



Government Restructuring and Operations Review Commission Meeting Minutes

DAY/DATE: **Tuesday, June 21, 2016**
TIME: **2:00 PM**
LOCATION: Ethan Allen Room – Vermont Statehouse and via phone
ATTENDEES: Paul Costello, Sue Zeller, Neil Schickner, Karen Horn and Maura Carroll
BY PHONE: John Sayles, Jeff Wilson
ABSENT: Kris Koliba never called in.
PURPOSE: Regular Meeting
DISTRIBUTED: Posted

Item Number	Item Description	Action By
1.0	2:02 PM - Call to Order	Chair
2.0	Review and amend agenda if necessary. Agenda – added Karen Horn and Maura Carroll and Chris Koliba	
3.0	MOTION to approve 5/24/16 minutes: 1 st by Paul, 2 nd by Jeff, unanimously approved	
4.0	<p>Karen Horn and Maura Carroll submitted written testimony (attached) from which they presented a number of salient points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT is the most centralized government • Dillon rule state vs. home rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dillon rule means municipalities may only do what the Legislature allows them to do; Home Rule means municipalities do everything except what the Legislature disallows • Karen also provided a copy of 2005 report from Chris Koliba; Sue will have scanned for Commission; • VT does not allow initiatives, referendums, or constitutional review; • VT government setup works for status quo and against breaking down silos; • Cities and Towns must do everything Legislature says, regardless if funded or not; • Agencies/Departments have tunnel vision as it relates to municipalities; • New programs are added but no effort is made to evaluate existing programs to see if they are still necessary or relevant; • In NH, Legislature demand to know what is being cut before a new program is passed; • NH Treasurer, Dept. of Environment, AG and stakeholders involved in a study, mandated by Legislature, to create a revenue matrix to see which were sustainable and what they should pay for. Maura noted that capacity was not considered; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutland is having good success with their Project Vision, a collaboration between public safety, corrections and social services to find ways to impact the opioid crisis. This had to be approved by Legislature before it could begin; • Municipalities should be able to collaborate directly; • Many cities and towns have passed ethics policies, but Legislature has not • Towns and cities are leading – along with DPS – in reporting data for White House 21st Century Policing initiative; • Citizens have higher level of confidence in local government than State or Federal; • Paul – are their barriers to communities working together. Karen – yes, for example, Montpelier and Barre had to get Legislative approval to establish their Public Safety Authority, while leaving it open for Barre Town and Berlin. • Collaboration between state and local should be on a level playing field and is not – legislature holds all the power; • What about using some sort of incentives to have regional or local entities take over some functions? • Not all municipalities are equal or have the ability to take on state functions; devolving functions from state would have to be flexible – sometimes function s/b at state level, sometimes larger municipalities or regional partners could do it, while smaller towns would still need state help; • Jeff – the state would be the default for those not able to do it themselves or regionals. • Karen and Maura will provide some examples of functions that could be devolved. 	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Discuss Report – Jeff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and regional governance to deliver better and more cost effective services; • I see no reorganization at the state level that really makes sense, except small items like moving DOL to Secretary of State; • More support, funding and staffing are needed for performance improvement initiatives (RBA and Lean) – other states are doing good stuff with this; • Auditor’s Office should have more resources for performance audits; • Auditor should be an appointed position, not an elected one; • Lastly – elected offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of States and Attorney General should be 4 years, not 2. 	
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Discuss Report – Paul:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff’s comments are really exactly where we are; • No one has come with a reorganization plan with merit; • Lean and RBA need more support and resources; • Conversation should be on 2-year budget cycle; • Propose that all elected offices including Legislature should be 4 years; • Talk more about devolution to regional – not enough detail yet; 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lean and RBA should efficiencies should include talk of employee empowerment; • Strategic conversation and planning-coordination on the 5th floor. 	
5.3	<p>Discuss Report – John:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree we need to regionalize in a thoughtful way – it is not about restructuring government; • Need more resources for RBA and Lean to be able to be efficient 21st century government; • 4 year terms need to be put on the table again; • A lot of good might come from a constitutional convention; • Need planning and coordination that used to be in Executive Office; • Culture of government must come from consistent leadership which 2-year cycle does not provide; • Change won't come from this Commission Report but maybe it will start the conversation; • Perhaps we have two separate sections of recommendation – one for Executive Branch and one for Legislature. • These minutes should allow us to start drafting the report framework. • We all agree on the basics. 	
6.0	<p>Public Outreach: Paul would like to do meetings if Regional Planning Commissions can handle arrangements. Webex meetings were discussed. Location could include Bennington, St. Johnsbury and Franklin County.</p> <p>Paul will contact Catherine Dimitruk; John will call David Snedeker and Jeff will call Jim Sullivan. Paul also suggested Peter Gregory could be helpful.</p>	
7.0	<p>Discussed how much support could Commission get from JFO? Neil suggested speaking to Steve Klein. John will do that.</p>	
8.0	<p>John will follow up on Lean and RBA contract in other States.</p>	
9.0	<p>Next Meeting: August 26th, 2PM, Ethan Allen Room</p>	
10.0	<p>Motion to Adjourn by Paul, 2nd by Jeff, unanimously passed at 3:34 PM.</p>	

This summary of the meeting forms the basis upon which we will proceed. Please respond with changes, corrections or questions to the originator within 5 working days. If no corrections, changes or questions are received within 5 working days, these minutes will become part of the permanent record.

By: Sue Zeller
 Cc: Committee Members
 Attachment (VLTC written handout 6 pages)