



REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE

September 17, 2018 at 4:00pm

Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce Committee Room, 963 Paine Turnpike, Berlin

Note
Location

Page AGENDA

- 4:00¹ Adjustments to the Agenda**
Public Comments
- 2 **4:05 White River Tactical Basin Plan, Laura Ranker & Pam DeAndrea** (enclosed)²
 Recommend comments and determination of Regional Plan compatibility to the Board of Commissioners
- 68 **4:35 Preferred Site Designation** (enclosed)²
 69 a) Finalize municipal planning guidance document draft for distribution
 74 b) Finalize CVRPC preferred sites engagement flow chart
 75 c) Continue development of CVRPC site review guidance
- 85 **5:40 Rules of Procedure** (enclosed)²
 Recommend Committee Rules of Procedure to the Board of Commissioners
- 5:50 Meeting Minutes** (enclosed)²
 88 a) January 31, 2018
 90 b) July 16, 2018
 93 c) August 29, 2018
- 5:55 Next Meeting**
 a) Confirm regular meeting date
 b) Set draft agenda
- 6:00 Adjournment**

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.



DRAFT

Date: September 10, 2018
To: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
From: Laura Ranker, Planner
Re: Plan Conformance of the 2018 White River Basin, Basin-9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft and the Central Vermont Regional Plan and Project Prioritization

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has reviewed the *2018 White River Basin, Basin -9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft*. The purpose of this memorandum is to analyze the relative conformance of the Tactical Basin Plan draft with the relevant Goals, Strategies and Recommended Actions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and to provide recommendations regarding project prioritization.

There are four municipalities in the White River Basin (Basin 9) that are part of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC); Roxbury, Washington, Williamstown, and Warren. There is only a **very** small portion of Warren, along its border with Roxbury that is in the watershed. Basin-9 is divided into 5 sub-basins of which Roxbury and Warren are in the Third Branch, a portion of Williamstown is in the Second Branch; a portion of Williamstown and Washington are in the First Branch.

The White River Tactical Basin Plan focuses on eleven priority waters (Figure 2.) identified for remediation actions. There are 59 priority actions to address water quality protection and restoration (summarized in Chapter 5 Table 20). In addition, the Plan provides a list of 53 recommended priorities for water quality monitoring and assessment in the Basin (Chapter 5 Table 21). For purposes of the analysis and project prioritization, focus is given to priorities in the four towns from the Central Vermont region.

Introduction

The CVRPC has the opportunity to provide recommendations to the Agency of Natural Resources regarding tactical basin plans pursuant to Vermont Statutes Title 10, Chapter 47, §1253(d). Statute directs regional planning commissions to:

- (2)(G) ... the Secretary [of Natural Resources] shall: develop, in consultation with the regional planning commission, an analysis and formal recommendation on conformance with the goals and objectives of applicable regional plans.
- (3)(D) ... [the regional planning commissions are to] assist the Secretary in implementing a project evaluation process to prioritize water quality improvement projects within the region to assure cost effective use of State and federal funds.

CVRPC staff completed a review of the *2018 White River Basin, Basin -9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft, version dated 9/4/2018 on 9/10/2018*. Following that review, the Basin Plan was then reviewed by CVRPC's Regional Plan Committee on September 17, 2018, the Clean Water Advisory Committee on September 20, 2018 and by the Board of Commissions on October 9, 2018. Based upon this review process the CVRPC presents these comments to the VT Agency of Natural Resources.

Plan Conformance

The *2018 White River Basin, Basin-9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft, version 9/4/2018* and the *2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018*, contain overarching conforming Goals and Objectives.

The overall goals and objectives of the Basin-9 Plan is to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of Vermont's waters. The accompanying table lists the Basin-9 priority mitigation strategies and actions as they relate specifically to the municipalities of Roxbury, Williamstown, Washington, and Warren located in the CVRPC region and identifies those Regional Plan goals, policies, and actions which are mutually supportive. (See attachment titled "Conforming Goals and Objectives"). In general, CVRPC supports the priorities as listed.

CVRPC provides the following comments and accompanying recommendations to strengthen plan conformance:

1. Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGA): The Basin-9 Plan states that there is a gap that exists for the Phase II Stream Geomorphic Assessments for the Second Branch and Upper Third Branch, and portions of the middle and lower White River mainstem (p.54). The SGAs provide data for incorporation into River Corridor Plans which help identify projects to reduce bacteria, sediment, and nutrients in the river. River Corridor Plans help to manage toward stream equilibrium which is essential for good water quality, healthy aquatic habitat, and flood resilience in the basin and will help mitigate impacts of increased runoff and stream flow. The Regional Plan supports the improved identification and mapping of surface water resources and development of river corridor plans and local river corridor ordinances. Phase II SGA data is a critical planning resource and tool for towns and watershed groups.

Recommendation:

- Make it a priority to complete the Phase II SGA for the entire section of the Second Branch, **including Williamstown**, and develop a River Corridor Plan. Identify Williamstown in the town column of Strategy #1 Table 20.
- Make it a priority to complete the Phase II SGA for the Upper Third Branch, **including Roxbury**, and develop a River Corridor Plan. Add this to the list of priority mitigation actions in Table 50 as a new strategy. Identify Roxbury in the towns identified column for the new strategy listing under Table 20.
- When identifying, developing, and ranking a list of projects in the First Branch River Corridor Plan that will likely reduce bacteria, sediment and nutrient input to the river include Washington located in the CVRPC region. Washington was included in the First Branch Phase II SGA and the geomorphic condition in Washington was found to be fair (Figure 12. TBP, *note this figure number should be corrected to Figure 21 in the draft plan*).

2. Road Erosion Inventory: The Basin-9 Plan and CV Regional Plan mutually support road erosion inventory work under the Municipal Roads General Permit that identifies sections of roads in need of sediment and erosion control, ranks road segments that pose the highest risk to surface water, and

estimate costs to remediate those sites using Best Management Practices (BMP). Towns have a time sensitive timeline for completing work under the MRGP, including completing the Road Erosion Inventories. Washington is NOT completed and needs to be “on the radar” for completion. Williamstown is being done in 2018.

Recommendation:

- Add Washington to the towns identified under Strategy #29 of Table 20 as a priority town for completion of a road erosion inventory and list CVRPC as a partner. Also correct the Table 12 on page 63 by adding Washington to the list of towns under the column “on the radar.” Remove Washington from the list of completed towns shown in Table 12 and add Warren to this same list of completed towns.

3. Stormwater Master Planning: Williamstown has been added to the 2018 Draft Winooski Tactical Basin Plan to develop a stormwater master plan.

Recommendation:

- To be consistent between basins, Williamstown needs to be added to the Basin-9 Table 20, Strategy #31 as a town identified as a priority to develop a stormwater master plan. Also, add CVRPC under the Partner column. Since a town-wide stormwater master plan is being recommended, remove Williamstown from Strategy #33, which would look to see whether a project identified through stormwater mapping should be carried out alone or through multi-town stormwater master planning. If Williamstown has its own stormwater master plan, looking into these options would not be necessary.

4. River Corridor Protection: Both Plans seek to protect river corridors and floodplains to increase flood resilience and allow rivers to reach equilibrium. From an emergency management perspective, the Regional Plan discourages development and investment in floodplains, yet it should be noted that overall the Regional Plan (as outlined within the Land Use Chapter) recognizes that our Regional and Town Centers are locations for continued investment and redevelopment. Due to the historic nature of the region, portions of these Regional and Town Centers are located in floodplains and possibly even within River Corridors. It should also be noted that municipal regulations within some central Vermont municipalities do allow development within floodplains. The Basin-9 Plan states the goal of managing toward, protecting, and restoring the equilibrium condition of Vermont rivers is to resolve or avoid conflicts between human investments and river dynamics in a manner that is technically sound, and both economically and ecologically sustainable. River corridor management requires flexibility and prioritizing of areas for protection and enhancement. Strict conformance with protection of river corridors may not be achievable.

Recommendation: *(CVRPC made this same recommendation to the 2018 Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan)*

- Include language within the Basin Plan that recognizes the presence of historic Regional and Town (and Village) Centers in river corridors and floodplains and clarify how DEC will work with regional organizations and municipalities to accommodate these special circumstances. More specifically:
 - Add recognition of historic development pattern in Plan document within the Water Quality ERAF section, Local regulations section, and within the Stream Geomorphic Assessment section.

- Include further discussion and analysis of the NFIP base requirements compared to the recommendations of the State River Program model flood hazard regulations and model river corridor regulations. The model river corridor regulations make an allowance for infill within state designated historic downtowns and villages. This information could be added into Chapter 4-Regulations and Initiatives for Protecting and Maintaining Water Quality.

5. Reclassification of Surface Waters: CVRPC supports the maintenance or upgrading of existing surface water classifications to reflect their actual recreational uses, except where lower classifications may be needed for municipal sewage treatment projects (Outdoor Recreation Goal 7.). CVRPC supports the reclassification for B(1) recreational fishing for Hart Hollow Brook and South Washington Creek, both very good cold water streams located in Chelsea and Washington to protect their high quality fishing, a valued asset in the Central Vermont region. CVRPC opposes the downgrading of surface water classifications unless such action is required to accommodate treated effluent from new or expanded municipal sewage treatment facilities. The Commission also opposes the upgrading of surface water classifications where such upgrading might be misleading or dangerous to users. (General Land Use Goals, Policies, and Strategies, 3b).

6. Recommendations on Project Prioritization: *(CVRPC made this same recommendation to the 2018 Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan)*

The CVRPC has been working with other RPCs to develop a prioritization process for projects, but it has not yet been finalized nor adopted by the ANR for incorporation into their prioritization process. When this is finalized, the CVRPC will provide further recommendations through the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) on regional project priorities.

Other Comments

In general, this plan is very comprehensive. CVRPC offers the following general comments:

- Put a date reference on the cover page of the plan so the revised drafts are easily discernable
- Add Roxbury to the list of towns in Basin-9, Page 3, *All Towns in Basin 9* listing with map shown below.
- Page 12, reference to a boundary of the Richardson Memorial Contact being visible on the map, Figure 4 is not so; the blue /gray shading referred to is not apparent.
- Figure 5 Labels for Williamstown and Warren are not visible.
- Figure 12 on page 55 should be labeled as Figure 21, and associated referenced in text narrative also corrected.
- Table 12 on page 63 should be labeled as Table 21, and associated referenced in text narrative also corrected. See other changes to table noted above.
- Town of Warren is missing from the Table 14. *Towns with Completed stormwater mapping reports...* Warren has mapping completed per Figure 25 on previous page. Make Williamstown in italics as a town recommended for stormwater master planning to be consistent with the Winooski Basin Plan and change status to “recommended”.
- Add Williamstown to the section on Wastewater Treatment facilities in the Basin-9 found in Chapter 4 page 75-76.
- CVRPC supports the municipal protection goals as illustrated in Figure 30. This is a nice way to convey data.
- Check waterbody data column against town column under Strategy #1 related to Second Branch of the White River. Prioritize all towns including Brookfield, Randolph, Bethel and Williamstown.
- Appendix F. Municipal Water Quality Protectiveness Table. - Update table and Add

Williamstown and Warren to the list of municipalities listed.

- Two basin plans are being developed concurrently within the region and while these plans only overlap in three of our towns, if the plans followed the same format it would increase the relationship between the plans and the objectives they strive to attain. Similar formats would also decrease confusion within those communities. (Comment also provided during review of Draft 2018 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan.)
- The overall goals and objectives of the Central Vermont Regional Plan supports the Basin-9 Plan actions to address the four main stressors in the basin affecting water quality: Encroachment, Stream channel erosion, Land erosion, and Pathogens.
- May want to consider incorporation of additional appendices for some of the linked data; when reading a hard copy some of the more pertinent linked data is not available.
- Nice summary on page 84 of funding opportunities/sources.
- Page 23 appears to have redundant text on the CWA.
- Page 24 Vermont is missing from the list of states mentioned as part of the Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (LISWRCP)

Beyond the statutory requirements of the Regional Plan as laid out in Vermont statute Title 24 VSA Chapter 117 Section 4347 "Purpose of a Regional Plan", the CVRPC, "views the Plan as a means to enhance the lives of the Region's residents." Therefore, quality of life is the guiding principle of the Plan factoring in a safe environment, job opportunities, natural beauty the landscape provides, educational quality, and low crime rate. Some of the broad policies of the CVRP that are most pertinent to the 2018 White River Basin - Basin 9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft are:

- Encourage planning that identifies, respects and preserves our important historic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- Seek to maintain healthy environment and to respect the Region's historic settlement patterns.
- Encourage development patterns which result in more energy efficient transportation patterns.
- Encourage investment in public facilities and services in areas of population and economic growth.
- Support the identification and utilization of economic growth centers as a method of achieving development patterns that are mutually advantageous to the environment and the socio-economic needs of the Region's towns.

There are eleven identified priority waters for *remediation* listed in the TBP (Figure 2) however, none of these waters are in the CV region. Despite this, the strategies goals and objectives are mutually supported by each Plan. They are listed below.

