



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### Annual Meeting

May 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Steak House Restaurant, 1239 US Route 302, Barre, VT 05641

Change of  
location!

6:00 pm - CVRPC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Social. *Commissioners and Alternates, we hope you will join us for hors d'oeuvres!*

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Adjustments to the Agenda</b>
		<b>Public Comments</b>
	<b>7:05</b>	<b>Elections, Michael Gray, Treasurer</b>
		Report on results of elections for Executive Committee.
2	<b>7:10</b>	<b>Winooski Tactical Basin Plan</b> , Karen Bates, VT DEC, and Pam DeAndrea (enclosed) <sup>2</sup>
		Presentation & discussion of the draft plan. CVRPC priorities will be set at a future meeting.
	<b>7:55</b>	<b>CVRPC Committees, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice Chair</b> (enclosed)
8		a) Appointments - Solicit committee members in advance of appointments
11		b) Regional Plan Committee - Act on recommendation from the Executive Committee <sup>2</sup>
13	<b>8:05</b>	<b>Regional Energy Plan &amp; 2016 Regional Plan Update</b> (enclosed) <sup>2</sup>
		Act on Regional Plan Committee recommendation.
19	<b>8:55</b>	<b>Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2018</b> (enclosed) <sup>2</sup>
24	<b>8:50</b>	<b>Reports</b> (enclosed)
		Updates and questions on Staff, Executive Director, and Committee Reports
	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

<sup>1</sup> Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

<sup>2</sup> Anticipated action item.



## MEMO

Date: April 27, 2018

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Pam DeAndrea, Senior Planner

Re: Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan

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**No action is required for this agenda item.** Action will be requested this fall.

CVRPC has received the *Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan* for review. Staff has begun an initial review. Staff comments will be presented to the Clean Water Advisory Committee and Regional Planning Committee for modification before a final recommendation is provided to the Commission. The Board of Commissioners will determine and submit final comments and a determination of compliance with the Regional Plan to VT DEC. The compliance determination will be completed this fall.

Staff requests that Commissioners review the *Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan* prior to the Commission meeting. Reviewing the following maps and tables in conjunction with the Executive Summary provided in the meeting packet provides a good overview of the Plan:

Page 6	Winooski River & Sub-Basins Land Use/Land Cover map
Pages 16-19	Major Water Quality Issues of the Winooski Watershed map series
Page 68	Estimated total TMDL reductions from all land uses in the Winooski Basin at the catchment scale map
Page 72	Figure 15, Estimated forest TP loading for the Winooski River at the catchment scale map
Page 77	Figure 16, Estimated agricultural TP export by catchment map
Page 92	Figure 18, Estimated TP export from developed land uses excluding roads (paved and unpaved) map
Page 94	Figure 19, Estimated SWAT loading from all paved and unpaved roads in the Winooski River Basin at the catchment scale
Page 95	Table 23, Catchments with the highest estimated TP export from paved roads

Page 96	Table 24, Catchments with the highest estimated TP export from unpaved roads
Pages 107-108	Table 29, Estimated three-acre parcels and associated impervious cover for Winooski Basin towns
Page 127	High Quality Waters of the Winooski Watershed map
Pages 133-134	Table 36, Objectives of Tactical Basin Plan to meet goals for the plan
Pages 135-140	Table 37, Summary of Implementation Actions

The full, 197-page document is posted at <http://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/>. You do not need to review word for word or make specific recommendations at this point. Any general comments/input at this stage to help with the development and finalization of the plan and to have some background for the Basin Planner's presentation at the commission meeting.

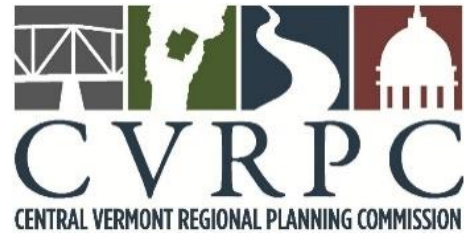
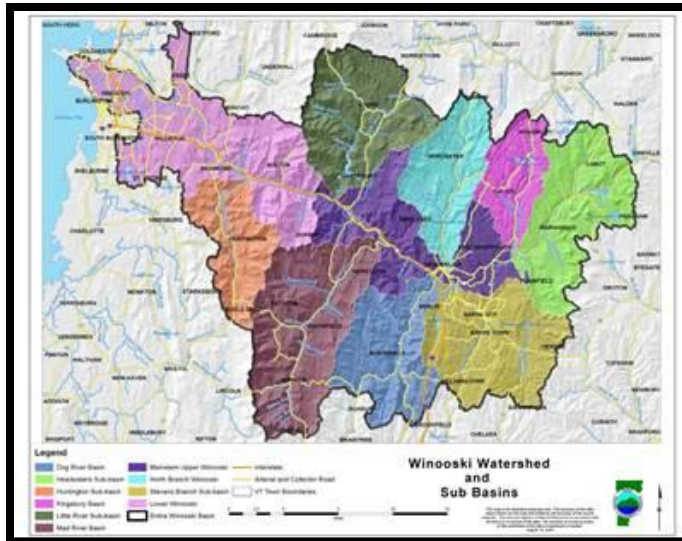
### Background

Under the Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64), each of Vermont's 15 river basins must have a plan developed and adopted on a five-year recurring cycle. As part of the funding under the Municipal Tactical Basin Planning contract, the CVRPC has been working with its member municipalities to incorporate municipal priorities into the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan. Tactical Basin Plans help identify and focus efforts needed to protect or restore specific watersheds through the state. The CVRPC has been working with other partners, such as the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District, to identify priority projects and conduct outreach on the goals, objectives and strategies within the Basin Plan. Identifying specific priorities in the Tactical Basin Plan helps to garner support for funding through the Vermont Clean Water Initiative program.

One key task within CVRPC's contract with the DEC for Municipal Tactical Basin Planning is to review the *Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan* and provide input, comments, and any recommendations for change. Vermont statute requires the Commission to provide a determination of Basin Plan compatibility with the adopted Regional Plan.

In October 2017, I presented the process of Tactical Basin Planning and what information goes into the plan including municipal priorities and strategies from stormwater master planning. The fact sheet provided in October is enclosed. The Vermont ANR has been writing this plan this year. The draft is now ready for preliminary review. The plan needs to be completed and adopted by the end of 2018.

# WINOOSKI RIVER TACTICAL BASIN PLAN



Tactical basin plans focus on the projects or actions needed to protect or restore specific waters and identify appropriate funding sources to complete the work, based on monitoring and assessment data. The plan will guide all watershed work supported by the Watershed Management Division in the basin. The issues identified in the plan are the ones that will be prioritized for management and funding attention. Tactical Basin Plans integrate priority items from complementary plans, including river corridor plans, stormwater master plans, backroads inventories, and agricultural environmental assessments.

Stressors within the Winooski Basin include: channel and land erosion, nutrient loading, pathogens like e. coli, invasive species, and flow alterations from dams and water withdrawals. If you are aware of challenges, such as eroding dirt roads, poor culvert placements, stream or lakeshore erosion, clear-cutting, etc., it's important to voice them so they can be evaluated for inclusion in the plan. If potential problems are not included, they may not receive support from ANR.

Vermont Statute provides RPCs with the opportunity to prioritize projects. CVRPC will set priorities for the Winooski Basin in 2018. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Basin Planning process and provide input for your community!

For information:

- visit Sample Basin Plans: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/basin-planning>.
- contact Karen Bates, DEC Watershed Coordinator, [karen.bates@vermont.gov](mailto:karen.bates@vermont.gov), 490-6144.
- contact Pam DeAndrea, CVRPC Senior Planner, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com), 229-0389.

## Executive Summary

The Vermont Clean Water Act requires the development of Tactical Basin Plans for each of Vermont's 15 river basins to be adopted on a five-year recurring cycle. These plans integrate watershed modeling, water quality monitoring, sector-specific pollution source assessments, and stakeholder input to document geographically explicit actions necessary to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore surface waters. The Agency of Natural Resources is assisted in the implementation of plan through a combination of State and federal funding sources, partner support (Appendix A) and for certain protection efforts, the public rulemaking process.

