



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Central VT Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin

AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u> ¹	<u>Description</u>
	7:00	Adjustments to the Agenda
		Public Comments
2	7:05	Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Report, Jamie Stewart (enclosed) Quarterly update and discussion of Opportunity Zones
	7:20	Project Tour: Town Web Maps, Pam DeAndrea Explore CVRPC's service to make town data more accessible
	7:40	Program Tour: Central Vermont Brownfields Program, Clare Rock Solving redevelopment puzzles one challenge at a time
8	8:00	Regional Energy Plan, Eric Vorwald (enclosed) ² Follow-up on interpretation of energy planning standards and energy generation facilities
	8:40	Nominating Committee Report, Don La Haye Presentation of initial slate of candidates for Executive Committee
13	8:45	Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2018 (enclosed) ²
17	8:50	Reports (enclosed) Updates and Commissioner questions on Staff, Executive Director, and Committee Reports
	8:55	Legislative Update, Bonnie Waninger
	9:00	Adjournment

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.

From: [Brady, Ted](#)
To: [Brady, Ted;](#)
Subject: Opportunity Zone Designation Update / Process
Date: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 1:58:27 PM
Attachments: [NMTC eligible census tracts and contiguous census tracts.xlsx](#)
[Opportunity Zone Legislative Language.pdf](#)

MEMO

To: Vermont Interested Parties in Opportunity Zones Designations
Fr: Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development
Dt: February 7, 2018
Re: Opportunity Zone Designation Recommendations

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 included the creation of a new tax-incentive aimed at increasing private investment in low income census tracts (the same census tracts as defined by the New Market Tax Credit program). The law requires the Governor of Vermont to submit a recommendation to the Secretary of the Treasury naming up to 25 census tracts as “Opportunity Zones.” Investors in these zones will receive preferential tax treatment when they invest in a newly created “Opportunity Funds.” This memo outlines the Agency of Commerce’s plan for making recommendations to the Governor concerning which census tracts will be designated Opportunity Zones. This process does not address the formation of Opportunity Funds.

The Governor has until March 22, 2018, to make recommendations to the Secretary of Treasury, with the ability to seek a 30 day extension to April 22, 2018. The Agency is seeking input on which census tracts should be designated Opportunity Zones. The Agency plans to recommend the Governor name 24 NMTC-eligible census tracts as Opportunity Zones, and as permitted by law, one adjoining non-NMTC census tract with a median family income below 125 percent of median family income, as an Opportunity Zone. There are approximately 48 eligible New Market Tax Credit census tracts.

The Agency anticipates the Treasury Department to issue additional guidance and rules in the immediate future. This guidance may drastically change the Agency’s approach. If this occurs, the Agency will issue new guidance to supplement this memo. The Agency is working under the assumption, based on expert advice, that multiple adjoining NMTC eligible census tracts may be joined to form one Opportunity Zone. Should this be the case, the Agency intends to recommend the Governor designate every NMTC eligible census tract in Vermont as an Opportunity Zone. In the event Treasury disallows this consolidation,

recommendations will be based on need and development readiness.

The authorizing law also allows five percent of a state’s total Opportunity Zones to be non-NMTC census tracts. In Vermont, we believe this will only allow one non-NMTC census tract to be included (five percent of 25 is less than 2). To that end, the Agency is seeking input from development partners on which adjoining census tracts would be best designated based on need, state development priorities, and readiness to develop.

The Agency plans to seek input and provide feedback in the coming month:

Parties provide input on census tract selection,
including adjoining non-NMTC census tracts:
February 14, 2018

The Agency publishes a draft recommendation on
the web at accd.vermont.gov/OpportunityZones:
23, 2018 February

Parties provide feedback on the draft recommendation:
2018 March 2,

The Agency publishes a final draft recommendation on
the web at accd.vermont.gov/OpportunityZones:
2018 March 9,

Parties provide feedback on the final draft:
16, 2018 March

Final recommendation made to Governor
20, 2018 March

All input should be submitted via email to ted.brady@vermont.gov. If an organization has already submitted material before issuance of this memo, there is no need to resubmit.

Attached, please find a spreadsheet of eligible NMTC census tracts in Vermont, and eligible adjoining census tracts. The data utilized to determine NMTC eligibility is from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey. A map of eligible tracts is available online [here](#).

Also, please find the authorizing language from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017.

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Ted Brady
Deputy Secretary
Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
(802) 622-4200
On the Web at accd.vermont.gov
Check out the new Thinkvermont.com

From: [Brady, Ted](#)
To: [Brady, Ted;](#)
Subject: Draft Opportunity Zone Designations Released
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:57:35 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT opportunity zone recommendations.xlsx](#)

MEMO

To: Vermont Interested Parties in Opportunity Zones Designations
Fr: Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development
Dt: February 27, 2018
Re: [DRAFT Opportunity Zone Designation Recommendations](#)

[CLICK TO VIEW DRAFT ZONE MAP](#)

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development seeks input on 23 draft recommended Opportunity Zone designations in accordance with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. These tracts include 21 qualified low-income census tracts and two contiguous tracts. This draft intentionally omits two tracts, in hopes public feedback will inform the final recommendation of 23 qualified low-income census tracts and two contiguous tracts to total 25 Opportunity Zone recommendations.

