



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Paine Turnpike South, Berlin

(Coming off the interstate at exit 7, turn left at the first light.

At the next crossroads, the Chamber is on your left. It is the light yellow building.)

AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u> ¹	<u>Description</u>
	7:00	Adjustments to the Agenda
		Public Comments
2	7:05	Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2017 (enclosed) ²
5	7:10	Staff Reports (enclosed)
13	7:15	Executive Director's Report (enclosed)
14	7:20	Committee Reports (enclosed)
17	7:30	Northern Borders Regional Commission Expansion , <i>Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development</i> (enclosed) ² Request from Sen. Leahy for support letter on the Commission's expansion to include all of VT. Information about the NBRC can be found at http://www.nbrc.gov/ .
	7:55	Green Mountain Transit Appointment ² Appoint Washington County representative and alternate to GMT Board of Commissioners.
18	8:00	ANR Model Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaw , <i>Eric Vorwald</i> (enclosed) ² Presentation of draft bylaw and proposed CVRPC comments for discussion.
23	8:20	Project Review Committee (enclosed) ² Review recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.
24		a) Rules of Procedure
27		b) Rules of Process
30	8:35	Regional Energy Plan , <i>Eric Vorwald</i> (enclosed) ² a) Introduction/Executive Summary b) Conflict Resolution Policy
	9:00	Adjournment

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
July 11, 2017

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Kirby Keeton
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Dick Payne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant (7:30pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Atchinson, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input 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 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	Larry Hebert
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
		<input type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger and Eric Vorwald

Guests: Jamie Stewart, CVEDC

CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Quorum was not present. The meeting began with introductions.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

JUNE 13, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Without a quorum, no action could be taken. J. Potter noted a correction to the motion on page two, line 43: to delete "Project Review" and replace it with "remaining".

STAFF REPORTS

E. Vorwald noted that the municipal planning grants were announced and applications are due on October 2. B. Waninger discussed the Next Gen Transit Planning effort being conducted by Green Mountain Transit (GMT). She also noted that the RPC representative to the GMT board, Harold Garabedian was considering stepping down therefore a reappointment may need to occur at the next meeting. Next she noted that 21 of the 23 municipalities will be participating in the grant-in-aid program which will be a precursor to the municipal roads general permit. Finally, she noted that the RPC's were awarded funding through the Clean Water Block Grant to implement projects on ANR's "Go List", which are projects ready for construction.

CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

J. Stewart highlighted activities related to workforce training. A recent meeting of human resource managers revealed the number one need was mid-level management training. He also announced that the CVEDC's revolving loan fund was up and running. He discussed the successful Barre Maker Fair and the upcoming Waterbury Maker Fair. Commissioners asked questions regarding the demand for existing space noting the cost prohibitive nature of building new. Stewart noted that the region has adequate space for tenants up to about 4,000 square feet but after that there is little to no available space for above that amount.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

B. Waninger noted a summary in the meeting packet. She highlighted the Commission on Act 250 that will be working to identify potential amendments to Act 250 with a report due by December 2018.

COMMISSIONER TRAINING

Waninger provided the Commissioners with a presentation that included an overview of the RPC. It noted the history of the organization, its mission, and highlights of the program areas including transportation, natural resources, emergency management, brownfields, and intergovernmental cooperation. This presentation highlighted various components of the RPC and how it assists municipalities with their diverse and ever-changing needs.

5-YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS

Waninger provided an overview of the five year strategic goals for the Commission noting that this has been an on-going process to identify and focus priorities for the organization. A summary of the four goals were discussed with highlights of specific items. B. Towbin asked if it would be helpful for municipalities to talk about current issues each town is facing, and what they may be concerned about. Waninger noted this was an item in the FY18 activities and she would add it to a future meeting agenda.

MUNICIPAL CONSULTATIONS

E. Vorwald provided an overview of municipal consultations that have occurred since FY16. He described the general process used and named the municipalities that received consultations in the past two years. He noted specific trends that have emerged during the consultations including current legislative issues, data needs, and mapping updates. He identified several areas where follow-up assistance has been occurring, such as presentations on future land use, assistance with developing timelines, and sourcing of data needs. J. Potter noted that draft language or assistance regarding requirements of Act 171 (forest integrity) may be something for the RPC to develop as it is a new requirement that will affect all the municipalities. J. Brabant suggested that a presentation to the Commission on forest integrity may be appropriate to highlight forest integrity and the importance of connectivity. Additional comments and discussion occurred from Commissioners regarding their experiences and possible future needs.

JUNE 13, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

With a quorum now present, J. Potter asked for any additional comments on the minutes. B. Fitzgerald noted two additional corrections: add “to” to the motion on page 4, line 9 and add “moved to appoint” to the motion on page 4, line 12. *B. Wernecke moved to approve the June 11, 2017 minutes with corrections; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried 10 – 0 – 2 with J. Brabant and B. Towbin abstaining.*

ADJOURNMENT

B. Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried 12 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vorwald

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

802/229-0389

Staff Report, August-September 2017

Fax: 802/223-1977

LAND USE PLANNING & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

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

Staff has prepared draft language to address conflicts between the Regional Energy Plan and the Regional Plan or municipal plans. This information will be presented to the Commission in September for consideration prior to a public comment period on the Regional Energy Plan.

Project Review: The Project Review Committee is working to update the criteria for Substantial Regional Impact (SRI). As a statutory party to Act 250 and Section 248, the Commission can choose to comment on any application. The Commission set SRI as its threshold for automatic comment. The criteria work will add clarity, consistency, and detail to the criteria.

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

Draft local energy plans were submitted for Barre Town, East Montpelier, and Waterbury. Staff will continue to assist the three municipalities to finalize these drafts and incorporate the information into their municipal plans.

The Legislature provided funds for additional local energy plan development. Communities interested in assistance are invited to contact CVRPC now. Communities with support from the local Planning Commission, Selectboard, and energy committee (if applicable) will be most competitive for assistance.

East Montpelier Village Master Plan: The draft village master plan has been completed. The goals and findings lay the foundation for updates to East Montpelier's Zoning Bylaws.

Municipal Planning Grants: Staff is assisting East Montpelier and Northfield with municipal planning grant applications. The deadline for submission is October 2nd. If your community would like grant writing assistance, please contact Eric Vorwald at Vorwald@cvregion.com.

Municipal Consultations: Staff completed consultations with Northfield and will be working on consultations for Barre City, Barre Town, Duxbury, Fayston, Plainfield, and Roxbury in FY18.

Town Plan Assistance: CVRPC is working to build an online data library this year. We'll develop and post commonly used data tables for each town, and provide links to data sources towns might find useful when updating plans. Contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com, if your town will need data for an upcoming town plan update. We're developing the data tables on a first need, first served basis.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

LEOPs (Local Emergency Operations Plans): 21 municipalities have adopted and received state acceptance of their 2017 LEOP increasing their ERAF rating. Staff is working with Woodbury to assist with its LEOP update, adoption, and submittal.

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

Staff has collaborated with the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) staff and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) on the following trainings:

- Introduction to the Role of EMD/EMC, August 2, 5:30 – 7 pm, CVRPC office. CVRPC sponsored this first time pilot Emergency Management Director (EMD) seminar with eight EMDs participating. VEM will replicate this model statewide.
- Rail Car Incident Response, October 7, 8am – 5 pm, VTrans Dill Building, 2178 Airport Road – Unit A, Berlin, VT 05641. Due to glitches in the state online registration process, please contact Laura Ranker to register.
- Dam Safety Seminar, September 28, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Waterbury Municipal Building, Steele Community Room. Many municipalities have expressed an interest in learning more about dam safety and emergency preparedness. Learn effective ways municipalities can communicate and collaborate with dam owners.
- Tier II reporting and the ERCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986), December 13, 8:00 am - Noon, VTrans Dill Building, 2178 Airport Road – Unit A, Berlin, VT 05641. This course increases awareness and compliance in TIER II reporting by facilities. *Most municipalities should be reporting as a Tier II facility.*
- NFIP Training, September 20, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, CVRPC office. Administrative Floodplain Officers, Zoning Administrators, DRB members, and Town Clerks are invited to learn how to effectively administer flood hazard regulations and maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). One criterion under ERAF is for municipalities to participate in and comply with the NFIP.
- River Corridor Regulations, September 14, 6:00 -8:00 pm, CVRPC office. 12 Central Vermont municipalities have interim River Corridor regulations. Focused at Planning Commissioner and Zoning Administrators, this workshop provides guidance on transitioning from interim regulations to ordinance adoption. Towns are expected to make the transition in the next year or two to maintain maximum ERAF status.

