



Franklin Regional Council of Governments Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Date:	March 30, 2015
Time:	3:30 – 5:30 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
- Bill Morris, Town of Erving
- Jim Cutler, Town of Ashfield
- Tracy Rogers, Town of Northfield
- Brian Noble, Town of Northfield
- Ariel Elan, Town of Montague
- Joe Judd, Town of Shelburne
- Joe Strzegowski, Town of Conway & FRPB
- Walter Ramsey, Town of Montague

Staff:

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

Guests

- Richie Davis, The Greenfield Recorder

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

Linda Dunlavy and Peggy Sloan reviewed the Scope of Services provided by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as an example of the types of services that the FRCOG can provide. The FRCOG can provide project coordination and technical assistance with respect to the FERC process. The FRCOG would need to contract with a law firm to assist towns with preparing requests for Intervenor Status and to create a model "Host Community Agreement" which can address construction and operation impacts. The FRCOG is also working with other Regional Planning Agencies to prepare Draft study requests that towns may want to use during the FERC scoping session process. FRCOG staff can also Draft model bylaws to address noise and disturbance impacts. Other technical studies may be needed, particularly with respect to noise and air and water quality issues, but this will likely be very costly. The proposed compression station is huge (80,000 horsepower) and is expected to have significant noise impacts. FRCOG staff will develop a Draft Scope of Services and a budget that Committee members can use to discuss the potential for cost sharing with their towns.

Discussion followed among Committee members on the potential advantages of cost sharing and whether it may be possible to put in a request for funding to upcoming spring Town meetings. Northfield and Conway reported that they expect to pursue town funding.

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

P. Sloan gave a presentation on the Environmental Review Process for an Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Project, including the federal laws that would apply, and the scoping process that will soon be conducted by FERC. The PowerPoint is available upon request.

4 – Update on AECOM Information Request: Linda Dunlavy, Peggy Sloan and Committee Members

L. Dunlavy stated the AECOM, consultant to Kinder Morgan has requested information from the FRCOG and other Regional Planning Agencies (RPA) on the natural and cultural resources along the proposed pipeline route. The FRCOG and other Regional Planning Agencies are using publically available data to prepare GIS maps and identify potential resource impacts. However, there are many more resources along the proposed route that require field work and additional research. FRCOG plans to submit only publically available data to AECOM and the FERC to demonstrate the significant resource impacts that will occur along the proposed route. Committee members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of providing this information.

Many towns have also received requests and have decided not to provide this information based on the advice of Town Counsel. Committee members pointed out that the Consultant should be able to compile the publically available information using their own staff and resources. FRCOG and the other RPAs would be reimbursed for the

staff time required to prepare the maps and data. A Committee member noted that the RPAs are much more familiar with the publically available data sources in Massachusetts than an outside consultant would be. In addition, RPAs would be expected to do a thorough job of presenting the resource impacts for the communities they serve. L. Dunlavy requested that towns contact her if they have any concerns about submitting the publically available data to AECOM.

5 –Other Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting/Adjourn: Linda Dunlavy and Peggy Sloan

FERC has provided comments to Kinder Morgan on the Resource Reports. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Copies of the handouts are available. Please contact P. Sloan at psloan@frcog.org; 413-774-3167 x133.

The next meeting will be scheduled for May 2015.