The Winooski River (Basin 8) Tactical Basin Plan focuses on the watershed of the Winooski River. [DEC Basin 8 Water Quality Assessment Report](#) provides background to support the Plan's actions including assessments of wetlands, lakes and rivers. The Plan's goal for Winooski River Basin and all of the surface waters in its drainage basin is the sustained ecological health and human use by meeting or exceeding Vermont Water Quality Standards.

The Plan also includes the Phase II content (Chapter 3) for the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL, including setting of targets for phosphorus loading from the Winooski River to Lake Champlain. The Lake Champlain Phase I Implementation Plan and the TMDL both point to issuance of these plans as components of the accountability framework.

The Phase II content includes high-resolution phosphorus load modeling and projected phosphorus reductions for smaller sub-watersheds as well as by types of sources (waste water treatment plants, developed lands stormwater, roads, forestry and agricultural).

The plan also describes strategies relating to the development of new regulations associated with the Vermont Clean Water Act. Future iterations of the Basin 8 Tactical Basin Plan will provide augmented specificity in regards to phosphorus reductions achieved, reductions planned, costs, and as appropriate, success stories documenting incremental water quality improvement.

The surface waters in Basin 8 provide recreational opportunities, drinking water and support for wildlife habitat and plant communities. The health of the surface water is directly connected to these uses. Pollutants associated with basin 8 waterbodies include phosphorus, sediment, pathogens and toxins as well as aquatic invasive species.

The main sources of the elevated phosphorus, sediment and pathogen levels include agricultural, urban and road runoff, and eroding river channels due to a lack of

equilibrium in the river system. Many of the actions to address these stressors in the basin will also achieve required reductions in phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain (Phase II content in Chapter 3).

In Chapter 4, the plan also describes management goals for basin 8 surface waters and includes new classifications or candidates for reclassification (see Summary of Classification Opportunities below).

The heart of this plan is Chapter 5 and the [Watershed Projects Database](#), which includes geographically explicit actions to protect or restore surface waters in the basin. The actions are supported by the following top objectives and strategies for priority watershed (and associated towns):

### **Top Objectives and Strategies**

**Protect river corridors and floodplains to increase flood resilience and allow rivers to reach equilibrium** through protection of river corridors with conservation easements and municipal adoption of appropriate bylaws, focusing on assisting towns to adopt corridor protection as well as implement VDEC river corridor plans.

**Increase knowledge of water quality conditions in the basin, including the identification of high quality lakes** through the establishment and/or continuation of short-term intensive and long-term monitoring programs.

**Implement agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)** in areas that are a significant source of phosphorus and where BMPs are best suited to conditions with a focus on areas of high phosphorus loading.

**Resolve E. coli impairments in along Winooski between Plainfield and Cabot, Huntington, Mad Rivers and Allen Brook** by addressing discernable bacteria sources from agriculture and residential sources to meet bacterial TMDL.

**Manage stormwater from developed areas through the development and implementation of stormwater master plans and Flow Restoration Plans in MS4 communities** (see Appendix C).

**Improve littoral zone habitat along Lake Champlain, and ponds in the Kingsbury Branch** through direct outreach with landowners to encourage participation in the Lake Wise Program that promotes implementation of lakeshore BMPs.

**Inventory and prioritize municipal road erosion features that discharge into surface water and implement high priority actions in existing road erosion inventoried sites**



**Provide technical and as available, financial assistance to wastewater treatment facilities** in meeting Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL goals

**Prioritize wetland and floodplain restoration projects** in appropriate locations for phosphorus retention and sediment attenuation with a focus on the watersheds X

**Prioritize remediation of forest roads and log landings with high erosion risks**, including sugaring operations and areas of high phosphorus loading.

**Assist municipalities in identifying areas of landslide hazards for benefit of future development** including Jericho, Williston, Essex, Duxury, Plainfield, Marshfield, and Barre Town.

In addition to the actions supported by priority objectives and the classification opportunities, the basin plan also includes actions for addressing stressed and impaired waters listed in Table 4 and actions relating to monitoring and assessment in Table 11.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has prepared an online mapping tool, the [ANR Natural Resources Atlas](#), that allows the reader to identify the locations of many Basin features.



## CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Committees and Appointed Positions

Elections and Appointments as of April 30, 2018

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive
<i>Meets:</i> Monthly, 4:00 pm, week prior to Commission meeting
<i>Members:</i> 4 officers and 3 at-large Commissioners
<i>Term:</i> 1 year; officers typically two years
<i>Elected:</i> By Commission
<i>Duties:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act on behalf of the Commission in absence of a Commission quorum</li> <li>- Approve budgets, contracts &amp; audits</li> <li>- Add/eliminate staff and contractors</li> <li>- Amend Personnel Policies</li> <li>- Approve policy actions</li> <li>- Recommend positions to be taken</li> <li>- Approve Commission agendas</li> </ul>

## 2018 Members

Julie Potter, East Montpelier, Chair  
 Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice Chair  
 Michael Gray, Treasurer  
 Dara Torre, Secretary  
 Don La Haye, Waitsfield, At Large  
 Byron Atwood, Barre Town, At Large  
 Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury, At Large

Nominating
<i>Meets:</i> April/May, as needed
<i>Members:</i> 3 Commissioners
<i>Term:</i> 1 year; cannot serve consecutive terms
<i>Appointed:</i> By Commission
<i>Duties:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nominate officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee.</li> </ul>

## 2018 Members (appointed February 2018)

Don La Haye, Waitsfield (Chair)  
 Brian Fitzgerald, Duxbury  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Project Review
<i>Meets:</i> Monthly (as needed), on the fourth Thursday, 4:00 pm
<i>Members:</i> 5 Commissioners plus 1 alternate and the project's host Commissioner
<i>Term:</i> 3-year; staggered terms
<i>Appointed:</i> By Commission
<i>Duties:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determine Act 250/Section 248 project conformance with the Regional Plan</li> <li>- Provide input and recommendations for projects with Significant Regional Impact</li> <li>- Solicit input from other parties as needed to gather information and render a decision</li> <li>- Evaluate potential cumulative impacts for projects</li> <li>- Provide guidance on amendments or changes to Substantial Regional Impact criteria</li> </ul>

## 2018 Members (Date indicates end of term)

2020 - Brian Fitzgerald, Duxbury, Chair  
 2020 - Janet Shatney, Barre City  
 2019 - Byron Atwood, Barre Town  
 2019 - Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield  
 2018 - Bob Werneke, Berlin  
 2018 - Jerry D'Amico, Roxbury (Alternate)

Personnel Policy Review
A Working Committee of the Executive Committee
<i>Meets:</i> As needed
<i>Members:</i> 3 Commissioners
<i>Term:</i> None established
<i>Appointed:</i> By Executive Committee
<i>Duties:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommend revisions to Personnel Policies</li> </ul>

## 2018 Members

Julie Potter, East Montpelier, Chair  
 Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield  
 Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury





## CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Committees and Appointed Positions

Elections and Appointments as of April 30, 2018

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regional Plan
<b>Meets:</b> Monthly, as needed
<b>Members:</b> 5 Commissioners & 4 regional organizations
<b>Term:</b> 1 year
<b>Appointed:</b> By Commission
<b>Duties:</b>
- Develop and recommend updates to the Regional Plan

## 2018 Members

## Commissioners

Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield  
 Dara Torre, Moretown  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex  
 Janet Shatney, Barre City  
 Vacant, Regional Commissioner  
~~Dan Hawkworth~~, Capstone Community Action  
 Scott Bascom, VTTrans (now retired)  
 Vacant, Winooski NR Conservation District  
 Vacant, non-designated