- Encourage river restoration and protection efforts;
- Review VDEC data and VFWD data for improvements
- Monitor swimming holes /areas to protect public health
- Use BMP
- Offer septic socials
- Follow 2011 VT TMDL standards
- Implement high priority projects recommended in SGA
- Encourage towns to adopt local river corridor and flood hazard protection standards
- Implement Required Agricultural Practices and outreach to farmers develop storm water master plans and implement high priority projects
- Perform waste water treatment facility monitoring
- Conduct road erosion inventories on hydro geologically connected roads segments and implement road BMP to meet MRGP standards coordinate with partners VFWG,WRP, DEC, landowners
- Educate lakeshore community on BMPs for water quality
- Establish long term trend data
- Initiate AIS monitoring and water chemistry monitoring
- Assist with outreach by VT Waste Management and Prevention Division to landowners identify opportunities for riparian and aquatic area habitat restoration and protection

The following table summary is based on the 59 priority implementation actions identified in the Basin-9 Plan (Table 20) to address *protection and restoration priorities* for the basin and the 53 *water monitoring recommendations* (Table 21) as they relate specifically to the four towns in the CV Region. The 2018 *White River Basin - Basin 9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft* (WRTBP) and the 2016 *Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018* (CVRP) contain overarching conforming Goals and Objectives. The table below lists the WRTBP's priority mitigation strategies and actions as they relate specifically to the municipalities of Roxbury, Williamstown, Washington, and Warren located in the CVRPC region and identifies those Regional Plan goals and policies which are mutually supportive. A detailed summary outlining the conforming sections of the Regional Plan, including strategies, follows the table. When applicable, notes are added to the table to further comments on the relationship between the recommended priority and the Regional Plan.

*Based on Table 20 and Table 21 of the White River Basin-Basin 9, Draft Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) as they relate specifically to the municipalities of Roxbury, Williamstown, Washington, and Warren located in the CVRPC region.

2018 White River Basin - Basin 9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft (9/4/2018)	2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018	
PRIORITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS with Purpose.	GOALS and POLICIES (AS CONTAINED THROUGHOUT THE PLAN; strategies can be found listed in the summary at the back)	NOTES
IMPAIRED WATERS - Restore		
<p>Strategy #1. Develop a Phase II SGA and River Corridor Plan for the Second Branch of the White River. (Locations identified Royalton, Chelsea, and Tunbridge).</p> <p>Purpose: Identify projects that will identify and address nutrient and sediment inputs; implement bacterial TMDL.</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u> Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u> 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. Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u> GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources. Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources. Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources. Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(Numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table.)</i> Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk. GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p>	<p>Towns identified did not include Williamstown in the CVRPC region or the TROPIC towns of Randolph and Brookfield which make up the majority of this sub-basin, and Bethel. Per TBP Appendix A. 2013 Basin 9 Report Card, "This is the largest SGA data gap in the White River watershed and is the highest priority for Phase 2 SGA in this basin." This action was carried over into this 2018 TBP.</p>

	<p>Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly, CVRPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes that some environmental and development “trade off” will be necessary to achieve desired growth patterns... <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment systems.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows</p> <p>Policies: 4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater system to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resiliency of the Region’s systems.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land</p>	<p>In Table 20, Strategy 1, Consider the addition of Williamstown under Town column. Although not CVRPC towns, Randolph, Brookfield and Bethel should also be added.</p>
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	Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.	
<p>Strategy #2. Identify, develop and rank a list of projects in the First Branch River Corridor Plan that will likely reduce bacteria, sediment and nutrient input to the river. (Locations identified Royalton, Chelsea, Tunbridge)</p> <p>Purpose: Address bacterial inputs and encourage stream equilibrium; implement bacterial TMDL.</p>	<p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u> 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. <u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u> GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources. Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources. Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. (<i>Numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table.</i>) Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors. GOAL 2. To enhance and support the viability of the Region's resource based industries. Policies: 1. CVRPC Supports and encourages the protection and continued productivity of viable primary agricultural soils, productive forest land, and mineral resources. Sound land use planning including flexible development options, fair government pricing taxation and subsidy programs, agricultural diversity, and promotion of value- added products and industries are viewed a means to this end. GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas. Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses. Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands. Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species,</p>	<p>Towns identified did not include Washington and Williamstown located in the CVRPC region. Washington was included in the First Branch Phase II SGA but Williamstown was not. Geomorphic condition in Washington shown as fair (Figure 12. TBP).</p> <p>In Table 20, Strategy 2, Add Washington under Town column.</p>

	<p>particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits; • Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; properly sizing and maintaining culverts; • Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the "Road Design and Maintenance Handbook" published by VLRP. • Separating combined storm water/sewer systems (CSO's) which can discharge raw sewage to surface waters during big storms. <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p>	
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	<p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p>GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment systems.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows</p> <p>Policies: 4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater system to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resiliency of the Region's systems.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p> <p><u>Electric Power Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of electric power generation methods and infrastructure so as to provide adequate service, conserve energy, maximize benefits of public investments, minimize impacts on aesthetics, ecological and recreational resources, and protect public health.</p> <p>Policies: 9. Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL:</u> To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality</p>	
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	<p>outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.</p> <p><i>From an emergency management perspective the Regional Plan discourages development and investment in floodplains, yet it should be noted that overall the Regional Plan (as outlined within the Land Use Chapter) recognizes that our Regional and Town Centers are locations for continued investment and redevelopment. Due to the historic nature of the region, portions of these Regional and Town Centers are located in floodplains and possibly even within River Corridors. Strict conformance with the Tactical Basin Plan Objective may not be achievable unless the Basin Plan recognizes the presence of existing development in river corridors and floodplains and provides an allowance for certain or special circumstances. It should be noted that municipal regulations within some central Vermont municipalities do allow development within floodplains.</i></p> <p><i>While landslide not explicated mentioned in a Goal or Policy, the Emergency Management section of</i></p>	
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	<p><i>the Facilities, Services and Utilities Chapter states that “[I]n Central Vermont, the most common types of natural disasters include: floods, winter storms, hurricanes, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and even tornadoes.”(page # 5-35)</i></p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p> <p>C. Ensure that resource extraction operations follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the local and surrounding environment and other land uses, and to allow for site restoration.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p> <p>E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.</p>	
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FLOW ALTERED WATERS - Restore		
<p>Strategy #9. Proceed with flow study to determine water quality status and recommendations for flow regulation on <u>Flint Brook</u>. (Located in Roxbury)</p> <p>Purpose: Determine if artificial flow regulation is having a negative impact on water quality. Currently funded by VFWD and federal grant.</p>	<p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Strategy 3d. Native vegetated strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas should be protected and maintained according to Best Management Practices outlined in the Vermont Handbook for Shoreland Development and VT ANR Guidance Regarding Riparian Buffers to protect functional habitat and improve water quality.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL:</u> To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Priority consideration should be given to rehabilitating and update existing recreational facilities.</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market</p>	

	<p>opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p>	
STRESSED WATERS - Restore		No CVRPC identified Towns.
HIGH-QUALITY WATERS - Protect		
<p>Strategy #27. Reclassify waters recommended for A(1) and B(1) status to protect high quality fisheries and aquatic biota. (Location in Multi towns; this includes Washington in CV region)</p> <p>Purpose: Determine if additional protections should be implemented to maintain high quality water condition.</p>	<p>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Priority consideration should be given to rehabilitating and update existing recreational facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 7. CVRPC supports the maintenance or upgrading of existing surface water classifications to reflect their actual recreational uses, except where lower classifications may be needed for municipal sewage treatment projects.</p> <p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>CVRPC supports the reclassification In Table 20, Strategy 27, Add CVRPC under Partner column; add Figure 1 under Waterbody column.</p>

	<p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(In addition to strategy 3b, numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table.)</i></p> <p>Strategy 3b. CVRPC opposes the downgrading of surface water classification unless such action is required to accommodate treated effluent from new or expanded municipal sewage treatment facilities. The Commission also opposes the upgrading of surface waters classifications where such upgrading might be misleading or dangerous to users.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors.</p> <p>GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p>	
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	<p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including...</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment</p>	
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	<p>systems.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows</p> <p><u>Electric Power Goal: Improvement and expansion of electric power generation methods and infrastructure so as to provide adequate service, conserve energy, maximize benefits of public investments, minimize impacts on aesthetics, ecological and recreational resources, and protect public health.</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities.</p> <p><u>WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS:</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Access Roads should be designed to minimize their impact on scenic, agricultural, forestry, and natural resources.</p> <p><u>HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS</u></p> <p>Goals: 3. To promote preservation of the existing housing stock and the development of future housing in the village/town and employment centers of the Region, or those areas designated as Growth Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 5. The majority of new housing should be constructed in town centers and designated growth centers.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p> <p>C. Ensure that resource extraction operations follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the local and surrounding environment and other land uses, and to allow for site restoration.</p>	
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<p>Strategy #28. Provide outreach to towns on B(1) candidate waters. Waters identified in Figures 10 and 11 and Table 6 of TBP. (See above)</p> <p>Purpose: Ensure towns and community members understand reclassification for protection.</p>	<p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region's downtowns and village centers.</p> <p>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 7. CVRPC supports the maintenance or upgrading of existing surface water classifications to reflect their actual recreational uses, except where lower classifications may be needed for municipal sewage treatment projects.</p>	<p>In Table 20, Strategy 28, Add CVRPC under Partner column; add Figure 1 under Waterbody column.</p>
<p>STORMWATER RUNOFF - Maintain, enhance, and protect</p>		
<p>Strategy #29. Complete road erosion inventories (Basin-wide) (Locations identified Bethel, Brookfield, Royalton, Tunbridge, Hartford, Barnard, Pomfret, Rochester).</p> <p>Purpose: Identify water quality improvements on</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to</p>	<p>Washington is not completed in CV region.</p> <p>In Table 20, Strategy 29, Add Washington as a town under the "on the radar" column; Add</p>

hydrologically connected road segments.	<p>ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p>GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(Numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this</i></p>	CVRPC under Partner column. Correct Table 12. <i>Status of towns with Road Erosion Inventories, now required by the MRGP on page 63.</i>
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	<p><i>table.)</i></p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss</p> <p>Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits; • Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; 	
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	<p>properly sizing and maintaining culverts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the “Road Design and Maintenance Handbook” published by VLRP. • Separating combined storm water/sewer systems (CSO’s) which can discharge raw sewage to surface waters during big storms. 	
<p>Strategy #31. Develop stormwater master plans for Randolph, Hartford, Bethel, Royalton, and Rochester.</p> <p>Purpose: Identify priorities for nutrient and sediment removal from stormwater runoff.</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. In order to maintain the existing settlement patterns, higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development should be located in Regional Centers and Town Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(Numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table)</i></p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk.</p> <p>Strategy 5a. Continue to conduct outreach to municipalities regarding the most recent state River Corridor maps as delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources and their implications.</p> <p>Strategy 5b. Encourage and provide technical assistance to municipalities in enhancing the regulatory standards in their municipal flood hazard regulations, including the incorporation of River Corridor regulations.</p> <p>Strategy 5c. Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided.</p> <p>Strategy 5d. Wetlands that provide a flood storage function as determined by the VT Wetlands Program should be left undisturbed or development should be required to provide compensatory</p>	<p>In Table 20, Strategy 31, Add Williamstown under Town column, Add CVRPC under Partner column. This will also ensure compatibility with the 2018 Draft Winooski TBP which identifies Williamstown as a priority for development of a stormwater master plan.</p>

	<p>storage or restoration on-site or in the immediate vicinity, if disturbed.</p> <p>Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region’s downtowns and village centers.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss</p> <p>Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors.</p> <p>GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p> <p>Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly, CVRPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the appropriate expansion of existing settlements, particularly where excess infrastructural capacity exists. (The existing settlements within Central Vermont are those areas currently served by public water and/or sewer systems or characterized by higher densities of development. Existing settlements include, but are not limited to, the downtowns and cities, the villages and the myriad concentrated residential neighborhoods.) • Encourages “in fill” development and adaptive reuse of buildings in existing settlements. • Recognizes that some environmental and development “trade off” will be necessary to achieve desired growth patterns... <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner’s on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective</p>	
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	<p>include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits; • Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; properly sizing and maintaining culverts; • Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the "Road Design and Maintenance Handbook" published by VLRP. • Separating combined storm water/sewer systems (CSO's) which can discharge raw sewage to surface waters during big storms. <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p>	
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	<p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p>GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment systems.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows</p> <p>Policies: 4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater system to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resiliency of the Region's systems.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p>	
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	<p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA’s Standards</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 7.These efforts to maintain and plan for adequate systems to support business growth and expansion include support of: ...Water, wastewater and storm water management systems in locations that allow for appropriately-scaled commercial and industrial expansion, higher densities and co-location of jobs, housing and services.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners</p>	
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	<p>to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p> <p>E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.</p>	
BACTERIA AND NUTRIENT RUNOFF FROM AGRICULTURAL LANDS - Restore		
<p>Strategy #37. Target farm inspections on areas with data suggests elevated nutrient loading and E. coli communities. (Locations identified Basin-wide)</p> <p>Purpose: Reduce nutrient and bacteria run-off in target areas to improve water quality</p>	<p><u>RURAL AND HAMLET LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. Development should be designed to minimize its impact on the viability of agricultural operations or its contribution to fragmentation of forest Blocks.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Strategy 3a. Storage and utilization of fertilizers, pesticides, petro-chemicals, herbicides, sludge, or other potentially harmful industrial, agricultural, commercial or residential materials, must be accomplished in a manner compatible with existing regulations.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To enhance and support the viability of the Region's resource based industries.</p> <p>Policies: 1. CVRPC Supports and encourages the protection and continued productivity of viable primary agricultural soils, productive forest land, and mineral resources. Sound land use planning including flexible development options, fair government pricing taxation and subsidy programs, agricultural diversity, and promotion of value- added products and industries are viewed a means to this end.</p> <p>GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p> <p>Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly,</p>	

