

# September 2013 Newsletter



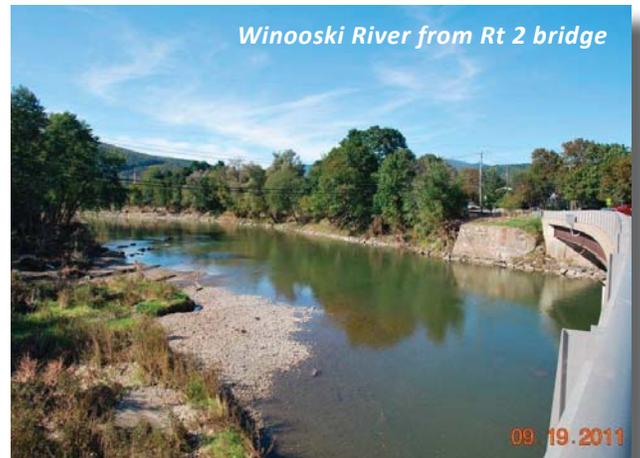
~ [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org) ~

## CVRPC Commissioners

Barre City - Michael Miller  
Barre Town - Byron Atwood  
Berlin - Robert Wernecke  
Cabot - Richard Payne  
Calais - Rolf Mueller  
Duxbury - Brian Fitzgerald  
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Fayston - Carol Chamberlin  
Marshfield - Faeterri Silver  
Middlesex - Ronald Krauth  
Montpelier - Tina Ruth  
Moretown - Deb Sargent  
Northfield - Laura Hill-Eubanks  
Orange - George Malek  
Plainfield - David Strong  
Roxbury - David McShane  
Waitsfield - Don La Haye  
Warren - Craig Klofach  
Washington - Gary Winders  
Waterbury - Gunner McCain  
Williamstown - Larry Hebert  
Woodbury - Janet Shatney  
Worcester - Bill Arrand

## Floodplain Relief

On behalf of the Towns of Waterbury, Duxbury, Moretown, and the State of Vermont, CVRPC submitted a proposal to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to reconnect the floodplain along the Winooski River. The project grew out of a study commissioned by the Town of Waterbury, State of Vermont, and Green Mountain Power with the hope of identifying locations that are contributing to flooding in Waterbury, Duxbury, and Moretown. The study consultant, Milone and MacBroom of Waterbury, identified three locations where floodplain reconnection would help to mitigate the level of flood water in the three towns.



CVRPC and the project team selected the site in Duxbury as the first site to be considered for floodplain reconnection. This site was selected because it's been determined to provide a global reduction in flood level upstream by as much as 12 inches. With HMGP funds, CVRPC proposes to conduct a

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# CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter

## *Get Involved with Forest Stewardship*

### **Forest Stewardship Planning**

With approximately 77% of Central Vermont in forest cover, forests are a pivotal piece of our economy, landscape, and livelihood. Most of that land is owned by private landowners, meaning that forest planning occurs on a parcel by parcel basis. Yet, forest health, productivity, and connectivity can



only be successful if regions, municipalities, and forest landowners work together to keep forests productive and healthy. How to do that is the crux of the Landscape-Based Forest Stewardship project. The Forest Stewardship project is a statewide collaboration between Vermont's Regional

Planning Commissions and the Vermont Division of Forests. The Lamoille County Planning Commission has been coordinating the project since Phase 1 began in 2011. Four RPCs used geographic information system (GIS) technology and a stakeholder engagement process to inventory and assess forest resources, identify forest landscape types, and produce strategies for each landscape type. This phase culminated in 2012 with the publication of Landscape-Based Forest Stewardship Planning – A Regional Approach (look for Forest Stewardship under “Projects and Activities”, “Natural Resources Planning” at [www.lcpcvt.org](http://www.lcpcvt.org)).