The Agency used both 2011-2015 American Community Survey data and 2016 ACS data to inform this recommendation. We evaluated poverty rates, unemployment rates, population counts, number of businesses, number of private sector jobs, available infrastructure and state designation programs within each tract to make this recommendation. Finally, we ensured there was geographic diversity.

The Agency is seeking feedback on these recommendations, as well as feedback for which two additional low-income eligible census tracts to include in the final draft recommendation to be issued March 9, 2018. The Agency is particularly interested in hearing about a census tract's "development readiness". We are seeking a demonstrated deal flow of past, and more importantly, future projects that will be funded with private equity capital. A list of likely projects, private capital sought, and capital committed would be most useful to informing this decision.

Attached, please find a spreadsheet of the draft Opportunity Zone recommendations. You may find a map of the recommendations [here](#) or at accd.vermont.gov/opportunityzones.

The Agency has updated it's map of eligible census tracts for designation, which

includes both 2010-2015 ACS data and 2016 ACS data. A map of eligible tracts is available online [here.](#)

All input should be submitted via email to ted.brady@vermont.gov. by close of business Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

+++++

Ted Brady
Deputy Secretary
Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
(802) 622-4200
On the Web at accd.vermont.gov
Check out the new Thinkvermont.com

Draft Opportunity Zone Designations

VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development

As of February 26, 2018

Municipality	County	Location
Vergennes	Addison	Census Tract 9603, Addison, VT
Bennington	Bennington	Census Tract 9712, Bennington, VT
Bennington	Bennington	Census Tract 9709, Bennington, VT
St. Johnsbury	Caledonia	Census Tract 9574, Caledonia, VT
St. Johnsbury	Caledonia	Census Tract 9575, Caledonia, VT
Lyndon	Caledonia	Census Tract 9572, Caledonia, VT
Burlington	Chittenden	Census Tract 10, Chittenden, VT
Winooski	Chittenden	Census Tract 25, Chittenden, VT
South Burlington	Chittenden	Census Tract 36, Chittenden, VT
St. Albans City	Franklin	Census Tract 107, Franklin, VT
Johnson	Lamoille	Census Tract 9532, Lamoille, VT
Newport City	Orleans	Census Tract 9515, Orleans, VT
Newport City	Orleans	Census Tract 9514, Orleans, VT
Rutland City	Rutland	Census Tract 9633, Rutland, VT
Rutland City	Rutland	Census Tract 9632, Rutland, VT
Rutland City	Rutland	Census Tract 9631, Rutland, VT
Barre City	Washington	Census Tract 9552, Washington, VT
Brattleboro	Windham	Census Tract 9685, Windham, VT
Brattleboro	Windham	Census Tract 9686, Windham, VT
Rockingham	Windham	Census Tract 9670, Windham, VT
Springfield	Windsor	Census Tract 9666, Windsor, VT
Springfield	Windsor	Census Tract 9667, Windsor, VT
Royalton	Windsor	Census Tract 9651, Windsor, VT



MEMO

Date: March 13, 2018

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Eric Vorwald, AICP, Senior Planner

Re: Regional Energy Plan Language Options

☒ ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Regional Energy Plan language related to wind energy generation limitations.

At its February meeting, the Commission recommended the draft 2018 Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan be advanced to public hearing. The Commission asked staff to contact the Department of Public Service regarding its interpretation of a potential elevation threshold for the limitation on the height of wind generation facilities. Staff provided the language from the draft energy plan to the Department of Public Service and asked the Department:

1. Does limiting the height of wind generation to 100 feet throughout the region mean that we are also need to limit the height of any development (buildings, antennae, silos, etc.) to 100 feet?
2. If the answer to the first question is “yes”, is there a way to exempt certain uses from this height limitation without running afoul of the requirement to treat all development equally?

The opinion that was provided from the Department of Public Service was:

“[M]y personal opinion is that the most straightforward thing to do is to similarly limit other development, and that if there is a different treatment such as an exemption,

there needs to be a strong rationale for why the developments and the commensurate impacts are not alike. Otherwise the concern [with respect to] the standards could be that there is an arbitrary rationale for treating like impacts in an unlike manner."

Based on this opinion, staff identified four options for consideration by the Commission.

Option 1 – Make no changes and leave the language as currently written with a height limitation of 100 feet.

As noted in the opinion from the Department of Public Service, this restriction may be similarly viewed to limit all development in the Region to 100 feet. Anything proposed that would be taller than 100 feet would be incompatible with the Regional Plan.

Option 2 – Establish a maximum height above the tree canopy.

Similar to Option 1, this option would restrict the overall height of structures, but the height would be based on the tree canopy. This would permit facilities to be built tall enough to clear the tree line in order to capture wind, but limit the overall visual impact of the installation. A possible height limitation could be 100 feet above the tree canopy.

Option 3 – Provide an elevation threshold whereby structures above that threshold would be limited to the 100 foot requirement.

An elevation threshold where structures above the specified elevation are restricted in height may be appropriate since wind speeds are generally greater and more sustained at higher elevations. An elevation threshold would also be consistent with several municipalities that currently have restrictions on development above specific elevations including Waitsfield (1,700 feet) and Orange (1,800 feet).

Option 4 – Establish a maximum height above tree canopy when the development is above a specified elevation.

