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CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
April 16, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting

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

Call to Order:
Chair Schur called the Executive Committee Special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a roll call to establish a quorum.

Approval of Audit (Mary Linskey, Grassi):
Ms. Linskey presented an overview of the audit.

- Ms. Linskey stated that she was hoping to do this audit before “prime time” and recommended that next year it be done by January.
- In summary, it was an unmodified clean opinion. There were no financial audit findings
- A single audit is required for federal programs and they tested the CDC. There were no findings.
- Late filing in itself is a finding. Ms. Linskey asked the committee if it should be in this year’s audit or next year’s, adding that if it is filed this year the follow up can be done next year. Mr. Schur deferred to Ms. Pierce’s opinion. Mr. Trifone agrees that it should be done now to get it off the books as soon as possible. Ms. Bulso asked how we missed the deadline. Ms. Linskey replied that trial balances were provided late with system changes. Mr. Schur added that the change in auditors also could be an issue. Ms. Pierce recommended the finding be in this year’s audit. She added that regarding the timeline there were complications with

Harpers converting balances so corrections were needed. Roland was engaged to do financials and depreciation to give to Grassi. There were a number of issues but once it got going it was slow. Staff were able to give much information to Grassi before Roland provided the numbers. Ms. Linskey added that a plan can be in place to do better next year and mentioned that Grassi had a personnel change as well. Mr. Schur stated that there should be a post mortem and a deep dive and plan for a schedule. The consensus of the group is to show the issues on this year's audit.

- **Motion:** to note the late filing as a deficiency on this year's audit.
- Made by Mr. Trifone, seconded by Dr. Coles.
- Roll call vote. **Motion approved unanimously**.

- Required communications - free of material misstatement.
- Significant accounting policies – New GASB 101 compensated absences. The new statement was adopted.
- Significant audit estimates are normal
- No difficulties were encountered dealing with management. There misstatements were detected. There were no disagreements with management.
- There was a lot of supplementary information and the same process was done.
- Mr. Schur stated that the audit mentioned a deficit on retirement is a liability (non-specific funding). Ms. Linskey stated that pension liability is almost contingent liability. Mr. Schur stated that the committee has been kept abreast but asked if it throws red flags. Ms. Linskey stated no, that by disclosing it there is transparency. Ms. Bulso asked where we are with funding OPEB. Ms. Linskey stated that she can't speak to if it is funded properly and that is driven by demographic information. Ms. Pierce stated that there is $1.1M in that account and is drawn down $20-22K/year. Roland mentioned not contributing more at that time. Mr. Drobner added that it was a conscious decision ten years ago to put money in.
- Ms. Linskey presented a slide of financial review statements of net position comparing 2024 to 2025. Mr. Trifone stated that the committee should look at the total net position number a s a total net worth. Ms. Linskey added that the drop is not a problem and rather has to do with project timing.
- Ms. Linskey concluded with a slide on financial review statements of operating expenses.
- Questions:
  - Mr. Trifone reiterated that an unmodified opinion is a good thing.
  - Ms. Pierce pointed out the increase from $246,849 to roughly $2.3M in unrestricted revenue funds indicates a very good year.
- **Motion:** to approve the audit with the recommendation of notation on late filing.
  - Made by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Dr. Coles.
  - Roll call vote. **Motion approved unanimously**.

- Mr. Schur thanked Ms. Griswold and Ms. Toupin for the tremendous number of hours and effort. He thanked Ms. Linskey for working with CMRPC. Ms. Linskey stated that a representation letter will be sent and once signed they can issue final documents. Ms. Pierce thanked Ms. Griswold and Ms. Toupin.

Legislative Affairs (Anthony Senesi):

- Mr. Senesi presented information on the recommendation of the Legislative Affairs committee to support the MVP Coalition.
- The MVP Coalition is comprised of seven RPAs, MMA and watersheds. The main reason is to support additional funding in the Environmental Bond Bill and funding for MVP grant programs. It is important to both CMRPC communities and staff. The vast majority of CMRPC communities participate and apply for grants.
- The Legislative Affairs committee asks that the Executive Committee sign on to a joint letter and let staff send letters to municipalities.
- **Motion:** to sign on to a joint letter in support of the MVP Coalition and allow staff to send letters to member municipalities.
  - Made by Mr. Drobner, seconded by Mr. Hassinger.
- Discussion:
  - Mr. Schur asked where the state will get the money. Ms. Settles stated that it is complicated. The money put into MVP saves money in the long run. A rebuilt culvert for $2M saves $6M in future damage. It is the offset that is important. Mr. Schur understands the benefit but still needs to know where the money is coming from. Mr. Senesi stated that it is authorized state borrowing through a bond bill. Ms. Pierce stated that all CMRPC communities are part of the MVP program and there is specific funding through a percentage of deeds.
  - Mr. Hassinger asked if the letter connects to the specificity of the funds or the need for the program.
  - Mr. Senesi stated that he can research funding sources and present at the next meeting.
  - Ms. Bulso asked if MVP ties us to unfunded mandates.
  - Mr. Senesi stated that tax on cars and mileage is not connected to the bond bill.
  - Mr. Trifone raised a point of order that the question of tax is not on the floor.
- **Mr. Drobner withdrew his motion** for further research and Mr. Hassinger accepted the withdrawal.
- Mr. Schur asked for more info on mileage tax at the next meeting.

Closing:

Ms. Pierce thanked all for being part of the process tonight and stated that late filing will not happen again.

Adjournment: Having completed all business Chair Schur adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm**.**

Respectfully submitted by Sherrie Haber, CMRPC.

Documents:
- Draft CMRPC Audit Report FY25
- MVP Coalition sign on letter recommendation