

SRPEDD Commission Meeting – Draft  
Minutes Mar. 25, 2026  
Remote Meeting via Zoom

**Present:**

**Commissioners:**

V. Alfaro, Acushnet	S. Leary, Berkley	K. Estes, Dartmouth	A. Romano, Fairhaven
D. Aguiar, Fall River	L. Carboni, Lakeville	B. Roche, Mansfield	N. Hills, Marion
J. Robbins, Mattap.	M. Clarner, No. Attleb.	D. Luciano, Norton	S. Warchal, Norton
C. Sullivan, Raynham	S. Cadime, Seekonk	R. Peirce, Somerset	B. Fitzgerald, Taunton
J. Pateakos, Taunton	J. Moran, Wareham	J. Whitin, Westport	C. McDermott, Attl. A/L
G. Saddler, F.R. A/L	A. Eaton, N.B. A/L	A. Slavin, N.B. A/L	T. Lobo, Taunton A/L

**Guests/Staff:**

D. Brogan, SRPEDD	R. Cabral, SRPEDD	L. Gonzalez	A. Horowitz, SRPEDD
G. King, SRPEDD	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	T. Perez, SRPEDD	K. Porter, SRPEDD
S. Royer, SRPEDD	M. Tinger, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD	

**Absent:**

D. Wojnar, Acushnet	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	S. Elliott, Attleboro	K. Robinson, Carver
C. Haddad, Dartmouth	J. Carvalho, Dighton	J. Fidalgo, Fairhaven	D. Pettey, Freetown
N. Durfee, Freetown	D. Lodge, Lakeville	R. Burke, Marion	L. Bradley, Middleboro
W. Pike, Middleboro	J. Ponte, New Bedford	M. Borg, No. Attleboro	C. Desprez, Plainv.
T. Torres, Plainville	P. Menconi, Raynham	L. Ferreira, Rehoboth	M. Shoemaker, Roch.
S. Smith, Seekonk	W. Raposa, Somerset	J. Hansen, Swansea	C. Parayno, Swansea
J. Faherty, Wareham	M. Soares, Westport		

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M by Chairwoman Clarner.
2. **Approval of Minutes – Feb. 25, 2026:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the Feb. 25, 2026 minutes. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Reports:**
  - a. **Chair:** No report.
  - b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker mentioned that MARPA’s proposed legislation regarding the State Retirement Board issue, along with the Treasurer’s opposing bill, each presently before House and Senate Ways and Means have been receiving further consideration of late, with an upcoming meeting scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> with Senator Eldridge. He shared that Senator Eldridge has been a strong supporter of RPAs over the years, and the RPAs are particularly grateful for his continued support of DLTA funding. Mr. Walker will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as they occur.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Contracts:** Chairwoman Clarner referred Commissioners to the contracts listed in the packet and read each contract for approval.

Be it resolved that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers, and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts:

1. With the town of Rochester to complete a zoning recodification study for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.
2. With the town of Middleborough to create a plan for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for an amount not to exceed \$17,972.00.
3. With Fuss & O'Neill for the installation of a permeable reactive barrier and water quality monitoring and reporting not to exceed \$249,000.
4. With The Nature Conservancy for the installation of a permeable reactive barrier and water quality monitoring and reporting not to exceed \$249,000.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the contracts listed above and dispense with the reading. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Hills mentioned the Finance Committee met on March 18, 2026, at SRPEDD's office (88 Broadway, Taunton) and via Zoom. The February 18, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes were approved, the Treasurer's Report for February 2026 was received and accepted, and the voucher warrant for expenses in the amount of \$26,038.84 (paper checks plus employee expense reports paid via ACH) was approved.

In addition, the Finance Committee received and accepted the February 2026 month-end general journal entries and reviewed the OPEB trust account statement from Charles Schwab for February 1-28, 2026.

The Personnel Committee also met on March 18, 2026 following the Finance Committee meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance Committee report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro referred Members to page 8 and the meeting minutes for the Joint Transportation Planning Group meeting and stated that meeting was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that the SSMPO meeting held on February 17<sup>th</sup> and that those minutes could be found on page 12. Ms. Estrela-Pedro shared that at the meetings the State had presented on Safety Performance targets, and MPO staff, on the work that SRPEDD does to help them meet those targets. She stated that the Safety Performance targets were adopted by the MPO. She also shared that there was discussion at the meetings on developing the draft FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Estrela-Pedro entertained questions from Commissioners and referenced that they could email her as well.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Transportation report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. **Environmental Subcommittee:** Ms. Tinger referred Members to page 16 of the packet where a list of upcoming trainings, events, and community meetings related to Environmental projects for all who might be interested. She mentioned the meeting minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Committee meeting on page 17 which, among other topics, included a discussion on the development of a regional stormwater collaborative, as well as recent state renewable energy regulations. In closing, Ms. Tinger entertained and responded to questions from Commissioners.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Environmental report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 6. Programs and Project Updates:

- a. **SRPEDD Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Update:** Ms. Matthews presented on the SRPEDD MVP Program, and development of a combined database based on GIS layers and data from past environmental and transportation department projects. The goal is to map MVP action items and area projects across the region along with identified flood-prone areas in an effort to increase awareness and visually track progress on a regional scale for member municipalities' and SRPEDD personnel use. She mentioned that staff is in the process of geo-coding and mapping action items included in the MVP plans, as well as routine flood-prone area tracking with tides and rainfall, along with routing from the Regional Evacuation Route Study into one comprehensive point-based GIS map. Municipalities and SRPEDD will be able to use this instrument to further identify regional collaboration opportunities, track the progress of current projects or objectives, and find solutions to help SRPEDD municipalities organize and complete these action items. Ms. Matthews stated that the goal is to complete and have this map-based instrument presented to our communities by the Summer of 2026. Once the mapping work is completed, the team at SRPEDD will check in with our communities routinely to see what new hazards need to be added, mark what points have been addressed and continue to push the ball forward. Ms. Matthews entertained questions from the Commission and requested if any would like to discuss matters further to please contact her.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **Technical Assistance:** Mr. King referred Commissioners to the monthly update on projects contained in the packet on page 26. He mentioned that he and fellow staff are available to discuss projects as needed via email or by calling the office.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **2026-2027 Commissioner (Re-)Appointment Forms – Due May 19, 2026: Mayor/Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, At-Large:** Mr. Walker mentioned it is that time of year for Commissioners able and interested in renewing their appointments for another term to kindly submit your forms included in the packet to Ms. Royer by the referenced deadline of May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. New Business:

- a. **Proposal Regarding the Establishment of a Mission-Aligned 501(c)3 Non-Profit Under the Direction of the SRPEDD Commission:** Mr. King presented the Proposal Regarding the Establishment of a Mission-Aligned 501(c)3 Non-Profit Under the Direction of the SRPEDD Commission. He mentioned SRPEDD has been exploring the creation of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity over the past several months. Mr. King mentioned the purpose of this discussion is to gather feedback from the Commission members, assess support for moving forward, and

potentially bring a formal vote at an upcoming meeting. Currently, the organization relies heavily on state and federal funding sources, along with partnerships with member communities. However, due to increasing uncertainty in these funding streams, staff are seeking to increase flexibility and responsiveness, expand access to possible additional funding sources, and remove barriers to funding opportunities that require 501(c)3 status. Mr. King discussed potential funding sources such as private foundations (e.g., Barr Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), Massachusetts Cultural Council, Massachusetts Housing Partnership, partnerships with higher education institutions, Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and smaller partnerships with banks and nonprofits. He also discussed governance and structure, stating that the Board of Directors of the 501(c)(3), based upon preliminary research, might best consist of the same officers as the Commission. The Executive Director and staff would manage operations, including budgeting and reporting and that no new staff are expected; instead, the nonprofit would contract with existing staff for services, monthly updates and reporting would be provided to the Commission and the nonprofit would be a standing agenda item at Commission meetings in order to keep the Commission detail-informed. Mr. King explained cost and administrative requirements and input gained from other Regional Planning Agencies. He reported that at least three peer RPAs have established 501(c)(3) entities. He mentioned they all recommended maintaining flexibility in the mission statement, ensuring clear governance structure, and close alignment with the mission and purpose of the RPA. Mr. King mentioned that the agencies have also realized minor cost savings, though this is not a primary goal. Mr. King stated that the next steps would be to continue to gather information from other RPA 501(c)(3)'s, updating the Commission on its findings, and if and upon conclusion and vote by the Commission at a future meeting that proceeding with the non-profit's formation is in the best interests of the region and agency, filing with the Commonwealth, applying for IRS tax-exempt status, and registering with the Attorney General. Following discussion, Mr. Slavin noted prior efforts to establish a 501(c)(3) and expressed strong support for moving forward. Ms. Robbins shared that she agreed with expressed concerns about Federal and state funding volatility and the need for diversified funding streams, although also raised the possibility that a separate nonprofit entity might limit the Commission's legal authority over its actions; that non-officer Commission members may not have oversight or decision-making power; and that there are other governance and structural issues that will also need to be worked out. Chairwoman Clarner stated that it seems that the Commission has expressed general interest in exploring the creation of a 501(c)3, with clear support for expanding funding opportunities, but that further information and discussion was going to be needed obviously before a final decision could be made. Mr. King thanked the Members for their time, mentioned that staff would continue with its research and information-gathering, and looked forward to continuing the discussion.

**9. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest:** None

**10. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 P.M. The next Commission meeting will be held on April 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gloria Saddler, Secretary

Date: 4/22/2026