This option would essentially be a combination of Option 2 and Option 3. Option 4 would include a height limitation on structures above the tree canopy, but only apply to developments above a specified elevation.

Included with the agenda is proposed language that could be added to the existing text that would address each of the options listed above.

The draft 2018 Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan was intentionally written to limit the Region from dictating policy to municipalities. This is addressed in the Conflict Resolution section of the plan. Under the discussion of conflicts between a municipal energy plan and the regional energy plan, it notes that a municipal energy plan can be more restrictive as long as the policies are limited to the host municipality and do not impact a regional resource. This allows a municipality to determine the policies and actions that will be most appropriate for its specific needs. This could include greater restrictions on the type, location, or scale of renewable energy generation facilities.

1 **OPTION 4 – ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT ABOVE TREE CANOPY WHEN THE**
2 **DEVELOPMENT IS ABOVE A SPECIFIED ELEVATION.**

3

4 With this in mind, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has determined that
5 industrial-scale wind development **above _____ feet in elevation** is not compatible with the
6 future land use patterns of Central Vermont. For the purposes of this plan, industrial-scale
7 wind development will include any wind turbine with a hub height greater than 100 feet
8 (excluding the blades) **above the existing tree canopy**. This is not intended to restrict the
9 development of wind generation facilities at a residential or community scale where renewable
10 energy can be provided to a targeted location.

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
 2 **DRAFT MINUTES**
 3 **February 13, 2018**

4 Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Kirby Keeton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Calais	John Brabant	<input type="checkbox"/>		Robert Atchinson, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Jerry D’Amico
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Brian Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>		Alan Quackenbush, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Daniel Raddock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Gary Winders
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Ivan Shadis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	VACANT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

6
 7 Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Pam DeAndrea, Clare Rock, and Eric Vorwald
 8 Guests: Jamie Stewart (CVEDC), Padraic Monks (VT DEC Stormwater Program)

9
10 **CALL TO ORDER**

11 Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. The meeting began with introductions.

12
13 **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

14 B. Waninger requested Commissioners verify or update contact information and distributed a list.

15
16 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

17 None.

18
19 **TOWN OF WAITSFIELD: TOWN PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

20 J. Shatney reported that the Town Plan Review Committee held a public hearing earlier that day to
 21 accept comments on the Waitsfield Town Plan. Representatives from Waitsfield participated. The
 22 Committee noted the plan had strong support for maintaining the character of the downtown.
 23 Waitsfield did not request plan review against Act 174 guidelines for local energy planning although it
 24 plans to do so later. The Town Plan Review Committee recommended approval of Waitsfield’s Town Plan
 25 and confirmation of its planning process. S. Lotspeich asked if the plan addressed Act 171’s forest

1 integrity requirement. E. Vorwald responded that it had not; the plan was adopted prior to January 1,
2 2018 and was not required to address it.

3
4 *B. Wernecke moved to adopt the resolution indicating the Commission's approval of the Waitsfield Town
5 Plan and confirmation of the Town of Waitsfield Planning Process; D. LaHaye seconded. Motion carried.*

7 **ACHIEVING CLEAN WATER: STORMWATER PERMITS**

8 Padraic Monks with VT DEC's Stormwater Program discussed DEC's stormwater permits and provided a
9 preview of the Operational General Permit. As part of this permit, the "3-acre sites" permit may affect
10 municipal and school facilities that have not been permitted previously. Monks reviewed reasons for
11 the update and changes.

12
13 The 3-acre permit is a new retrofit permit for existing sites. These sites may either offset the impact of
14 the development with Best Management Practices used on site or pay an impact fee. Impact fee funds
15 can be used by developers of other sites that are able and willing to exceed stormwater requirements
16 for their developments. If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site is treated, then the site would be neutral and no fees would be
17 applied. Amount reduced will be based on the BMP applied to the site, e.g., gravel wetland will treat
18 60% of phosphorus. Monks said the DEC will send a draft rule to interagency Committee on
19 Administrative Rules (ICAR) this spring. He noted that H.576 expands offsets and lowers permit
20 threshold for "new" and redevelopment from 1 acre to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

21
22 Commissioners recommended ANR reach out to private landowners about this permit. Landowners
23 may not know they will need a permit.

25 **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

26 Vorwald reviewed changes to the plan, which had be highlighted in a memo and in the plan. Vorwald
27 proposed to add text "above elevations of 2,500 feet" for consistency for resources in the regional plan.
28 J. Brabant noted the "above 2500 feet" was not discussed by the energy committee. He said the
29 guidance allows for limiting the scale of a technology but not banning a technology. Brabant proposed
30 holding this change and having staff complete additional investigation into the issue.

31
32 Vorwald said the Commission must vote to advance a draft to public hearing by March 1. The public
33 hearing would be April. Waninger clarified that the vote to advance was project-related.

34
35 *B. Fitzgerald moved to advance the Regional Energy Plan to public hearing with changes to remove the
36 reference to the above 2,500 feet limitations throughout the document; J. Brabant seconded. Motion
37 carried.*

39 **2016 REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE**

40 E. Vorwald reviewed the energy element of the Regional Plan. For the Regional Energy Plan to receive
41 substantial deference, it needs to be incorporated into the Regional Plan. The energy element in the
42 Region Plan would be updated with the Regional Energy Plan added as an appendix.