Disaster Declaration 4330-VT: Severe storm and flooding, June 29 – July 1, 2017: Together, the tremendous efforts of the Central Vermont municipalities, CVRPC staff, and AOT District Technicians resulted in Washington and Orange County being included in the federal disaster declaration. This means Central Vermont towns may be eligible for Public Assistance funds to reimburse the cost of repairs from the storm's damage. The Public Assistance program has changed its delivery system, and CVRPC staff is trained in the new program. Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com, for assistance. The deadline to submit a Public Assistance Request form to the state is 9/14/17.

Due to the disaster, Vermont will receive FEMA funds for hazard mitigation projects. These funds are in addition to Public Assistance. All communities are eligible to apply for grants under the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Please contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com, for information or project development and grant writing assistance.

LEPC #5: LEPC 5 will test the Montpelier Police Department Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) during a Table Top Exercise in September. The Montpelier Police Department/Capital West Dispatch, serves 18 municipalities in the region. The exercise focuses on the coordination and communication efforts of responders, town officials, and organizations following a disruption in services at Capital West Dispatch. Participants verbally walk through their response roles, which helps identify gaps and areas to strengthen. CVRPC will participate.

The LEPC5 subcommittee has begun work on the Annual Response Plan update. The subcommittee is gathering information from municipalities relative to hazardous material response to incorporate into the plan.

CVRPC staff facilitated the successful transition of four LEPC grants from the City of Barre to Capstone Community Action. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, Capstone assumed fiscal agent duties for the Central Vermont Medical Reserve Corp (MRC).

State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) Support: VEM requested regional planning commission (RPC) support for the July 1 storm. Staff:

- coordinated with municipalities and disseminated information,
- shared recommendations to improve the planning and response in the event of future disasters,
- participated in the Applicant Briefing and Public Assistance Training, and
- is positioned to assist towns in the Public Assistance process.

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

Northfield – The Plan received FEMA approval on July 17, 2017. Congratulations, Northfield!

Orange – The Plan was submitted to VEM and has been forwarded to FEMA for review.

Roxbury – The Plan was submitted to VEM and returned with request for minor changes.

Waterbury Town and Village – The Floodplain Working Management Group, in which CVRPC

participates, has completed the first draft of the plan update.

New Towns – CVRPC request to add towns to its current grant was denied. CVRPC is pursuing other grant sources to support 8 LHMPs that expire in 2018 and 3 that expire in 2019/2020.

ANR Flood Hazards and River Corridors Model Bylaws: Staff reviewed a draft model bylaw developed by the Agency of Natural Resources to address the requirements of Flood Hazards and River Corridors. Once finalized, these bylaws could be adopted by municipalities to address the River Corridor requirements for enhanced ERAF (Emergency Relief Assistance Funds) status. The Commission will discuss the bylaw and staff comments in September.

TRANSPORTATION

Counts: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, with count location requests for roads or sidewalks. Counts are useful for identifying vehicle speeds, the number of cars on a road, or the number of trucks verses cars on a road. Staff installed counters on Route 215 in Cabot, Cabot Road in Marshfield, and Joselin Hill in Waitsfield.

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

Staff completed a “connected road” inventory in Calais with the help of the Town. Connected roads are sections of the road network that are connected to surface waters through ditches, culverts or other drainage structures. Connected roads present greater risks to water quality. The Municipal Roads General Permit requires inventories.

Staff are wrapping up the culvert and bridge inventories for Warren, Montpelier, Marshfield, and Orange. For inventory updates or to find out more about VTCulverts.org, contact Dan Currier, currier@cvregion.com.

GIS: Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, or Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com with map or data request.

Staff completed web maps for Calais and Berlin. The maps can be found at: <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/calaiswebmap/> and <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/berlinbasemap/>. These maps have provide mapped information on parcels, natural resources, and zoning. Towns and residents are finding these web maps invaluable and very useful for information related to specific parcels and the community as a whole.

Staff has been working on maps for the East Montpelier Town Plan update.

Staff has completed road maps for every town in the region. They can be found on the CVRPC website by town. <http://centralvtplanning.org>. For printed versions, contact Ashley.

Grant Assistance: Contact Dan Currier, currier@cvregion.com, for transportation grant assistance or a letter or support. Staff reviewed applications to the VTrans Municipal Mitigation Grants from Moretown and Warren and provided letters of support.

Municipal Grants In Aid: Staff have scheduled 19 of our 21 required Municipal Grants in Aid site visits. The site visit is the town's opportunity to meet with CVRPC staff and identify the road segments that will be enhanced. All site visits must be completed by September 30, 2017. Towns have until June 2018 to complete all work. This grant is helping towns address connected road segments that are not in compliance with the current draft of the Municipal Roads General Permit. An estimated 80 segments of road totaling ~5 miles will be enhanced.

Planning: VTrans presented its Long Range Transportation Plan to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The Plan sets the direction and focus for the next 20 years of planning and ties together all other state Transportation Mode Plans. The TAC agreed to fund Green Mountain Transit's (GMT) ridership survey and existing route planning. In total, the TAC supported funding three projects through CVRPC's transportation planning program. CVRPC contracted with Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers, Inc to conduct intersection studies in East Montpelier and Orange, and with GMT for the survey and route planning.

Class IV Road Erosion Remediation and Demonstration: Contact Dan Currier, currier@cvregion.com. Staff have been working with the State to finalize the contract.

Public Transit: GMT is completing a Comprehensive System Analysis, called the Next Gen Study. Look for GMT staff and presentations at upcoming events and venues as GMT solicits input for the study. CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the project's Advisory Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Winooski Basin Plan: Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

Three Basin Plan outreach meetings (Plainfield, Fayston, and Berlin) were held with outcomes as follows:

- Priority projects and water quality issues were highlighted for Calais, Marshfield and Plainfield by residents, CVRPC, and DEC Basin Planner Karen Bates;
- Ridge to River members from the Mad River Valley provided key input to their water quality needs to be included within the Basin Plan;
- Barre Town and Barre City jointly discussed water quality challenges at both the town and watershed level.

The next Basin Plan meeting will be September 21 at the Waterbury Municipal Building.

Grant Assistance: Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, for project development and grant writing assistance for the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Staff reviewed eligible projects for the Clean

Water Block Grant and contacted communities regarding their interest.

Mad River Moretown Stream Geomorphic Assessment: Staff assisted Bear Creek Environmental with a stream geomorphic assessment. The assessment found that Jones Brook (a tributary to the Winooski River that flows through Moretown and Berlin) is out of equilibrium in terms of its balance with water and sediment and is undergoing some major geomorphic changes. Herring Brook was also assessed. Numerous impacts to the physical nature and fish habitat health of the stream have been observed on both streams. The assessments will help identify potential improvement projects for water, flood resilience, and habitat enhancement. Contact Pam DeAndrea at deandrea@cvregion.com.

Mad River and Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans: CVRPC received a grant from VT DEC to complete stormwater master plans for the five towns in the Mad River watershed (Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Warren, and Waitsfield) and the three towns in the Kingsbury Branch watershed (Woodbury, Calais, and East Montpelier). All communities and partner watershed groups (Friends of the Mad River and Friends of the Winooski River) are excited to prioritize stormwater issues so they can seek funding for project implementation.

Berlin and 3-Town (Barre Town, Barre City, and Plainfield) Stormwater Master Plans: Aiming to achieve administrative efficiencies, CVRPC hired one contractor, Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA), to complete both plans. CVRPC staff and WCA updated town officials from Berlin, Barre City and Plainfield on the progress. Desktop and in-field investigations identified 50-75 stormwater improvement sites for each municipality. WCA and CVRPC are working with the municipalities to prioritize the top 20 sites for inclusion in the master plans. WCA will develop 30%-plans (concept plans) for stormwater treatment at the top five sites. These designs will be integral in securing funding for project design and implementation.

