



Local Investment Advisory Committee:

Infrastructure, Municipal, Wastewater, Water Systems, Transportation, and Commercial Development
November 5, 2014

LIAC Members Present:

BETH PEARCE, Chair, Vermont State Treasurer

SARAH CARPENTER, Vice Chair, Executive Director, Vermont Housing Finance Agency

PETER ADAMCZYK, SECRETARY, Energy Finance and Development Manager, Efficiency Vermont
Designee

STEVE GREENFIELD, Chief Operating Officer, Vermont Economic Development Authority Designee

BOB GIROUX, Executive Director, Vermont Municipal Bond Bank

TOM LITTLE, Vice President and General Counsel, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation Designee

Also Attending:

Tim Lueders-Dumont, Executive Assistant to State Treasurer Beth Pearce

Chris D'Elia, Vermont Bankers Association

Rod Francis, Town of Brattleboro

Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission

Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Public Banking Institute

Winslow Ladue, Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division

Joe Colangelo, Shelburne Town Manager

Bill Shepeluk, Waterbury Town Manager

John Kiernan, Engineer at Phelps Engineering

Shaun Fielder, Rural Water Association

Rhonda Shippee, USDA Rural Development

Dave Olson, Peoples United Bank

Harris Roen, Renewable Energy Vermont

Chloe Collins, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Eric Blatt, Department of Environmental Conservation

Chris Cochran, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Ms. Pearce called the meeting to order at 9:05 am, which was held in the 4th floor Governor's Conference Room, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609.



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ITEM 1: Attendance, Approval of Minutes, Agenda, and Announcements

Ms. Pearce took attendance. All committee members were present and a quorum was reached.

On a motion from Ms. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Giroux, the Committee unanimously approved the 10/22/2014 meeting minutes.

A general overview of the meeting's purpose was delivered by Ms. Pearce. Ms. Pearce noted that the purpose of this committee was authorized by the legislature, set forth by Acts No.199, authorizing the committee to establish a credit facility and/or investment of up to 10% of state's average cash balance. Ms. Pearce noted that the committee must submit a report in January 2015.

Mr. Grioux introduced the panel of experts:

Winslow Ladue, Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division
Joe Colangelo, Shelburne Town Manager
Bill Shepeluk, Waterbury Town Manager
Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities and Towns
John Kiernan, Engineer at Phelps Engineering
Shaun Fielder, Rural Water Association
Rhonda Shippee, USDA Rural Development

Ms. Pearce and Mr. Grioux asked the panel to detail the current processes their organizations or municipalities do well in regard to infrastructure improvements relating the focus points of the meeting as well as what some of the barriers in accomplishing success in these areas. Ms. Pearce also asked the panelists how their organizations could benefit from more financial/financing support and coordination amongst similar partners in the state.

ITEM 2: Expert Panel Presentation

Ms. Pearce and Mr. Grioux invited each of the panelists to offer their comments in regard to the topic of the meeting.

1. **Winslow Ladue, Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division (DEC, FED)**



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Mr. Ladue detailed the work of the DEC FED in working with municipalities as a key financing resource for water supply and wastewater projects.

Mr. Grioux noted that the DEC co-manages the State Environment Fund with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

Mr. Ladue explained that the DEC acts as a delegate for the state for federally funded clean water and drinking water state revolving loan fund programs. Mr. Ladue detailed six programs out of the ten that the DEC finances. Mr. Ladue noted capital grant funding from the federal government as a part of their program. Mr. Ladue described that specifics of financing options varies depending on the product and that terms vary between 20-30 years.

Mr. Ladue noted that there are loan options for municipalities for planning purposes relating to clean water and drinking water systems for both new systems and improving old systems.

EPA standards relating to wastewater improvements and clean water were noted by Mr. Ladue and the group as concerned with compliance but with minimal support for municipalities in how to finance projects related to the required upgrades.

2. Joe Colangelo, Shelburne Town Manager

Mr. Colangelo gave overview of the Town of Shelburne's current needs as well as examples of successful infrastructure projects in Middlebury. Mr. Colangelo noted the importance of public-private partnerships.

3. Bill Shepeluk, Waterbury Town Manager

Mr. Shepeluk gave overview of the Town of Waterbury's current needs and their fiscal situation in terms of planning. He posed a question in regard to how much debt is too much for a town to take on.

4. Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities and Towns



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Ms. Horn gave an overview of VLCT efforts to educate and assist towns with planning for infrastructure improvements. Ms. Horn also noted specific financing resources that VLCT can assist municipalities with.

Ms. Horn noted that roughly 1/3 of Vermont bridges are structurally deficient—she used this as an example of the need that most Vermont towns have in understanding their financing options especially as budgets continue to be cut at the local and state level for infrastructure projects.

Ms. Horn also noted that Vermont has 1,300 public water systems in the state. According to a handout that Ms. Horn supplied, \$500 million is needed to make the necessary improvements to those systems.

5. John Kiernan, Engineer at Phelps Engineering

Mr. Kiernan gave an overview of Phelps Engineering's plans and efforts in assisting smaller towns in Vermont as well as their view in regard to the pending facing towns in regard to support relating to planning efforts. Mr. Kiernan provided input to the group in regard to where money can be spent to assist towns with planning and new project assistance for water systems and clean water upgrades.

6. Shaun Fielder, Rural Water Association

Mr. Fielder gave an overview to the group about the work that his organization does in interacting with districts, municipalities, and organizations who are having technical and logistics issues with their current systems and with installing or upgrading old or new systems.

7. Rhonda Shippee, USDA Rural Development

Ms. Shippee described the financing and educational programs and products that USDA RD has available for municipalities and where there is room for improvement in regard to increased participation and the sharing of information and resources with local organizations and municipalities.



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ITEM 3: Concurrent Private Activity Bond Public Hearing (detailed minutes for this hearing can be found on the Treasurer's website at <http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/debt-management/pab-advisory-committee>)

Attendees:

Steve Wisloski
Scott Baker
Bob Giroux
Beth Pearce
Lisa Ventriss

Mr. Wisloski gave an overview of Private Activity Bond specifications in Vermont. Ms. Pearce and Mr. Giroux explained Private Activity Bonds in the context of the Local Investment Advisory Committee meeting.

The group discussed specifics and questions in regard to how a Private Activity Bond may work for an infrastructure project.

The Private Activity Bond Public Hearing was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ITEM 3: Adjourn

On a motion from Ms. Pearce to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Giroux, the Local Investment Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.