1
2 A. Hornblas requested staff ask the Public Service Department whether a region can limit the height for
3 communications towers as well as wind towers.

4
5 *B. Fitzgerald moved to advance the Regional Plan energy element to public hearing; J. Brabant seconded.*
6 *Motion carried.*

7
8 C. Rock discussed Act 171, the new forest integrity requirement for local and regional plans. To amend
9 the 2016 Regional Plan, the Plan must also address forest integrity. For the 2016 Plan, the change was
10 addressed through the land use element and a new map depicting highest priority forest blocks (interior
11 and connectivity) and highest priority surface water and riparian areas.

12
13 *B. Towbin moved to advance the Regional Plan changes to address forest integrity to public hearing. D.*
14 *Torre seconded. Some discussion followed regarding the language of residential development causing*
15 *the fragmentation. Motion carried. A. Hornblas abstained.*

16
17 **PROJECT TOUR: TOWN WEB MAPS**

18 Tabled due to time constraints.

19
20 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

21 L. Hill-Eubanks reviewed the timeframe for nominations. Nominations will be finalized at April meeting
22 and voting at May meeting. She noted there were three Commissioners interested in serving on the
23 nominating committee.

24
25 *D. La Haye moved to open nominations for the Nominating Committee; B. Towbin seconded. Motion*
26 *carried.*

27
28 *D. La Haye nominated R. Krauth; R. Wernecke seconded the nomination.*

29
30 *R. Wernecke nominated Don La Haye; S. Lotspeich seconded the nomination.*

31
32 *A. Hornblas nominated B. Fitzgerald; J. Brabant seconded the nomination.*

33
34 Chair Potter asked three times whether there were additional nominations. There being none, Potter
35 closed nominations.

36
37 *J. Brabant moved to appoint Don La Haye, Ron Krauth, and Brian Fitzgerald to the Nominating*
38 *Committee; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.*

39
40 **MEETING MINUTES**

41 *B. Fitzgerald moved to approve the November 14, 2017 minutes; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried.*

42

1 **REPORTS**

2 J. Potter asked if there were any questions. There were none.

3

4 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

5 B. Waninger briefly highlighted legislation initially proposed to develop a Clean Water Authority. The
6 legislation has been modified to study the creation of such an authority, to create a committee to
7 recommend a long term funding method for water quality; and to have the Clean Water Board to advise
8 the Legislature. It also creates a water quality block grant program and encourages the creation of basin
9 coalitions.

10

11 She discussed the right to practice forestry bill, which does for forestry operations what the agricultural
12 sector already has.

13

14 She noted two bills would add a public safety element and a health element in town plans. She noted
15 VAPDA has been testifying to incorporate these changes into existing elements rather than create new
16 elements if the Legislature desires these changes.

17

18 **CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

19 J. Stewart highlighted legislation to create opportunity zones in communities. He noted these areas will
20 not need a new Act 250 permit.

21

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

23 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm; No need to second. Motion carried.*

24

25 Respectfully submitted,

26

27 Pam DeAndrea

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, March 2018

F: 802-223-1977

LAND USE PLANNING & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Regional Plan: Contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com.

Staff prepared and distributed draft updates and scheduled the first public hearing for April 10, 2018. Two hearings are required prior to adoption. The second hearing will be May 8, 2018.

Act 250: Contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com.

Staff has been working with the Project Review Committee to finalize guidelines for Substantial Regional Impact. The updated guidelines should provide more clarity and consistency regarding the thresholds for projects that may be considered for Substantial Regional Impact.

Regional Energy Planning: Contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com.

Staff prepared the approved draft for distribution as part of the regional plan update. A public hearing will occur at the April Commission meeting with possible acceptance of the Plan. Once accepted, the Commission will hold hearings to incorporate the Regional Energy Plan into the Regional Plan.

Local Energy Planning: Contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com.

Staff assisted Barre Town to identify existing renewable energy projects and has been reviewing municipal plans for consistency with the standards of Act 174. Staff also presented information to Waitsfield in preparation for energy updates to its municipal plan.

Municipal Plans: Staff continues to work with Orange on its Town Plan update. This minor update will address changes to statute since the plan was last updated. Staff anticipates a draft plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission in March or April.

Staff met with East Montpelier Planning Commission representatives to discuss preliminary town plan review and to assist with developing maps and plan language to address Act 171 forest integrity requirements.

Zoning: Staff developed a proposal in response to East Montpelier's Request for Qualifications for revising its zoning regulations.

Mapping: Staff continued to assist Barre Town to develop data transfer and field data collection procedures for sewer manhole data updates and road erosion inventory. Staff is working to develop a GIS application for ash tree inventory. The application will be used by UVM Extension in Waterbury. Emerald Ash Borer has been found in northern Orange County. This is the first confirmation of this invasive species in Vermont. Emerald Ash Borer kills ash trees. As the pest spreads, towns are likely to incur significant costs for tree removal in road rights of way, town forests, and park and recreation

areas. CVRPC is available to assist municipalities with ash tree inventories and preparedness plans. Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

Staff is updating Draft Zoning District Map and the Future Land Use map for Marshfield. Staff is developing a region wide trail connections and recreation map in cooperation with the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District. Staff continued to work on a slope map for Montpelier to identify slope categories for each city parcel.