Upper Winooski Resilience: Representatives from the High Meadows Fund met with project partners including CVRPC, Cabot, Marshfield, Plainfield, the Friends of the Winooski River, and Vermont Woodlands Association to clarify several items from the application. At the meeting's conclusion, High Meadows awarded this partnership effort \$40,000. The project will support building flood resilience through uplands forest management.

Forest Integrity: Effective January 1, 2018, municipal plans must map and address forests as described in 24 V.S.A. § 4382(a)(2). This requirement, passed in 2016, aims to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests. Municipalities can use this tool to enhance forest economy activities, such as timber or maple sap harvesting and processing and forest-based tourism. For assistance with this requirement, contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com.

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) won a grant from the USDA to support municipal decision-making for forest integrity. Work with partners, FPR will enhance existing forest planning resources and mapping tools; assist five high-priority municipalities to develop forest integrity strategies for inclusion in plans as a model for other towns; and host statewide trainings. CVRPC is a

project partner in this 3-year effort. We will help create the tools and work with five or more municipalities in 2019-2020 to test and adapt them. Municipalities interested in participating are invited to contact Eric Vorwald, Vorwald@cvregion.com. If your municipal plan is due for an update in late 2019 or in 2020, this is an opportunity for free staff assistance.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CDBG-18 Elevation: Staff met with landowners of one of the priority sites identified by the flood study – a flood chute causing repeated erosion and property damage - to explore funding options for project design and implementation. CVRPC sponsored a Request for Assistance under the Emergency Watershed Protection program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS will complete a Damage Survey Assessment site visit, which is used to verify program eligibility.

Brownfields: Contact Bonnie Waninger, Waninger@cvregion.com.

CVRPC's Brownfield Program has funded work at eight properties located in Woodbury, Barre City, and Montpelier. Two of the eight sites were accepted into the program this month:

Montpelier Granite Works: Global Values acquired the business in March 2017. The property transaction was put on hold pending the outcome of an environmental investigation. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) highlighted five recognized environmental conditions related to the site's 123-year history of use for granite manufacturing. Examples include potential residual asbestos waste, a large oil tank that may be more than 65-years-old, and a trench and settling pond that transport and hold washing process water. A limited Phase II ESA confirmed contamination. DEC requested additional work to characterize the nature and extent of the contamination. CVRPC will invest \$40,000 in Phase II assessment work to facilitate the property transfer and assist in retaining jobs.

Bonacorsi-Capital Candy: CVRPC will invest \$40,000 for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment to assist Capital Candy understand its environmental obligations prior to acquiring the Bonacorsi property in Barre City. Past investigations in Barre City showed multiple locations with soil contamination from historic dry cleaning operations. Assessments at individual properties assist owners and prospective developers to quantify the cost of remediation. In most cases, mitigation involves the installation of a sub-slab depressurization system in affected structures. These systems, also known as radon mitigation systems, use a series of piping connected to a fan to produce a vacuum effect that remove soil vapors from below the foundation of the residential or commercial structure. The vapors are vented above the roof line into the outside air where they are dispersed harmlessly. Capital Candy currently leases the property. The purchase would facilitate Capital Candy's business expansion and add jobs.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clare Rock Hired as Senior Planner: Clare Rock of Montpelier will join the Commission's staff as a Senior Planner on September 20. Her areas of focus will be brownfields and land use planning. Clare

currently serves as Town Planner in Richmond, VT. She previously served as the zoning administrator for Waterbury, a regional planner for CVRPC, and a housing development and community coordinator for the Central Vermont Community Land Trust (now Downstreet). Her “in-the-trenches” experience working for municipalities and on housing and brownfield issues will be a tremendous asset to the region. We are pleased to have her rejoin our team!

Upcoming Meetings:

SEPTEMBER

Sept 11	4 pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee #5, Central Vermont Medical Center, Conference Room #3, Berlin
Sept 12	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
Sept 12	6 pm	Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Forum, Best Western, Waterbury
Sept 14	6 pm	River Corridor Workshop, CVRPC Office
Sept 15		Municipal Day, Montpelier
Sept 15 – Sept 16	All day	Vermont Emergency Management EMP Conference, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee
Sept 18	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Sept 20	4 pm	National Flood Insurance Program Training, CVRPC Office
Sept 21	6 pm	Tactical Basin Plan Meeting, Municipal Office, Steele Community Room, Waterbury
Sept 22	10 am	Washington County Regional Partnership, Capstone, Barre
Sept 26	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Field Trip to East Montpelier
Sept 28	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Sept 28	5:30	Dam Safety Seminar, Municipal Office, Steele Community Room, Waterbury

OCTOBER

Oct 2	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Oct 2		Municipal Planning Grant applications due
Oct 7	8 am	Rail Car Incident Response Workshop, Berlin Airport
Oct 9		Columbus Day Holiday, CVRPC Office closed
Oct 10	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
Oct 16	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Oct 17	4:30 pm	CVEDC Annual Meeting, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier
Oct 26	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Oct 27	10 am	Washington County Regional Partnership, Capstone, Barre

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

September 6, 2017

Local Energy Planning – Round 2

The Legislature, through the Public Service Department, has provided a second round of funding for local energy planning. Each Regional Planning Commission will work one-on-one with at least four municipalities to ensure implementation of Act 174. If your municipality is interested in developing a local energy plan aimed at substantial deference in the Certification of Public Good process (a.k.a. Section 248), please contact Eric Vorwald (Vorwald@cvregion.com). A formal announcement will be sent in the upcoming month. We're anticipating a start date of October to November. Similar to the previous assistance, CVRPC asks that interested towns have support from the Planning Commission, Selectboard, and Energy Committee (if applicable). RPCs are developing a Best Practices and Resource Guide aimed at sharing information from "first round" towns.

House Committee Approves Brownfields Reauthorization Legislation

The US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program. The Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 1758) would authorize the program for six years, increase the authorized level for clean-up grants, create a new multipurpose grant program, make non-profit entities eligible for grants, and allow for up to 9% of the grant award to be used for administrative costs.

The administrative cost item is relevant to Vermont. Currently, grantees like VT's RPCs cannot recover overhead costs on brownfield program expenses as they do on other federal grants. This means another RPC funding source bears this cost. Given the program's impressive record for success, having it support its fair share of overhead costs makes sense.

CVRPC is working with eight properties in Woodbury, Barre City, and Montpelier through its EPA-funded Brownfields Program. Reuse and redevelopment scenarios include floodplain restoration, business expansion and retention (jobs), downtown parking, a municipal facility, and a playground.

New Animated Short Video on Economic Resilience

The NADO Research Foundation created a short, animated video to explain the basic concepts of economic resilience and its connection to regional economic development. The video was designed for a mix of audiences and to be shared across a variety of platforms, including at planning workshops, community events, and board/city council meetings, as well as on regional development organization websites and social media. This video lays out the basics of resilience and aims to spark a conversation about what resilience means to your residents, businesses, and other local stakeholders. View the video at <https://www.nado.org/resilience-video/>. This video was developed as part of NADO RF's [Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions program](#), supported through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**Committee & Appointed Representative Reports****September 2017**

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

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

- Approved 5-year strategic goals and FY18 activities for the Commission
- Reviewed progress for transitioning four organizations (Mad River Valley Planning District, Mad River Resource Management Alliance, Wrightsville Beach Recreation District, and Cross Vermont Trail) to other service providers. The Commission provides administrative and leased employee services to these groups.
- Approved contracting for accounting services. Nicole Sancibrian of Barre will transition the Commission's financial system fully into QuickBooks, complete bookkeeping and payroll activities, and assist CVRPC to prepare for its FY2017 audit.
- Approved the FY18 Work Plan and Budget and multiple contracts and grant agreements
- Adopted changes to CVRPC's Personnel Policies Manual based upon recommendations from CVRPC's employment attorney to ensure full compliance with employment laws and reduce potential risk exposure.
- Acted on behalf of the Brownfields Advisory Committee to accept a property into CVRPC's Brownfields Program and to invest \$80,000 into two properties to maintain and create jobs.
- Adopted an adjustment to the Commission's FY18 budget.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

The Project Review Committee (PRC) continued its discussion on Rules of Procedure and Rules of Process. The Rules of Procedure were last updated in 2010. They focus on how the Committee's organization and operation. The Rules of Process are a new document to address consistency in the evaluation of Act 250 and Section 248 projects. The PRC is also reviewing an update to Substantial Regional Impact criteria that it plans to complete this fall.