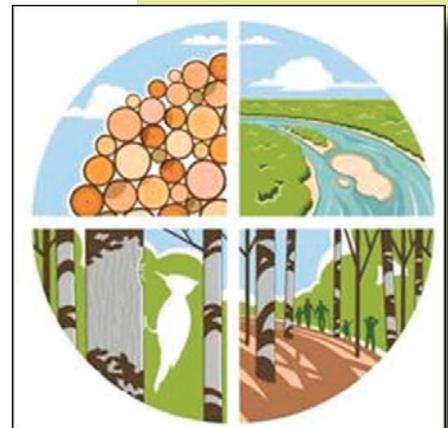
CVRPC is one of four additional RPCs that has joined the project in the Spring of 2013 for Phase 2. With the assistance of a diverse Steering Committee made up of private land owners, the County Forester, forest-based business owners, and conservation organizations, CVRPC will begin to address the implementation strategies identified in Phase 1. Some of the potential strategies identified from Phase 1 include regulatory and non-regulatory actions, such as alternatives to large lot zoning, small-scale timber processing, overweight policies, and town forests.

CVRPC has launched this project with an initial Steering Committee Meeting. The next Steering Committee meeting will be in late September, where we will be reviewing the general regional characteristics and strengths of our forested landscape. We anticipate the steering committee meeting 4-6 times, every other month over the coming months. CVRPC hopes to gain input from recreational enthusiasts, natural resource staff, conservationists, town boards and commissions, land owners and forest based industries from across the Region.

There are many ways to become involved, including:

- Attending the next Steering Committee Meeting on September 25th from 6-7:30pm at the CVRPC Offices in Montpelier;
- Joining the Forest Stewardship Steering Committee; OR
- Meeting with CVRPC staff at a time convenient to you to review the project and give us your input.

If your municipality is interested in participating, please contact Jackie Cassino at [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com).



## Upcoming Events

**Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association (NNECAPA) Conference**  
Sept. 19-20 ~ Meredith, NH

**Plan Central Vermont Kick-off Luncheon**  
Sept. 24 ~ 12pm-2pm  
Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier

**Zoning Administrators Roundtable featuring presentation on Building Energy Codes**  
Sept. 26 ~ 2pm-4pm  
CVRPC Offices in Montpelier

**Vermont League of Cities & Towns's Town Fair Day**  
Oct. 3 ~ Killington  
Grand Hotel, Killington  
Register with VLTC:  
<http://www.vlct.org/>

**Regional Commission Meeting**  
Oct. 8 ~ 7pm-9pm  
Central VT Chamber in Berlin



## CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter

### **Flood Relief (Continued from page 1)**

phased project. Phase 1 of this ongoing project will include preliminary and final design for the preferred alternative. The conceptual design has been modeled and shows flood reduction benefits. The preliminary benefit/cost analysis (BCA) required for the grant application showed a BCA of 1.01. In Phase 1, the BCA will be completed and will include the collection of more detailed building elevation data, as well as loss and damage history for the impacted area. Phase 1 will also include the establishment of easements with landowners, completing the engineering for the site, and permitting.

In phase 2, project construction will occur to reconnect the floodplain at the site in Duxbury. The back edge of the floodplain as it slopes up to higher ground will be reinforced with riprap to prevent bank erosion during a large flood. The width of the floodplain will be increased, along with the available flood storage. The construction project will excavate soil adjacent to the River to reconnect floodplains that are currently disconnected from the channel. Excavated material will be placed away from the River. Phase 2 will only commence if the BCA determines that the project's benefits are met. Total project cost is \$3,299,700.00.

### **"Button-Up Vermont" Day of Action**



The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) — the umbrella organization of the state's 100+ town energy committees — is seeking volunteers willing to lend a few hours of their time to help local communities motivate their friends and neighbors to weatherize their homes. This "Button Up Vermont!" event takes place on October 5 and will be the first-ever statewide energy efficiency day of action. Why is this important? Making homes and buildings more energy

efficient saves money, saves energy, increases comfort and is a powerful way to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change. We need a lot of people power October 5 to make the day a success!

Volunteers can sign up today to participate in an event and local organizers will connect with them on the details of their specific action just prior to October 5. The local actions could be a door-to-door effort, phone-a-thon, tabling event, social media blitz or some other creative outreach opportunity for volunteers to tap into. VECAN plans to connect willing volunteers to community events around the state, so please visit [www.vecan.net](http://www.vecan.net) and click on the Button Up Day event for more details and to sign up. If you have questions you can contact Keil Corey at [kcory@vnrc.org](mailto:kcory@vnrc.org) or 802-922-2893 x 118. Thanks for participating on October 5!



## CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter

### **Statewide Green Infrastructure Municipal Outreach Project**

In a coordinated effort with RPC's statewide and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, CVRPC is starting to conduct municipal assessments and providing technical support for promotion and adoption of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) practices at the municipal level. GSI is an emerging set of practices that addresses the storm water issues associated with land development ranging from installing rain gardens and vegetated swales at the site-level to implementing riparian buffer regulations at the community or landscape-scale. GSI strives to manage storm water and pollutants by restoring and maintaining the natural hydrology in a watershed.



The advantages of using GSI in place of traditional storm water management controls are many and varied. When incorporated as part of the planning process, the result is wetland and riparian habitat protection, reduction of peak runoff flow and rate through the reduction of impervious surfaces, reduced risk of flooding,

improved community value and aesthetics, and long-term cost savings from reduced water infrastructure maintenance.

This initial phase of the project will entail an RPC review of municipal plans, zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations in 2 to 4 pilot communities with a general analysis of the extent to which a municipality supports the use and implementation Green Stormwater Infrastructure. Particular areas of review will include provisions regarding vegetation and landscaping, minimizing land disturbance and impervious area management whether pertaining to new development or retrofitting existing development. Based on the analysis and findings, CVRPC, in partnership with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, will then work with 1 or 2 pilot communities to draft tailored GSI ordinance language and assist them in the process of integration into local regulations.

The Green Infrastructure Municipal Outreach Project is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service in support of the Vermont Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan and is administered by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA). For more information on Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Vermont, visit [http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw\\_green\\_infrastructure.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_green_infrastructure.htm)

***Welcome to  
SerVermont  
Americorps  
VISTA member  
Stephanie Smith!***

Please join us in welcoming our SerVermont Americorps VISTA member, Stephanie Smith, who will be serving as Community Engagement Coordinator for the Plan Central Vermont project starting Sept. 3. Stephanie joins our office by way of Chicago where she recently completed a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Policy with a concentration in Community Development.

Her work will include coordinating and implementing various stakeholder and community engagement activities related to Plan Central Vermont with a particular focus on issues associated with alleviating poverty in Central Vermont, including: economic opportunity, transportation,

affordable housing, environmental justice, and food security. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and reading. She is looking forward to exploring the region and eating local food. Stephanie can be reached at [smith@cvregion.com](mailto:smith@cvregion.com).



## **Plainfield Lower Village Traffic Calming Study**

At the beginning of the summer, Plainfield started a traffic calming feasibility study for the Lower Village with the help of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and a consulting team lead by Broadreach Planning and Design (BRPD). The area of study includes the 4 main streets in the Lower Village (Main, Mill, Brook, and Creamery), as well as 3 of the roads coming into the Village, Brook Road, Barre Hill Road, and Main Street Extension. When complete, the Town will have a comprehensive plan recommending recognized methods for traffic calming on town highways.

BRPD will lead the project's last public work session on September 17, 6:00 PM at the Grace Methodist Church (in the Lower Village). The purpose of this work session is to give residents a chance to review the draft recommendations before the BRPD team finalizes the project. The draft recommendations include speed tables, mini roundabouts, speed feedback signs, and new signage.



For more information on the work session or to send comments if you can't attend, you can contact Steve Gladczuk, Senior Transportation Planner, 229-0389 or by email at [gladczuk@cvregion.com](mailto:gladczuk@cvregion.com).

You can also review the draft Final Report at [www.broadreachpd.com](http://www.broadreachpd.com) on the Projects/Current page after September 14.

### **CVRPC Staff**

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Executive Director

**Laurie Emery**  
Office & Grants Manager

**Steve Gladczuk**  
Transportation Planner

**Jackie Cassino**  
Regional Planner

**Kim McKee**  
Assistant Planner

**Dan Currier**  
GIS Manager

**Ashley Andrews**  
GIS Planning Technician

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## **Plainfield Pedestrian Bridge & South Sidewalk Conceptual Alignment Analysis**

The Town is almost finished working on studying the best way to



link the lower and upper villages with a better pedestrian river crossing and sidewalk/path to at least the Town Hall and potentially as far west as the Post Office on High Street (Route 2). The Town consultants documented existing conditions, talked to the community about their concerns and suggestions, worked with a local steering committee to generate alternatives for improved river crossings and sidewalks, analyzed the most appropriate alternatives for suitability, impacts and cost, and discussed the alternatives with the public at a second public work session to select the most appropriate one. The Town will now hold the last of 3 public work sessions on September 17, at 7:30 PM in the Grace Methodist Church basement. Broadreach Planning & Design, with assistance from Stantec Consulting Services and EIV Technical Services, the Town's consultants, will review the draft final recommendations with the community and facilitate a discussion on last comments before they finalize the recommendations and complete the study.