MRVPD Strategic Planning: Staff provided an updated draft of strategic planning information to the Mad River Valley Planning District. This information was primarily a compendium of goals and actions from various reports or planning efforts that have occurred over the years to identify common themes. The MRVPD Steering Committee is discussing next steps. Community investment is needed to move goals and actions forward.

Municipal Consultations: Consultations provide an overview of statutory changes, suggestions to strengthen the municipal plan, and discussion of municipal needs and CVRPC services. Staff completed the consultation for Northfield and Barre City and has completed reports for Barre Town and Plainfield. Staff is currently working to complete the report for Fayston.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

Local Planning: Between Town Meeting Day and May 1, municipalities must renew and adopt a Local Emergency Management Plan. For 2018, the current template can be used. Having an adopted LEOP increases a municipality's Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) rating, providing them with more state aid after a federally declared disaster. Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com for assistance.

Staff reviewed and provided comments on a new draft LEOP template developed by Vermont Emergency Management. VEM will release two models, a short form and a long form, by mid-March and host workshops and trainings for communities during the next year. For 2019, the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) will shift to become the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). The new template will be used for 2019.

Local Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators (EMD/EMC): Working with LEPC 5 and VEM, staff assisted with outreach and coordination for the new EMD course. Twenty-four people attended the 8-hour course, including local EMDs from Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, Berlin, Middlesex, Cabot, Duxbury, Calais, Barre Town, Plainfield, and Waterbury. Shortly after participating in the course, Middlesex responded to a 9000 gallon fuel oil spill on I-89. Lessons learned at the training facilitated the response and recovery efforts. CVRPC staff participated in the course, meet a training requirement for CVRPC's Local Liaison role during disasters.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Staff responded to the State survey on highest risk hazards facing our region, barriers to implementing mitigation actions, successful mitigation actions that are occurring,

and the greatest needs of the municipalities.

Trainings and Workshops: Contact Laura Ranker at ranker@cvregion.com.

Staff partnered with VEM and other agencies in the Annual Spring Flood Seminars. The seminar focused on the potential for ice jams and rapid snowmelt resulting in flash flooding and flooding. Staff focused its presentation on the role of the local liaison and the other support services CVRPC can provide to the towns, including the various types of Plan development (LEOP, LHMP, Stormwater Master Plans, Municipal Plans, River Corridor bylaws). Staff preregistered participants and fielded 34 requests prior to the event.

Disaster Declaration Assistance: Staff continues to support Public Assistance disaster recovery efforts for the June 29-July 1 severe storm and flooding event and the October 29-30 wind storm and flooding event.

Staff participated in the SEOC Flood Alert conference call related to the extreme warm temperatures and rain event. Staff distributed information to municipalities with regard to sandbag availability.

Hazard Mitigation Program Grants: Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com.

The HMPG application deadline is now April 30, 2018. Staff worked with Middlesex, a landowner, and TRORC on a potential home buyout project; with Warren and Marshfield on potential generator grants for critical facilities; and with Northfield on a slope stabilization project. Barre City and Barre Town are considering critical facility generator grants too.

Staff will be contacting Calais, Marshfield, Montpelier, Waitsfield, and Washington this month to discuss participation in an HMGP application for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.

LEPC #5: Staff fielded questions from facility operators on Tier II report filing requirements and logistics, receipt of electronic and hard copy reports, and responding to inquiries and requests for informational resources and materials. March 1 is the deadline for facilities to file Tier II reports.

Staff participated in the SERC Finance Subcommittee meeting. The meeting focus was the role and responsibilities of LEPCs and the HazChem FY 19 Grant application. The SERC is leading an effort to bring the LEPCs "back to basics" with an emphasis on extremely hazardous facilities and the development of an LEPC Emergency Management Plan (aka Annual Response Plan). Staff attended the SERC quarterly meeting.

Staff worked with the LEPC to redistribute the survey developed for Fire Department Chiefs to gather data for inclusion in the LEPC Emergency Management Plan. Staff met with the Warren EMD/Fire Dept. representative to assist in completing the survey material.

Staff provided administrative support for the LEPC's March meeting and met with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the agenda.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com.

Barre Town – FEMA-requested revisions were made and the final plan is under FEMA review.

Cabot – Cabot adopted its plan. The plan was sent to FEMA for final approval.

Duxbury: Staff assisted with public outreach on the draft plan. Staff performed a comprehensive review of the draft and provided comments to the Town. The Selectboard approved submitting the draft to VEM to start the review and adoption process. Staff prepared the Plan Review Tool and made further minor revisions to the plan before submitting both to VEM. The Plan is under review by VEM.

Middlesex - Staff is working with VEM on required plan revisions.

Moretown - Staff provided resources to the Town for use at Town Meeting Day to gain public input on hazard risk and analysis. A meeting with the Planning Commission is scheduled for April 3.

Plainfield - Staff provided resources and sample FEMA approved Plans to the Plan development team. Staff facilitated communications between town players. Staff met with two members of the Planning Team; EMD and a Selectboard member to review the plan update process, outline next steps for plan development, and determine best use of CVRPC services. Staff also met with the Selectboard to kick off the process. Staff has reviewed a proposed Plan hazards outline. Staff provided a markup of the 2012 Plan highlighting areas for required changes to comply with FEMA requirements and offered suggested language for use in the updated plan.