The PRC reorganized in July since new members were appointed by the Commission. The membership consists of Brian Fitzgerald, Chair (Duxbury); Janet Shatney, Vice-Chair (Barre City); Bob Wernecke (Berlin); Byron Atwood (Barre Town); Laura Hill-Eubanks (Northfield); Jerry D'Amico, Alternate (Roxbury). Jamie Stewart from Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation participates in Committee meetings.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

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

Will meet in September to consider a request for regional approval of the Cabot Town Plan.

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

Did not meet in August. July focused on the VT Agency of Transportation Long Range Transportation plan update. This Plan helps to set the direction and focus for the next 20 years of planning and ties together other state Transportation Mode Plans.

The TAC selected three projects for funding through CVRPC's transportation planning program. They include intersection studies at Town Hill Road and Gaillon Hill Road in East Montpelier and at Reservoir Road and Lords Road in Orange, and a ridership survey by Green Mountain Transit.

In September, the TAC will meet in East Montpelier for a field trip to see and discuss the Town's many active transportation projects. In October, the TAC will host the Vermont Transportation Board for a presentation on Project Prioritization.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Monday, 4pm)

Did not meet in July or August. CVRPC is currently working with eight (8) properties on site sampling or contaminate remediation planning. Reuse and redevelopment scenarios include floodplain restoration, business expansion or retention (jobs), downtown parking, municipal facility, and a school/community playground. The Committee will meet monthly from September through December. The Committee has a Commissioner seat vacant. Interest in smart growth, economic development, the environment, and community facilities helpful.

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (to be determined)

CVRPC is soliciting members for a Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC). Staff has advertised this committee during the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan outreach meetings. Given the clean water legislation and upcoming permits, this committee would help prioritize water quality projects within Central Vermont and guide CVRPC in its basin planning activities. We hope to have representation from each municipality. Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com.

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (As needed; scheduled by committee)

Did not meet.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Did not meet in August. July Annual Director's Retreat focused on RPC coordination and assistance for the Municipal Grants In Aid and Clean Water Block Grants, legislative outcomes, local and regional energy planning, and RPC management and operations. RPCs are assisting municipalities to access Vermont's Clean Water monies by acting as statewide grant administrator for VT DEC. Doing so allows DEC to speed up its contracting process and allows RPCs to deliver assistance directly to municipalities.

The Public Service Department has made determination of compliance for one regional energy plan (granted; PDS comment focused on public input rather than compliance with the requirements) and one municipal energy plan (denied; did not contain all required elements).

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No applications from Central Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

GMT is completing a Next Generation Transit Plan to enhance service through route adjustments, route reconfigurations, or elimination or addition of service. Recommendations for Chittenden County routes are complete. Washington County routes are being reviewed. GMT's contractor will present recommendations to CVRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) in November.

GMT's Board is determining whether it must withdraw from providing Medicaid transportation services. Medicaid payments from the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to transit providers are not sufficient to cover GMT's service in northwestern and central Vermont. DVHA sets a specific reimbursement rate for each transit provider. The rates range from \$28-45. GMT's rate is the lowest in Vermont, resulting in a +\$70,000 loss for the organization; this loss is unsustainable. GMT provides service through a contract with the Vermont Public Transit Association (VPTA) in cooperation with Vermont's other public transit providers. If GMT exercises its 60-day contract opt out clause, VPTA will be responsible for providing service to Central Vermont. VPTA could contact with another transit provider or obtain bids from private companies to provide the service.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

Congratulations to the MRVPD, which transitioned fully into its own organization as of August 1! In 1985, Warren, Waitsfield, and Fayston formed the MRVPD as a union municipal district. In keeping with CVRPC's mission to assist member municipalities in providing effective local government and to work cooperatively with them to address regional issues, CVRPC employed MRVPD staff and provided financial and administrative services to the District for 32 years. Last year, MRVPD leased a second full time employee from CVRPC, and it was ready to take its next step - becoming a fully independent organization. CVRPC assisted with transition and will continue as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the MRVPD Steering Committee.

At MRVPD's most recent meeting, Sugarbush update the Committee on its staffing needs, energy use, skier visits, and snow making operations. The update also included an overview of the resort's efforts to reduce its environmental impact, including composting, reusable dinnerware, and similar programs.



DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy
199 Main Street, 4th Floor
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Senator Leahy,

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) supports expanding the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) to include the entire state of Vermont.

Bringing the resources of this Federal-State partnership to bear on the entire state will assist Vermont to survive and thrive during the impending demographic shift. Vermont's development of a statewide CEDS, the Vermont 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, demonstrates its vision and innovation leadership. The statewide CEDS positions Vermont to take advantage of the NBRC's focus on alleviating economic distress to position Vermont for economic growth.

Expanding the NBRC to the entire state also would benefit Central Vermont. The July 2017 Vermont Workforce Investment Board Labor Force statistics notes that Central Vermont had the fourth highest unemployment rate in the state. The region's population is stagnant; its economic base is sluggish at best – an equal exchange between businesses expanding and businesses lost. The NBRC's concentration on catalyzing transformative community development approaches would further initiatives in Central Vermont, such as Barre's Merchants Row redevelopment and Cabot's Village Revitalization Strategy. These distressed areas would greatly benefit from modernizing infrastructure and maintaining and increasing sustainable jobs.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NBRC's expansion. I hope you will let me know if we can provide assistance to move the expansion forward.

Sincerely,

Juliana Potter, Chair



MEMORANDUM

TO: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

FROM: Eric Vorwald, AICP
Senior Planner

RE: Comments on Agency of Natural Resources Model Flood Hazard & River Corridor Bylaws

DATE: September 12, 2017

The Commission should review staff's comments regarding the draft model bylaw for flood hazards and river corridors and consider forwarding the comments to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources by the September 30, 2017 deadline.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has drafted a model bylaw for flood hazards and river corridors. A primary purpose of this model bylaw is to ensure municipalities, their citizens, and their businesses are eligible for federal flood insurance, federal disaster recovery funds, and hazard mitigation funds as may be available. The model bylaw proposes higher standards in some instances than is required by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The higher standard proposed by ANR adds more specificity where the NFIP is silent such as identifying development that must be regulated in federally mapped flood hazard areas. This added detail is intended to make communities more competitive for federal hazard mitigation funding. Specific differences include:

- Requirement that a residential building's lowest floor (or dry-proofing for non-residential buildings) be at least two feet above the base flood elevation
- Requirement for no net loss of flood storage volume within the flood fringe
- Encroachments in the floodway are permitted only with certification from a professional engineer that no increase in base flood elevation or velocity will occur
- No new critical facilities are permitted in the floodway or river corridor
- Requirement to adopt ANR mapped river corridors and prohibit new development in the open/undeveloped river corridor
- No storage or junkyards are permitted in the floodway
- Improvements to existing structures are required to be tracked cumulatively over a three year period

Additionally, this model bylaw makes the distinction between regulations for flood hazards which is a factor of inundation of flood waters, and river corridors which addresses erosion due to flood flows. This is done by separating flood hazard regulations and river corridor regulations into two separate parts of the model bylaw.

The following comments are offered for consideration on both parts as well as the other components such as definitions, abbreviations, and administration and include:

1. Section B identifies various abbreviations and definitions. In some cases the abbreviations have multiple meanings. For example, Section C continually uses the abbreviation AMP. Under the list of abbreviations in Section B, AMP stands for accepted management practice. However in Section C, AMP is used to abbreviate appropriate municipal panel.

Based on this example, it may be more effective to not use abbreviations and spell out some commonly used phrases. Another example, as noted in Section C, is the use of AO for administrative officer. This abbreviation is used frequently in this section, however AO is not listed as an abbreviation in Section B, and the full spelling does not appear in Section C until Part II, after the abbreviation has been used over ten times.