Town Plan Review
<b>Meets:</b> As needed.
<b>Members:</b> 5 Commissioners
<b>Term:</b> 1 year
<b>Appointed:</b> By Commission
<b>Duties:</b>
- Review municipal plans for conformance to statutory requirements and recommend whether a plan should be approved
- Review each municipality's planning process and recommend whether it should be confirmed
- Provide guidance to municipalities about future plan updates and ways to strengthen planning efforts

## 2018 Members

Janet Shatney, Barre City, Chair  
 Bill Arrand, Worcester  
 Jerry D'Amico, Roxbury  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex  
~~Ivan Shadis~~, Marshfield

Transportation Advisory
<b>Meets:</b> Monthly on 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm
<b>Members:</b> Municipal representatives
<b>Term:</b> 1 year
<b>Appointed:</b> By municipal legislative body
<b>Duties:</b>
- Recommend Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) work program & budget to Executive Committee
- Prioritize transportation studies funded by the Commission's TPI program
- Recommend Regional Plan transportation element
- Prioritize state-funded transportation projects

## 2018 Members

As appointed by the 23 municipalities  
 Steve Lotspeich, Chair

Brownfields Advisory
<b>Meets:</b> Monthly on 3rd Monday, 4:00 pm
<b>Members:</b> 4 Commissioners plus 1 alternate, CVEDC, VT Dept of Health, 5 representatives of housing, real estate, finance, at-risk populations, and the environment
<b>Term:</b> 2 years, beginning July 1, 2016; staggered terms
<b>Appointed:</b> By Commission
<b>Duties:</b>
- Oversee CVRPC Brownfields Program
- Prioritize sites for assessment
- Participate in hiring contractors
- Recommend brownfield-related policy
- Participate in public outreach

## 2016-2018 Members

Janet Shatney, Barre City Regional Commissioner, Chair  
 Julie Potter, East Montpelier Regional Commissioner  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex Regional Commissioner  
 Don La Haye, Waitsfield Regional Commissioner  
 Vacant, Regional Commissioner Alt  
 Vacant, Capstone Community Action  
~~Brad Denny~~, Northfield Vacant  
 Steve Comolli, Downstreet Housing  
 Gunner McCain, CVEDC  
 Joan Marie Misk, VT Dept. of Health  
 Tim Ross, Union Bank

## Non-Voting

Dorrie Paar, US EPA  
 Shawn White, Friends of the Winooski River

Clean Water Advisory*
<b>Meets:</b> Ad hoc, as needed
<b>Members:</b> 2 Commissioners and at minimum 3 representatives from partner organizations, the public, and private companies
<b>Term:</b> None identified
<b>Appointed:</b> By Commission
<b>Duties:</b>
- Identify activities, policies, and direction for CVRPC's clean water support
- Determine CVRPC direction and goals regarding the Lake Champlain TMDL, Tactical Basin Plans, and the Regional Plan
*To be formed by 09/30/17

## 2018 Members

Micheal Gray, Woodbury Regional Commissioner  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex Regional Commissioner

Energy Advisory
<b>Meets:</b> Monthly (as needed), 4:00 pm
<b>Members:</b> 5 Commissioners and 12 stakeholders from municipalities & energy committees, utilities, economic development, transportation & transit, State agencies, and renewable energy developers
<b>Term:</b> Duration of project or March 1, 2018
<b>Appointed:</b> By Commission
<b>Duties:</b>
- Recommend regional energy plan to Commission
- Oversee public engagement
- Recommend to Commission energy policies

## 2018 Members

Steve Fitzhugh, Northfield Planning Com., Chair  
 Janet Shatney, Barre City Regional Commissioner  
 Julie Potter, East Montpelier Regional Commissioner  
 Brian Fitzgerald, Duxbury Regional Commissioner  
 Ron Krauth, Middlesex Regional Commissioner  
 Don La Haye, Waitsfield Regional Commissioner  
 Jamie Stewart, CVEDC  
 Bram Towbin, Town of Plainfield  
 Alex Bravakis, Novus Energy Development  
 Karin McNeill, Agency of Natural Resources  
 Jackie Cassino, Agency of Transportation  
 Robert Dostis, Green Mountain Power  
 Barbara Conrey, Montpelier Energy Committee  
 Paul Zabriskie, Capstone Community Action  
 Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities & Towns  
 Patty Richards, Washington Electric Coop  
 Mark Sousa, Green Mountain Transit  
 Dan Potter, Public Service Department



## CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Committees and Appointed Positions

Elections and Appointments as of April 30, 2018

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

**Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies***Meets:* First Thursday in June and December*Appointee:* As desired by the Commission, usually the Chair*Term:* 1 year*Appointed:* By Commission*Duties:*

- Participate in two policy meetings

**2018 Representative**

Julie Potter, CVRPC Chair

**Vermont Economic Progress Council***Meets:* Monthly, 4th Thursday of the month*Term:* 1 year*Appointee:* As desired by the Commission, usually the Executive Director*Appointed:* By Commission*Duties:*

- Attend as needed and comment on projects in the region

**2018 Representative**

Bonnie Waninger

**Green Mountain Transit***Meets:* Monthly on 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 am*Term:* 3 years*Appointee:* As desired by the Commission, usually Executive Director or Transportation Planner*Appointed:* By Commission*Duties:*

- Guide the organization through setting goals and annual priorities
- Participate on at least one committee as designated by the Chair

**2017-2019 Representatives**

Bonnie Waninger, Commissioner

Dan Currier, Alternate

**Mad River Valley Planning District***Meets:* Monthly on 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm*Term:* 1 year*Appointee:* As desired by the Commission, usually staff*Appointed:* By Commission*Duties:*

- Manage business and affairs of the District as an ex-officio, non-voting member of its Steering Committee

**2018 Representative**

- Eric Vorwald, Representative

- Bonnie Waninger, Alternate



## MEMO

Date: May 2, 2018

To: Executive Committee

From: Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director

Re: Regional Plan Committee

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**⊗ ACTION REQUESTED:** Modify the Regional Plan Committee membership to five Commissioners with a term length of two years.

The Regional Plan Committee is struggling to achieve quorum. The struggle revolves around two issues: lack of clarity regarding appointed membership and lack of regular meetings for the past two years. The Executive Committee discussed the Committee's purpose and makeup at its April 30 meeting and recommends the membership be modified as noted above. It is important for the Commission to reinvigorate this committee so that progress can be made on Plan Central Vermont.

### Background

The "Regional Plan Draft Review Committee" was created by the Board of Commissioners in 2013 to assist with development of Plan Central Vermont. The Committee's duties included developing and recommending updates to the Regional Plan. It was also charged with developing a guiding Vision Statement for Plan Central Vermont (PCV) in coordination with PCV's Public Participation Working Group. The November 12, 2013 Commission meeting minutes indicate membership included 5 Commissioners and 4 regional organizations. The following were appointed:

#### Commissioners

Mike Miller, Barre City  
Tim Carver, East Montpelier  
Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield  
David Strong, Plainfield  
Dara Torre, Moretown

#### Organizations

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (Sophie Sauve)  
Central VT Community Action Council (Dave Rubin) [now Capstone Community Action]  
Barre Granite Association (Ed Larson)  
VT Agency of Transportation (Scott Bascom)

The minutes note that the committee was expected to meet for two years. The first meeting occurred in December 2013. Commissioner Ron Krauth, Middlesex, replaced M. Miller in December 2014.

For FY18, the Commission appointed the following members:

Commissioners	Organizations
Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield	Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District (Vacant)
Dara Torre, Moretown	Capstone Community Action (Dan Hoxworth)
Ron Krauth, Middlesex	Agency of Transportation (Scott Bascom)
Janet Shatney, Barre City	Non-designated (Vacant)
Vacant, Regional Commissioner	

Ed Larson no longer works for the Granite Association. Scott Bascom has retired from VTrans. Dan Hoxworth has stepped down from his position at Capstone. From meeting minutes, it does not appear that the Conservation District participated in any meetings.