Roxbury – Staff is responding to FEMA’s request for plan revisions.

Warren - Staff held preliminary conversations with the Town Administrator and will meeting with her on March 7.

Waterbury Town and Village – The Town and Village adopted the Plan. It was sent to FEMA for approval.

Williamstown - Staff provided resources to the Town for use at Town Meeting Day to gain public input on hazard risk and analysis. A meeting with the Selectboard is planned for April 9.

Woodbury - Staff provided resources to the Town for use at Town Meeting Day to gain public input on hazard risk and analysis. A meeting with the Selectboard is scheduled for March 19.

Worcester – Staff is working with VEM on required plan revisions.

Technical Assistance: Emerald Ash Borer was found in the Orange Town Forest and Groton State Forest. The Town contacted CVRPC regarding assist with updating the Town Forest Management Plan. This was an action identified in its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Collaboration with Partners: Staff participated in an RPC/VEM meeting. The meeting focus was the local liaison use of the Situation Report used to gather data from municipalities during an event.

RPC EM Planners met to discuss upcoming VEM changes to the direction of LEPCs and the role of the RPCs as well as the new LEOP model.

TRANSPORTATION

Counts: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com.

Staff field checked pedestrian counters in Brandon Gap. Staff collected data from the permanent Mad River counter.

Transportation Studies: Final reports for the East Montpelier and Orange Intersections Alternative Studies are available at <http://centralvtplanning.org/programs/transportation/transportation-studies/>.

Requests for Qualifications: Staff prepared and issued an RFQ to qualify firms to provide transportation planning and engineering services over the next three years. Dubois & King, Stantec, and McFarland-Johnson were prequalified. CVRPC will bid transportation projects among these firms.

Project Prioritization: Staff assisted the TAC in completing its FY18 project prioritization effort. See Committee Reports.

Park & Rides: Staff is working with VTrans to host a March presentation about the Berlin Exit 7 VT Route 62 Park and Ride expansion alternatives. VTrans will present a completely new alternative.

Public Transit: CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the GMT Board of Commissioners. Staff participated in the following Green Mountain Transit meetings:

- Joint Strategy & Operations Committee meeting – strategic goals discussion
- Next Gen Advisory Committee –system funding scenarios discussion
- Board of Commissioners – audit review, NextGen update and Jeffersonville Commuter discussions

At CVRPC's request, GMT scheduled a Barre City meeting to present proposed scenarios from the NextGen study.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance: Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

The Tactical Basin Planning assistance with the VT DEC has continued for both the Winooski and White River Watersheds. Staff activities included:

- Providing VT DEC with information on municipal protectiveness for flood resiliency measures and river corridor planning for the White River Watershed;
- Providing information on drinking water supply usage for the Winooski Watershed;
- Establishing a *Clean Water Advisory Committee* (CWAC). The Committee will meet monthly to learn about water quality policy and participate in project prioritization for Central Vermont projects. **CVRPC invites interested individuals to join this committee.** Contact Pam if interested. Staff is drafting the Committee Rules of Procedures for Commission review.

The Draft Tactical Basin Plans for both the Winooski River and the White River will be ready this spring. Informational meetings will be held. The Winooski Basin Planner, Karen Bates, will be presenting the

draft Basin Plan at the May Commission meeting.

Grant Assistance: Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, for project development and grant writing assistance for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The application deadline is April 23.

Stormwater Master Plans can be used by urban or rural communities to identify priority projects for implementation. The plans include 30% designs, which allow projects to move forward into the Clean Water funding stream. Contact Pam to explore a stormwater master plan for your town or to apply for funds for implementation for projects outlined in completed plans.

Clean Water Block Grant Program: Barre City has been approved for a stormwater improvement project at Pouliot Avenue. CVRPC will assist with program management. Projects that are ready for final design or implementation are eligible for this grant program. Funds are available now. Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

Mad River Moretown Stream Geomorphic Assessment: The Draft River Corridor Plan is complete. Staff is working with Vermont River Management, Bear Creek Environmental (who completed the assessment), and watershed groups to conduct outreach on the study and the projects identified in the plan. Moretown, Berlin and Duxbury are included in the plan. This plan identifies potential improvement projects for water, flood resilience, and habitat enhancement. A public meeting will be held in April to present the plan to stakeholders, especially landowners within the river corridor in these communities. Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

Mad River and Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans: Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) has met with CVRPC, road foremen and town officials to discuss problem areas in the study towns. A desktop assessment of available data is underway. It will target locations for field visit sites. After the field visits, each town is provided with maps and site lists they can use to set priorities for action.

Northfield Water Street Stormwater Mitigation: Staff conducted an initial site visit with interested engineering contractors and is currently reviewing contractor proposals. The project involves final site design and constructions of a bioretention/infiltration system to capture runoff from 48 acres of residential development. The project will use a Downstream Defender[®], an innovative vortex separator that removes particles, hydrocarbons, and floatable debris.

Forest Integrity: Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Staff presented two webinars with VNRC and VT Fish & Wildlife on tools to meet this new statutory with VNRC and VT Fish & Wildlife requirement for municipal plans. CVRPC has funding available through 2019 to assist up towns to integrate forest integrity into municipal plans. Contact Clare.