	<p>CVRPC: ...</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan)</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits; <p><u>HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS</u></p> <p>Goals: 3. To promote preservation of the existing housing stock and the development of future housing in the village/town and employment centers of the Region, or those areas designated as Growth Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 5. The majority of new housing should be constructed in town centers and designated growth centers.</p>	
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<p>STREAM EQUILIBRIUM AND WETLAND, FLOODPLAIN, & RIVER CORRIDOR PROTECTION - Protect</p>		
<p>Strategy #39. Municipal outreach for adoption of river corridor protection - towns are prioritized based on the value of protection by stream density and upstream protection value. (Locations identified include Roxbury)</p> <p>Purpose: Establish protections for towns that will reduce water quality impacts of encroachment.</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. In order to maintain the existing settlement patterns, higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development should be located in Regional Centers and Town Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage infill, redevelopment, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and reuse of “brownfield” sites in Regional and Town Centers. Encourage the revitalization and reuse of viable historic structures whenever possible.</p> <p>Policies: 5....Priority for the use of public funding for the maintenance or improvement of infrastructure shall be for those that support concentrated development in regional and Town Centers.</p> <p>Strategy 5a. Support identification of corridors for new roads or road segments in and around Regional and Town Centers as part of a local planning process, and support for construction of those roads and utility infrastructure to help drive growth in a way that supports compact center development.</p> <p>Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>INDUSTRIAL LAND USE PLANNING AREA POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. Industrial uses are encouraged to locate first in existing industrial areas and secondly in industrial areas assigned in municipal plans which are in accordance with the goals and policies included in this plan.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p>	

	<p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(In addition to strategy 3e, numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table)</i></p> <p>Strategy 3e. Encourage and assist with the acquisition of conservation easements along waterways according to priorities identified in River Corridor Plans.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk. <i>(In addition to strategy 5a and 5b, other strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table.)</i></p> <p>Strategy 5a. Continue to conduct outreach to municipalities regarding the most recent state River Corridor maps as delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources and their implications.</p> <p>Strategy 5b. Encourage and provide technical assistance to municipalities in enhancing the regulatory standards in their municipal flood hazard regulations, including the incorporation of River Corridor regulations.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss</p> <p>GOAL 2. To enhance and support the viability of the Region's resource based industries.</p> <p>Policies: 1. CVRPC Supports and encourages the protection and continued productivity of viable primary agricultural soils, productive forest land, and mineral resources. Sound land use planning including flexible development options, fair government pricing taxation and subsidy programs, agricultural diversity, and promotion of value- added products and industries are viewed a means to this end.</p>	
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	<p>GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p> <p>Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly, CVRPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the appropriate expansion of existing settlements, particularly where excess infrastructural capacity exists. (The existing settlements within Central Vermont are those areas currently served by public water and/or sewer systems or characterized by higher densities of development. Existing settlements include, but are not limited to, the downtowns and cities, the villages and the myriad concentrated residential neighborhoods.) • Encourages “in fill” development and adaptive reuse of buildings in existing settlements. • Recognizes that some environmental and development “trade off” will be necessary to achieve desired growth patterns... <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner’s on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities’ should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP’s in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits; • Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; properly sizing and maintaining culverts; • Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the “Road Design and Maintenance Handbook” published by VLRP. • Separating combined storm water/sewer systems (CSO’s) which can discharge raw sewage to surface waters during big storms. 	
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	<p><u>ENERGY GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>Reducing Transportation Energy Demand....</p> <p>GOAL: Support alternative transportation options and alternative fuel vehicles throughout the region.</p> <p>Patterns and Densities of Land Use ...</p> <p>GOAL: Land use policies support compact development in compact, mixed-use centers.</p> <p>Policy: Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed -use centers when feasible and appropriate; and identify ways to make compact development more feasible throughout Central Vermont.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region’s transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p>GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p>	
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	<p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment systems.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows</p> <p>Policies: 4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater system to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resiliency of the Region's systems.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p> <p><u>Electric Power Goal: Improvement and expansion of electric power generation methods and infrastructure so as to provide adequate service, conserve energy, maximize benefits of public investments, minimize impacts on aesthetics, ecological and recreational resources, and protect public health.</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</u></p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p><u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHIOLOGICAL RESOURCE GOAL: To promote the protection and use of the Region's historical and archeological resources.</u></p> <p>Policies: 4. CVRPC encourages the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptation of historic structures where feasible, as this minimizes the environmental impact of developing by conserving raw materials, using land already developed, employing existing services.</p> <p><u>WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS:</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Access Roads should be designed to minimize their impact on scenic, agricultural,</p>	
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	<p>forestry, and natural resources.</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards)</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.</p> <p><i>From an emergency management perspective the Regional Plan discourages development and investment in floodplains, yet it should be noted that overall the Regional Plan (as outlined within the Land Use Chapter) recognizes that our Regional and Town Centers are locations for continued investment and redevelopment. Due to the historic nature of the region, portions of these Regional and Town Centers are located in floodplains and possibly even within River Corridors. Strict conformance with the Tactical Basin Plan Objective may not be achievable unless the Basin Plan recognizes the presence of existing development in river corridors and floodplains and provides an allowance for certain or special circumstances. It should be noted that municipal regulations within some central Vermont municipalities do allow development within floodplains.</i></p> <p><u>HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS</u></p> <p>Goals: 3. To promote preservation of the existing housing stock and the development of future housing in the village/town and employment centers of the Region, or those areas designated as Growth Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 5. The majority of new housing should be constructed in town centers and designated growth centers.</p> <p>Policies: 6. The Region's existing housing stock should be preserved and renovated. Adaptive reuse of older and historic buildings should be encouraged especially in town centers.</p> <p>Actions: Encourage the adoption of local land use regulations and bylaws that allow concentrated</p>	
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	<p>development where appropriate infrastructure can be made or is available.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 6. Ensure availability of commercial and industrial space to meet employment and business expansion needs.</p> <p>D. For uses that do not require a rural location, guide and assist commercial, industrial, and institutional uses to locate in downtowns, villages and adjacent industrial areas, or at those locations in the fringe areas that have been significantly developed and are zoned for such purposes.</p> <p>Policy: 7.These efforts to maintain and plan for adequate systems to support business growth and expansion include support of: ...Water, wastewater and storm water management systems in locations that allow for appropriately-scaled commercial and industrial expansion, higher densities and co-location of jobs, housing and services.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p> <p>C. Ensure that resource extraction operations follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the local and surrounding environment and other land uses, and to allow for site restoration.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p>	
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	E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.	
<p>Strategy 43. Continue to work on dam removal prioritization, design and implementation on high priority sites. (Locations identified Multiple towns, basin-wide)</p> <p>Purpose: Encourage stream equilibrium; increase aquatic organism passage; reduce channel erosion.</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u> Policies: 5....Priority for the use of public funding for the maintenance or improvement of infrastructure shall be for those that support concentrated development in regional and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u> 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.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u> GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources. Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources. Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. Strategy 3f. Assist with and support efforts to remove dams that are not serving a useful purpose and other artificial barriers from rivers and streams. Help identify dams that are not serving a useful purpose and that should be listed for removal in conformance with state and federal rules and regulations. Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth. Strategy 5c. Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided. Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas. Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses. Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u> GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal,</p>	<p>Active Dams in Williamstown for recreation purposes: Goyette (private ownership) and Rood Pond (State of VT ownership). Active dam in Washington with little known information about it is the Washington-5. Removal is not anticipated. Historic dams in Williamstown are Staples Pond (breached) and Matson (deleted). These dams are not causing considerable constriction of the stream channel or impediment to aquatic organism passage (Page 70 TBP).</p>

	<p>and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Priority consideration should be given to rehabilitating and update existing recreational facilities.</p> <p>HISTORICAL AND ARCHIOLOGICAL RESOURCE GOAL: To promote the protection and use of the Region's historical and archeological resources.</p> <p>Policies: 4. CVRPC encourages the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptation of historic structures where feasible, as this minimizes the environmental impact of developing by conserving raw materials, using land already developed, employing existing services.</p>	
<p>Strategy 44. Continue work to assess, prioritize, design, and implement high -priority culvert replacement projects. (Locations identified Multiple towns)</p> <p>Purpose: Encourage stream equilibrium; increase aquatic organism passage; reduce channel erosion.</p>	<p>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</p> <p>Policies: 5....Priority for the use of public funding for the maintenance or improvement of infrastructure shall be for those that support concentrated development in regional and Town Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.</p> <p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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</p>	<p>No known projects currently in the four towns in the CV region.</p>

	<p>impacted by the development.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(Numerous strategies are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table)</i></p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: <i>(several provided in plan).</i></p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits;• Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; properly sizing and maintaining culverts;• Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the "Road Design and Maintenance Handbook" published by VLRP. <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p>GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.</p> <p>GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL:</u> To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other</p>	
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	<p>contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region’s surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p>Policies: 7. CVRPC supports the maintenance or upgrading of existing surface water classifications to reflect their actual recreational uses, except where lower classifications may be needed for municipal sewage treatment projects.</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA’s Standards)</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated</p>	
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	<p>industries.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p> <p>E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.</p> <p>GOAL 5. Sustainable and viable agricultural and forest lands.</p> <p>A. Support efforts to develop and update local and region-wide inventories of natural, historic, scenic agricultural and recreational assets at the local level to support tourism and quality of life promotion.</p>	
<p>Strategy #47. Review new natural resource mapping and make recommendations for improving wetland mapping in target towns. (Locations identified All towns)</p> <p>Purpose: Protect wetland functions and values of significant wetlands that are not mapped.</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p>	

	<p>Strategy 2b. Support towns in identifying wetlands and vernal pools that are not already mapped by the State of Vermont.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Strategy 3d. Native vegetated strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas should be protected and maintained according to Best Management Practices outlined in the Vermont Handbook for Shoreland Development and VT ANR Guidance Regarding Riparian Buffers to protect functional habitat and improve water quality.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Strategy 5d. Wetlands that provide a flood storage function as determined by the VT Wetlands Program should be left undisturbed or development should be required to provide compensatory storage or restoration on-site or in the immediate vicinity, if disturbed.</p> <p>Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region’s downtowns and village centers.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss.</p> <p>GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.</p> <p>Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly, CVRPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes that some environmental and development “trade off” will be necessary to achieve desired growth patterns... <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central</p>	
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	<p>Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p><u>Electric Power Goal: Improvement and expansion of electric power generation methods and infrastructure so as to provide adequate service, conserve energy, maximize benefits of public investments, minimize impacts on aesthetics, ecological and recreational resources, and protect public health.</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</u></p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p><u>WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS:</u></p> <p>Policies: 9. Access Roads should be designed to minimize their impact on scenic, agricultural, forestry, and natural resources.</p> <p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards)</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current</p>	
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	<p>NFIP requirements.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p> <p>GOAL 5. Sustainable and viable agricultural and forest lands.</p> <p>A. Support efforts to develop and update local and region-wide inventories of natural, historic, scenic agricultural and recreational assets at the local level to support tourism and quality of life promotion.</p>	
<p>Strategy #48. Continue and expand riparian buffer programs. Prioritize buffer plantings based upon recommendations in completed River Corridor Plans and target where</p>	<p><u>FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. In order to maintain the existing settlement patterns, higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development should be located in Regional Centers and Town Centers.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Encourage infill, redevelopment, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and reuse of “brownfield” sites in Regional and Town Centers. Encourage the revitalization and reuse of viable historic structures whenever possible.</p> <p>Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional</p>	<p>Roxbury and Warren have interim river corridor regulations and do not have an adopted River Corridor Plan.</p>

<p>previous studies have document water quality issues. (Locations identified Multiple towns, Basin-wide)</p> <p>Purpose: Improve geomorphic compatibility, habitat, water quality, and flood resilience.</p>	<p>and Town Centers.</p> <p><u>INDUSTRIAL LAND USE PLANNING AREA POLICIES:</u></p> <p>Policies: 1. Industrial uses are encouraged to locate first in existing industrial areas and secondly in industrial areas assigned in municipal plans which are in accordance with the goals and policies included in this plan.</p> <p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Strategy 3d. Native vegetated strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas should be protected and maintained according to Best Management Practices outlined in the Vermont Handbook for Shoreland Development and VT ANR Guidance Regarding Riparian Buffers to protect functional habitat and improve water quality.</p> <p>Strategy 3e. Encourage and assist with the acquisition of conservation easements along waterways according to priorities identified in River Corridor Plans.</p> <p>Strategy 3g. Assist landowners in identifying funding opportunities to support buffer-plantings on their properties that would support stream bank and shoreland restoration.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and</p>	
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	<p>restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk.</p> <p>Strategy 5a. Continue to conduct outreach to municipalities regarding the most recent state River Corridor maps as delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources and their implications.</p> <p>Strategy 5b. Encourage and provide technical assistance to municipalities in enhancing the regulatory standards in their municipal flood hazard regulations, including the incorporation of River Corridor regulations.</p> <p>Strategy 5c. Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified in FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided.</p> <p>Strategy 5d. Wetlands that provide a flood storage function as determined by the VT Wetlands Program should be left undisturbed or development should be required to provide compensatory storage or restoration on-site or in the immediate vicinity, if disturbed.</p> <p>Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region's downtowns and village centers.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants.</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations</p>	
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	<p>above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations).</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including: ...</p> <p><u>ENERGY GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL: Land use policies support compact development in compact, mixed-use centers.</p> <p>Policy: Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed -use centers when feasible and appropriate; and identify ways to make compact development more feasible throughout Central Vermont.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment</p>	
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	<p>systems.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p> <p>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.</p> <p>GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards</p> <p>Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.</p> <p>Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.</p> <p>Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements</p> <p>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.</p> <p>Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.</p> <p>Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.</p> <p>B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation</p>	
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	<p>strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.</p> <p>D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.</p> <p>E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.</p>	
WATER QUALITY ON LAKES AND PONDS - Protection and remediation		
<p>Strategy #49. Using Lake Wise assessment model, assess the public Fish & Wildlife access on Rood Pond and upgrade if recommended. (Location identified Williamstown)</p> <p>Purpose: Assess and improve water quality where BMPs are recommended on a high-quality water.</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p> <p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p>Policies: 6. Priority consideration should be given to rehabilitating and update existing recreational</p>	