In reviewing the Committee's membership, the Executive Committee noted that the Commission had incorporated outside organizations into Plan Central Vermont's creation through working groups. For example, the first draft of Health & Communities emerged from a working group of social service and health-related organizations staffed by CVRPC. Workgroup drafts are then reviewed and revised by the Regional Plan Committee, which recommends them to the Board of Commissioners. The Executive Committee suggested outside organizations could continue advising the Regional Plan Committee.

Completing Plan Central Vermont requires the following work:

*Edit and reformat the following elements:*

- Economic Development
- Energy Efficiency and Development
- Health & Communities
- Safe & Affordable Housing
- Natural Resources and the Environment
- Transportation
- Utilities & Facilities
- Recreation Opportunities

*Develop the following elements:*

- Community Profile (data, trends, & culture)
- Land Use (includes Substantial Regional Impact definition)
- Implementation Program & Investment Strategy
- Compatibility/Relationship Statement

Community Profile is not a statutory element. It creates a more concise and focused document by pulling common data, such as population trends, together and by setting the stage for future chapters.

Based on completed elements, Plan Central Vermont will be more than 300 pages in size. It includes five different writing styles. It needs substantial editing to create a concise, consistent document. The goals need to be consolidated and strengthened. Some plan elements lack action items.



## MEMO

Date: May 08, 2018

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Eric Vorwald, AICP, Senior Planner

Re: Regional Plan Land Use & Energy Consistency

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**✉ ACTIONS REQUESTED:**

- 1) Approve amendments to the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan; and
- 2) Schedule the second public hearing and possible action on the 2016 Regional Plan Update.

Following the April Board of Commissioners meeting, staff reached out to the Department of Public Service (the Department) to make them aware of changes that were approved to the Energy Plan. The Department indicated that the language, as drafted, may be inconsistent with Enhanced Energy Planning Standard 12 related to the identification of areas that are unsuitable for renewable energy development. Specifically, the Department noted that the proposed prohibition on wind development over 2,500 feet was inconsistent with policies outlined in the 2016 Regional Plan's Land Use Element. This creates an inconsistent prohibition on one use over another and may result in a negative determination of energy compliance.

Additionally, the Department recommended that the CVRPC consider using the definitions for wind facilities that are outlined in Enhanced Energy Planning Standard 11A, or explicitly define and include rationale for utilizing alternative language for the height of wind generation facilities.

On April 20, 2018, staff discussed this information including possible options for amending the Regional Energy Plan with the Regional Plan Committee. The Committee did not have quorum. The Committee members present recommended changes be made to the Regional Energy Plan to ensure consistency with the Regional Plan. The proposed changes to the Regional Energy Plan are enclosed for the Commission's consideration.

The Regional Plan Committee also discussed the Department's comment regarding the height of wind

generation facilities. The Committee members present recommend the language approved by the Board of Commissioners limiting the height to 116 feet should remain. They requested staff provide additional information to the Commission that would compare a variety of commonly known uses to compare overall height and develop a common understanding of the potential impact of the height limitation. This was requested since the 116-foot height restriction applies to all development in the Region, not just wind generation.

The Commission must decide if additional amendments should be made to the Regional Energy Plan to align the height limitation of wind generation facilities with the Department's definition. If the Commission determines no additional amendments are necessary, the Commission can finalize the Regional Energy Plan and warn the second public hearing and possible adoption of the 2016 Regional Plan Update.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
THE CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

**MAY 8, 2018**

The following amendments pertain to text beginning with paragraph 2 on page 14 of the Central Vermont Regional Energy Plan that was approved by the Board of Commissioners on April 10, 2018. This information relates to changes that were recommended by the Regional Plan Committee to address consistency between the Regional Plan and the Regional Energy Plan. Standard 12 from the Guidance for Regional Energy Plans provided by the Department of Public Service is not currently being met due to the inconsistency. This amendment will:

*Update language in the Energy Plan to maintain consistency with the Regional Plan and include an explanation of the hub height limitation on wind energy*

- Includes references to the Regional Plan Land Use Element
- Includes additional justification for the 116 foot hub height

Text that appears in **bold and underlined** is proposed to be added and text that appears with a ~~strikeout~~ is proposed to be deleted.

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Central Vermont enjoys rich natural and scenic resources. This is represented by the peaks of the Worcester and Green Mountain ranges (including Camel's Hump State Park), which are characteristic of many Vermont communities. These areas are important to Central Vermont not only for their natural, scenic, and recreational value, but also for the predominance of critical plant and animal habitat that exists in the undisturbed forest blocks. In support of the protection of these areas, the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan identifies critical resources areas including wildlife habitat, steep slopes, and lands above 2,500 feet in elevation. These areas are specifically identified for their value as a regional resource.

With this in mind, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has determined that industrial-scale wind development is not compatible with the future land use patterns of Central Vermont. For the purposes of this plan, industrial-scale wind development will include any wind turbine with a hub height greater than 116 feet (excluding the blades). Additionally, wind energy development will be ~~prohibited~~ **restricted** above 2,500 feet in elevation consistent with the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan's future land use plan.

**For the purposes of this energy plan, a 116 foot hub height is expected to accommodate both residential and commercial wind generation. Hub heights above 116 feet will be considered industrial in scale and not fitting for Central Vermont. This height restriction is intended to reduce the visual impact of wind generation facilities while still permitting commercial and residential land uses to incorporate wind generation as appropriate. Additionally, the height restriction will limit the amount of land needed to accommodate wind generation and help maintain the sensitive natural resources throughout the region where industrial-scale wind resources have been identified.**

To further support this limitation on industrial-scale wind generation, the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan's Future Land Use **plan** identifies two distinct categories that encompass ~~a an~~ **an overwhelmingly**



significant portion of the region **and includes almost all of the resource areas identified for industrial-scale wind generation.** These categories are Rural and Resource and are delineated on the Future Land Use Map in Appendix A of the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan. These categories are described as:

Rural – These areas encompass much of the Region’s large forest blocks, sand/gravel/mineral deposits, and prime agricultural soils that, when in productive use, contribute to the working landscape and have significant economic value. **Rural areas also include residential, small-scale commercial and industrial, and recreational uses.**

Resource – These areas are dominated by lands requiring special protection or consideration due to their uniqueness, irreplaceable or fragile nature, or important ecological function. These include, protected lands; elevations above 2,500 feet (elevations above 1,700 feet in Waitsfield, as regulated); slopes of 25% or more; rare, threatened or endangered species and significant natural communities; wetlands; special flood hazard areas; and shoreline protection areas. As a subcategory of Resource lands, this plan recognizes critical resource areas as key sites that are particularly sensitive and should be given maximum protection.

~~Specific policies related to these two future land use districts include:~~

- ~~• Development should be designed to minimize its impact on the viability of agricultural operations or its contribution to fragmentation of large contiguous tracts of woodland.~~
- ~~• Identified wildlife corridors should be protected from fragmentation and uses that reduce their viability for movement of wildlife, particularly where they connect large contiguous tracts of land.~~
- ~~• Conservation of the natural landscape and careful management of lands is sought for these areas. Development in these areas should be subject to extensive planning, review and conditions that ensure its protection.~~
- ~~• Any development proposed within critical resource areas shall provide evidence as to why the development cannot be avoided, and shall provide mitigation for natural resources impacted by the development.~~
- ~~• The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.~~

~~An analysis of wind resource mapping for the Central Vermont Region identifies approximately 1,100 acres of unconstrained prime resource area for wind that is not located within the rural or resource future land use designations as described above. This acreage would equate to approximately 843,000 megawatt hours of energy generation potential. As such, the limitation on turbine height should not adversely impact the Region’s ability to support all types of renewable energy generation.~~

**Based on the mapping analysis completed by the CVRPC, there are approximately 250,000 acres of wind resource area within Central Vermont that has no known constraints (but does include possible constraints). Of that land, approximately 27,000 acres of wind resource area is specifically classified for industrial-scale wind generation. Of those 27,000 acres, all but approximately 15 acres of wind resource area is located within land that is designated as Rural or Resource on the Future Land Use map included in Appendix A of the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan.**

These 15 acres of land are located in the Industrial future land use designation. The regional plan identifies industrial areas to support economic development in the region including expansion, development, or redevelopment of existing industrial uses. These 15 acres of land are located on property that is an active quarrying operation which has been in existence for over 100 years. This use is expected to continue for the life of this plan and well into the future as an on-going economic force in the region that is supported by the regional plan therefore a change of use is not expected. With this in mind, there is currently no suitable land available where industrial-scale wind generation could be developed.

