

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

January 17, 2008

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates

Lamont Aheart  
Sandra Bobowski  
Sue Errickson  
Linda Keith  
John Larensen  
Julie Meyer  
Bruce Mortimer  
Karl Profe  
Sharon Purtill  
Janet Ramsay

#### Town

Vernon  
Hartford  
Tolland  
Avon  
Marlborough  
Simsbury  
Canton  
Windsor  
Glastonbury  
Windsor Locks

#### Others Present

Eric Hammerling	Farmington River Watershed Association
Jason Rupaka	Farmington River Watershed Association
Hank Gruner	CT Science Center
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Rebecca Augur	CRCOG

Chairman Larensen called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Profe moved to adopt the minutes from the November 15, 2007 meeting. Errickson seconded. The motion passed.

#### Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project

Hank Gruner, Eric Hammerling, and Jason Rupaka spoke about the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. The project was a collaborative effort between the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, 7 Farmington Valley towns and the DEP. The aim of the project was to work within the existing municipal framework to achieve regional, landscape level conservation of biodiversity. To preserve multiple plant and animal species requires preserving habitats and landscapes, usually at a much larger scale than the parcel-level. Several other community values can also benefit from biodiversity conservation, including water quality, agriculture, passive recreation and aesthetic character.

The project mapped ecosystems and habitats, analyzed landscape fragmentation, inventoried natural resources, conducted intensive community outreach and provided technical support to participating organizations. The results included a prioritization of conservation areas with robust supporting data, increased technical capacity, public-awareness and confidence in land use decision-making, adoption of innovative regulations, best management practices and other conservation tools, and improved parcel-

level decision-making that is harmonious with town and regional visions. Finally, the project serves as a model that contiguous towns, working together to preserve regional habitats and species, can follow to achieve some of the same goals.

There was some discussion on how the Biodiversity project model could inform CRCOG's regional plan update. The mapping and landscape analysis at a broad level could help identify areas for further investigation or field work.

**Report on Zoning, Subdivision, and Plan of Development Referrals:**

Rebecca Augur reported on several referrals that had not been included in the Commission's meeting packet. There was little discussion. Bobowski moved and Aheart seconded adoption of the referral comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

Mary Ellen Kowalewski reminded everyone that the 2008 schedule of meetings was included in the meeting packet.

The Commission, at Sandra Bobowski's suggestion, held a moment of silence to remember Linda Osten and her many contributions to the Capitol Region and City of Hartford.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.