. L. Dunlavy asked if all towns could share any letters of request they submit for additional Scoping Sessions to be held in Western Massachusetts.

P. Ryan stated that she is qualified to document vernal pools and other water resources. It is important that the region’s resources are well documented.

3 – Review and Discussion of Potential Study Requests for EIS (NEPA) and EIR (MEPA): P. Sloan & Committee Members

L. Dunlavy tabled this discussion so that A. Elan would have time for a presentation.

4 – Update on FERC Filings: P. Sloan & Committee Members

L. Dunlavy tabled this discussion so that A. Elan would have time for a presentation.

5 –Next Meeting Date/Other Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting/Adjourn: L. Dunlavy and P. Sloan

A. Elan stated that there was an article in the Greenfield Recorder today. A. Elan stated that MassPlan was refused Intervenor Status with the State DPU related to their process of approving contracts between LDC's (e.g. Berkshire Gas) and Kinder Morgan. MassPlan expects to appeal on the basis that there are significant impacts to towns and residents and not enough citizens are represented. MassPlan is advocating having the existing pipelines weatherized and leaks fixed prior to building a new pipeline. There is a hearing scheduled on June 11, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School. Discussion followed. A. Elan will send information to P. Sloan to distribute to the group.

L. Dunlavy asked the group if these meetings are helpful. T. Rogers stated that the meetings would be more efficient if the conversation was kept to the agenda items.

T. Miner stated that it would be beneficial to meet before the Massachusetts Scoping Sessions to be held by FERC start. The RPA's would be able to report on the preparation for the Scoping Sessions.

J. Feeley stated that she would like Katie Eiseman from MassPlan to give a presentation at the next meeting.

L. Dunlavy asked B. Noble to report back about the Northfield compressor station field trip at the next meeting.

Copies of the handouts are available. Please contact G. Johnson at gjohnson@frcoq.org or 413-774-3167 x126.

The next meeting will be scheduled before the Scoping Sessions in Massachusetts are held.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.