The restriction on industrial-scale wind generation is also consistent with other policies outlined in the Regional Plan's Land Use element. Policies in the Rural designation support clustered development in order to protect important resources such as agricultural soils or forest blocks. The policies also support the development of small-scale business opportunities that do not adversely impact the forestry or agricultural uses or diminish the rural character of these areas. The plan notes that these uses should be established in conjunction with existing rural developments where appropriate, and not be a dominant feature.

Land use policies associated with the Resource designation propose the avoidance of development on steep slopes; fragmentation of habitat connectors and forest blocks; wetlands; and ridgelines. The Resource district also discourages the extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities. The policies further state that development should be subject to extensive planning, review, and conditions to protect these areas, but does not outright prohibit development. Additional policies that support smaller scale development in the Rural or Resource areas of the region are included in the land use element and consistent with the limitation on industrial-scale wind development.

The following is an excerpt of policies related to the Rural and Resource Land Uses. A complete list of the Future Land Use Policies identified herein can be found beginning on page 2-18 of the Regional Plan.

#### **Rural Land Use Policies:**

6. Wildlife connectivity areas should be protected from fragmentation and uses that reduce their viability for movement of wildlife, particularly where they connect forest blocks.

7. Non-residential uses, including small service businesses, small professional offices and inns are acceptable land uses for Rural Areas provided that such uses are planned as relatively small in size or scale, are not primary or dominant uses in an area, do not unduly conflict with existing or planned residential, forestry or agricultural uses, and do not unduly affect rural character. Towns should limit the number and size of such establishments to prevent a proliferation of scattered commercial development that does not serve the needs of the community.

8. Occupations that are customarily practiced in residential areas, and which do not affect the character of those areas, are another form of small-scale commercial use common in and appropriate for rural areas. Small professional offices, antique shops, and craft studios are examples of such "customary home occupations."

9. Cross country ski centers, mountain biking facilities and other outdoor recreational areas represent an economically viable means of maintaining rural open spaces with little secondary development; both expansion and development of new facilities are consistent with this Plan.

#### **Resource Land Use Policies:**

1. Conservation of the natural landscape and careful management of lands is sought for these areas. Development in these areas should be subject to extensive planning, review and conditions that ensure its protection.

2. Any development proposed within critical resource areas shall provide evidence as to why the development cannot be avoided, and shall provide mitigation for natural resources impacted by the development.

3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.

4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.

5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.

6. Avoid development that fragments forest blocks and habitat connectors.

Finally, the land use element notes that smaller scale or clustered development is appropriate in certain locations. Policies 1 and 2 under Resort Centers discusses support for expansion of the existing commercial ski areas including Sugarbush and Mad River Glen (in Warren and Fayston) instead of resort development at new locations. Both of these ski areas include limited development that extends above 2,500 feet in elevation. Aside from these uses, few structures exist above 2,500 feet in elevation throughout the Region further supporting the restriction on development in the area designated as Resource on the Future Land Use map.

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2018**

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Kirby Keeton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input 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	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Atchinson, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren	Camilla Behn
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington	Gary Winders
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Ivan Shadis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Rodney Graham
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger and Eric Vorwald

Guests: Jamie Stewart (CVEDC) and Paula Emery

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

E. Vorwald requested an item be added to discuss comments provided from the Agency of Natural Resources on the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Energy Plan - J. Potter noted the purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on the Regional Energy Plan.

1 *J. Shatney moved to open the hearing; B. Towbin seconded. Motion carried.*

2  
3 E. Vorwald provided an overview. J. Potter asked for comments from the public. J. Stewart,  
4 CVEDC, voiced concern over the height limitation on wind energy generation noting that  
5 this may adversely impact farm operations. He suggested an increase to 116 feet.

6  
7 *R. Wernecke moved to close the hearing; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*

8  
9 Regional Plan - J. Potter noted the purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on  
10 the Regional Plan.

11  
12 *B. Fitzgerald moved to open the hearing; D. La Haye seconded. Motioned carried.*

13  
14 E. Vorwald provided an overview. He noted the hearing is the first of two required hearings  
15 to update the regional plan. J. Potter asked for comments from the public. No comments  
16 were voiced.

17  
18 *L. Hill-Eubanks moved to close the hearing; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried.*

19  
20 **CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

21 J. Stewart provided an update on the opportunity zone legislation and provided a map of the  
22 Barre City area. He also discussed the recent success of the job fair. He concluded by noting  
23 the CVEDC is working with two major manufacturers in Northfield and Barre Town that may  
24 provide between 300 and 350 high wage jobs for the region.

25  
26 **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

27 Follow-Up On Wind Energy Discussion - E. Vorwald explained that this item was a continuation  
28 of discussions from the February Commission meeting on possible restrictions to wind  
29 energy generation. He presented three possible options for consideration including: 1)  
30 make no changes; 2) increase the maximum allowable height; or 3) increase the maximum  
31 allowable height and set an maximum limit on development activity. Vorwald explained  
32 how the recommendation of 160 feet height was determined.

33  
34 *A. Hornblas moved to increase the maximum allowable height from 100 feet to 116' feet as*  
35 *noted by J. Stewart under public comments; J. Brabant seconded. B. Fitzgerald requested a*  
36 *friendly amendment to add the elevation limit of 2,500 feet on development activity*  
37 *consistent with option three. A. Hornblas and J. Brabant accepted this friendly amendment.*

38

1 During the discussion, B. Wernecke suggested the elevation limit apply to a maximum  
2 height for structures to 2,500 feet in elevation. S. Lotspeich noted this could be problematic  
3 from an administration or enforcement perspective. Additional discussion on the elevation  
4 limitation occurred. Fitzgerald withdrew his requested amendment.

5  
6 *B. Fitzgerald moved to amend the original motion to increase the height of wind facilities to*  
7 *a maximum hub height of 116 feet and to restrict development of wind energy above 2,500*  
8 *feet in elevation; B. Atwood seconded.*

9  
10 *B. Towbin moved to amend the amendment to clarify that the elevation be measured using*  
11 *the generally accepted standard; B. Arrand seconded. The amendment by Towbin carried.*

12  
13 *Motion by Fitzgerald to amend the original motion carried by majority vote.*

14  
15 B. Waninger noted that restricting wind development above 2,500 feet in elevation may  
16 have the effect of limiting other development above that elevation based on the Act 174  
17 guidance. She expressed no opinion on the motions, and stated she wanted to insure  
18 Commissioners understood the potential impact of the motion. Commissioners discussed  
19 this issue.

20  
21 J. Potter called for a vote on the amended motion - to increase the maximum hub height to  
22 116 feet and restrict wind energy development above 2,500 feet in elevation. *The amended*  
23 *motion carried by majority vote.*

24  
25 E. Vorwald recommended tabling the consideration on accepting the Regional Energy Plan until  
26 after comments from the Agency of Natural Resources were discussed. Commissioners agreed.

## 27 **DISCUSSION OF AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS**

28  
29 E. Vorwald provided an overview of comments received from the Agency with a  
30 recommendation for addressing each comment. He recommended comments on the Regional  
31 Plan related to forest integrity be addressed through Plan Central Vermont. The Commission  
32 agreed with this approach. ANR provided three comments related to the energy plan.

- 33  
34 1. Clarify the region's industrial-scale wind prohibition reasoning  
35 2. Clarify woody biomass map constraint note.  
36 3. Clarify the conflict resolution regarding the need for a municipal energy plan to meet  
37 renewable energy generation targets to receive a determination of energy compliance.  
38

Vorwald recommended the first comment not be addressed as other elements of the 2016 Regional Plan address it. He recommended the second comment be addressed by updating the map note to match the notes on other maps. Commissioners agreed with these recommendations.

