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CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
 August 28, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 Virtual Meeting

Attending Officers	Attending Sub-Regional Delegates
Chairperson: Daniel Schur, Westborough	North: Otto Lies, Holden
Vice Chair: Robert Hassinger, Grafton	Southwest: William Trifone, Dudley
Treasurer: Andrew Coles, Auburn	Central City: David Quiroa, Worcester
Clerk: Timothy H. Wheeler, Berlin	West: Jared Grigg, Spencer
Staff:	Not In Attendance:
Janet A. Pierce, Executive Director	Southeast: Mary Bulso, Blackstone
Sujatha Krishnan, Dep. Dir., Transportation	Asst. Treasurer: Howard N. Drobner, Boylston
Trish Settles, Dep. Dir., RCCP	Asst. Clerk, Barur Rajeshkumar, West Boylston
Dara Griswold, Finance Manager	Northeast: Julianne Hirsh, Northborough
Anthony Senesi, Communications Coord.	
Sherrie Haber, Executive Assistant	

Call to Order:

Chairperson Schur called the August 28, 2025, Executive Committee meeting to order at 7:01p.m. with a roll call to establish a quorum.

Approval of Minutes-

Motion: to accept the minutes of the July 31, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. Made by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Mr. Lies. Roll Call vote. **Motion Unanimously Approved.**

Public Comment:

None.

Executive Director’s Report:

- **Staffing and Administration (Janet Pierce)**
 - Resignation of Taru from RCCP. Her last day is 8/29. Hired Vincent Goo as new Regional Public Health Trainer. We have no other job openings.
 - MARPA meeting – the retirement bill filed has been voted affirmative from the committee and will move to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. There was no action on opposing bills.

- Mr. Schur asked what it would cost. Ms. Pierce stated that if we have to pay 100% it would be approximately \$300,000.
 - Closing FY25 – the new auditor will start in October or November. Roland will continue as a consultant.
 - As per discussion at the last meeting, Mr. Senesi added the Bylaws, Handbook and a link to the Acts of 1972 to the website. Ms. Haber has revised the bylaws and they are ready for review by Ms. Pierce and staff.
 - The battery storage meeting was very well attended and well received. The presenter handled questions very well.
 - The Open House / Quarterly meeting will be September 11th. Please register if you have not already.
 - CTPC will be held in Western Mass in October
 - MARPA conference will be at Holy Cross in October
 - The staff outing to the WooSox was very well attended. Ms. Pierce is grateful to everyone who came out and to Mr. Senesi for organizing the event.
- **Transportation (Sujatha Krishnan)**
 - Ms. Pierce participated in the ribbon cutting event for the E-bike program. It is from a combined grant with CMRPC and Metro Mobility. There are locations at the WRTA hub and at Billing Square.
 - Yahaira Graxirena will be presenting at a national level at the American Metropolitan Planning Conference
 - Closing the books for Transit – WRTA
 - Staff is following up on TIP projects.
 - CMRPC met with Montachusett Planning Commission on a joint grant application.
 - Studies are going well including Vernon Connected, Regional Housing and Transportation and Safe Streets 4 All.
 - The Regional Bike Plan is nearing completion
 - MPO is looking for a select board representative for the North subregion as well as alternates for the West and Southwest subregions. Emails will be going out to select board members.
 - We are still doing traffic counting and culvert and pavement assessments until the snow flies. If your town is interested in having any of these done please contact Ms. Krishnan.
- **Regional Collaboration and Community Planning (Trish Settles)**
 - Milestones
 - Submitted the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Draft on August 7th. There will be two more revisions (due September 15 and December 1)
 - Spencer Master Plan is ready to take to Select Board for approval.

- The Leicester Master Plan is moving forward.
- Projects coming:
 - Three MVP action grants including Hardwick / Hubbardston 2 schools, Warren and Princeton
 - Outside the region – Palmer slum & blight survey
 - HMP for Sturbridge
 - Blackstone Watershed Plan
 - Waiting on REPA
 - Waiting on Community One Stop
 - Seven HMP applications are out
 - Five CDBG applications are out
 - ADA Plan for Mendon
 - Digital Equity for Berlin / Boylston & Mendon
 - National Park service through MEC (nonprofit)
 - EDA – 2 applications for disaster relief
 - Mosaic is \$100,000 for opioid addiction services
 - West Boylston discussions on a possible master plan
 - Ware and Southbridge for support activities
- Upcoming:
 - September 29 – Regional Arts & Culture
 - October – Regional Dialogue on Accessory Dwelling Units
 - October 7 – MARPA DLS Conference
 - October – CTPC will be held in Greenfield
- Questions:
 - Mr. Schur asked about the dams. Ms. Settles said that there are 573 dams in our region. They will focus on high hazard dams with multiple owners in possible flood areas.
 - Mr. Grigg asked if the focus would be on removal or rehabilitation. Ms. Settles commented that it would depend on the circumstances and that removal is not always the answer.
 - Mr. Grigg asked for a list of all grants received from January 1. Ms. Settles will prepare that list

Approval of Warrant for Payment of Bills and Review of Financial Statements:

Mr. Schur presented Warrant 26-02 for the payment of bills as required by Section 7, Chapter 40B, for the month of August totaling \$179,190.99.

- **Motion:** to approve Warrant 26-02 for the month of August in the amount of \$179,190.99. Made by Mr. Quiroa, seconded by Mr. Hassinger.

- Roll call vote. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Committee and Sub-Regional Briefings:

- **Transportation** – did not meet
- **Legislative Affairs** – did not meet
- **Physical Development Committee**- did not meet. Will meet soon to organize DLTA
- **Personnel** – did not meet
- **SWCEDO** – did not meet. Will meet next Thursday
- **Sub-regional**– Chairperson Schur asked if there were any updates
 - Northeast: Mr. Wheeler noted that Solomon Pond Mall is up for sale and they have come to a purchase agreement. Parts will be used for light industrial. This will expand the tax base and add jobs. They will remove the floor between the levels creating 30K sq. ft. of space.
 - Mr. Schur asked if it straddles town lines and Mr. Wheeler stated that there will be a joint effort for zoning bylaws to accommodate the usage.
 - Mr. Trifone added that when he was there last week he was one of the only customers.
 - Mr. Wheeler added that Macy's is interested in staying and could incorporate some other retailers in that section.

New Business:

- Mr. Schur discussed the formation of a Bylaw Review Subcommittee. He will send an email asking for volunteers and will be prepared to bring it to the next meeting.
 - Mr. Wheeler asked if it would be open to Executive Committee only or to all delegates and alternates. Mr. Schur replied that it is a good idea to solicit the Commission for volunteers. Mr. Wheeler added that it was especially good because it is a fixed time commitment.

Adjournment: Having completed all business Chairperson Schur adjourned the meeting at 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sherrie Haber, CMRPC.

Documents:

Minutes of July 31, 2025

Warrants 26-02