2. In several instances, the definitions included in Section B are duplicates of words that already exist in municipal regulations, but are being defined in a slightly different way for the purposes of the model bylaw. It may be appropriate to:
 - Suggest a preferred definition so the same word does not have multiple definitions throughout municipal bylaws
 - Include a note that the definitions in this model bylaw are exclusively to be used related to the flood hazard and river corridor regulations
 - Provide an alternative approach to limit potential confusion in municipalities that have duly adopted municipal bylaws.
3. The term “flash flood” is used in the definition of the term flood, however there is no definition for flash flood. If the term flood is being defined, it may also be appropriate to define the term flash flood for clarity.
4. Section C, Part II discusses the establishment of an administrative officer and an appropriate municipal panel to enforce and oversee the activities regulated by this bylaw. If a municipality does not have zoning (and therefore does not currently have these agents), how will this be addressed? It may be appropriate to provide guidance to municipalities regarding their options for identifying an administrative officer and an appropriate municipal panel to regulate the proposed bylaws.
5. Section C, Part II references the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. If a municipality does not issue certificates of occupancy because they do not have zoning bylaws does ANR (or their designee) have a mechanism in place to perform these duties on behalf of the municipality or will the municipality be required to establish this process in order to meet the intent of the draft bylaw?

6. Similar to comment five, Section D notes development review and issuing of permits. If a municipality does not currently issue permits is ANR providing a mechanism for this to occur without the municipality establishing the regulatory component locally to issue permits?
7. Is there (or will there be) guidance from ANR to identify what parts or sections will be required for municipalities to adopt or how much leeway a municipality will have to amend the model and still be able to meet the intent of the model bylaw and thus the requirements of the Emergency Relief Assistance Funding?
8. Do the regulations need to apply on a municipal-wide scale or can specific waterbodies be targeted for application of these regulations?

Vermont Model Flood Hazard Bylaws - Higher Standards Cross-walk

Federal (NFIP) Minimum Requirement	Model Bylaw Higher Standard	Rationale
A residential buildings lowest floor must be elevated equal to or above the base flood elevation (44 CFR, 60.3(c)(3))	A buildings lowest floor must be elevated at least 2 feet above the base flood elevation (model bylaw sectionXXX)	Elevation to the BFE does not provide adequate protection due to outdated federal flood studies that do not account for increased watershed development or future conditions hydrology, and larger flood events. Additional elevation (a.k.a. <i>freeboard</i>) is relatively inexpensive to build into development, and typically pays for itself in reduced flood insurance premiums and prevented flood damage within the first 10 years of a structure's lifetime.
A in lieu of elevation a non-residential building may be dry floodproofed to the base flood elevation (44 CFR, 60.3(c)(4))	A in lieu of elevation, a non-residential building may be dry floodproofed to at least 2 feet above the base flood elevation (model bylaw sectionXXX)	Dry floodproofing to the BFE does not provide adequate protection due to outdated federal flood studies that do not account for increased watershed development or future conditions hydrology, and larger flood events.
Absence of a standard regarding flood storage capacity: Filling and construction may occur in the flood fringe (outside the floodway) without considering loss of flood storage volume	Above grade development is required to meet the compensatory storage requirement to ensure no net loss of flood storage volume (model bylaw sectionXXX)	A major shortcoming of the NFIP is that the standards are focused on reducing flood inundation risk to new development, but do not consider the cumulative degradation of floodplain resources and increased flood hazards that result over time due to continued encroachment and filling of floodplains.
Encroachments in the floodway are prohibited unless an engineer can certify that there will be no increase in base flood elevation (44 CFR, 60.3(d)(3))	Encroachments in the floodway are prohibited unless an engineer can certify that there will be no increase in base flood elevation or velocity (model bylaw sectionXXX).	Vermont's mountainous terrain means we have higher gradient streams and thus, higher velocity floods. Along many reaches of river, encroachment in the floodway will not increase the water surface elevation, but instead will increase the velocity of the floodwaters. It is important to consider velocity as well to ensure that there is no adverse impact to adjacent and downstream properties and infrastructure.
Absence of a standard regarding critical facilities.	New Critical facilities are prohibited in the XXX (model bylaw sectionXXX).	Facilities which provide critical services (e.g. police, fire,hospital), or services that are depended on during and after disasters (public utilities and infrastructure) should be protected to an even higher standard than other development. Failure to provide flood protection to critical facilities creates severe and unacceptable public safety risk;
Absence of a method and standard to manage for flood-related riverine	Adoption of the ANR mapped River Corridors and prohibition of new development in	NFIP flood hazard area maps only depict flood inundation risk and do not characterize areas at risk from flood-related

erosion.	open/undeveloped river corridors. Exceptions allow infill and redevelopment in areas that are already densely developed (model bylaw Section D).	<u>erosion</u> . 44 CFR, 60.5 and 24 V.S.A. § 4424 provide a mechanism for communities to regulate for erosion hazards but is not mandatory. Adoption/regulation of river corridor standards helps communities maximize state flood recovery funding under ERAF .
Absence of a standard regarding storage and junk yards in the floodway	Prohibition of storage and junkyards in the floodway. (model bylaw sectionXXX)	With engineering certification of no increase in base flood elevation, the minimum standard does not prohibit the storage of materials and junkyards in the floodway, where floodwaters are typically fast and deep, thus increasing the risk that these materials get mobilized during a flood.
Substantial Improvements to existing buildings must be brought into compliance with the floodplain management regulations (44 CFR, 60.3(c)(3) and (4))	Requires improvements to be tracked cumulatively over a 3 year period to ensure to ensure that flood regulations are triggered given enough reinvestment in the building. (model bylaw sectionXXX)	The minimum standard has inherent loophole that undermines the intent. The intent is to ensure that structures are mitigated once a certain level of additional investment goes into improving the building (50% or more of the buildings market value). Without a specified timeframe, owners avoid triggering the regulations by doing multiple projects, each under the 50% threshold.

The above constitute the significant higher standards in the model bylaws. In many cases, the model adds specificity, not higher standards per se, since the NFIP minimum standards are silent with respect to many aspects of development that communities must regulate in federally mapped flood hazard areas. The full text of the federal minimums a community must adopt to be compliant with the NFIP are found in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60.3: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=768f4e857e402da788e29adf6bae24f6&mc=true&node=se44.1.60_13&rgn=div8

Communities may adopt the federal minimum standards of the NFIP and achieve access to federal flood insurance and be eligible FEMA hazard mitigation grants. However, adoption of federal minimums is discouraged since these standards will result in increased flood hazard risk over time. In addition, adoption of federal minimums makes communities less competitive for federal hazard mitigation funding.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 6, 2017

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Eric Vorwald, Senior Planner, AICP

RE: Project Review Committee Rules of Procedure & Rules of Process

The Commission should review the draft Rules of Procedure and draft Rules of Process for the Project Review Committee and consider a motion for adoption.

The Project Review Committee (PRC) has been working for the past several meetings to update their Rules of Procedure to establish consistency with other committees of the Commission and to make specific changes for clarity. The draft Rules of Procedure outlines the purpose, role, general procedures, membership, quorum requirements, and conflicts of interest for the PRC. The current procedures were last updated in June of 2010 and do not include specific detail on election of a chair and vice chair; conflicts of interest, or other standard procedural information. Draft Rules of Procedure were proposed in 2015, however that draft was never adopted by the Commission.

In addition to the Rules of Procedure, the PRC has been developing Rules of Process to help establish a more formalized process that will give guidance to staff and to the public on how the PRC will get involved in the review of projects. This is a new document and outlines information such as review by staff, review by the PRC, and review by the full Commission. The purpose of the Rules of Process are to outline a more formalized set of standards to be followed when applications for Act 250 or Section 248 permits are received.

At their regular meeting on August 24, 2017, the PRC unanimously voted to forward the two drafts to the Executive Committee for consideration and, if appropriate, to forward the drafts to the full Commission for ratification. The Executive Committee reviewed the draft documents at their regular meeting on September 5, 2017 and recommended approval of the Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Process.