You can review the draft Final Report with the recommendations at [www.broadreachpd.com](http://www.broadreachpd.com). Click on Projects/Current; Plainfield Ped Bridge. A link at the bottom of the page will take you to the draft Final Report. For more information or to send comments if you can't attend the work session, you can contact Steve Gladczuk, Senior Transportation Planner, 229-0389 or by email at [gladczuk@cvregion.com](mailto:gladczuk@cvregion.com).

# CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter

## *Get Involved*

### **Plan Central Vermont-Shaping Our Region from the Ground Up**

CVRPC will begin to update our Regional Plan this fall. The 2016 Regional Plan, Plan Central Vermont-Shaping Our Region from the Ground Up or Plan Central Vermont, for short will take up a variety of issues between 2013 and 2016 to build a more resilient and engaged region.

An Americorps VISTA member started a year of service as Community Engagement Coordinator on Sept. 3rd to support expanded partnerships and activities for community and youth engagement in the planning process. Staff is hosting a project kick-off luncheon to be held at Vermont College of Fine Arts campus in Montpelier on Sept. 24th. In addition to the Regional Plan Review Committee, staff will be seeking to form targeted subcommittees to begin work on the update. Five working groups will be formed to study and address the following topic areas:

- land use patterns (including growth centers, regulatory and non-regulatory strategies, and future land use)
- energy usage, generation, and conservation
- education, health and human services
- infrastructure and facilities (including drinking water, waste management, storm water and communications)
- housing
- natural resources (including water resources, wildlife)
- preservation of the working landscape (including farm and forest land and food systems)
- hazard mitigation and disaster resiliency
- economic and workforce development
- tourism and recreation
- transportation (all modes)
- implementation strategies
- historic and cultural resources



In addition to data gathering, CVRPC anticipates engaging a broad and diverse population in the development of a long term vision for Central Vermont and in the identification of goals and priorities for each topic area for implementation. Your participation in the process will provide valuable input to ensure that a variety of traditional and non-traditional methods are utilized to share and gather information from all populations. Methods could include art contests, community gatherings, surveys, and service-learning projects in partnerships with local schools. The end result will be an engaged, more sustainable Central Vermont region with a plan that continues to put economic and natural resource health on the same footing as transportation and land use. If you would like to serve on any of the committees or RSVP for the kick-off luncheon, please contact Jackie Cassino at [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com)

The goal of a Fall 2013 kickoff means there are a variety of opportunities for residents and officials to get involved, including: public participation events occurring throughout the region and recruitment for the Regional Plan Committee and subsequent work groups.

Stay tuned for more information. Questions may be addressed to Jackie Cassino at 802.229.0389, [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com).

## ***Applying to the Transportation Alternatives Program***

Letters of Intent to submit an application will not be required. VTrans will be conducting two informational workshops on September 17 (12:15-2:15 PM) and September 24 (6-8:00 PM) through Vermont Interactive Technologies. Attendance at one of these workshops is mandatory for applicants who have not attended a VTrans local transportation facilities informational workshop within the last year (Bike/Ped program or TA program workshops), but is strongly recommended for all.

You may also obtain a Word format copy of the application, ask any questions about the program or application process, and request technical assistance by contacting Steve Gladczuk, Senior Transportation Planner, 229-0389 or by email at [gladczuk@cvregion.com](mailto:gladczuk@cvregion.com). Sixteen copies of completed applications are due, postmarked or in-hand by Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

## **CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter**

### ***VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program***

VTrans has announced that they are now accepting applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program. The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program provides funding for activities such as the Safe Routes to School program, design, planning and construction of facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized modes of transportation, and projects that mitigate environmental issues caused by highway construction or run-off. This is just a partial list. For a copy of the VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program Guide and Application, visit the website: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/transportationalalternatives>

The TA program provides funds to either develop scoping studies or to develop projects that lead to construction. All projects must demonstrate a strong transportation link. There is a required sponsor funding match of 20% for construction projects and 50% for scoping studies. Applicants may only apply for up to \$300,000 in Federal funds for a total project cost of \$375,000. Successful applicants may propose that up to one-half of their required match be met by donated goods and services, but this will be subject to approval during the project development process.