	<p>facilities.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Strategy 3e. Encourage and assist with the acquisition of conservation easements along waterways according to priorities identified in River Corridor Plans.</p> <p>Strategy 5c. Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Region's wetlands.</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: <i>(several provided in plan)</i> -</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvicultural, and earth extraction operations.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.</p>	
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	<p>Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.</p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p>	
<p>Strategy #50. Establish Lay Monitor on lakes recommended by the Lakes and Ponds Program. (Locations identified Brookfield, Sharon and Williamstown)</p> <p>Purpose: Establish long-term trend data on lakes with significant shoreline development and potential water quality issues.</p>	<p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policies: 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.</p> <p>Policies: 3. The extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into Resource areas is discouraged.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Development on wetlands, steep slopes of 25% or more, and ridge lines should be avoided.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural</p>	

	<p>resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region. <i>(Many strategies relate to shoreland, lakes and ponds are identified in the Regional Plan in support of this policy. See detailed summary at the back of this table.)</i></p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Policies: 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations).</p> <p>Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:...</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES</u></p> <p>GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)</p> <p><u>FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p><u>Wastewater Treatment Goal:</u> Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.</p> <p><u>OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL:</u> To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.</p>	
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	<p>Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.</p> <p><u>HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS</u></p> <p>Policies: 5. The majority of new housing should be constructed in town centers and designated growth centers.</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</u></p> <p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>GOAL 5. Sustainable and viable agricultural and forest lands.</p> <p>A. Support efforts to develop and update local and region-wide inventories of natural, historic, scenic agricultural and recreational assets at the local level to support tourism and quality of life promotion.</p>	
FORESTS AND WATER QUALITY - Maintain and protect		No CVRPC identified Towns.
RECREATIONAL USES		No CVRPC identified Towns.
AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN INVASIVE SPECIES		
Strategy #57. Initiate regular monitoring and AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) spread prevention through signage or VIP program at Colton Pond,	<p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p>	

Rood Pond, McIntosh Pond, Sunset Lake and Lake Mitchell.
(Locations identified include Williamstown)

Purpose: Prevent spread of invasive species harmful to water resources.

GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.
Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.

Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.

Strategy 3d. Native vegetated strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas should be protected and maintained according to Best Management Practices outlined in the Vermont Handbook for Shoreland Development and VT ANR Guidance Regarding Riparian Buffers to protect functional habitat and improve water quality.

Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.

GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.

Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.

Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants

TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.

GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.

Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)

OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.

Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.

Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.

ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

	<p>Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.</p> <p>Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.</p> <p>Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.</p>	
2018 White River Basin -Basin 9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft (9/4/2018)	2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018	
PRIORITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS (AS CONTAINED THROUGHOUT THE PLAN)	
Lakes and Ponds		
<p>6. Rood Pond - Recruit Lay Monitor Volunteers to collect water quality. VT DEC to monitor high Total Nitrogen values and identify potential sources. (Located in Williamstown)</p> <p>Purpose: To establish long-term data trends on a larger lake with historically good in-lake water quality and high biodiversity. To determine if TN values are still high and if they are to determine the source(s).</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas. Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>*See also Strategy #50 above.</p>	

<p>11. Roxbury Flat - Check for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</p> <p>Purpose: To determine presence of AIS.</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>*See also Strategy # 57 above.</p>	
<p>Rivers and Streams</p>		
<p>14. Flint Brook - Bioassessment and water chemistry. (Located in Roxbury)</p> <p>Purpose: Determine if there are existing impacts to aquatic life support</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>*See also Strategy #9 above.</p>	

<p>15. Third Branch (above and below Flint Brook) - Bioassessment and water chemistry. (Located in Roxbury)</p> <p>Purpose: Determine if there are existing impacts to aquatic life support</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>*See also Strategy #9 above.</p>	
<p>51. Sandusky Brook - Bioassessment and water chemistry. (Located in Granville and Roxbury)</p> <p>Purpose: Data gap- collect new data to determine condition</p>	<p>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p>	

Wetlands		
<p>53. Roxbury Flat - Lake-wetland complex analysis</p> <p>Purpose: Based on aerial imagery and recharge rates some lakes and ponds may function more as wetlands. Understanding which of these waterbodies are more wetlands will streamline monitoring and assessment.</p>	<p><u>RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:</u></p> <p>GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.</p> <p>Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Strategy 2b. Support towns in identifying wetlands and vernal pools that are not already mapped by the State of Vermont.</p> <p>Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.</p> <p>Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.</p> <p>Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk.</p> <p>Strategy 5d. Wetlands that provide a flood storage function as determined by the VT Wetlands Program should be left undisturbed or development should be required to provide compensatory storage or restoration on-site or in the immediate vicinity, if disturbed.</p> <p>Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region's downtowns and village centers.</p> <p>GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.</p> <p>Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.</p> <p>Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.</p> <p>*See also strategy #47 above</p>	

The *2018 White River Basin - Basin 9, Tactical Basin Plan Draft* (WRTBP) and the *2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018* (CVRP) contain overarching conforming Goals and Objectives. The outline below provides a detail of those sections of the CVRPC Regional Plan goals, policies, and actions which are mutually supportive.

FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING AREAS POLICIES:

Policies: 1. In order to maintain the existing settlement patterns, higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development should be located in Regional Centers and Town Centers.

Policies: 3. Encourage infill, redevelopment, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and reuse of “brownfield” sites in Regional and Town Centers. Encourage the revitalization and reuse of viable historic structures whenever possible.

Policies: 5.... Priority for the use of public funding for the maintenance or improvement of infrastructure shall be for those that support concentrated development in regional and Town Centers.

Strategy 5a. Support identification of corridors for new roads or road segments in and around Regional and Town Centers as part of a local planning process, and support for construction of those roads and utility infrastructure to help drive growth in a way that supports compact center development.

Policies: 10. Identify key areas with flood storage capacity and encourage floodplain protection measures such as land acquisition or restrictive land use regulation in areas upstream of Regional and Town Centers.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE PLANNING AREA POLICIES:

Policies: 1. Industrial uses are encouraged to locate first in existing industrial areas and secondly in industrial areas assigned in municipal plans which are in accordance with the goals and policies included in this plan.

MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:

Policies: 1. Encourage the transformation of existing commercial areas into areas serving a mix of uses, including residential, and offering diversified transportation options, while also conforming to traditional historic development patterns.

RURAL AND HAMLET LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:

Policies: 1. Development should be designed to minimize its impact on the viability of agricultural operations or its contribution to fragmentation of forest Blocks.

Strategy 1a. Provide guidance and training on regulatory and non-regulatory tools for open space and resource protection available to towns for use in town plans and regulations.

RESOURCE LAND USE PLANNING POLICIES:

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.

Policies: 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.

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

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

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

GENERAL LAND USE GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 1: To promote sound management, conservation and use of the Region's natural resources.

Policies: 1. Municipalities are encouraged to establish conservation commissions (under V.S.A. 24, Chapter 118) to assist in the identification, study, maintenance and protection of important natural resources.

Policies: 2. Encourage the improved identification and mapping of surface and groundwater resources.

Strategy 2b. Support towns in identifying wetlands and vernal pools that are not already mapped by the State of Vermont.

Policies: 3. Support the betterment of surface water quality in the Region.

Strategy 3a. Storage and utilization of fertilizers, pesticides, petro-chemicals, herbicides, sludge, or other potentially harmful industrial, agricultural, commercial or residential materials, must be accomplished in a manner compatible with existing regulations.

Strategy 3b. CVRPC opposes the downgrading of surface water classification unless such action is required to accommodate treated effluent from new or expanded municipal sewage treatment facilities. The Commission also opposes the upgrading of surface waters classifications where such upgrading might be misleading or dangerous to users.

Strategy 3d. Native vegetated strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas should be protected and maintained according to Best Management Practices outlined in the Vermont Handbook for Shoreland Development and VT ANR Guidance Regarding Riparian Buffers to protect functional habitat and improve water quality.

Strategy 3e. Encourage and assist with the acquisition of conservation easements along waterways according to priorities identified in River Corridor Plans.

Strategy 3f. Assist with and support efforts to remove dams that are not serving a useful purpose and other artificial barriers from rivers and streams. Help identify dams that are not serving a useful purpose and that should be listed for removal in conformance with state and federal rules and regulations.

Strategy 3g. Assist landowners in identifying funding opportunities to support buffer-plantings on their properties that would support stream bank and shoreland restoration.

Policies: 4. Encourage enhanced educational opportunities on watershed functions, protection and restoration, particularly those targeted to youth.

Policies: 5. Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Where established economic and institutional centers exist, development in these centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards to minimize flood damage and public safety risk.

Strategy 5a. Continue to conduct outreach to municipalities regarding the most recent state River Corridor maps as delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources and their implications.

Strategy 5b. Encourage and provide technical assistance to municipalities in enhancing the regulatory standards in their municipal flood hazard regulations, including the incorporation of River Corridor regulations.

Strategy 5c. Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided.

Strategy 5d. Wetlands that provide a flood storage function as determined by the VT Wetlands Program should be left undisturbed or development should be required to provide compensatory storage or restoration on-site or in the immediate vicinity, if disturbed.

Strategy 5e. Assist municipalities in identifying and limiting development on lands adjacent to waterways that provide flood storage or other beneficial function through acquisition, easement, deed restriction or zoning that encourages cluster design, particularly for those upstream floodplains that provide flood protection functions for the Region's downtowns and village centers.

Policies: 6. Improve flood resilience planning, education and outreach activities to create a citizenry aware of flood risks, potential costs, and actions that can serve to reduce risk and future property loss

Policies: 7. Minimize fragmentation of forest blocks and habitat connectors.

GOAL 2. To enhance and support the viability of the Region's resource based industries.

Policies: 1. CVRPC Supports and encourages the protection and continued productivity of viable primary agricultural soils, productive forest land, and mineral resources. Sound land use planning including flexible development options, fair government pricing taxation and subsidy programs, agricultural diversity, and promotion of value- added products and industries are viewed a means to this end.

GOAL 3. Encourage the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural country side while promoting development in economically viable locations.

Policies: 1. New development should be planned so as to respect the historic settlement pattern of compact villages, neighborhoods, and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Accordingly, CVRPC:

- Supports the appropriate expansion of existing settlements, particularly where excess infrastructural capacity exists. (The existing settlements within Central Vermont are those areas currently served by public water and/or sewer systems or characterized by higher densities of development. Existing settlements include, but are not limited to, the downtowns and cities, the villages and the myriad concentrated residential neighborhoods.)
- Encourages "in fill" development and adaptive reuse of buildings in existing settlements.
- Recognizes that some environmental and development "trade off" will be necessary to achieve desired growth patterns...

GOAL 4: To protect environmentally sensitive or unique areas.

Policies: 1. Natural and fragile areas identified in this Plan should receive protection from harmful uses.

Policies: 8. It is the policy of CVRPC to encourage the preservation of wetlands so as to protect their function and productivity. Efforts (including consideration of site design options) should be made to mitigate against the possible adverse impacts of development on the Regions wetlands.

Policies: 9b Encourage landscaping with native species over the use of non-native species, particularly in non-urban environments. Work with UVM Extension Master Gardner's on educating homeowners on the use of native tree and plants

GOAL 7. To manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff in order to avoid property damage and negative impacts on surface and groundwater.

Policies. 1. New development should, through design and maintenance, attempt to minimize changes in the volume and chemical composition of runoff. Methods to achieve this objective include: (several provided in plan) - avoid construction on steep slopes (>25%) and in high elevations above 2,500 feet; stabilize entrances; minimize removal of native vegetation; minimize amount of disturbed soil; provide vegetated buffers.

Policies: 2. Structural Best Management Practices should be used, as appropriate, to control storm water on new development sites before, during, and after construction (including plans for long term maintenance and operations). Objectives and applications are

several including: storm water retention ponds, dry basins, filter strips, grass and rock swales, infiltration basins and surfaces, and erosion control measures.

Policies: 3. Acceptable Management Practices (AMP), as defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, should be employed on all agricultural, silvacultural, and earth extraction operations.

Policies: 4. Efforts should be made to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces and surface runoff associated with parking facilities.

Policies: 5. Municipalities' should consider adopting policies and practices to reduce the volume and impacts of storm water runoff, including:

- Encourage storm water management through the use of BMP's in local plans, zoning bylaws, and building permits;
- Protect high elevations and steep slopes from intensive development in local bylaws; properly sizing and maintaining culverts;
- Properly maintaining ditches on dirt roads to slow runoff and filter sediments as per the "Road Design and Maintenance Handbook" published by VLRP.
- Separating combined storm water/sewer systems (CSO's) which can discharge raw sewage to surface waters during big storms.

