**VOREC Steering Committee Meeting**

January 12, 2018 at Mammut offices, Williston

**Attendees:** Mike Snyder, Drew Simmons, Bill Supple, Hal Ellms, Trey Martin, Amy Kelsey, Jeanne Gervais, Cindy Locke, Mike DeBonis, Tom Stuessy, Frank Stanley, Marc Sherman, Caroline Zeilenga, Dave Furman, Craig Whipple, Jessica Savage

**Mike S: Introductions**

**November Meeting Minutes Approved:** Mike S. motion to approve, Frank second, none opposed, no abstentions

**Mike S: Review agenda**

**Discussion and Decision on Establishing A Vice Chair**

Mike S: Commissioner’s chair is established by executive order. Recommend that Commissioner of ACCD serve as vice chair, since this continues order from Governor.

Frank: Move to establish a vice chair; nominate Wendy as vice chair.

Tom: Second.

Discussion of vice chair.

Cindy: Amend that if chair and vice chair both can’t attend, group will vote on a member to lead meeting at that time.

Amendment accepted, motion approved, none opposed, no abstentions.

**Update on Governor’s Recommendations and Press Event**

Mike S. presents an embargoed version of the final recommendations to the Governor, with note that this is for steering committee reference only and not to be distributed until after the press event.

Discussion of pilot to create recreation friendly town program: community to be determined through a competitive process.

Jessica: The proposal the selection committee decides on will become a template and create replicable tools to use in other communities.

Mike S. discussion of press event: Governor’s press conference next week will announce the recommendations submitted last month. Discussion of suggestions for run of show and preparations, including who should be invited, who will speak at the event, what questions the press might have.

Marc nominated and accepts to speak representing private sector.

Cindy nominated and accepts to speak representing non-profit sector.

**Colorado Confluence Updates**

Mike S: Requesting update from Drew on the Confluence summit.

Drew explanation of Confluence summit in Colorado: all states with outdoor recreation initiatives invited to attend to develop an outdoor recreation platform across the country. Requested delegations of for- and non-profit members and for delegations to submit best practices in four categories. These recommendations will be compiled and delegations will agree on objectives at the summit.

**Action Plan: Priorities, Resources and Timelines**

Mike S. discussion of Senate bill S.276: rural economic development bill created based on public meetings about the rural economy. Includes outdoor recreation components.

Decision to recommend removing VORBA section, inserting in its place the outdoor recreation friendly community program, and supporting changes to Act 250 for Vermont Trails System designated trails.

**Jessica: Next Steps and Work Plan**

Jessica discussion of next steps and work plan: What are steering committee’s other priorities from these recommendations, and how will we take steps to accomplish them?

Hal: Data and asset development are a top priority.

Tom: Review of Act 250.

Frank: Identify a funding mechanism for stewardship.

Drew: Designating outdoor recreation as a key industry in Vermont.

Marc: Workforce development and its connection to tech schools and universities.

Tom: State marketing efforts and a state position for economic data collection.

Hal: Workforce training should take place at the high school level, especially technical career centers in high schools.

**Water Quality and Recreation Resources**

Jessica discussion of what committee already knows about water quality and recreation resources and what they’d like to learn more about.

Trey explanation of Vermont Clean Water Fund, Vermont water quality standards, basin planning process, and Clean Water Day.

Decision to include education about water quality and recreation resources in a future steering committee meeting.

Jessica: Anything else we want more education on?

Trey: Invite Vermont Law School to speak to committee about business incubations and startups for outdoor recreation.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public in attendance.

**New Business**

Mike S: New Director of Lands Administration and Recreation at Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation: Becca Washburn. Moves recreation to the forefront of Department’s work, further empowers Jessica as recreation program manager and lead VOREC staff.

Jessica: VOREC’s role in upcoming Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals’ National Outdoor Recreation Conference. Regularly scheduled steering committee meeting Monday, April 23, with extended public comment period for conference participants from across the country to ask questions. Afternoon plenary session with other VOREC members, and other conference events.

Trey: Move to adjourn.

Jeanne: Second.

Mike S: Meeting adjourned.