



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

<b>Meeting:</b> FRCOG Council Meeting			
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, July 17, 2014	<b>Location</b>	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive St, Greenfield
<b>Time</b>	5:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Room:</b>	First Floor Meeting Room
		<b>Facilitator</b>	Michele Giarusso, Outgoing Chair John O’ Rourke, Incoming Chair
		<b>Call in #</b>	N/A
		<b>PIN Code</b>	

<b>ATTENDEES:</b>		
<b>Name, Town/Org.</b>		<b>ABSENT:</b>
Mary Fitz-Gibbon, Ashfield	Cathy Jones, New Salem	Vaughn Tower, Charlemont
Rob Riggan, Buckland	George Willard, Orange	Tom Sharp, Erving
Kevin Fox, Colrain	Marilyn Wilson, Rowe	Philip Keenan, Hawley
John O’Rourke, Conway	John Payne, Shelburne	Bill Latrell, Heath
Carolyn Ness, Deerfield	Rebecca Torres, Shutesbury	David Nash, Monroe
Randy Crochier, Gill	Dawn Magi, Warwick	Robert OBear, Montague
Bill Martin, Greenfield	Sam Lovejoy, Regional Planning Bd.	Representative, Northfield
Gordon Fretwell, Leverett	Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected	Tom Fydenkevez, Sunderland
Michele Giarusso, Leyden	John Paciorek, Regionally Elected	Daniel Keller, Wendell
	<b>STAFF:</b>	<b>REGRETS:</b>
	Linda Dunlavy	Stanley Garland, Bernardston
	Bob Dean	Lynn Sibley, Whately
	Phoebe Walker	
	Rebekah Boyd-Owens	
	Pat Auchard	

Agenda items	Point Person(s)	Discussion and Motions
Call to Order Meeting & Roll Call	Michele Giarusso, Chair	Michele Giarusso convened the meeting of the Council @ 5:32 p.m.  Roll call was taken. General and financial quorum present.
Report of the Nominating Committee	Bill Perlman, Nominating Committee Chair	Bill Perlman listed the slate of nominees:  <i>FRCOG Council</i> Council Chair – John O’Rourke Council Vice Chair – Dawn Magi Secretary – Sam Lovejoy  <i>Executive Committee</i> Bill Perlman and John Paciorek — Regionally elected Bill Martin and Kevin Fox – Council appointments Sam Lovejoy – Planning Board appointment

		<b>Sam Lovejoy moved to accept the slate of nominees as listed. Bill Perlman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.</b>
Election of Council Officers		<b>Sam Lovejoy made a motion to elect the nominees to Council offices and to the Executive Committee. Carolyn Ness seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</b>  Michele Giarusso was recognized and thanked on the occasion of the end of her two-year stint as FRCOG Council chair.
Approval of April 24, 2014 Minutes	John O'Rourke, chair	<b>Bill Perlman motioned to accept the 4/24/14 minutes. Bill Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</b>
Communications from the Council Chair	John O'Rourke, chair	John O'Rourke thanked old timers for returning and welcomed new representatives. He briefed the members on the roles of the FRCOG Council's various committees and stated that while the Personnel Committee has been recently inactive, this year the group will tackle a personnel policy overhaul, hopefully creating a model for the policies of representative towns.  <i>The FRCOG Council will convene on:</i> Thursday, Oct 16 Thursday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup> (or 29 <sup>th</sup> pending budget completion) Thursday, April 16th
Communications from the Executive Committee	Bill Perlman, Executive Committee Chair	<u>Meeting with HCOG Re: Electricity Aggregation</u>  Bill Perlman explained that the administration fee for the Hampshire Council of Government's (HCOG) proposed electricity aggregation plan is more than double the typical fee, which amounts to rate payers being assessed extra money. The Executive Committee had some concern that the HCOG was not forthcoming with how the fees would be used and felt it was important for towns (including Franklin County [FC] towns) to understand how revenue would be used before signing up. <i>See Executive Committee Update in handout for more detail.</i>  Sam Lovejoy explained that half the FC towns have signed on, and that the Executive Committee wanted these towns to have opportunity to discuss the issue of "It's cheaper than it used to be" — the HCOG's answer to the question of why they charging more. He explained that FC towns have no input about how the money is being spent and asks what the mechanism for FC towns having input might be.  Bill Perlman reminded the council that there are other aggregators in the region and that towns could choose others.  <u>Franklin County Emergency Communications System (FCECS) Issues</u>  Bill Perlman summarized the updates notes: The Emergency Communication System has suffered some problems. First, New England Communications was not getting the job done and was terminated. Next, Southwest New Hampshire Fire District Mutual Aid's work corrupted the system and service began to deteriorate. The oversight committee then contracted with Bruce Beliveau to bring the system back to a stable and

		<p>functioning condition — a contract which was extended.</p> <p>Today (7/17/14) the Oversight Committee voted to suspend the language that required two contractors for FCECS service: one for the preventative maintenance and one for emergency service. They created a provision that allows for one contractor, Beliveau Communications, to hold both jobs for the next period — to get us through this difficult time and until they can find a maintenance contractor. The FRCOG Finance Committee approved a carry forward from FY14 to FY15 to fund this.</p> <p>Gordon Fretwell asked if Beliveau is the only contractor around from which to choose. Bill Perlman said finding another manager might be easier, but finding someone to do the maintenance is much more difficult. The net has been cast fairly broadly, he said, with bids coming from Boston, New York, New Hampshire, and so on.</p> <p>John Payne asked if it's a software or hardware problem. Bill says system timing is the biggest problem; when timing pulses are lost, data becomes unintelligible. If we lose power even momentarily, it takes a while to get timing back, he said.</p>
Communications from the Executive Director	Linda Dunlavy	<p>Linda briefed the group with FRCOG Broadband, CEDS Program, Cooperative Purchasing Program, and Partnership for Youth updates, among others (refer to the <i>Updates</i> handout for more detail).</p> <p>She introduced Rebekah Boyd-Owens, new Administrative Services Coordinator.</p> <p>Linda explained that members can now find FRCOG council and committee minutes and handouts on the website. She alerted the committee that the FRCOG staff and Council are now gearing up for budget season and explained the forward movement of retirement legislation as relative to the FRCOG's switch to the state retirement system.</p> <p>Linda alerted the committee about the upcoming joint meeting of the FRCOG Council and the Franklin Regional Planning Board at which Kinder Morgan will present their proposal to build a natural gas pipeline across Franklin County. She handed out the questions drafted for Kinder Morgan and explained the plan for the meeting.</p> <p>Bob Dean handed each Council member a copy of the Open Meeting Law.</p>
Communications from the Planning Board	Sam Lovejoy, Franklin Regional Planning Board (FRPB) Member	<p>Sam explained that the Northfield Mtn Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility is in the process of FERC relicensing, which will be a 30-50 year license. The FRCOG has long been involved with working to mitigate the erosion of farmland and riverbank caused by the rapid release of water from the Pool. Now in the relicensing process, power companies are again making the claim that they don't cause the erosion. The FRPB is actively engaged in the relicensing process, which will take place over a series of years.</p> <p>Carolyn Ness asked if letters from towns were needed. Not yet, said Sam.</p>
Special	John Payne,	John Payne introduced the idea of holding selectboard member coffee