ENERGY GOALS AND POLICIES

Reducing Transportation Energy Demand....

GOAL: Support alternative transportation options and alternative fuel vehicles throughout the region.

Patterns and Densities of Land Use ...

GOAL: Land use policies support compact development in compact, mixed-use centers.

Policy: Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed -use centers when feasible and appropriate; and identify ways to make compact development more feasible throughout Central Vermont.

TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 1. To achieve a Regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multimodal, and public, and is integrated with Regional and local land use planning as outline in the Central Vermont Regional Plan.

Policies: 7. Support the planning and design of the Region's transportation system to encourage development and re-development in existing villages, cities, designated growth centers.

GOAL 2. To preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.

Policies: 1. Support the necessary steps for evaluating, prioritizing, and implementing preventative maintenance programs for all elements of the transportation system.

Policies: 2. Promote a funding strategy that realizes maximum use of all available resources to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing transportation system.

GOAL 5. To establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.

Policies: 1. Support efforts to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with the transportation system (including air quality, noise levels, surface water, vegetation, agricultural land, fragile areas, and historical/archaeological sites)

GOAL 6. To make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively and economically move goods and peoples.

GOAL 8. To promote a Regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.

Policies: 3. Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.

FACILITIES, SERVICES AND UTILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:

Wastewater Treatment Goal: Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.

Policies: 1. This Plan supports efforts to improve existing wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Policies: 3. Encourage continued efforts to improve water quality through the separation of combined sewers or other method to ameliorate the harmful impacts of combined sewer overflows

Policies: 4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater system to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resiliency of the Region's systems.

Policies: 13. CVRPC encourages the use of shoreline zoning powers (24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Section 4411), in compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, to regulate the design of sanitary facilities on lands adjacent to surface waters.

Electric Power Goal: Improvement and expansion of electric power generation methods and infrastructure so as to provide adequate service, conserve energy, maximize benefits of public investments, minimize impacts on aesthetics, ecological and recreational resources, and protect public health.

Policies: 9. Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL: To promote adequate access to a wide range of high quality outdoor recreation experiences to all sectors of the population.

Policies: 2. CVRPC encourages, in particular, those recreation activities that focus on, respect, enhance, and educate, about the natural environment.

Policies: 4. Municipalities should develop and implement strategies to protect important recreation lands. Actions such as securing voluntary easements, fee or less than fee acquisition, subdivision or zoning regulations which contain provisions for common open space, impact fees or other contractual arrangement are encouraged as alternatives for achieving permanent or semi-permanent protection.

Policies: 5. Public access to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and recreation lands is a need in the Region. Municipalities, the State, and private groups, such as land trusts, should coordinate efforts to provide for improved access to the Region's surface waters. At the same time, significant water related natural areas should be maintained and protected.

Policies: 6. Priority consideration should be given to rehabilitating and update existing recreational facilities.

Policies: 7. CVRPC supports the maintenance or upgrading of existing surface water classifications to reflect their actual recreational uses, except where lower classifications may be needed for municipal sewage treatment projects.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIOLOGICAL RESOURCE GOAL: To promote the protection and use of the Region's historical and archeological resources.

Policies: 4. CVRPC encourages the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptation of historic structures where feasible, as this minimizes the environmental impact of developing by conserving raw materials, using land already developed, employing existing services.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS:

Policies: 9. Access Roads should be designed to minimize their impact on scenic, agricultural, forestry, and natural resources.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES:

GOAL 1. To build disaster resistant communities in Central Vermont through sound emergency planning and management.

GOAL 2. To ensure that all communities in Central Vermont have the appropriate information, resources, and tools to respond to disaster events and recover from their impacts.

Policies: 4. Encourage municipalities to adopt minimum standards for public roads, bridges, and culverts (using the Vermont Local roads Program and FEMA's Standards

Policies: 5. Encourage municipalities to implement land use policies and development regulations that consider the potential impacts of disasters on people and property.

Policies: 6. Discourage residential, commercial, or residential development in floodplains.

Policies: 7. Maintain, wherever possible, vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all waterways to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of flooding.

Policies: 8. Encourage municipalities to amend flood hazard regulations so they comply with current NFIP requirements

Policies: 9. Provide local officials with information on programs and funding available through FEMA and/or VEM emergency management and hazard mitigation projects.

From an emergency management perspective the Regional Plan discourages development and investment in floodplains, yet it should be noted that overall the Regional Plan (as outlined within the Land Use Chapter) recognizes that our Regional and Town Centers are locations for continued investment and redevelopment. Due to the historic nature of the region, portions of these Regional and Town Centers are located in floodplains and possibly even within River Corridors. Strict conformance with the Tactical Basin Plan Objective may not be achievable unless the Basin Plan recognizes the presence of existing development in river corridors and floodplains and provides an allowance for certain or special circumstances. It should be noted that municipal regulations within some central Vermont municipalities do allow development within floodplains.

*While **landslide** not explicated mentioned in a Goal or Policy, the Emergency Management section of the Facilities, Services and Utilities Chapter states that "[I]n Central Vermont, the most common types of natural disasters include: floods, winter storms, hurricanes, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and even tornadoes."(Page # 5-35)*

HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Goals: 3. To promote preservation of the existing housing stock and the development of future housing in the village/town and employment centers of the Region, or those areas designated as Growth Centers.

Policies: 5. The majority of new housing should be constructed in town centers and designated growth centers.

Policies: 6. The Region's existing housing stock should be preserved and renovated. Adaptive reuse of older and historic buildings

should be encouraged especially in town centers.

Actions: Encourage the adoption of local land use regulations and bylaws that allow concentrated development where appropriate infrastructure can be made or is available.

ECONOMIC GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Goal: 2. Business retention, growth and development that anticipates and meet market opportunities.

Policy: 5. Implement the goals and policies presented in the Utilities, Facilities, and Services and Land Use elements of this Plan that enhance and optimize quality of place to attract and retain employers and residents. These efforts to enhance and optimize quality of place include preservation of historic and cultural assets; maintaining the scenic qualities of our agricultural and forest lands, protection of natural resources and environmental quality, expansion of local food systems and healthy lifestyles, and increased access to recreational opportunities and amenities.

Policy: 6. Ensure availability of commercial and industrial space to meet employment and business expansion needs.

D. For uses that do not require a rural location, guide and assist commercial, industrial, and institutional uses to locate in downtowns, villages and adjacent industrial areas, or at those locations in the fringe areas that have been significantly developed and are zoned for such purposes.

Policy: 7.These efforts to maintain and plan for adequate systems to support business growth and expansion include support of: ...Water, wastewater and storm water management systems in locations that allow for appropriately-scaled commercial and industrial expansion, higher densities and co-location of jobs, housing and services.

Policy: 8. Support the continued use and sustainability of our natural resources and associated industries.

C. Ensure that resource extraction operations follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the local and surrounding environment and other land uses, and to allow for site restoration.

GOAL 4. Dynamic and resilient downtowns, villages and commercial districts.

Policy 14: Focus infrastructure investments in downtowns, village centers and growth centers and promote use of healthy community design principles in public investments and land use regulations.

Policy 15: Increase economic resilience by mitigation of and adaptation to extreme weather events and flooding.

B. Develop and implement outreach strategies targeted to business and residential property owners to raise awareness of flood risk and promote strategies and resources to reduce vulnerabilities.

C. Work with communities to upgrade flood hazard bylaws and improve storm water mitigation strategies in order to minimize risk to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.

D. Encourage communities to direct new commercial or industrial development to areas not at risk from erosion and inundation flood hazards, where feasible.

E. Consider the benefit to local and regional economic resilience when prioritizing assistance with Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.

GOAL 5. Sustainable and viable agricultural and forest lands.

A. Support efforts to develop and update local and region-wide inventories of natural, historic, scenic agricultural and recreational assets at the local level to support tourism and quality of life promotion.



MEMO

Date: September 12, 2018
To: Regional Plan Committee
From: Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director
Re: Preferred Site Designation

☒ **ACTIONS REQUESTED:** No action is being requested beyond reviewing materials and providing guidance on next steps.

Information provided in August is enclosed. At its August meeting, the Committee set the following items as priorities for action:

- 1) finalizing the draft municipal planning process so it can be shared with municipalities for their input. Committee members committed to bringing specific suggestions for the municipal planning process so the Committee can finalize its initial thoughts;
- 2) finalizing the flow chart of when the Commission engages in discussion and when it doesn't;
- 3) focusing on creating an emergency patch by creating guidance that makes negotiating CVRPC's process easier; and
- 4) further developing how and when CVRPC weighs in on preferred site designations.

In regards to priority 4 above, the Project Review Committee based its decision for the Worcester preferred site designation on:

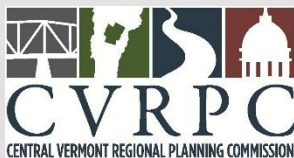
- the site is in close proximity to the village (potential users),
- the site had been previously disturbed,
- the site had very few constraints; there is a potential for impact to less than 1/2-acre of agricultural land, which was not high value agricultural land and the impacts could be mitigated,
- the project had a good setback from a major artery (Rt. 12),
- the site was naturally well-screened,
- the site was close to 3-phase power (~less than ¼-mile), and
- the site's development potential for other uses was minimal, ie. Growth would not likely occur near the property in the project's 30-year lease life.

What are “Preferred Sites”?

Public Utility Commission Rule 5.100 pertains to construction and operation of net-metering systems. Section 5.103 of the Rule defines categories of net-metering systems. The categories vary based on the size of the system and whether the system is located on a “Preferred Site”. The State incentivizes systems sized between 15kW and 500 kW and located on preferred sites. Qualifying systems earn higher net-metering rates. Hydroelectric facilities do not qualify for net-metering.

Preferred sites designation also is described in Section 5.103. Sites may automatically qualify if they meet one of eight State-defined locations. Sites also may qualify if the location:

- a) is designated in a duly adopted municipal plan or
- b) is identified in a letter of support from the municipal legislative body and the municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the system will be located.



Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

Preferred Site Designation

Recommended Components of a Municipal Process

Preferred sites designation was established because a project-by-project approach does not provide the predictability needed to build a renewable energy future at the pace and scale required to meet Vermont’s renewable energy goals. This document provides guidance to municipalities on best practices for designating preferred sites for renewable energy generation systems.

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) will defer to municipal decisions on preferred site designation when a municipality:

- employs and documents its use of these best practices,
- adopts its municipal plan,
- requests and receives approval of the municipal plan, and
- requests and receives a Certificate of Energy Compliance.

Deferring to the municipal decision means:

- the sites are compatible with the Central Vermont Regional Plan,
- the sites will be adopted into the Regional Plan when it is updated, and
- CVRPC will support the municipality’s preferred site designations.

Concluding language will be developed and document formatting will be completed as this document moves towards completion.

Components of a Municipal Planning Process

People want government to be transparent. They want to be engaged in making decisions. Because preferred site designations are locational decisions, resulting projects affect enjoyment and use of other properties. Advanced conversations about siting reduce conflict and resource investment when projects are proposed.

Best practice planning for preferred site designation involves:

- robust community engagement in the designation process.
- consideration of different energy resource type, consideration of different scales of renewable energy generation systems, and designation of appropriate locations for each in the context of the municipality's future land use planning districts and other planning areas, such as a designated village center.
- consideration of the State-designated preferred sites within the context of the municipality's development and conservation goals.
- consideration of what, if any, municipally-owned properties should be designated as preferred sites.
- development of setback and other energy siting requirements allowable under Vermont law or, at minimum, a recommendation as to whether the municipality should develop such requirements.
- identification of criteria that will be used to evaluate requests for preferred site designation if such a request is raised after the community designates its sites in the municipal plan.



ROBUST ENGAGEMENT: *The municipality engages in a robust process to involve its residents and property owners in preferred site designation.*

People want to know when something might impact them. Municipalities that invest in engagement during planning spend less time and resources responding to angry calls later. Municipalities using best practices for engagement will:

- meet Open Meeting Law requirements for all meetings related to preferred site designation.
- provide notice to CVRPC upon initiation of the preferred site designation process. We can be a resource and will highlight any Regional Plan conformance issues if they become apparent. CVRPC will participate in meetings as time and resources allow.
- engage other board and committees in the site designation process, at minimum:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selectboard/City Council/Village Trustees, - Planning Commission, - Development Review Board/Board of Adjustment, - Energy Committee, - Conservation Commission, - School Board Chair, - School District Superintendent, - Library Board, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - other committees and boards whose work may be affected by designations, such as Economic, Recreation, and Town Forest Committees, - interest groups and land managers, such as land trusts, utility companies, non-profit landowners, and State or Federal land managers, and - emergency service providers.
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- publish a description of the municipality's anticipated planning and engagement activities as its first activity. The process and/or engagement activities may expand as the project evolves.
- send a notice to the Planning Commission Chair and, as applicable, the municipal Administrator/Manager in adjacent municipalities informing them that a preferred sites designation process has been initiated.
- post recent information at the municipal office and two other locations in the community. Publish ongoing information about the preferred site designation process on the municipality's website and in municipal newsletters, if they exist, and on Front Porch Forum.
- publish maps depicting prime renewable energy resource locations in relation to potential preferred sites. At minimum, maps must include parcel boundaries, roads, and names of adjacent municipalities and be posted on the municipality's website. CVRPC can assist with map development.
- if a potential preferred site is within _____ feet of a municipal boundary, post a notice about potential preferred site locations in at least three locations in adjacent municipalities potentially affected by development of a renewable energy generation facility. The notice should state that the designation may impact properties in the adjacent community, describe where to find additional information, and provide a contact person.
- mail information to potentially affected property owners notifying them that their property is proposed for, or may be affected by, designation of a preferred site.
- retain documentation of all the above.