Vorwald provided three options to address the third comment:

- A. Do not clarify. Address during municipal reviews.
- B. State targets *do not need to* be met for plans to be certified.
- C. State targets *must* be met for plans to be certified. Include a table listing the generation targets for each municipality.

He recommended option three to ensure equitability across the region. B. Towbin expressed agreement with the concept but was uncomfortable requiring specific targets. He expressed that it could cause undo expense or allocation of resources for the municipality.

*R. Wernecke moved to make no changes to the plan; B. Atwood seconded.* In discussion, K. Keeton supported including the targets to ensure urban municipalities would not be unduly burdened with the responsibility of providing renewable generation. *Motion carried by majority vote.*

## **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

### **Acceptance of Complete Plan –**

*B. Fitzgerald moved to accept the regional energy plan as complete with the changes approved during the meeting; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried with A. Hornblas and R. Graham abstaining.*

## **MUNICIPAL PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

J. Shatney provided the Town Plan Review Committee Report regarding regional approval of the City of Montpelier's Master Plan and confirmation of the City's planning process. She noted the Committee met, discussed the plan, and held a public hearing to solicit comments. She highlighted aspects of the plan. She reported that the Committee recommended regional approval of the plan and confirmation of the planning process. J. Potter noted a resolution was included in the packet.

*C. Behn moved to authorize the Chair to sign the resolution indicating regional approval of the Master Plan, Montpelier, VT and confirmation of the City of Montpelier's planning process; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

D. La Haye provided a report from the Nominating Committee. He presented the following slate of officers for consideration: J. Potter – Chair; L. Hill-Eubanks – Vice Chair; M. Gray – Treasurer; D. Torre – Secretary; and S. Lotspeich, B. Atwood, and J. Shatney – At-Large representatives. J. Potter asked for nominations from the floor. None were provided. Potter closed nominations. B. Waninger said that a ballot would be sent to Commissioners for voting in accordance with CVRPC's bylaws. Results would be presented at the May Commission meeting.

**CVRPC COMMITTEES**

L. Hill-Eubanks provided an overview of the various committees that are part of the Commission. She indicated she would be soliciting participation from Commissioners. A list of CVRPC's committees and their responsibilities was included in the packet for review.

**MINUTES**

B. Wernecke moved to approve the February 13, 2018 minutes; B. Atwood seconded. Motion carried with A. Hornblas, R. Graham, and C. Behn abstaining.

**REPORTS**

B. Waninger discussed the FY19 work plan. She noted a list of confirmed and potential projects for each municipality was included in the agenda. She stated that staff would appreciate feedback from Commissioners to help build the work plan. She also noted activities that the CVRPC will be engaging on regarding Emerald Ash Borer and responded to several questions. Finally, Waninger reminded Commissioners that the May meeting serves as the annual meeting. The Commission will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception prior to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*B. Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:58 pm; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vorwald, AICP

**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, May 2018

F: 802-223-1977

**LAND USE PLANNING & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE**

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

The first public hearing on the updates to the Regional Plan was held. Comments on the draft plan were submitted by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The second hearing is tentatively scheduled for the June 12 Commission meeting, pending the outcome of discussions at the May Commission meeting regarding consistency between the Regional Plan and the Energy Plan.

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

Staff has developed a public engagement process to gather input from CVRPC's municipalities and regional partners on improvements to Act 250. A survey will be distributed to a wide range of interested parties to solicit feedback for the Commission's consideration. This will also include targeted interviews for more in-depth discussions. Survey input and other outreach will be used to assist the Board of Commissioners to frame its comments.

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

Staff will present additional information for discussion to the Commission regarding consistency with the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan. These changes should ensure consistency with the Standards of Act 174.

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

Staff has prepared a draft energy element for consideration by the Town of Calais and is in the process of developing a draft for Barre City. Marshfield is working on an energy plan with assistance from staff. Warren will also receive assistance with energy planning as they update their plan.

Staff presented information on the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan to Northfield's Climate Initiative, a group of citizens interested in working on energy issues. This was an educational presentation on work the Region completed related to energy planning. A video of the event can be found here <https://www.facebook.com/transvideovt/>.

**Municipal Plans:** Staff continues working with Orange on a plan update. The Planning Commission will discuss the public hearing on the draft plan. This hearing is anticipated to occur on June 13 for a possible recommendation to the Selectboard.

**Zoning:** Staff is reviewing zoning updates for Plainfield at the Town's request.

**Mapping:** Staff continued to assist East Montpelier on Town Plan map updates. Staff worked on creating Tax Increment Financing (TIF) maps for Montpelier's proposed district. Staff assisted

Marshfield and Washington with Town Plan maps with special consultation on Forest Integrity mapping. Staff has been developing a watershed wide map of the Winooski River for educational outreach for the Friends of the Winooski River. Staff created floodplain maps from Waterbury to Lake Champlain to assist with a State emergency management exercise.

**Municipal Consultations:** Consultations provide an overview of statutory changes, suggestions to strengthen the municipal plan, and discussion of municipal needs and CVRPC services. Staff completed consultations with Northfield, Barre City, and Barre Town. Consultation reports for Plainfield, Fayston, and Roxbury have been completed. The report for Duxbury is in progress.

**Zoning Administrators Roundtable:** Staff hosted the first in a series of Zoning Administrators Roundtable. Staff will be hosting a Planning Commissioners and Development Review Board member roundtable on May 30, and another ZA Roundtable on June 12.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

**Local Planning:** Staff reviewed Local Emergency Management Plans and submitted the following to VEM for acceptance: Barre City, Cabot, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fayston, Middlesex, Orange, Waterbury, and Williamstown. The Points of Contact spreadsheet, used during an activation of the local liaison, was updated to reflect the Plan changes. Having an adopted LEMP (formerly known as an LEOP) increases a municipality's Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) rating, providing them with more state aid after a federally declared disaster. Contact Laura Ranker, [ranker@cvregion.com](mailto:ranker@cvregion.com), for assistance.

Eleven new town officials completed the ICS 402 course, Incident Command System Summary for Executives. ICS 402 provides an overview of the executive level of preparedness, response, and recovery. These communities have positioned themselves to certify their local emergency management plan as required by VEM. Staff coordinated efforts with Cabot, Moretown, and Woodbury for additional trainings. If you need ICS 402 training in order to certify your LEOP/LEMP, come to the Moretown Town Hall on May 14 at 6 pm or contact Laura Ranker at [ranker@cvregion.com](mailto:ranker@cvregion.com) to arrange a training. The training calendar at <http://vem.vermont.gov/training> has class schedules and class registration.

**Local Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators (EMD/EMC):** Staff responded to requests of local EMDs in support of their daily responsibilities. In response to new EMD appointments, staff is coordinating efforts with VEM staff to conduct the EMD seminar series and 8-hour course offerings.

**Trainings and Workshops:** Contact Laura Ranker at [ranker@cvregion.com](mailto:ranker@cvregion.com).

Laura Ranker met with Eric Forand, State Exercise Administrator, to coordinate the local liaison role for the Integrated Emergency Management 3-day course and exercise at the SEOC. Staff reached out to the local town officials targeted for participation.

Staff coordinated with Green Mountain Power for its upcoming table top exercise on the Marshfield Dam Emergency Action Plan. The exercise includes local officials and emergency first responders from

Marshfield, Cabot and Plainfield, CVRPC and others.

**Hazard Mitigation Program Grants (HMGP):** Contact Laura Ranker, [ranker@cvregion.com](mailto:ranker@cvregion.com).

Staff assisted Marshfield and Warren in separate applications for infrastructure projects under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Staff performed the Benefit Cost Analyses, provided review of the application materials, and assisted with compiling the applications for submittal. Staff supported VEM and Middlesex in preparation of a buyout application for a Middlesex residence subject to repeated flooding and ice jam damage. CVRPC prepared an application to assist Calais and Montpelier with Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.