### ***Take the Way to Go! Fall Challenge***

*Is your commute in  
**ZOMBIE MODE?***



**ADD SOME LIFE TO IT  
WIN AWESOME PRIZES!  
SAVE THE PLANET!**  
**OCT 14-18! SIGN UP**

Is your commute in zombie mode? Then take the Way to Go! Fall Challenge October 14-18 and “add a little life” to your commute. This fun, seasonally appropriate campaign is aimed at capturing commuters’ attention and promoting alternative options to driving alone. Check your co-workers for signs of “COMMUTER ZOMBIFICATION.” The cure? Carpool, car share, take the bus, walk, bike, or telecommute the week of the Way to Go. It’s a chance to win great prizes and save the planet. This can be a fun week of smart commuting that changes commuter behavior and inspires businesses, and saves money while reducing air pollution and congestion on the State’s roads.

Another related resource is the Go Vermont website <http://www.connectingcommuters.org/> It is for travelers who want to reduce the cost and environmental impact of driving. Throughout this site you will find information about the ways you can get around the State, and how these modes can save you money. In addition to information on bus routes, biking or walking, and other modes, Go Vermont features a free carpool/vanpool matching service, ridesharing tips, and other practical information on getting around. Way to Go! is supported by a wide network of 34 partner and sponsor organizations from around Vermont, including the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and the lead partner, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC). For more information, contact Steve Gladczuk, Senior Transportation Planner, 229-0389 or by email at [gladczuk@cvregion.com](mailto:gladczuk@cvregion.com).

# CVRPC ~ September 2013 Newsletter

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

### **VAPDA Completes Review of all RPC Regional Plans and Consultant Makes Recommendations for Future Updates**

An independent consultant, Brandy Saxton, hired by the State's Regional Planning Commissions (Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, VAPDA) and the Department of Housing and Community Development recently completed a review of all 11 Comprehensive Regional Plans in Vermont. The results of the review of the 2008 Central Vermont Regional Plan were presented at the June 11 CVRPC meeting. The Plan was found to be particularly strong in a number of areas, including:

- Providing a set of guiding principles that could be effectively used to manage future growth and development in the Region.
- Describing and quantifying the need for housing at both the regional and town levels.
- Specific policies and recommended projects to provide safe, convenient, economic and energy-efficient transportation systems.

The study also suggested that the Central Vermont Regional Plan is in need of updates in both form and content, particularly to bring it up to date with recent changes in State requirements. Some of the areas in most need of attention, according to the consultant, include:

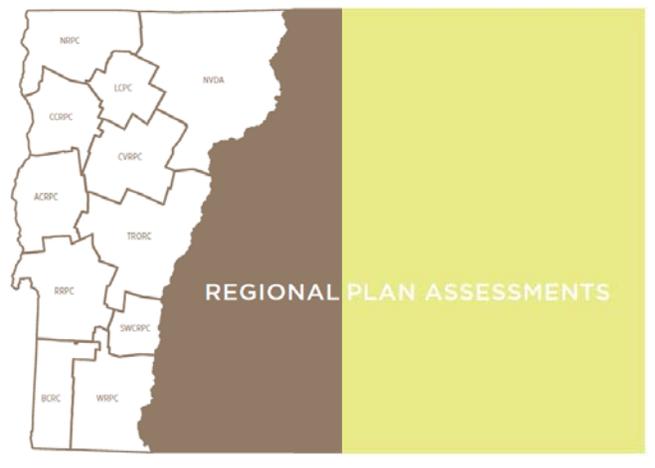
- Establishing desired land use patterns and the appropriate location, intensity and character of future development in the Region, as shown on a land use map and described in a written statement.
- Describing a program for the implementation of the Regional Plan's objectives.
- Specific strategies to broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities.
- Specific strategies to plan for, finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.
- Craft policy statements that will increase the influence of the Regional Plan in Act 248 and Act 250 Proceedings.