Staff participated in a Forest Integrity project meeting to review a risk-based decision tool developed by UVM. The tool shows parcels which may be at risk of conversion from forest to another use. Once fully developed, this tool may help guide towns and regions on forest-protection prioritization. ANR is also

seeking to update BioFinder.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields: Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Assessment work is complete on the Town of Whiting site. Staff anticipates receiving two draft Phase 2 assessment reports (51 Prospect St and 16 Prospect St, Barre City) and two draft Corrective Action Plans (Ayers Auto, Barre City and Union Elementary School, Montpelier) in the next month. Additional investigations are being proposed at two sites (Granite Works, Montpelier, and Keith Ave, Barre City.) Phase 2 field sampling will commence at the Woodbury General Store this spring. Available funding is being drawn down. CVRPC will seek funds from other RPCs to continue assessments in Central Vermont.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CVRPC Hiring:

Office Manager: CVRPC received 114 applications. The interview process is complete and reference checks are underway. CVRPC intends to make an offer to a candidate by mid-March.

Finance Manager: CVRPC received 14 applications. The two qualified applicants scheduled for interview withdrew from the process after accepting other positions. The Executive Committee approved moving to a 3-year contract for accounting services. Staff will issue an RFP in March for services beginning July 1, 2018.

Professional Development: Staff attended a Community Revitalization and Redevelopment Presentation by Elinor Bacon (daughter of influential Philadelphia planner Edmund Bacon) at Norwich University. Staff attend a Regional Affordable Housing and Food Access Meeting in Barre City coordinated by VHCB.

Administrative Services: CVRPC signed an agreement with the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District (WBRD) to provide bookkeeping services.

Upcoming Meetings:

MARCH

Mar 12	6:30 pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee 5, Central VT Medical Center, Berlin
Mar 13	6:45 pm	Special Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 13	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
Mar 14	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 15	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
Mar 22	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 27	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office

APRIL

Apr 2	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 10	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
Apr 16	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 19	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
Apr 24	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 26	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 30	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office (This is the regular May meeting)

Visit CVRPC's web site at www.centralvtplanning.org to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.

Executive Director's Report

March 7, 2018

Developing a Water Quality Project Pipeline

Vermont's investments in water quality are not funding projects that best target its water quality challenges. Cost effective projects with real water quality outcomes are being funded. Yet project readiness, not water quality benefit, is the strongest driver of outcomes. Benefit isn't evaluated until projects seek grant funding, and the best of *proposed* projects - not necessarily the most effective projects - are being funded. We need to change this approach.

Vermont needs a comprehensive system to move River Basin Plan ideas to implementation – a system that insures quality projects will be ready for implementation when the initial batch of readiness projects are complete. Vermont spent 30 years developing a project delivery model that works: its transportation project pipeline. It has challenges related to federal requirements and funding limitations, but the concept of its project delivery – developing ideas, scoping feasibility (30% designs), designing and permitting plans, and building projects – works well.

In Central Vermont, CVRPC, its communities, watershed partners, and its project consultant fought together to ensure Stormwater Master Plans identify project priorities regardless of stormwater source location and treatment location. Feedback from ANR suggested Central Vermont plans should only address municipal sources treated on municipal properties that could be funded by ANR programs. Some of Vermont's best investment opportunities in Central Vermont were public-private partnerships. The project delivery pipeline should deliver effective, quality projects, regardless of which program delivers their construction (clean water, hazard mitigation, or transportation).

The Governor, Legislature, and Agencies of Natural Resources and Agriculture have made strong commitments to our shared clean water goals. Investments in municipal roads, urban stormwater, wastewater treatment, stream buffers, and agricultural and forestry Best Management Practices are welcomed as all parties commit to doing their fair share. These investments are only as good as our collective ability to use them. For example, the Clean Water Block Grant program has capital funds available for final design and construction of projects, but it lacks projects that can use them. Ecosystem Restoration Grants do not fund enough project development to insure a steady supply of high quality projects are ready.

Please talk to your legislators. Educate them about the need for a project delivery system and a non-capital funding stream to implement it. Reallocation of existing Clean Water funds can fill this gap if the Legislature provides direction to State Agencies and the Clean Water Fund Board.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports
March 2018

Meeting minutes for CVRPC Committees are available at www.centralvtplanning.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm)

- Approved 3-year master agreements for Transportation Planning and Engineering Services with Dubois & King, Stantec, and McFarland-Johnson. These firms will complete studies and provide technical assistance as requested by CVRPC.
- Approved a 5-year agreement for IT Services with Ormsby's Computer Services. Includes purchase and set up of new server, monthly monitoring, and technical services as needed.
- Continued its discussion of updating CVRPC's conflict of interest policy. Discussed conflict of interest versus the appearance of impartiality.
- Approved an amendment to CVRPC's FFY17 Transportation Planning Initiative budget to adjust for actual expenditure trends and to increase funds for consultant studies.
- Reviewed the first draft of CVRPC's FY19 Budget.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Discussed candidates for the FY19 CVRPC Executive Committee. Don La Haye notified the Committee he did not wish to be reappointed. Presenting the following slate:

- Chair – Julie Potter, East Montpelier
- Vice Chair – Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield
- Treasurer – Michael Gray, Woodbury
- Secretary – Dara Torre, Moretown
- At Large - Byron Atwood, Barre Town (Past Chair)
- At Large - Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury
- At Large - Janet Shatney, Barre City

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

Northern Power Systems presented a proposal for a battery storage facility in the Wilson Industrial Park in Barre Town. This project would provide storage of energy for use during peak hours to reduce the need for additional generation. This presentation educated the Committee on these types of projects in anticipation that additional facilities may be proposed. The Committee voted to forward revised guidelines for Substantial Regional Impact to the Commission for formal adoption.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

TOWN PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

The Town Plan Review Committee discussed regional approval of the Waitsfield Town Plan. The meeting included representatives from the Town of Waitsfield. Discussions were related to the update process and next steps for the Town. The Committee recommended that the Commission regionally approve the Waitsfield Town Plan.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

The TAC finished its review and prioritization of VTrans Capital Program Projects by ranking the Capital Program projects. This list prioritizes the region's top paving, roadway, bridge (State and Town) and safety/traffic projects. The number one ranked project under each program are:

FY18 CVRPC Ranking	VTrans Project Type/Status	Town Name	Project Description
Paving	Front Of Book	Plainfield-Danville	Resurfacing along US 2 from Plainfield MM 0.987 to Danville MM 1.755.
Roadway	Front Of Book	Waterbury	Reconstruction of Main St in Waterbury Village beginning 0.04 mile east of VT100 North intersection extending easterly 0.98 mile.
State Highway Bridges	Front Of Book	Moretown	Replace Bridge no. 2 on VT-100B in Moretown over the Mad River.
Town Highway Bridges	Front Of Book	Montpelier	Replacement of BR13 on Cummings St. in Montpelier, over the North Branch of the Winooski River.
Traffic & Safety	Front Of Book	Barre Town	Improvements to the VT14/Bridge St./Sterling Hill Road intersection in South Barre.

In March, the TAC will have a presentation from VTrans on the Berlin Exit 7 Park and Ride expansion and an update from Green Mountain Transit on the NextGen Plan and bus services in Central VT. The Exit 7 Park and Ride design is being revised to address concerns raised by project neighbors, Berlin's Legislative Representative, and the TAC.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Monday, 4pm)

This month's Brownfields meeting will take place on Wednesday February 28, 2018 (rescheduled due to the Presidents Day Holiday.) Agenda items include:

- Discussion of enrolled sites and setting priorities for allocation of remaining funds.
- Request for Supplemental Phase 2 investigation at Granite Works, Montpelier.
- Request for Supplemental testing at Keith Ave, Barre City (potential).
- Review Committee membership and term expirations in advance of CVRPC's FY19 Committee appointments.

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (to be determined)

Did not meet.

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (As needed; scheduled by committee)

Did not meet.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- Act 250 Commission members are working in committees to frame questions and problem statements for the public outreach.
- Emerald Ash Borer has arrived. ANR is preparing materials for landowners. County forester can talk with towns.
- Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference is June 8 in Bristol. ACCD is accepting nominations for projects.
- Better Connections awards made to Enosburg, Hyde Park, and Danville.
- ANR/ACCD interagency working group wants feedback on wastewater solutions for villages. State is committed to supporting towns that need help. Talk to Bonnie, Waninger@cvregion.com, if you want CVRPC to advocate for assistance to your community in 2019. 2018 assistance will focus on Windham County communities.
- May Ellen Mendl presented on VT 211, an agency of the United Way system. ~43,000 calls received per year. Majority are for housing needs. 20-30% are repeat callers. Can provide services via text too. Schools can use 211 as part of their response plans for parents to call during events. 211 will work with schools to script the 211 response. Willing to help with disaster damage collection for individuals as did in 2011. VAPDA agreed to support having the State fund a Disaster Specialist at 211.
- Discussed the need for project development and basin planning funds for the water quality pipeline.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No applications from Central Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- CCTA's name change is in the House Transportation Committee (H.604, transportation bill).
- GMT staff completed an analysis of Medicaid transport. 40% of GMT Medicaid rides are clinic/methadone transportation. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) pays on a per passenger per mile basis (a fee based on each unique passenger, regardless of the number of rides the passenger takes). As a result, nearly every transit agency in Vermont is experiencing losses on the DVHA contract. GMT will propose separate rate for these types of trips because they are different than the normal patterns of Medical trips. If the rates are not adjusted to a more sustainable rate, GMT may elect to withdraw from the Medicaid contract.
- If the Jeffersonville Commuter match is not fully funded by local communities, the route may not be sustainable financially. GMT funded the match from GMT's rural reserve fund last year.
- GMT continues to negotiate an operations and maintenance agreement for the Montpelier Transit Center. GMT may agree to operate and/or maintain the facility if Montpelier or VTrans provides funding for these activities.

- The GMT Board held an Executive Session to discuss the General Manager's annual evaluation.
- GMT is hiring a Senior Planner. This planner will implement long-term planning project and act as liaison with RPCs and municipalities.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

The Planning District discussed on-going activities in the District. It also discussed strategic planning goals for the future and the possibility of having a retreat for the selectboards of the District's three towns. No decisions were made at this meeting.