If a single site is being considered for designation outside a full municipal designation process, best practice is to complete all relevant steps above, and to:

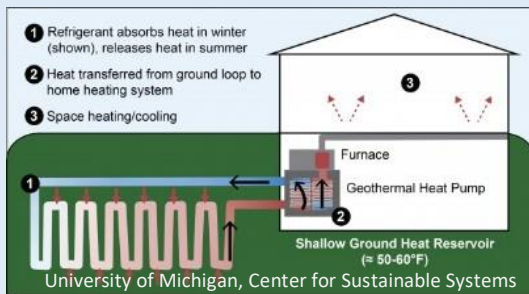
- list the site's e-911 address (or approximate address if no addressed structures) in all public information.
- mail/email individual notices at least two weeks in advance of meetings to all property owners who may be affected by the proposed project.
- provide documentation of all the above when a letter of support is requested from CVRPC.

CVRPC expects to respond to most requests within 30 days; it can take up to 60 days depending on the time of year or other items on the CVRPC review committee agenda. CVRPC recognizes that a municipality may employ robust engagement techniques without resulting participation by its residents and property owners.

STATE-DESIGNATED SITES VETTED FOR MUNICIPAL GOALS: *The municipality demonstrates State-designated preferred sites were considered within the context of the municipality's development and conservation goals.*

If using the State's preferred sites list in the municipal plan, it is prudent to evaluate the state-designated sites evaluated within the context of the community's development and conservation goals. Mapping these sites can be helpful. Global declarations regarding state-designated sites may not be acceptable to the community once the state-designated sites are viewed in a local context. Example: Is redevelopment of a village center brownfield site into a medium-sized solar facility the best use of the property based on municipal goals?

State-designated sites include: rooftops, parking lot canopies over paved parking lots, impervious surfaces and structures on previously developed tracts, brownfield sites, landfills, disturbed portions of gravel pits, quarries or other mineral extraction sites, sites on the National Priorities List, and sites on the same parcel as or directly adjacent to a customer that has been allocated more than 50 percent of the net-metering system's electrical output.



TYPE AND SCALE OF SYSTEM CONSIDERED: *The preferred site designation process considers different energy resource type, considers scales of renewable energy generation systems, and designates appropriate locations for each.*

Each renewable energy source has different impacts based on the sources and the infrastructure (roads, transmission lines) associated with constructing and maintaining it. For medium and utility-scale

systems, the community often will be asking itself which greenfields are appropriate for renewable energy development. Potential impacts include¹:

- **Wind:** Construction and maintenance of turbines can affect the surrounding land by way of habitat fragmentation from roads and the footprint of the turbines, soil erosion from surface area disturbance, and potential pollution from runoff. These effects can be mitigated by keeping the impacts on land to a minimum by using existing roads, reclaiming the topsoil once construction is finished, and use of standard erosion controls. Sound and visual impact are the two main community impacts. Sounds can impact those living near the facility and those living across a valley from it.
- **Solar:** Large-scale solar development requires landscape changes. Land must be graded to a slope of less than five percent, and vegetation must be removed to reduce the risk of fire and panel shading. Grading and clearing is particularly significant for most utility-scale solar plants. Vegetation removal from large areas could lead to loss of habitats, loss of important forest blocks, and opening of views or disruption of viewsheds.
- **Geothermal:** Large scale systems are located near geologic “hot spots”. In Vermont, geothermal is installed at the residential or commercial level. Geology can make it challenging to install loops of tubing in the ground. Blasting may be required.
- **Biomass & Biofuels:** Energy generation systems using plants and animals, woody biomass, off-gassing of landfills, and alcohol share similar, but not identical, impacts as fossil fuel plants. Transportation of the energy resource can be a significant impact.

At this time, the use of natural gas in Central Vermont is a fuel storage and transportation issue rather than a renewable energy generation issue.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES CONSIDERED: *The preferred site designation process considers whether and how municipal properties and structures might be suited to renewable energy generation.*

Municipal lands may include offices, garage, solid waste facilities, forests, recreation facilities, vacant lands, libraries, schools, cultural facilities, and more. These varied uses call for focused community discussions when energy generation may be added as a new use. Deeds may contain use limits; user interests may conflict; and neighbors may have located nearby for specific reasons. Example: Is open space in the town forest or parking at the town garage the appropriate

¹ The Wilderness Society, Land Use and Renewable Energy Generation, <https://wilderness.org/sites/default/files/legacy/Website-Land%20Use%20and%20Renewable%20Energy%20Generation.pdf>

place for wind generation systems? Digging deeper into these properties before encouraging energy developers to use them can strengthen a municipality's understanding of competing needs and use requirements.

SOLAR SITING REQUIREMENTS: The engagement process assists in identifying whether the municipality should develop solar siting requirements allowed under Vermont law.

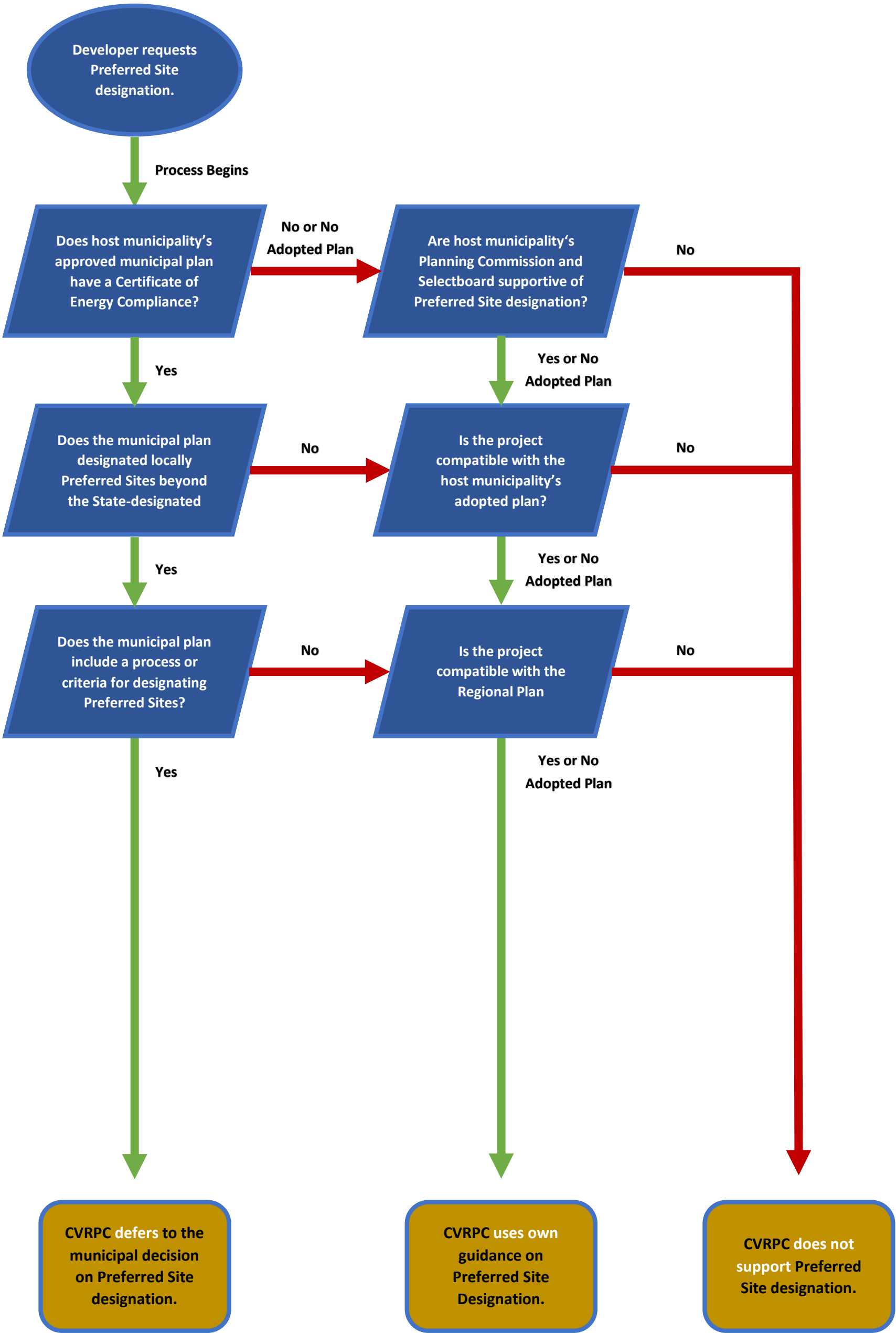
24 V.S.A. § 4414(15) and 24 VSA § 2291(28) permits a municipality to adopt a freestanding bylaw or ordinance to establish screening requirements that apply to a ground-mounted plant that generates electricity from solar energy. The bylaw cannot prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the installation of such a plant nor have the effect of interfering with its intended functional use. The engagement process for preferred sites designation may result in a recommendation to update local bylaws or enact an ordinance for this purpose. The recommendation can be included as a municipal plan action item.

CRITERIA FOR FUTURE DECISIONS: The planning process identifies criteria the municipality will use to evaluate designation requests raised after the community incorporates designates sites into its municipal plan.

Over time, community needs can change; new neighbors can bring different perspectives; and landowners can modify their decisions. Municipalities that prepare for change are better able to respond to it. A robust preferred sites designation process will develop criteria for how requests for new site designations will be evaluated in the future.

Preferred sites designation was established because a project-by-project approach does not provide the predictability needed to build a renewable energy future at the pace and scale required to meet Vermont's renewable energy goals. Municipalities also should develop a process for how and when to *de-designate* sites while maintaining a predictable development and planning environment.

CVRPC Decision Tree
Municipal Preferred Site Designation Deference
08/29/18



Preferred Site Designation

Regional Review

When Would CVRPC Weigh in on Preferred Site Designation?

Staff recommends CVRPC weigh in on all commercial and utility scale renewable energy generation projects for at least the next five years. Municipalities that have not taken advantage of the opportunity to completed enhanced energy planning within the next five years are not likely to pursue the opportunity. In 2024, CVRPC should re-evaluate whether it needs to continue weighing in on preferred sites or whether it can defer fully to municipal decisions.

CVRPC should begin deferring to municipal decisions when:

- a municipality has an approved municipal plan,
- a municipality has received a Certificate of Energy Compliance, and
- a municipality has employed CVRPC's best practice guidance during development of that plan.

Approved plans meet all statutory requirements for planning (contain all required elements and make substantial progress towards state goals). A Certificate of Energy Compliance means the municipality has engaged in enhanced energy planning. It demonstrates the municipality understands its energy needs and has demonstrated the intent to assist the State in achieving a 90x50 renewables future. Employing best practices guidance provides assurance to Regional Commissioners that municipalities completed robust engagement and considered the impact of state-designated sites at the local level.

Enhanced energy planning has the potential to highlight conflicts among municipal approaches to development and conservation, especially regarding renewable energy generation development on ridgelines and within other viewsheds. It will be important for CVRPC to review of how municipal plans respond to the requirement of 24 V.S.A. § 4382(8), A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans for adjacent municipalities, areas and the region, and of § 4350(b)(1), which includes compatibility with the regional plan and with approved plans of other municipalities.

How Would CVRPC Weigh in on Preferred Site Designation?

Asses a Development's Relationship to the Regional Plan

Staff recommends CVRPC consider:

- a site's relationship to its Land Use Planning Area as defined in the Regional Plan.
- a development's known impacts related to other goals and policies of the Regional Plan.
- the energy source type and the scale of development proposed.

Relationship to Land Use Planning Areas: Identification of property-specific preferred site locations in the Regional Plan is not prudent given the scale of the plan. Land use planning areas cover broad swaths of land. The Regional Plan should address preferred sites at that scale. This can be accomplished by considering:

- a) how different types and scales of renewable energy generation systems might interact with each land use planning area, and
- b) how state-designated preferred sites might interact with each land use planning area.

Unlike other types of development, renewable energy generation systems at the middle to upper end of the commercial scale and at the utility scale will need to be constructed on rural parcels. Commissioners will need to answer the question of, *“On which greenfields should medium and large net metering projects to locate?”* in a manner that achieves regional consensus.

CVRPC should also define criteria the Project Review Committee can use when making designation decisions. These should include resource impact guidance from the Regional Plan and guidance for each renewable energy source.

Known Impacts Related to Other Goals and Policies of the Regional Plan: Beyond Land Use Planning Areas, the Regional Plan uses its goals and policies to address other impacts and to direct development and conservation. However, nearly all policies in the Regional Plan use advisory language (should, encourage, discourage, where feasible). Advisory policies do not offer substantial guidance in development review because they can be interpreted in different ways for different developments and may be interpreted inconsistently.

The following policies provide directive language that could be used effectively in Section 248 development review.

- Protect or maintain native vegetated buffer strips in riparian zones and shoreland areas using Best Management Practices
- Avoid or limit development and investment in identified flood hazard areas. Development in established economic and institutional centers shall adhere to strict floodplain management standards. [staff note: may be considered advisory]
- Fill and new structures within mapped floodways as identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps shall be prohibited, except where a substantial public benefit is provided. [staff note: may be considered advisory]
- Specifically, development activities in designated WHPA's [wellhead protection areas] shall be carefully reviewed for groundwater impacts.
- Prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive species and forest pests.
- Light sources shall be shielded and not directly visible from public roads or adjacent residences.