**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE***RULES OF PROCEDURE*

September 12, 2017

PURPOSE: The Project Review Committee (PRC) serves in an advisory capacity to the CVRPC Board of Commissioners for projects that are seeking a permit through Act 250 (10 V.S.A. Chapter 151) as a state designated statutory party; or projects seeking a Certificate of Public Good through Section 248 (30 V.S.A. Chapter 5) of Vermont Statute. The primary purpose of the PRC is to provide guidance to the Commissioners and staff on how and when the Regional Planning Commission participates in proceedings related to a specific project. This is a standing committee of the Regional Planning Commission and maintains an active role in review, oversight, and guidance on projects that meet the Region's threshold for Significant Regional Impact.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Evaluate projects in relation to the criteria for Substantial Regional Impact and provide a determination.
- ◆ Provide input and recommendations on behalf of the Board of Commissioners regarding projects that are identified as having Significant Regional Impact.
- ◆ Solicit input from staff, applicants, or other parties as needed to gather information and render a decision.
- ◆ Evaluate potential cumulative impacts for specific projects that are phased, projects within a specific geographic area, or other factors that may result in cumulative impacts within a five year time period.
- ◆ Make a determination regarding conformance between a proposed project and the Regional Plan.
- ◆ Provide guidance to staff regarding amendments or changes to the criteria used to define Substantial Regional Impact as may be necessary to address changing conditions or development trends over time.

ADVISORY ROLE: The PRC shall be advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The PRC will offer advice, input, and opinions to applicants, the District 5 Environmental Commission, the Vermont Public Utility Commission, and other organizations and individuals as appropriate, consistent with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The advice, input, and opinions provided by the PRC may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by

the CVRPC Board of Commissioners at the Board's discretion.

MEMBERSHIP: The PRC shall consist of five (5) representatives of the Board of Commissioners and one (1) alternate who serve three year staggered terms. The alternate may participate in committee discussions but will only vote in the absence of a standing member.

OFFICERS/ELECTIONS: The PRC will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the first meeting following the annual appointment by the Board of Commissioners. The Chair will be responsible for running meetings, setting agendas in conjunction with staff, and representing the PRC at various meetings as needed. The Vice-Chair will provide support to the Chair as needed. If the Chair or Vice-Chair should resign before his/her term is expired, an interim election shall be held within two meetings.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUMS: Members are encouraged to attend all regular meetings and special meetings as they arise. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION:

- ◆ Meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.
- ◆ Draft policies and resolutions shall be forwarded to PRC members and interested/affected parties for comment before action by the PRC, or final action/approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- ◆ Minutes of all regular and special meetings will be prepared by staff, distributed to PRC members and interested parties, and made available to the public in accordance with open meeting and public records law described in 1 VSA.
- ◆ The PRC will report on committee discussions or activities to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis.
- ◆ PRC members are encouraged to offer input on all matters before the PRC, and are encouraged to bring up items of local or regional concern for PRC consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the event any PRC member has a personal or financial interest with any individual, partnership, firm or corporation seeking to contract with the CVRPC, or to provide materials or labor thereto, or has a personal or financial interest in any project being considered by the PRC, the member shall state on the record the nature of his or her interest. If the member is uncertain whether he/she should participate in the discussion or decision, the PRC shall determine by vote whether the member should participate. The PRC may also make a determination of conflict if the majority of voting PRC members in attendance at the meeting determine a conflict of interest exists. A member of the PRC with an identified conflict of interest shall not deliberate or vote with the PRC but may participate in the open public discussion.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES: The PRC may, at any time, vote to amend these procedures, in accordance with quorum requirements noted above. Proposed amendments will be forwarded to PRC members before consideration at a regular PRC meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

The PRC is a standing committee of the Regional Planning Commission, and is therefore subject to the Commission's bylaws. As such, these Rules of Procedure, combined with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the PRC.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners: _____ / _____ / 2017

Julie Potter, Chair
CVRPC Board of Commissioners

**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE***RULES OF PROCESS*

September 12, 2017

PURPOSE: To provide a uniform and consistent process by which the Project Review Committee (PRC) will review, evaluate, and comment on projects that meet the thresholds for Significant Regional Impact. The PRC serves in an advisory capacity to the CVRPC Board of Commissioners for projects that are seeking a permit through Act 250 (10 V.S.A. Chapter 151) as a state designated statutory party; or projects seeking a Certificate of Public Good through Section 248 (30 V.S.A. Chapter 5) of Vermont Statute. This process will ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of projects that are submitted for review.

INVOLVEMENT BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: The PRC will make a determination on behalf of the full Commission regarding conformance or non-conformance with the Regional Plan when a Substantial Regional Impact has been identified, cumulative impacts will result in a Substantial Regional Impact, or may set a precedent within the Region. The conclusions reached will so state that they are made on available information. The PRC may also reserve its statutory right to participate in the Act 250/Section 248 hearing process if it must appear to ensure proposed projects are in conformance with the Regional Plan, regardless of whether the proposal has Substantial Regional Impact.

The PRC will become involved in the review of a project on behalf of a member municipality according to the following:

1. Staff will provide limited technical assistance at the request of either the legislative body or the planning commission. Limited technical assistance will consist of providing factual information allowing the requesting body to develop its own independent determinations regarding its participation and position. Limited technical assistance will not consist of involvement in hearings on behalf of a municipality or statements of support of municipal participation or positions.
2. PRC involvement on behalf of a member municipality beyond the scope of limited technical assistance as defined above must be at the request of the municipality's legislative body, in writing. This involvement will be provided only if the local position is compatible with the adopted Regional Plan.

REVIEW PROCESS: Staff will review all applications that are submitted. Through this review, staff will evaluate the nature of the project and make an initial determination of Substantial Regional Impact based on the established criteria, application type¹, and project description. This determination will guide staff in establishing which of the following processes will be used.

1. Action by Staff

If a clear determination can be made that no Substantial Regional Impact will occur, staff will provide a letter to the appropriate oversight body (the District 5 Environmental Commission or the Vermont Public Utility Commission) including all interested parties, that the project does not meet the criteria for Substantial Regional Impact as identified in the Regional Plan. A clear determination would include applications that are classified as jurisdictional opinions or administrative amendments which typically propose time extensions, lot line adjustments, change of use for an existing structure, or similar activities.

2. Action by the Project Review Committee

If, after review, staff determines that a project may meet any or all of the criteria for Substantial Regional Impact, a summary of the proposal including the criterion on which staff feels the project may meet Substantial Regional Impact and any pertinent information related to the application will be forwarded to the PRC in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting. At the meeting, the PRC will discuss the project and make a determination regarding Substantial Regional Impact. The applicant and Commissioner from the host municipality (if not a Committee member) will be invited to attend and provide information related to the project or answer questions. If the PRC determines that Substantial Regional Impact has been met, they will identify whether the project is in conformance or not in conformance with the Regional Plan. Staff will prepare a letter to the District 5 Environmental Commission or the Public Utility Commission outlining the position of the PRC including any follow-up that may be requested.

3. Action by the Board of Commissioners

If, after review and discussion by the PRC, the scope and potential impacts are such that the PRC cannot reach a decision, the PRC will request that the project be reviewed by the full Commission in order to provide a position including the project's conformity with the Regional Plan. If the Board of Commissioners are unable to provide a determination of a project's conformity with the Regional Plan, the Board of Commissioners can choose to:

¹ Applications are generally classified as jurisdictional opinion, administrative amendment, minor application, or major application.

- a. Refer the project back to the PRC and request the PRC to continue the discussion in an effort to provide a determination
- b. Transmit correspondence to the District 5 Environmental Commission or the Public Utility Commission outlining the Board's discussion and indicating that no decision could be reached. In this case, specific reasons shall be included to fully inform and detail the reasons or issues that led to this result.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: Appeals of a decision by the District 5 Environmental Commission or the Public Utility Commission on a project shall be approved by the Executive Committee or the full Commission.

If, in its review, the PRC determines that a conflict exists between the provisions of municipal plans and the Regional Plan, the Commission will work with municipal officials to alleviate or minimize the conflict.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS: The PRC may, at any time, vote to amend these rules of process, in accordance with quorum requirements noted in the Project Review Committee Rules of Procedure. Proposed amendments will be forwarded to PRC members before consideration at a regular PRC meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners: _____ / _____ / 2017

Julie Potter, Chair

CVRPC Board of Commissioners



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 6, 2017

TO: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

FROM: Eric Vorwald, Senior Planner, AICP

RE: Regional Energy Plan Conflict Resolution Information

The Board of Commissioners should review the draft conflict resolution information as part of the Regional Energy Plan and discuss any changes that should be made to prepare the document for public comment.

As part of the discussions with the Regional Energy Committee (REC), it was determined that the Regional Energy Plan should have information on how to resolve potential conflicts between the Regional Energy Plan and municipal energy plans. To this end, staff has drafted language for consideration by the Regional Planning Commission to be included as part of the overall draft Regional Energy Plan.