**LEPC #5:** Staff provided Hazchem grant application development and writing support to LEPC5.

Working with the LEPC5 Chair, CVRPC developed and prepared two Hazchem applications to the SERC. The SERC 19 grant award period is now 18 months instead of 12 months.

Staff provided administrative and financial management support to LEPC 5 as follow up to the March bimonthly meeting. Staff participated in initial discussions and a meeting with the LEPC5 Chair and the LEPC5 Information Coordinator to develop a webpage presence on the CVRPC website.

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

Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Barre Town: Staff assisted with the public hearing and adoption process and assisted the Town with the resolution for adoption.

Cabot: Staff received notice of FEMA approval. This Plan is complete!

Duxbury: The Plan under review by FEMA, waiting for Notice of Approval Pending Adoption.

East Montpelier: Staff discussed Plan status with Town Administrator and responded to requests for sample FEMA approved LHMPs.

Middlesex: The Plan is under FEMA review.

Moretown: Staff met with the Moretown Planning Commission to discuss CVRPC services and next steps in the update process. Staff provided additional resource materials to the PC.

Plainfield: Staff continued to provide guidance on Plan development and provided Hazchem resources. The Town's Committee is finalizing sections of the Plan. GIS staff provided map support.

Roxbury: The Plan received its FEMA notice of Approval Pending Adoption. Staff provided guidance for the public hearing and adoption process.

Warren: Staff provided guidance and resources to the committee Chair.

Waterbury: Staff received notice of FEMA Plan approval. This Plan is complete!

Williamstown: Staff met with the Selectboard and reviewed the plan development process and CVRPC services.

Worcester: The Plan is under VEM review.

Woodbury: Staff responded to requests for additional resources and materials and provided guidance and support to the Chair.

**Collaboration with Partners:** Staff participated in the RPC/VEM monthly conference call. Staff began talks with VEM to plan for additional EMD and town official trainings. Staff collaborated with CV DART members for updated resources for use in the LEMP/LEOPs Animal Response Plan annex.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Counts:** Staff collected data from the permanent Mad River counter. Staff retrieved counters from Brandon Gap and processed the data. Contact Ashley Andrews, [Andrews@cvregion.com](mailto:Andrews@cvregion.com), if your community would like CVRPC to complete traffic counts.

**Transportation Studies:** Staff is working with the VT Center for Independent Living, Central VT Council on Aging, and GMT on a grant application. The project will assist GMT to transition its existing deviated fixed route service to separate para transit service proposed for Central VT. If funded, the project will use an inclusive planning method whereby stakeholders are more fully included in the design, outreach, and implementation of the service. CVRPC would act as project manager.

**Walk/Bike Summit:** Staff has been working with the Cross VT Trail and the Catamount Trail Association on a presentation for the Walk/Bike Summit. The presentation will focus on pedestrian counts completed by CVRPC and how these counts have helped to build partnerships.

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

- Strategy Committee – Discussed dedicated funding sources options for public transit and the studies that have previously been written on the topic.
- Operations Committee meeting – Discussed the average age of the fleet and the possibility of replacement, particularly in the rural area. Fleet age is becoming a challenge as funds for bus replacement are increasingly difficult to obtain.
- Next Gen Advisory Committee – Discussed GMT’s capacity to expand its ADA Complementary service, as well as the best scenario for connecting Richford and FGI riders to Burlington. Recommended GMT hold a second set of public meetings to present the final draft plan and its recommendations. Meetings are scheduled for Waterbury Municipal Office on May 15 and CVMC, Berlin, on May 31. Both meetings begin at 6pm.
- Board of Commissioners – Reviewed a phased approach to implementing the NextGen Study recommendations. Reviewed customer survey updates. Discussed recent meeting with the VT Dept. of Health Access regarding Medicaid funding. Provided 30-day Notice to Cure to Route Match due to ongoing challenges with the software’s operations. Discussed operations and maintenance agreement for the Montpelier Downtown Transit Center.

**Route 100/108:** Staff has been assisting VTrans with an update to the VT Route 100/108 Corridor Plan. The new Plan will include projects that have a five year or less implementation schedule. This corridor is the pilot for this new style of Corridor Plan. Staff is assisting Waterbury with a Story Map related to road

construction and improvements.

**Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP):** Staff presented at the Town Officers Education Conference on the near and long-term timeline for the MRGP and ways for towns to start working on their Road Erosions Inventory. Staff hosted the Central VT Road Foreman's meeting which focused on laws that govern road construction and maintenance and how they apply to the MRGP implementation requirements. Field season has begun, and staff are in Woodbury inventorying road erosion.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:** Contact Pam DeAndrea, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com).

Staff supported the State's Tactical Basin Planning (TBP) efforts for the Winooski and White River Watersheds by:

- Providing project priorities for towns within the Winooski Watershed;
- Providing lists of municipalities that have or will have water quality and flood resilience protectiveness measures in town plans and ordinances/by-laws;
- Providing input on how municipalities can use landslide data developed by VT Geological Survey and Norwich University; and
- Assisting with Basin Plan action items for forestry protection and management practices.

Staff has begun reviewing the Draft Winooski Tactical Basin Plan. This summer, staff will work with the Regional Planning Committee, the Board of Commissioners, and stakeholders to develop comments and address conformance with the Central Vermont Regional Plan. The Winooski Basin Planner, Karen Bates, will be presenting the draft Basin Plan at the May Commission meeting.

**Clean Water Block Grant Program:** The Vermont DEC has stopped funding additional projects under this program. Staff has submitted a grant under this program for the final design of stormwater mitigation at the Berlin Town Offices. Contact Pam DeAndrea, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com).

**Mad River Moretown Stream Geomorphic Assessment:** The Final Moretown Stream Geomorphic Assessment and River Corridor Plan is complete! This plan identifies potential improvement projects for water, flood resilience, and habitat enhancement. Project partners – CVRPC, Friends of the Mad River and consultant Bear Creek Environmental, LLC hosted a public meeting to present findings of the Stream Geomorphic Assessment and recommendations in the River Corridor Plan. Click on the following link to see the recorded public meeting: [Moretown Mad River Corridor Plan Public Meeting April 10, 2018](#). To view/download the final report got to: [Moretown, Vermont Stream Geomorphic Assessment and River Corridor Plan](#). Contact Pam DeAndrea, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com).

**Mad River and Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans:** Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) has begun its fieldwork to identify stormwater problem areas of concern in five Mad River towns and three Kingsbury Branch towns. This field work will lead to possible sites for consideration in the

stormwater master plans. After the field visits, each town will be provided with maps and site lists they can use to set priorities for action. Outreach meetings will be completed with stakeholders identified for the project. The plans are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

**Northfield Water Street Stormwater Mitigation:** The kickoff meeting with the Town, Watershed Consulting Associates, and Aldrich & Elliott was held. WCA, A & E and staff also presented the updated design of the project to the Northfield Selectboard and discussed how and when the stormwater mitigation will be implemented this summer. The project involves final site design and constructions of a bioretention/infiltration system to capture runoff from 48 acres of residential development. The project will use a Downstream Defender<sup>®</sup>, an innovative vortex separator that removes particles, hydrocarbons, and floatable debris.

**Forest Integrity:** Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com).

Staff reviewed and commented on a Forest Integrity survey which was drafted by Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the survey will be to gather information from municipalities about what tools they use and what tools will be helpful in their efforts to support forest integrity.

Staff attended the quarterly Forest Roundtable hosted by VNRC in Randolph.

The Upper Winooski Forest and Flood Resiliency project steering committee meet twice. Stakeholders reviewed a preliminary GIS analysis which will be used to identify target stakeholders who may benefit from direct outreach. The GIS analysis identifies forested land which is more vulnerable to runoff and erosion and parcels which are potentially eligible for forestry management programs. The committee has also been considering the most effective way to reach landowners for forest protection and management practices.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Brownfields:** Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com).