CVRPC will incorporate necessary changes within our ongoing Regional Plan update process by April of 2016. The State Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) has encouraged acceleration of certain parts of the Plan through our 2014 State contract to insure, by the end of Fiscal Year 2014, that the Plan becomes fully consistent with State goals enacted after adoption of our current Plan. The Statewide Summary and Central Vermont Regional Plan review can be found on CVRPC's web site.

**September 30**  
**Municipal Planning Grants**  
Visit: [http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/)

**September 30**  
**Recreational Trails Program Grants**  
Visit: <http://www.vtfrp.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>

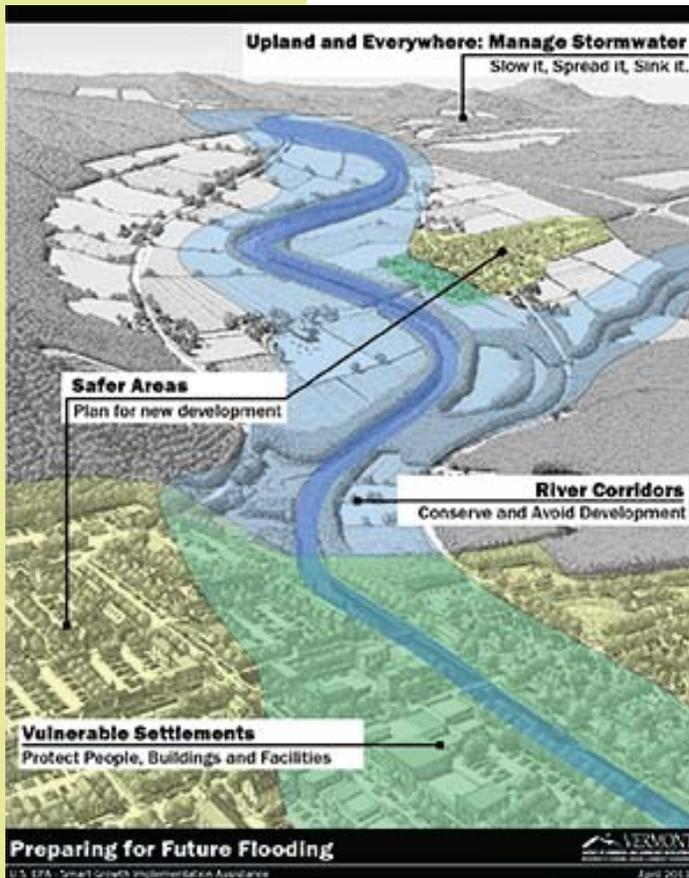
**October 18**  
**Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants**  
Contact: Ray Doherty, State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
[ray.doherty@state.vt.us](mailto:ray.doherty@state.vt.us)



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## **Planning and Zoning Statutory Changes**

The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development has provided a summary of planning and zoning laws and amendments enacted during the 2013 session is now available for download here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/StatutoryChanges2013.pdf> Highlights include:



Vermont Agency of  
Commerce & Community  
Development

## **Flood Resilient Communities Element Required in Municipal and Regional Plans.**

This requirement goes into effect on July 1, 2014. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) interprets this effective date to mean that any municipal or regional plan adopted or readopted after July 1, 2014 must include a flood resilience plan element. Those plans adopted before that date will continue to remain in effect until expiration or until they are amended or readopted, at which point they must include the new flood resilience plan element. The bill also requires the Agency of Natural Resources to establish a program to aid and support municipalities in adopting the new plan element.

## **New Neighborhood Development Area Designation.**

The Vermont Neighborhoods designation is replaced with the new Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) designation. The NDA designation broadens the potential benefit areas to include 1/4 and 1/2 mile "walk sheds" or rings around designated Downtown, Villages, and New Town Centers.

The Act also requires all new and renewal Village Center and Downtown applications after July 1, 2014 to have the designated areas incorporated into town plans. Application guidelines available here: [http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/NDA\\_Application\\_Guidelines\\_Interim\\_web.pdf](http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/NDA_Application_Guidelines_Interim_web.pdf)

**Energy Standards, Zoning Permits and Certificates of Occupancy.** Provisions of this bill require administrative officers to provide applicants with building energy standards when issuing applicable zoning permits and also require the permittee to provide the administrator with the required Residential Building Efficiency Standards Certificate prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Free copies of the Vermont Residential Building Energy Code Handbook are available from the Department of Public Service ;contact kelly.laundry@state.vt.us