The conflict resolution information, along with the analysis and targets; pathways and implementation actions; and mapping will constitute the complete draft Regional Energy Plan. The complete draft Regional Energy Plan will be presented for public comment and input prior to consideration of adoption by the Regional Planning Commission. For reference, it is anticipated that a draft Regional Energy Plan will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission later this year for possible adoption.

Staff met with the representatives of the Regional Planning Commission that were appointed to the Regional Energy Committee to discuss the draft conflict resolution language. Changes have been incorporated into the draft conflict resolution information to provide clarity and consistency with established policies of the Commission. The Commission should suggest any additional changes to the draft as may be appropriate.

**CENTRAL VERMONT
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN

DRAFT v.3

June 19, 2017



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
29 Main Street, Suite #4
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
802.229.0389
www.centralvtplanning.org

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this plan would not have been possible without the assistance of the dedicated individuals that volunteered their time to participate on the Regional Energy Committee. This committee was established by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners to provide recommendations regarding energy planning and lead to action by the full Commission. The committee represented a diverse cross section of the region and interests to provide multiple perspectives that were critical to the development of this plan. The members that served on this committee include:

Steve Fitzhugh, Chair, Town of Northfield Planning Commission
Bram Towbin, Vice-Chair, Town of Plainfield Selectboard
Alex Bravakis, Novus Energy Development
Jackie Cassino, Vermont Agency of Transportation
Barbara Conrey, Montpelier Energy Committee
Robert Dostis, Green Mountain Power
Brian Fitzgerald, CVRPC (Town of Duxbury)
Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities & Towns
Ron Krauth, CVRPC (Town of Middlesex)
Don La Haye, CVRPC (Town of Waitsfield)
Karin McNeill, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Julie Potter, CVRPC (Town of East Montpelier)
Patty Richards, Washington Electric Cooperative
Janet Shatney, CVRPC (Barre City)
Mark Sousa, Green Mountain Transit
Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
Paul Zabriskie, Capstone Community Action

How This Plan Will Be Used

The Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan will establish the policies that will help the Regional Planning Commission achieve its share of the state's goal of 90% of the state's energy coming from renewable sources by 2050, as outlined in the 2016 State Comprehensive Energy Plan. In order for this document to have standing, it will need to receive a Determination of Energy Compliance (DOEC) from the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC). This determination will give the Central Vermont Regional Plan "substantial deference" before the PUC during their review of applications for Certificates of Public Good related to renewable energy generation facilities.

Once a DOEC has been issued, the Central Vermont Regional Plan will be used to establish a position in proceedings before the PUC if warranted. Additionally, where applicable, the plan will be used during Act 250 proceedings before the District 5 Environmental Commission. Finally, once a DOEC has been issued to the region, municipal plans will be reviewed against the Regional Energy Plan and against the standards of Act 174 for municipal planning. If all the requirements for municipal planning are successfully met, the Region will issue a DOEC for the municipal plan. This determination will provide the municipal plan with "substantial deference" before the PUC as applicable.

Additional Energy Generation Technology

The general premise of the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan is based on the idea that generation of energy will be achieved using more renewable sources and less fossil fuel based resources. To this end, the focus for generation of energy is primarily based on existing technologies such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric. Additionally, the plan notes woody biomass and biogas as renewable forms of energy generation when developed in a sustainable manner. This direction is taken from the State's Comprehensive Energy Plan which focuses on electrification of the grid in order to meet their goals of 90% of the state's energy use coming from renewable sources by 2050.

The sources of renewable energy generation that are identified in this plan include current technologies that are known and supported in Vermont. Advances in the development of renewable energy technologies may result in generation measures or techniques that are not currently considered in this plan but may be more efficient or effective. As such, this plan will consider renewable generation technologies that do not have an adverse impact on the region, its municipalities, or the policies that guide the Regional Planning Commission and not be limited exclusively to the generation techniques and technologies noted herein.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan represents the efforts of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, through its Regional Energy Committee to develop a plan that will receive a Determination of Energy Compliance (DOEC) through the Vermont Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A DOEC will give the Central Vermont Regional Plan "substantial deference" before the PUC for applications that seek to receive a Certificate of Public Good.

The 2016 State Comprehensive Energy Plan identified a goal to have 90% of the state's energy needs derived from renewable sources by 2050. As part of this goal, the Vermont State Legislature passed Act 174 in 2016. Act 174 provides an avenue for regions and municipalities to have increased input in PUC determinations for Certificates of Public Good regarding renewable energy generation facilities. As such, Act 174 identified standards that need to be met in support of the state's goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050 in order to have a plan receive a DOEC and have "substantial deference". Otherwise, a plan will receive "due consideration" in the Section 248 review process. Act 174 is categorized as enhanced energy planning and goes beyond what is outlined in 24 VSA 117 Section §4348a and §4382 respectively.

Through Act 174, three primary planning areas are identified and need to be met satisfactorily in order for successful compliance. These sections include Analysis & Targets; Pathways & Implementation Actions; and Mapping. All three sections include an evaluation of energy sectors that include thermal (heating), electrical, and transportation.

Section I: Analysis & Targets

This section provides a baseline of information for where a region or municipality currently stand in terms of energy and identifies the trajectories and pace of change needed to meet targeted reductions and conservation of energy. It includes information on current electricity use for residential and non-residential uses; existing

and potential renewable resource generation; and current transportation energy use information. Additionally, targets are established to provide milestones for thermal efficiency, renewable energy use, and conversion of thermal and transportation energy from fossil fuel based to renewable resources. These milestones are intended to help the region measure progress towards the overall goals and not identified as requirements. Targets are established for the years 2025, 2035, and 2050 which coincide with the State Comprehensive Energy Plan.

Specific information in this section notes the region currently uses approximately 500,000 megawatt hours of electricity on an annual basis across the identified sectors. By comparison, the regional share of new renewable energy generation needed to meet the state's goal is approximately 420,000 megawatt hours. Based on the mapping and resource data (Section III), the region has resources available to generate approximately 90,000,000 megawatt hours of energy.

Other analysis and targets include an overall switch or replacement of approximately 75,000 vehicles from fossil fuel powered to alternative fuel powered by 2050 and conversion or new installation of high efficiency heat pumps or similar systems for approximately 14,500 structures (residential and commercial) by 2050. For reference, there are currently approximately 45,500 vehicles and 30,000 structures in the region. The specific targets for transportation and heating renewable use for Central Vermont by 2050 are 90.2% and 92.5% respectively.

Section II: Pathways & Implementation Actions

Section II provides the basis for how the region will meet their target year goals as noted in Section I. The implementation actions are categorized by:

1. Conservation & efficient use of energy
2. Reducing transportation demand and single occupancy vehicles trips, and encouraging the use of renewable sources for transportation
3. Patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy
4. The siting of renewable energy generation

The implementation actions that are identified in this section focus primarily in areas where the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is already working to support its member municipalities through local land use, transportation, and environmental planning activities.

To this end, the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan was first reviewed and implementation actions that pertained to any of the above mentioned sections were noted. These implementation items were carried forward for inclusion in the Regional Energy Plan to establish consistency with the two documents. To ensure all the categories for implementation as noted above were adequately address, guidance from the Department of Public Service related to implementation was utilized.

The implementation actions identify who will be responsible for completing each action, the timeframe for when it should be completed, any costs that might be needed to complete the action, and an anticipated outcome that will help provide a measure of success. This section will serve as the basis for how energy planning will be incorporated into regional activities. The implementation actions that were included are

based on the CVRPC's ability to lead the action. This will create consistency with regard to implementation and put the responsibility for action on the CVRPC. Other partners are listed when appropriate to indicate which groups will be engaged support the successful completion of the identified actions.

Section III: Mapping

The mapping section allows the region to visually identify where renewable energy generation is most suitable. This section combines resource information with specific known and possible constraints to the development of renewable energy generation. The mapping section also allows the opportunity to identify preferred locations for renewable energy development and areas that are unsuitable for development of any kind. In addition, the maps identify existing infrastructure to support renewable energy development.