Assessment work is complete for three properties (Whiting, Ayers Auto, and 51 Prospect Street). The draft Corrective Action Plan for the Montpelier UES site will be released the first week of May. Public engagement will include a public meeting to assist the community to understand what is proposed in the plan and to solicit feedback during the public comment period. A draft Phase II report has been completed for the Bonacorsi property. Phase II field work started in late April in Woodbury.

Supplemental Phase II work is underway at Granite Work. The property owner has contributed funds towards the assessment.

Staff submitted a brownfield budget adjustment to EPA and updated EPA's property profile information. CVRPC received notice the recent grant application was not funded.



**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Office:** Ashley Andrews, GIS Planner, celebrated 10 years of service with CVRPC in April. Andrews began work with CVRPC as a Planning Technician in 2008. In addition to GIS work, she now coordinates transportation field services and assists with IT troubleshooting, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan development, and Tier II report development for municipalities. CVRPC encourages staff to grow within and beyond current positions by setting and working towards professional development goals. *Thank you, Ashley, for your dedication and contributions during the past 10 years!*

CVRPC is updating its municipal contacts database. Office Manager Nancy Chartrand has contacted municipal clerks requesting new information for town boards and officials. Once the new database is completed, CVRPC will be able to provide towns with a pre-printed list of existing contacts for annual updates. The goal of the new database is to create a shared contact list for CVRPC staff and to reduce municipal time spent on contact updates.

**Professional Development:** Clare Rock, Senior Planner, earned Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status from the National Association of State Floodplain Managers. The professional certification program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of floodplain management professionals. Municipalities are welcome to contact Rock or Senior Planner Pam DeAndrea (also a CFM) with floodplain management questions.

Dan Currier, Program Manager, was selected by VEM to represent RPCs on the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application review team. This team reviews and selects HMGP projects for submission to FEMA for funding. Currier's extensive experience with post-Irene river recovery actions, his development of a statewide procedure for local input into the State's River Corridor process, and his ongoing bridge and culvert assessments contributed to his selection for this competitive appointment.

Matt Germaine, Planning Technician, participated in meeting facilitation training to create collaborative meetings. Facilitation tools and skills increase a work group's ability to plan meetings that accomplish objectives and minimize conflict. Germaine will highlighted lessons learned at a staff meeting.

Pam DeAndrea, GIS Senior Planner, and Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director, participated in an emergency management training and exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Through a Memorandum of Understanding with VEM, RPCs extend the State's capacity to assist municipalities during disaster events. RPCs gather local damage information and augment SEOC staffing for planning and logistic support.

Clare Rock, Senior Planner, is working with an RPC subcommittee to review DEC's proposed flood hazard training modules. Three modules will provide an overview of "no adverse impact" to floodplains and river corridors, discuss what municipalities can/have done for flood resilience, and provide coaching effectively administering floodplain and river corridor regulations. RPC participation fosters more well-rounded modules and better prepares RPCs to train and coach municipalities to use the modules.

**Upcoming Meetings:**MAY

May 7	6 pm	LEPC 5, Central Vermont Medical Center, Conference Room 2
May 8	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
May 9	11 am	VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan Public Hearing, VCFA, Montpelier
May 10	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
May 17	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
May 21	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
May 22	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
May 24	8:30 am	Act 250: The Next 50 Years Conference, VT Law School, South Royalton
May 31	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office (if necessary)

JUNE

June 4	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
June 8	All Day	VT Downtown & Historic Preservation Conference, Bristol
June 12	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber of Commerce, Berlin
June 18	4 pm	Brownfields Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
June 21	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
June 26	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
June 28	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office (if necessary)

**Visit CVRPC's web site at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org) to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.**

## Executive Director's Report

May 2, 2018

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Staff identified several municipal and regional needs and worked in April to develop funding to help CVRPC to meet those needs.

### Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

CVRPC submitted a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant program application to assist Calais and Montpelier with updates to their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Calais has focused considerable effort at identifying its natural systems infrastructure. It has begun applying that information to municipal planning and development review. Considering it in the scope of hazard mitigation would strengthen community resilience. The Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plan also can be incorporated in the LHMP.

Montpelier will consider Winooski River flood inundation mapping being completed by Vermont's Silver Jacket team, incorporate its Stormwater Master Plan, consider recommendations from its Flood Risk Mitigation Study (ice jam mitigation), and evaluate its growth and development plans as they relate to its hazard mitigation goals.

### Para Transit Service Transition

CVRPC will partners with Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Central Vermont Council on Aging, and the Vermont Center of Independent Living to engage para transit system users in transit planning. Para transit users are people with disabilities and older adults.

GMT's NextGen Transit Study recommends modifying how para transit services are provided in the Barre-Montpelier area. Currently, para transit service is provided through route deviation – users call in advance with ride needs, and the bus deviates (diverts) off its regular route to pick up the rider. The proposed service would mirror service provided in other areas of the state. Volunteer drivers would provide door-to-door service to para transit users. CVRPC and its partners applied for a grant funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, called Transit Planning 4 All, to include para transit service users and their caregivers in planning for the service transition. The project leverage the skills and knowledge of each partner. At the request of local partners, CVRPC would manage the planning project.

Successful outcomes will insure para transit riders make a successful transition to the new system and guide GMT in its first effort to provide separate para transit service in a rural area.

**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**  
**Committee & Appointed Representative Reports**  
**May 2018**

*Meeting minutes for CVRPC Committees are available at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org).*

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

- Reviewed issue with Regional Plan/Regional Energy Plan consistency.
- Discussed changes to FY19 Strategic Plan actions.
- Discussed changes to FY19 Work plan and budget.
- Appointed Personnel Policy Review Committee, an Executive Committee workgroup.
- Discussed Regional Plan Committee. Recommend the Committee membership be adapted to a five Commissioners and a term length of two years.
- Held Executive Session for personnel.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 4pm)

Meeting was cancelled due to lack of projects or information to discuss.

**REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE** (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

A meeting was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues with consistency between the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan. Staff received feedback from the Department of Public Service indicating an aspect that may not be consistent with the energy planning standards. The Committee discussed options related to restriction of uses above 2,500 feet. The discussion will be continued at the Commission in May.

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

Met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and recommended regional approval of the Montpelier Master Plan and confirmation of the City's planning process. The Commission approved a resolution granting regional approval and confirmation of their planning process.

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

Reviewed three municipal roadway curve candidates for the VTrans Systemic Local Road Safety (SLRS) program. The TAC selected Northfield's Lovers Lane as our top candidate for VTrans to evaluate. They also started the review of proposed changes to the Functional Classification System in Central VT for VTrans. This review is expected to be completed in May.

**BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 4pm)

Did not meet due to a lack of quorum.

**CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (First meeting May 10<sup>th</sup> 4 pm)

Staff has solicited members for the CWAC and has received a great response. Thirteen individuals are interested in joining, including CVRPC Commissioners and representatives from watershed groups and municipalities (City Councils/planning commission/conservation commissions). The first meeting for the CWAC will be May 10<sup>th</sup> where a regular meeting date will be determined. Staff drafted Rules of Procedure for review by the CWAC and Board of Commissioners.

**ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (As needed; scheduled by committee)

Did not meet.

**VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**

Meeting has not occurred.

**VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL**

No applications from Central Vermont.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT**

- Reviewed a phased approach to implementing the NextGen Study recommendations.
- Reviewed customer survey updates.
- Discussed recent meeting with the VT Dept. of Health Access regarding Medicaid funding. The Dept. agreed to adjust the per member per mile rate.
- Provided 30-day Notice to Cure to Route Match due to ongoing challenges with the software's operations.
- Discussed operations and maintenance agreement for the Montpelier Downtown Transit Center. If awarded, VTrans will pursue a 3-year Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant, the City of Montpelier will provide the grant match, and GMT will operate the Center.

**MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT**

The Planning District discussed the Recreation District Strategic Plan, elected officers, and continued its discussion on broad funding options including how to put investment into the community.