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## Approved FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES August 1, 2024

This was a virtual meeting as allowed by Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20 until March 31, 2025.

### I. Opening

#### A. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Malcolm Fick stated that per the open meeting law, BRPC was recording this meeting. Others may record the meeting after informing the meeting Chair. Documents presented must be provided to the Chair at the meeting.

#### B. Roll Call

The following Commission members were present:

John Duval – Adams Alternate  
Alex Glover – Alford Delegate  
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate  
Robert Collins – Dalton Delegate, left at 6:37 for another meeting  
Mary McGurn – Egremont Delegate  
Cynthia Bosley – Florida Delegate  
Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate  
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate  
Tony Zaniboni – Hinsdale Delegate  
Leanne Yinger – Lanesborough Delegate  
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate  
Justine Dodds – Pittsfield Alternate  
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate  
Samantha Page – Williamstown Delegate  
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate  
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

Towns with no Delegate or Alternate present:

Becket, Clarksburg, Hancock, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlborough, North Adams, Otis, Peru, Richmond, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge

Staff Present:

Thomas Matuszko, Marianne Sniezek, Kate Hill Tapia, Laura Brennan, Melissa Provencher, Wylie Goodman

Others Present: Pittsfield Community Television; 413-854-8175

**C. Vote to Approve Minutes of the May 16, 2024 Commission Full Meeting**

Douglas McNally moved to approve the May 16, 2024, draft meeting minutes; Buck Donovan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote with Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Pedro Pachano, Leanne Yinger, Buck Donovan, Christine Rasmussen, and Doug McNally voting to approve.

Abstained: John Duval, Alex Glover, Cynthia Bosley, Tony Zaniboni, Justine Dodds, Samantha Page

**II. Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternate Delegates**

None

**III. Comments from the Public**

None

**IV. Presentation of Executive Committee Actions**

The Executive Committee actions taken on the Commission's behalf at its June 6, June 20, and July 2, 2024 meetings were in the meeting materials, including comment letters submitted on the City of North Adams Expanded Environmental Notification for the Mount Williams Reservoir Dam and Notch Reservoir Dam improvements and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor proposal.

**V. Vote to Ratify Appointment of Representatives to Related Groups Not Under the Jurisdiction of the Commission**

BRPC bylaws require the Commission to ratify appointments to related groups not under the jurisdiction of the Commission made by the Executive Committee.

- Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee: Doug McNally
- Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts: Chris Cozzaglio
- MPO Alternate - Sam Haupt

Pedro Pachano moved to approve the following appointees to related groups not under the jurisdiction of the Commission: Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee: Doug McNally; Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts: Chris Cozzaglio; Metropolitan Planning Organization Alternate: Sam Haupt.

Christine Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a roll call vote: John Duval, Alex Glover, Peter Traub, Robert Collins, Mary McGurn, Cynthia Bosley, Pedro Pachano, Tony Zaniboni, Leanne Yinger, Buck Donovan, Justine Dodds, Christine Rasmussen, and Samantha Page.

Abstained: Doug McNally

**VI. Update on the BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Challenge process**

The BEAD Challenge, which closed July 20, 2024, allowed residents to test their internet speed and compare it with what their internet service provider indicates is being provided. This test was necessary to access funding to improve internet speed. BRPC Senior Planner Wylie Goodman presented results for Berkshire County.

There was a short thirty-day window to collect the internet speed data to correct Federal Communications Commission maps. BRPC's Digital Equity Team worked with twenty participating municipalities. The hope is that federal money will help cover the costs of connecting hard-to-connect properties. The rebuttal period ends 8/26/24. Final map data should be available on 10/18/24. It isn't clear what funding will be available or when.

**VII. Presentation on the Berkshire Brownfields Program**

BRPC Energy and Environmental Program Manager Melissa Provencher briefed the Commission on the highly successful Berkshire Brownfields Program. The infographics are posted under [Agenda & Minutes](#) on the BRPC website.

This program offers site assessments and a revolving loan fund (RLF) to clean contaminated properties. Over 20 years, BRPC has helped to secure thirteen assessment grants, seven cleanup grants, two RLF grants, and one area-wide planning grant totaling \$21,000,000. The Environmental Protection Agency is the sole funder. Sixty-three sites in twelve communities have been assessed and or cleaned up: Williamstown, North Adams, Adams, Dalton, Pittsfield, Richmond, Lenox, Washington, Becket, Lee, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington. Greylock Works is an example of a large complex site with many pollutants that have benefited from the program.

Contact [Melissa Provencher](#) if you want to discuss a site needing attention.

**VIII. Vote to Submit Feedback Comments on the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Straw Proposal for its Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program**

The DOER's SMART Program is a long-term sustainable solar incentive program promoting the Commonwealth's cost-effective solar development. DOER is requesting feedback on its Straw Proposal regarding possible changes. BRPC comments emphasize the importance of local control and the need for sufficient adders. The comment letter is posted under the [meeting materials](#) on the BRPC website.

Doug McNally moved to approve the submission of feedback comments on The DOER's SMART Program, a long-term sustainable solar incentive program promoting cost-effective solar development in the Commonwealth.

Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a roll call vote: John Duval, Alex Glover, Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Cynthia Bosley, Pedro Pachano, Tony Zaniboni, Leanne Yinger, Buck Donovan, Justine Dodds, Christine Rasmussen, Samantha Page, and Doug McNally.

**IX. Update on the Commonwealth's Legislative Session**

The Massachusetts Legislature session had many consequential pieces of legislation for its consideration. Tom provided an update on items related to BRPC's work. Notes on relevant legislation are on the BRPC [website](#).

**X. Adjournment**

Doug McNally Bolton motioned to adjourn, seconded by Buck Donovan, and approved by roll call vote: John Duval, Alex Glover, Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Cynthia Bosley, Pedro Pachano, Tony Zaniboni, Leanne Yinger, Buck Donovan, Justine Dodds, Christine Rasmussen, Samantha Page, and Doug McNally.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at Balderdash Cellars' barn prior to the Annual Meeting & Reception 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.