In general, the mapping information looks at state-level data and breaks it down to a regional perspective. From there, an analysis was done (as noted in Section I) regarding the potential renewable energy generation that might be possible based on resource areas and constraints. This information is useful to visualize what geographies throughout Central Vermont are most ideally suited or best to avoid regarding renewable energy siting.

This section also contains specific policy information regarding the development and siting of renewable energy resources that are reflected on the maps. It was determined that no specific locations would be identified at a regional level as being preferred or prohibited areas for the development of renewable energy generation. This was done to allow the municipalities to decide if it was appropriate to identify these areas locally, rather than have this information dictated by the region. The Regional Planning Commission did, however, identify additional possible constraints to be considered. These include elevations above 2,500 feet, slopes greater than 25%, municipally owned lands, and lakeshore protection buffer areas of 250 feet. The decision was made to include these resources as possible constraints to allow for further analysis by the region or the municipalities to determine if development of renewable energy generation facilities may be appropriate based on specific conditions.

Appendices

There are three appendices included with this plan. Appendix A provides definitions for the known, possible, and regional constraints that are included on the maps and discussed in Section III. These definitions include source information and in several instances provide insight as to why the particular resource is listed as a known, possible, or regional constraint. Appendix B includes the specific regional resource and constraint maps. Included in the resource mapping is data specific to wind, solar, hydrological, and woody biomass. All of these maps also include information regarding three-phase power and transmission lines; roads; and other relevant data used to assist with siting of renewable energy development. Finally, Appendix C includes information related to Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning (LEAP) modeling. The LEAP model is what established the baseline information for the entire state regarding current energy use and necessary reductions in energy use in order to achieve the state's goals of 90% renewable energy use by 2050. This information serves as the primary data source for the information in Section I. The methodology for how the modeling was conducted is also included in Appendix C.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The following information is being provided to help guide the process and ensure conflicts that may arise through regional or local energy planning are identified and addressed as early in the process as possible. Municipalities are encouraged to work with the Regional Planning Commission and their neighbors when developing an energy plan to identify any potential conflicts. Early discussions during the planning process may help alleviate the need to engage in the conflict resolution process as noted below.

Three conflict types are identified. These include:

1. Conflicts between a municipal energy plan and the regional energy plan
2. Conflicts between two municipal energy plans
3. Conflicts between the regional energy plan and the Central Vermont Regional Plan.

Conflicts between a municipal energy plan and the regional energy plan

The regional energy plan has been purposefully written to limit the region from dictating how the municipalities need to address renewable energy development and the standards of Act 174. The regional plan focuses on impacts at the regional scale and provides general guidance to municipalities regarding siting, renewable energy generation technology, and specific implementation actions. This was done to allow municipal energy plans to include specific detail related to these aspects while limiting conflicts with the regional energy plan.

If a municipal energy plan is in conflict with the regional energy plan regarding siting, the type of renewable energy generation, or implementation actions that will only impact the host municipality, the municipal energy plan will take precedent. If, however, the municipality proposes an action that will adversely impact a regionally significant resource (such as critical habitat) that is specifically identified in the Central Vermont Regional Plan, then the regional energy plan would take precedent and provide guidance to the Public Utility Commission or the District 5 Environmental Commission. Consistency with the Central Vermont Regional Plan and regional energy plan is necessary for municipalities requesting regional approval of their municipal development plan or municipal energy plan.

Conflicts between municipal energy plans

Requirements for a municipal development plan are outlined in statute. Specifically, 24 VSA 117 §4382(a)(8) requires, “A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans for adjacent municipalities, areas and the region developed under this title.” To this end, municipalities are required to consider the development trends and plans in adjacent municipalities during the drafting of their municipal development plans. As such, the following process will be considered to assist in the resolution of potential conflicts between municipalities during the development of municipal energy plans.

This process only applies to the development of municipal energy plans. Notifications for specific projects seeking a Certificate of Public Good from the Public Utility Commission will follow the process outlined in 30 VSA 5 §248 for notification of municipal planning commissions, regional planning commissions, and interested parties.

1. If the policy or action being proposed by the host municipality will adversely impact a resource within the adjacent municipality (or municipalities) that have been identified in a municipal development plan, the host municipality must provide justification in writing as to why the policy or action is necessary. This notice must be sent to all effected adjacent municipalities and the Regional Planning Commission. If the adjacent municipality is outside of the Central Vermont RPC's jurisdiction, the adjacent municipality's RPC will also be notified.
2. If the adjacent municipality or regional planning commission objects to the justification as presented, a written response will be provided to the host municipality citing any studies or empirical data to support their objection. If the host municipality is not persuaded by any objections to change its position, the statement addressing 24 VSA 117 §4382(a)(8) will include information noting the inconsistency with the adjacent municipality. This notation may impact a municipality's ability to receive regional approval of a municipal plan.

An effected municipality may request assistance in mediating the conflict from the Regional Planning Commission. The Regional Planning Commission will consider the impacts on available resources when evaluating these requests.

Conflicts between the regional energy plan and the regional development plan

The Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan is intended to be a complimentary document and to inform land use decisions of the region related to energy. While efforts have been taken to ensure consistency with the regional energy plan and the rest of the Central Vermont Regional Plan, conflicts may exist. In the instance a conflict exists between policies or actions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan, the more restrictive interpretation will be used to evaluate a proposal of regional significance. Additionally, the inconsistency will be noted and discussed by the Regional Plan Committee who will provide a recommendation to the full Commission on how to rectify the inconsistency.

PUBLIC PROCESS

The Regional Energy Committee held public meetings each month from December through May to develop a draft regional energy plan that could be reviewed against the specific standards outlined in Act 174. This draft was presented to the Regional Commission for consideration at their regular meeting on June 13, 2017. At that meeting, the three primary sections of the plan were presented for consideration. Several minor comments were discussed and changes were made as appropriate. This draft of the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan includes those changes. The CVRPC will continue to provide public outreach and solicit public comments on the draft plan in order to identify any issues or concerns prior to incorporation into the Central Vermont Regional Plan and final Determination of Energy Compliance by the Vermont Public Utility Commission.

 **INFORMATIONAL ONLY** 

Governor's Outdoor Recreation Economic Steering Committee announces public forums

Thu, 08/24/2017 - 3:55pm -- tim

Vermont Business Magazine The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) steering committee will host a series of public forums to gather input from Vermonters on how to leverage and strengthen the State's outdoor recreation assets to grow the economy. The first is September 12 and they run through October 24.

The dates and locations of the public forums are:

- Tuesday, September 12: Best Western Plus, 45 Blush Hill Rd, Waterbury, 6-8 pm.
- Monday, September 25: Island Pond Town Hall, 49 Mill St, Island Pond, 6-8 pm.
- Tuesday, October 3: Community College of Vermont, 60 West St, Rutland, 6-8 pm.
- Tuesday, October 10: St. Albans City Hall, 100 North Main Street, St. Albans, 6-8 pm.
- Monday, October 16: The Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd, East Dummerston, 6-8 pm.
- Monday, October 23: Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge St White River Junction, 6-8 pm.
- Tuesday, October 24: West Mountain Inn, 144 W. Mountain Inn Rd, Arlington, 6-8 pm.

The public forums will be open house style, and will solicit feedback and ideas on how Vermont might achieve the following principal objectives identified by the private-public steering committee:

1. Promote business opportunities.
2. Increase participation opportunities.
3. Strengthen the quality and extent of our recreational resources.
4. Strengthen the stewardship of our recreational resources.

"We hope that local businesses, public officials, organizations and the public will provide their ideas about specific actions related to our four main objectives," said Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation and VOREC chair. "VOREC can

only be successful through inclusion and collaboration with all stakeholders, so we want to hear from all Vermonters.”

In June, Governor Phil Scott signed an [Executive Order \(link is external\)](#)tasking the 15-member steering committee to provide recommendations on how to promote prudent stewardship and economic growth. Input from public forums will be incorporated into the recommendations.

"There is genuine consensus among the VOREC committee that a stronger outdoor recreation economy in Vermont has the ability to benefit other economic sectors across the state as well," said Drew Simmons, VOREC member and owner of Pale Morning Media in Waitsfield.

For people who cannot attend an in-person meeting, or prefer to submit their ideas electronically, an online survey will go live on **September 12th** on the VOREC webpage: www.fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC (link is external). For more information about this initiative, please visit www.fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC (link is external).

Source: Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation 8.24.2017