

**Commission on the Future of Economic Development**  
**Minutes of Commission Meeting**  
**April 9, 2007**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor, National Life Building**  
**Montpelier, VT**

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Members Present: Bill Botzow, Hope Crifo, Staige Davis, Kevin Dorn, John Goodrich, Fred Kenney, Mary Lintermann, David Mount, Hinda Miller, Mary Niebling, Dawn Terrill

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**9:10 a.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

**9:11 a.m.**

Mary Lintermann made a motion to accept the March 12, 2007 meeting minutes as presented. Hinda Miller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**9:13 a.m.**

John Goodrich, Chair, welcomed the Commission and others present and announced that Carl Spangler resigned from the Commission and the Governor's office is in the process of finding a replacement.

David Bradbury presented the executive director's report. He noted that approximately \$6500 has been spent from the budget. A new email address, [cfed@state.vt.us](mailto:cfed@state.vt.us) has been launched and will be the primary contact point for any future communication through the website or otherwise. He is exploring the possibility of an opt-in list-serve which will be coordinated through Jayna at the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the possibility of developing an independent website. David noted that there have been no public comments besides his test emails submitted through the public comments form on the CFED website. He requested that any comments that the Commissioners receive be forwarded to him for distribution to the entire Commission. In addition to planned regional outreach events, he is taking into consideration moving the meetings to other locations and is determining the feasibility and cost of doing such.

David presented the work plan review he has developed and suggested posting it on the website. The Commission agreed to the posting with the concern that it be notated as a fluid, evolving document that the Commission uses as a tool and guide.

With regards to the funding challenge, David and John Goodrich have presented letters and budget requests to House Commerce, Senate Economic Development, Martha Heath of House Appropriations, Senate Appropriations and Speaker Gaye Symington. They hope to be included in the Senate Appropriations bill. Hinda noted that the money is not in the Governor's budget and therefore it becomes more difficult to be appropriated these funds. Hinda will arrange a meeting with Peter Shumlin and David in the near future for

an overview of the CFED work plan. Staige asked why CFED was not included in the Governor's budget. The consensus on reply was that the Administration budgets are compiled by September or October and the Commission's first meeting wasn't until October and budget not known until March 2007.

**9:52 a.m.**

Brian Byrnes of the Vermont Community Foundation presented "The New Philanthropy and Vermont's Economic Future". He distinguished two definitions during his presentation that the Commission requested be noted. "Charity" – provides basic human needs. "Philanthropy" – helps systems develop and change in order to provide better services.

**10:24 a.m.**

Will Patton of the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility discussed the various kinds and definitions of capital and provided the Commission with suggestions to promote livable wage and a skilled and stable workforce.

**10:50 a.m.**

Lisa Ventriss of the Vermont Business Roundtable presented "Having the Courage to Change". She noted four areas of investment in state studies: capital availability, human resources, infrastructure and natural resources.

11:25 a.m.

John Goodrich announced his Company's struggle and decision to expand overseas instead of in Vermont due to cost of doing business here.

David Bradbury initiated a brainstorming session and discussion on other trends and indicators. David Bradbury distributed three handouts on indicators and asked the Commissioners to look at the format of the handouts and think about how many indicators the Commission wants to ultimately get down to. These handouts were: Tax Foundation Special Report (April 2007), 2007 State of Maine Performance Measures, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) 2007 Development Report Card Overview.

The Commissioners questioned how the indicators will be used and what will be done with them. It was suggested that the Commissioners forget the specific indicators cited and look merely at the presentation and organizational structure. David was seeking a sense of format in order to draft CFED's version(s). Additionally, there was a request by David for the Commission to offer a sense of *how many* different indicators it wanted to have. Over 78 like VEPC or more like Maine's 23? While no specific number was determined, there was a general sense that fewer, relevant and inclusive indicators are desirable for public use and as a policymaker tool. Some expressed a view that there needs to be an organizing principle before indicators can be aggregated and winnowed to a select list.

The indicators being developed will be utilized in June's DRAFT and also in September's Interim Findings and Report. Both these work products will be starting points for more focused work and the active solicitation for public response and input.

David had requested the Commissioners submit their top measures to him via email and will distribute the compiled list when he has complete submissions. There remain a couple of stragglers.

David plans to summarize Commissioner indicator selections for all to see and possibly post to a web service for group review and edits/comments. For May's meeting, David would like to offer one or two formats for measures, any listings from public input & panelists, Commissioner Ideas for a working review of these preliminary list of potential indicators.

Kevin Dorn suggested David Bradbury speak with Paul Costello of VCRD as they are embarking on a similar project and collaboration could be helpful.

David asked if any of the Public attending wished to make a comment, remark or ask a question. Janice St. Onge (Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund), Doug Hoffer (Public Assets Institute) and Jamie Stewart/Tim Smith (RDC's) declined the invitation.

John Goodrich announced that he has submitted his letter of resignation, both as Chair and as a Commissioner to the Governor. He commended the Commissioners for their work and regrets that his growing business responsibilities will not allow his continued presence on the Commission.

**11:55 a.m.**

**Kevin Dorn made a motion to recognize John Goodrich for his great leadership and dedication to economic development in Vermont. Staige Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

David Bradbury announced that the Chair's duties will be assumed by Dawn Terrill as Vice-Chair until a Chair is appointed by the Governor. David asked for any potential new Commissioner names be forwarded to him for sharing into the Administration.

**12:00 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes drafted by Jayna Guilford: 4/9/07

Minutes accepted by Commission: 5/14/07