- Utility infrastructure and corridors shall be sited so as to minimize aesthetic impacts, particularly in areas of local and regional scenic importance. [language in A, B, and C may negate the “shall”]
 - A. Wherever practicable, utility lines will be installed underground or behind structures in downtowns and village centers
 - B. The use of wood support structures, appropriate conductor colors for the background, and landscape compatibility techniques are encouraged.
 - C. Municipalities, in their plans, should consider the visual impacts of the siting of utility poles. Traffic safety and water quality issues may also be pertinent in certain locations.
- Resource areas, as identified by this Plan, shall be avoided wherever possible, in the location or routing of new substation or transmission facilities. [wherever possible may negate the “shall”]
- CVRPC will track indicators that show impacts on aesthetic quality and natural beauty in Central Vermont.
- CVRPC will exercise its status as a statutory party in Act 250 whenever new development has the potential to impact the form and function of an interchange area or adjacent communities.
- New development that places a significant impact on local and regional educational systems must address and mitigate these impacts.

Resource Type and Scale of Development: Potential impacts by resource energy type include¹:

- Wind: Construction and maintenance of turbines can affect the surrounding land by way of habitat fragmentation from roads and the footprint of the turbines, soil erosion from surface area disturbance, and potential pollution from runoff. These effects can be mitigated by keeping the impacts on land to a minimum by using existing roads, reclaiming the topsoil once construction is finished, and use of standard erosion controls. Sound and visual impact are the two main community impacts. Sounds can impact those living near the facility and those living across a valley from it.
- Solar: Large-scale solar development requires landscape changes. Land must be graded to a slope of less than five percent, and vegetation must be removed to reduce the risk of fire and panel shading. Grading and clearing is particularly significant for most utility-scale solar plants. Vegetation removal from large areas could lead to loss of habitats, loss of important forest blocks, and opening of views.
- Geothermal: Large scale systems are located near geologic “hot spots”. In Vermont, geothermal is installed at the residential or commercial level. Geology can make it challenging to install loops of tubing in the ground. Blasting may be required.

¹ The Wilderness Society, Land Use and Renewable Energy Generation,
<https://wilderness.org/sites/default/files/legacy/Website-Land%20Use%20and%20Renewable%20Energy%20Generation.pdf>

- Biomass & Biofuels: Energy generation systems using plants and animals, woody biomass, off-gassing of landfills, and alcohol share similar, but not identical, impacts as fossil fuel plants. Transportation of the energy resource can be a significant impact.

Development scale has the following impacts:

- *Residential* scale renewable energy generation systems are incorporated into preferred site incentives by right. CVRPC does not need to address these.
- *Commercial* scale does not always equate to commercial land use planning areas. Commercial land use areas are used for trading goods and services. They are most valuable when they receive heavy traffic from potential customers. Commercial business facilities interact fairly regularly with their customers, land is usually more valuable, and locations see heavy traffic from residential areas. Commercial scale renewable energy generation system range from 15kw to <1 MW in size. A 150 kW system is considered a medium scale commercial system. Systems over 500 kW do not qualify for preferred site incentives.

Staff recommends CVRPC limit small-scale commercial energy generation (size TBD) to onsite power use, rooftops, and over existing parking areas. Medium and large-scale commercial systems would be better sited in Rural planning areas, especially in areas adjacent to Commercial land use planning areas.

- *Industrial* scale, referred to in the Regional Plan as *utility scale*, energy generation does not equate to industrial land use planning areas. Utility scale generation is considered to begin at 1 MW in size. Both utility scale energy generation systems and industrial land use areas serve as sites of production. However, industrial business facilities typically manufacture, process or otherwise generate products that are sold to commercial businesses later. Factories, storage facilities, and some mining and shipping operations also are considered industrial. Industrial areas benefit from easy and quick access to transportation (post-construction, energy generation equivalent is grid access).²

It would be helpful to think of utility scale systems as a fourth type of development. Using industrial-designated land use areas for utility scale renewable energy generation systems would not be the highest and best use of those properties. Post-construction impacts are very different from industrial development. Staff recommends utility-scale energy generation projects be prohibited in all land use planning areas except Rural areas unless the system is located on rooftops of buildings in a Mixed-Use Commercial or Industrial land use planning area.

Property Ownership: The Regional Plan does not direct development based on property ownership (private, non-profit, public) except to direct placement of municipal and government buildings and

² Legal Beagle: <https://legalbeagle.com/6878691-commercial-land-vs-industrial-land.html>

development of public places and cultural events into Regional and Town Centers. It would not be prudent to use property ownership as a criterion for preferred site designation either unless the Commission believes certain types of owners should accrue economic benefits more than others.

Use Criteria for Decision Making

Solar:

- Direct solar to flat landscapes allows for cost effective construction
- Use Regional Plan guidance to address conflicts with protected areas and resource impacts
- Address setback and screening requirements
- Address loss of vegetation
- Evaluate proximity to existing or need for new transmission, roads and other associated infrastructure. Site within 1/4-mile of existing transmission lines. Limit new road development to _____ feet. Cluster support buildings away from natural resource areas.
- Use Regional Plan guidance to address low/no impact to historic and cultural resources

Wind:

- Use Regional Plan guidance to address conflicts with protected areas and resource impacts
- Exclude wind development from sensitive areas as noted in the Regional Plan
- Direct to areas that are pre-screened and found to have minimal environmental conflicts
- Evaluate proximity to existing or need for new transmission, roads and other associated infrastructure. Site associated transmission lines in low-conflict areas. Limit new road development to _____ feet. Cluster support buildings away from natural resource areas.
- Offsetting unavoidable impacts from development or “mitigating” by protecting or restoring other lands and wildlife habitat

Geothermal:

- Use Regional Plan guidance to address conflicts with protected areas and resource impacts
- Direct to areas with bedrock below required excavation depth to avoid blasting
- Incent systems that serve multiple structures
- Prohibit systems that would negatively affect groundwater levels

Biomass & Biofuels:

- Use Regional Plan guidance to address conflicts with protected areas and resource impacts
- Direct to areas where transportation infrastructure can accommodate resource delivery needs
- Evaluate proximity to existing or need for new transmission, roads and other associated infrastructure. Site within 1/4-mile of existing transmission lines. Limit new road development to _____ feet. Cluster buildings away from natural resource areas.

Question for the Committee’s Consideration

Should economic return be a consideration in preferred site designation?

- For economic development reasons, such as job or wealth creation, creating diversified revenue streams, supporting non-profit missions that enhance community services
- For municipal reasons, such as encouraging diversified revenue streams, creating dedicated facility/service maintenance funds, fostering community sustainability (power use by households, businesses or the municipality), supporting critical facility operations during power outages

Attachment A

Regional Plan Land Use Planning Area Guidance

The Land Use Planning Area section of the plan:

- contains policies to guide the future growth and development of land and of public services and facilities and to protect the environment
- uses visuals and text to indicate:
 - areas proposed by CVRPC for a variety of uses
 - areas identified by the State, CVRPC, or municipalities that require special consideration for conservation purposes
 - locations proposed for developments with a potential for regional impact
 - describe present and prospective locations, amount, intensity, and character of land uses and the timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to community facilities and services development
 - areas that have the potential to sustain agriculture and recommendations for maintaining them
 - areas that are important to maintaining forest integrity

The 2016 Regional Plan was a readoption of the 2008 Regional Plan with updates to the land use, utilities/facilities, and energy elements and addition of a future land use planning area map and plan implementation table. It did not envision the plan being used to designate preferred sites for renewable energy generation.

Abbreviated Description of Land Use Planning Areas

Key Concepts: scale, impact and infrastructure availability matter

Regional Centers are the Region's core downtowns, plus their surrounding mixed use neighborhoods, which accommodate high density commercial, institutional, industrial and residential uses. They contain state-designated Downtown districts and extensive infrastructure, provide regional services and employment, and are areas where efforts to reduce travel demand through ridesharing, transit and multi-modal transit options are critical. They attract significant numbers of trips from the outside the Region.

Town Centers are less densely populated settlements and smaller than regional centers, but similarly accommodate many of the same residential, civic, commercial and light industrial uses. They are "Villages" and have a state-designated village center, local road network, availability of public utility infrastructure, relatively dense development and smaller lot sizes (at least 1 unit per acre), a mix of land uses, and a distinct separation from surrounding rural areas. They serve as sub-regional retail and employment centers. "New Town Centers," as defined and designated by the State, are included.

Policies related to Regional and Town Center planning areas:

- Support locating higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development in both areas.
- Support community and regional shopping centers in regional centers and mix-use commercial areas, and small-scale shopping centers in town centers, hamlets, and rural areas.
- Encourage infill, redevelopment, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and reuse of “brownfield” sites.
- Set public funding priority for maintenance or improvement of [transportation] infrastructure supporting concentrated development, and for affordable housing and assisted living facilities development.
- Direct placement of municipal and government buildings and development of public places and cultural events to these areas.
- Direct areas implementation of flood storage capacity and floodplain protection measures to areas upstream of these areas.

Industrial consists of areas where existing and future commercial and industrial activities are encouraged, including new development and redevelopment. These areas include industrial parks and active quarries. They are largely clustered in the vicinity of urbanized areas. The specification of commercial/industrial sites allows for location of these types of businesses without creating adverse impacts on adjacent land uses. Large-scale commercial/industrial uses, which are important to the region, need to be located in areas where off-site impacts such as noise, traffic and light/glare can be mitigated.

Policies related to the Industrial planning area:

- Encouraged location first in existing industrial areas and secondly in industrial areas assigned in approved municipal plans.
- Acknowledge that commercial activity and small scale, individual industrial activities will take place in other parts of the region as directed by town plans, which can address the town needs with more specificity.

Mixed-Use Commercial include areas of commercial, office and mixed-use development built in a spread out pattern and served by water and wastewater infrastructure. Commercial service industries dominate these areas. Transforming these areas into higher-density, mixed-use settlements through infill and redevelopment is promoted. Strip development is discouraged.

Policies related to the Mixed-Use Commercial planning area:

- Encourage transforming these areas to serve a mix of uses with diversified transportation options, traditional historic development patterns, and implementation of access management principals.
- Some large scale retail constituting a substantial regional impact is permitted with limitations.

Resort Centers are developments that are associated with large-scale recreational facilities, such as ski area facilities.

Policies related to the Resort Center planning area:

- Recognize the direction provided in local plans and bylaws.
- Limit alpine ski area development to expansion of existing facilities rather than development of new ones.

Rural areas are generally rural in character with a low-density pattern along transportation routes. These areas encompass large forest blocks, sand/gravel/mineral deposits, and prime agricultural soils. Rural areas also include residential, small-scale commercial and industrial, and recreational uses. Clustering development with Hamlet-type character is recommended.

Hamlets are smaller than villages, and are typically concentrated residential settlements woven into the fabric of Rural Land Use Planning Areas that may or may not provide minor commercial and civic services. They are defined by the locally recognized extent of the hamlet as it is delineated in a municipality's plan.

Policies related to the Rural and Hamlet planning areas:

- Minimize impact to the viability of agricultural operations and forest fragmentation.
- Encourage location of development outside of farms and along the edges of forests, preferably with buffers between such development and the ag/forest resource.
- Support enabling owners of farm and forestland to bear the financial responsibility of resource protection.
- Provide direction on development principles to be used related to:
 - vehicular and pedestrian movement,
 - compact development as it related to power and transportation infrastructure,
 - maintaining traditional density and settlement patters as development occurs,
 - protecting wildlife corridors from fragmentation,
 - limiting the number and size of non-residential uses,
 - enabling home occupations, and
 - enabling expansion and development of outdoor recreation areas.

Resource areas are dominated by lands requiring special protection or consideration due to their uniqueness, irreplaceable or fragile nature, or important ecological function. *Critical resource areas* are given maximum protection.

Policies related to the Resource planning area:

- seek conservation of the areas while allowing for development to occur after extensive planning, review, and conditions that ensure protections
- give priority to avoiding development in critical resource areas and allow for mitigation of

natural resource impacts when avoidance cannot be achieved

- discourage extension of permanent roads, energy transmission facilities, and utilities into the area
- Recommend avoiding or limiting development and investment in identified flood hazard areas, where feasible

**REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE***RULES OF PROCEDURE*

09/17/18 DRAFT

PURPOSE: To recommend updates to the Central Vermont Regional Plan and to oversee its implementation.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Foster public and member municipality engagement in regional planning in the region.
- ◆ Encourage intergovernmental cooperation on regionally important planning issues.
- ◆ Conduct an annual review of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and recommend updates in accordance with Title 24 Chapter 117 and the needs of the region for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.
- ◆ Develop and annually review a Five Year Work Program for the Commission that assists to translate Regional Plan priorities into an annual work program.
- ◆ Monitor the Commission's progress in implementing the Regional Plan and Five Year Work Program, report progress to the Board of Commissioners at least annually, and recommend Regional Plan or Work Program modifications as needed.
- ◆ Assist the Executive Committee and Board of Commissioners to review and comment on proposed policies, plans, and capital improvements of State Agencies in regards to CVRPC policy, Regional Plan conformance, funding, and project prioritization.
- ◆ Participate in special studies conducted by the Commission.
- ◆ Provide input and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding pertinent land use issues and legislation as time and resources permit.

ADVISORY ROLE: The Regional Plan Committee shall be advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The Regional Plan Committee will offer advice, input, and opinions to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and other organizations and individuals as appropriate, provided it is compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Regional Plan Committee advice, input, and opinions may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the Board of Commissioners at the Board's discretion. New or amended plans, policies, positions or resolutions shall be ratified/approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MEMBERSHIP: The Regional Plan Committee shall consist of five (5) representatives of the Board of Commissioners who serve two year terms. The terms shall be staggered to foster continuity of policy. The Committee members shall determine the initial staggering of seat terms.

OFFICERS/ELECTIONS: The Regional Plan Committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair annually at its first meeting of the fiscal year. The Chair will be responsible for running meetings, setting agendas in conjunction with staff, reviewing and signing correspondence on behalf of the Regional Plan Committee, and representing the Regional Plan Committee 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 term expiration, an interim election shall be held within two meetings or when regular elections are held, whichever is earlier.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUMS: A quorum of the Committee shall consist of a majority of members, currently three. Members are encouraged to attend all regular meetings and special meetings as they arise. Members with three consecutive unexplained absences will be contacted by the Chair to determine if they still wish to serve on the Regional Plan Committee. The Regional Plan Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year, or as determined by the Chair to be necessary to carry out the stated purpose.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION:

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the event any Regional Plan Committee 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 Regional Plan Committee, the member shall state on the record the nature of his or her interest. If the member feels this conflict interferes with his/her ability to be objective, the member shall not participate in any vote on any related motion. If the member is uncertain whether he/she should participate in the decision, the Regional Plan Committee shall determine by vote whether the member should participate.

The Committee may also make a determination of conflict of interest and disallow voting by a member if the majority of voting Committee members in attendance at the meeting determine a conflict of interest exists.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES: The Regional Plan Committee may, at any time, vote to amend these procedures, upon 51% vote of the Regional Plan Committee membership (at least 3 votes in favor). Proposed amendments will be forwarded to Regional Plan Committee members and interested parties before consideration at a regular Regional Plan Committee meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

The Regional Plan Committee is not a standing or special committee of the Regional Planning Commission, and is therefore not subject to the Commission's bylaws. These Rules of Procedure, combined with Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the Regional Plan Committee.

Recommended by the Regional Plan Committee:

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners:

Juliana Potter, Chair

CVRPC Board of Commissioners

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE
JANUARY 31, 2018
Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Regional Plan Committee was held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in the Conference Room of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Committee Members Present:

Laura Hill-Eubanks –	Town of Northfield
Ron Krauth –	Town of Middlesex
Janet Shatney –	Barre City
Scott Bascom –	Vtrans

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Hoxworth –	Capstone Community Action
Dara Torre –	Town of Moretown

Others Present:

Clare Rock –	CVRPC Senior Planner
Eric Vorwald, AICP –	CVRPC Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:05pm, without a quorum of the committee present, it was determined that the meeting could not be brought to order.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LAND USE ELEMENT

Mr. Vorwald provided an overview and introduction regarding the purpose for reviewing the land use element. He explained that statute was updated to require a discussion of forest integrity for any plans that are updated after January 1, 2018. Since the regional plan was being updated to incorporate energy planning, the land use section would also need to be amended. He further noted that staff was proposing only the necessary updates to comply with statute and that a more in-depth discussion would occur during the update for Plan Central Vermont.

After Mr. Vorwald concluded, Ms. Rock provided an overview and update of the type of information that was being required and the process that has been on-going in the development of the guidance. The

committee members decided to work through the draft on a page by page basis to review the changes. Ms. Rock led the committee through the document and noted updates, changes, and amendments to the draft language. This also included the addition of a new map that outlines the highest priority forest blocks and the highest priority surface waters (including riparian areas). The committee suggested comments that would aide in the readability and clarification of the document.

At the end of the discussion, the committee generally agreed that future meetings were not needed and that they were comfortable with the document being forwarded to the full commission for their consideration. Since a quorum was not present, no official action could be taken to recommend this action.

With no other information to discuss, the meeting concluded at 5:30pm.

DRAFT

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Regional Plan Committee

DRAFT Minutes

July 16, 2018

Present:

☒ Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair☒ Julie Potter☐ Ron Krauth☒ Dara Torre, Vice Chair☒ Kirby Keeton

Staff: Bonnie Waninger

Guests: John Brabant, Calais Commissioners

B. Waninger called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Elections

J. Potter nominated L. Hill-Eubanks as Chair; K. Keeton seconded. No additional nominations were made, and Waninger closed nominations. The Committee elected L. Hill-Eubanks as Chair.

J. Potter nominated D. Torre as Vice Chair; K. Keeton seconded. No additional nominations were made, and the Chair closed nominations. The Committee elected D. Torre as Vice Chair.

Preferred Site Designation

Waninger provided a presentation to establish a shared understanding among Committee members. She:

- discussed New England's energy profile and Vermont's approach to 90x50,
- reviewed the electric energy supply pipeline,
- discussed private and public activities for energy siting,
- reviewed underlying assumptions,
- discussed siting considerations and challenges, and
- reviewed the Committee's role.

She asked the Committee to consider five questions:

- Where does the Commission reside on the spectrum of deferring decisions to municipalities and establishing regional preferred locations?
- Does the scale of development (residential, commercial, utility) matter and, if so, how?
- Will CVRPC treat all technologies the same? If not, is the treatment based on impact?
- Will CVRPC consider cumulative impacts and, if so, how?
- To what extent should community and municipal (and developer?) engagement occur during this process versus when a project is proposed?

Where does the Commission reside on the spectrum of deferring decisions to municipalities and establishing regional preferred locations?

The Committee suggested the Commission would defer to municipal preferred siting decisions when:

- the municipality used a robust public engagement process when making preferred siting decisions.
- the municipality had an approved [24 V.S.A. § 4350(b)(1)] and certified (Act 174) plan.
- the affected transmission and distribution utilities (Washington Electric Cooperative/Green Mountain Power/VELCO) had been engaged in the decision process. Ex. Transmission is adequate or energy storage is addressed.
- power users are located on the same site as power generator.

Does the scale of development (residential, commercial, utility) matter and, if so, how?

The Committee agreed that scale mattered. The Committee discussed scale in relation to regional impact. It directed staff to research this issue and provide a de minimis-level recommendation at the next meeting.

Will CVRPC treat all technologies the same? If not, is the treatment based on impact?

The Committee did not address this questions.

Will CVRPC consider cumulative impacts and, if so, how?

The Committee recommended that CVRPC consider cumulative impacts.

To what extent should community and municipal (and developer?) engagement occur during this process versus when a project is proposed?

The Committee recommended engagement occur during energy plan development and for proposed projects.

Meeting Minutes

J. Potter moved to approve the April 20, 2018 meeting minutes as presented; D. Torre seconded. Motion carried.

Meetings

The Committee did not set a regular meeting date. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 29 at 4pm.

The Committee requested that staff develop documentation:

- outlining components of a municipal process that might be required by CVRPC for preferred site designation deference.
- regarding when and how CVRPC would weigh in on preferred site designation.

The Committee requested staff contact Rick Weston, Director of Policy at the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP). RAP is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future. The Committee would appreciate a discussion with Weston on community planning opportunities and issues for energy and siting.

Adjourn

J. Potter moved to adjourn at 6:00 pm; K. Keeton seconded. Motion carried.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**Regional Plan Committee****DRAFT Minutes****August 29, 2018****Present:**☒ Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair☒ Julie Potter☐ Ron Krauth☒ Dara Torre, Vice Chair☒ Kirby Keeton

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Clare Rock, Pam DeAndrea

Guests: Rick Weston, Regulatory Assistance Project; Peter Carbee, Washington Regional Commissioner

L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Winooski Tactical Basin Plan

P. DeAndrea described the review process. She noted the RPC review draft is not a “public” draft. The goal is to develop comments for consideration at the October 9 Commission meeting.

DeAndrea described the Clean Water Advisory Committee’s (CWAC) review. CWAC comments were provided to DEC in advance.

C. Rock discussed the draft Basin Plan conformance with the Regional Plan. The crosswalk document demonstrates the alignment of Basin Plan objectives with Regional Plan. She found one major conflict. The Regional Plan allows for floodplain development in historic centers while the Basin Plan did not acknowledge this. Rock suggested it was unrealistic for the Basin Plan to include no development in historic centers given the State’s policy to focus growth in these areas. She suggested the Basin Plan needed to acknowledge other State’s policies.

The Committee recommended staff highlight language from the Basin Plan regarding its intent not to conflict with municipal zoning.

DeAndrea clarified that the Basin Plan itself did not have regulatory use/power. Staff anticipates the Agency of Natural Resources will use it to comment on proposed development projects and to prioritize projects for grant funding.

DeAndrea discussed project prioritization and recommended the following comments:

- The CWAC commented that the phosphorus focus overshadows other pollutants that may be an issue in the basin. Nitrates in groundwater was provided as an example. Other pollutants should be included.
- When grant funds require match, and communities may not be able to provide them for more expensive stormwater solutions. She recommended a comment that requests match requirements be flexible based on community ability to pay versus the overall project cost.
- DeAndrea recommended the Basin Plan list all areas needing stormwater master plans. Currently, Williamstown is the only community listed. She recommended the Plan's language be updated to include stormwater master plans for villages, more developed municipalities, and more developed, non-village areas.
- The Plan is challenging for a lay person to read. DeAndrea recommended conclusions be included at the end of each chapter, and objectives and strategies be brought to one location.

DeAndrea reviewed other comments included with the draft letter included in the Committee's packet.

The Committee asked that the draft Commission letter to DEC include the conformance table as a standalone document and a summary comment letter. The CWAC have been submitted, so they will not be included in the Commission's comments.

Discussion included that the Basin Plan does not help the public understand priority locations for treatment and resource protection. This may result in misalignment of local and regional resource investment with water quality improvement needs.

J. Potter moved to have staff incorporate additional comments identified and provide the letter to the Commission for review; K. Keeton seconded. Motion carried.

Rick Weston, Director of Policy at the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

R. Weston formerly worked with the Public Service Board (now Public Utilities Commission) and was the Waterbury Planning Commission/DRB Chair. He now works for RAP, which advises governments on energy issues. Weston stated his understanding of the question CVRPC is working to address is, "How should CVRPC deal with preferred sites for "small" net-metering projects?" In this instance, "small" means those at the commercial scale of more than 15 kW and less than or equal to 500 kW

Weston recommended CVRPC begin with state statute. From his perspective, statute gives local jurisdictions the opportunity to change their minds after identified preferred sites in a municipal plan or to "grant a variance" by identify preferred sites not included in a plan. In these circumstances, the question is what criteria should apply?

Weston reminded the Committee that statute doesn't provide guidance on site designation through the letter process. He suggested the Committee consider whether there was good cause for deviating from

statute if the municipality does not have a plan in place. Sections 12 and 13 of the Standards address mapping and begin to provide guidance in this area. A neighbor using 50% of the power generated may be an obvious reason to designate a site after completing a planning process. Weston suggested the Committee use the mapping standards as a base criterion for screening preferred sites. He recommended the Commission develop a how-to guide for municipal preferred site planning and then a how-to-guide to address after-the-fact requests through defined criteria. Weston proposed that even without a full planning effort, municipalities and the Commission could benefit from starting with the mapping and other guidance from the Standards to develop the equivalent of an “emergency rule” to address preferred site designation requests. He also suggested municipalities and the Commission put the burden for demonstrating why a site should be designated preferred on the applicant. He recommended that instead of a joint letter, the Commission write a letter addressing whether a site is in conformance with the Regional Plan and that this act as the Commission’s designation process.

Weston offered to craft 2-3 pages of ideas that might be used as criteria to guide local and regional organizations.

Preferred Site Designation

The Committee continued its discussion by discussing potential Regional Plan conformance issues:

- whether preferred sites will always be located in Regional Plan Rural Land Use Planning Areas,
- whether municipally-owned lands are always a constraint, and if not, when they would be.

The Committee wrestled with the question of whether the RPC role of presenting consensus among all member municipalities means the RPC should act as a gatekeeper. Some members expressed that if municipalities complete town-wide planning, CVRPC should deferring to them. If a municipality has not, CVRPC might want to act as gatekeeper, especially if a decision appears to be arbitrary.

The Committee agreed CVRPC’s letter for a designation needs to stand on its own and should not discuss the merits of a project since project information is incomplete. At the same time, the letter should include specific reasons a site is/is not designated as preferred to help establish precedence for future decisions.

Committee members asked if renewable energy generation systems should be located near energy users. Waninger discussed information from the Public Service Department staff, which indicated that finding an energy users is often the last step and energy development takes.

Waninger asked how the Committee wanted to focus its next agenda. The Committee expressed its priorities are:

- finalizing the draft municipal planning process included in the August meeting packet so it can be distributed to and commented on by municipalities. Committee members will bring specific suggestions for the municipal planning process so the Committee can finalize its initial thoughts;
- finalizing the flow chart of when the Commission engages in discussion and when it doesn’t;

- focusing on creating an emergency patch by creating guidance that makes negotiating CVRPC's process easier; and
- further developing how and when CVRPC weighs in on preferred site designations.

Meeting Minutes

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The Committee asked staff to poll members regarding a next meeting date and a regular meeting date.

Adjourn

D. Torre moved to adjourn at 6:28 pm; J. Potter seconded. Motion carried.