



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm

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

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	<b>7:00<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Adjustments to the Agenda</b> <b>Public Comments</b>
	<b>7:05</b>	<b>Downstreet Housing &amp; Community Development</b> , <i>Eileen Pelletier, Executive Director</i> Regional and state housing initiatives and Downstreet's work to address them.
2	<b>7:45</b>	<b>Recommendations of the Commission on Act 250</b> (enclosed) Presentation and discussion of Board survey results to assist staff with Legislative discussions. The full report is available at <a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Act250FinalReport-compressed.pdf">https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Act250FinalReport-compressed.pdf</a> .
5	<b>8:35</b>	<b>2019 Nominating Committee</b> , <i>Julie Potter, Chair</i> (enclosed) <sup>2</sup> Appoint Nominating Committee for FY20 Executive Committee.
8	<b>8:45</b>	<b>Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2019</b> (enclosed) <sup>2</sup>
10	<b>8:50</b>	<b>Reports</b> (enclosed) Updates and questions on Staff, Executive Director, Committee, and Legislative Reports
	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

**Next Meeting: March 12, 2019**

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

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

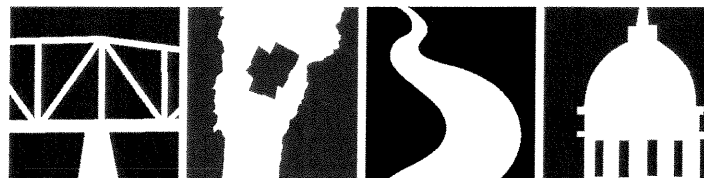
The following is an outline of the results of the Board Survey of the Commission on Act 250's recommendations. Eight individuals completed at least part of the survey. Outlined is the percentage of respondents that readily support or cannot support the individual recommendation. The full report can be accessed @ <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Act250FinalReport-compressed.pdf>

- 1      Amending Act 250 to explicitly reference the goals of the Capability and Development Plan and the goals of municipal and regional planning contained in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(c).  
62.5% readily support                      37.5% cannot support
- 2      Amending the Capability and Development Plan to include a climate change goal.  
62.5% readily support                      37.5% cannot support
- 3      Amending the Capability and Development Plan to include a goal regarding the utilization of natural resources.  
75% readily support                      25% cannot support
- 4      Amending the statutes to require that the county-level Capability and Development Plan maps created in the 1970s be updated for reference in Act 250 review.  
50% readily support                      50% cannot support
- 5      Reactivating the Development Cabinet. {defined in 3 V.S.A. 2293 (b)(1) - The Development Cabinet advises the Governor on how to best implement Vermont's economic, settlement patterns, working landscape and healthy environment goals. The Development Cabinet consists of the Secretaries of the Agencies of Administration, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of Natural Resources, and of Transportation.}  
62.5% readily support                      37.5 cannot support
- 6      Requiring that regional plans be reviewed for consistency with the statutory goals for municipal and regional planning.  
87.5% readily support                      12.5% cannot support
- 7      Requiring that to be used in Act 250, the regional plans must be approved as consistent with the goals for municipal and regional planning.  
62.5% readily support                      37.5% cannot support
- 8      Amending the statute to require that municipal plans be consistent with those same statutory goals.  
62.5% readily support                      37.5% cannot support
- 9      Amending the statute to require that to be used in Act 250, municipal plans must obtain approval from the regional planning commission as consistent with those goals.  
37.5% readily support                      62.5% cannot support
- 10     Separate air pollution criterion from water pollution criterion, and adding a sub-criterion for climate change.  
57.14% readily support                      42.86% cannot support

- 11 Updating Act 250's floodways criterion so that it applies to flood hazard areas and river corridors. [This criterion currently applies to flood hazard areas only]  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 12 Act 250's definitions of flood hazard area and river corridor be identical to those that govern the Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR) work.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 13 That the revised criterion specifically address fluvial erosion.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 14 Amending energy conservation criterion to specifically reference energy efficiency.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 15 The Legislature's standing committees of jurisdiction review the Act 250 criteria to determine if any can be updated to address climate change.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 16 Amending the transportation criterion to include review of the safety and congestion impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and other transit infrastructure.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 17 Amending the transportation criterion to better define when it is appropriate for Act 250 to require projects to incorporate transportation demand strategies and require connectivity to transit services other than single-occupancy vehicles.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 18 Amending the public investment criterion, 9(K), to specifically refer to investments made through the State designation program, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and similar programs that have been enacted since the criterion was written.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 19 Improving Act 250's plan conformance criterion by requiring that local plans must be consistent with the statutory goals for municipal and regional planning.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 20 Criteria be added to protect forest blocks and connecting habitat from fragmentation by adopting the changes contained in H.233 of 2017. [H.233 proposes to reduce development impacts to forest blocks and habitat connectors]  
57.14% readily support 42.86% cannot support
- 21 That the applicant have the burden of proof on criterion 8(A), [necessary wildlife habitat and endangered species].  
42.86% readily support 57.14% cannot support
- 22 Establish Critical Resource Areas containing ecosystems, natural resources and habitat that are priorities for protection as part of the multi-tiered approach.  
71.43% readily support 28.57 cannot support

- 23 Establish Rural and Working Lands as part of the multi-tiered approach.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 24 Establish Existing Settlements as part of the multi-tiered approach.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 25 Extending Act 250 jurisdiction to cover projects in interstate interchange areas.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 26 Clarifying the definition of "commercial purpose". [See pages 31-32 of full report for more detail]  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 27 The establishment of baselines for which facilities are considered pre-existing gravel pits and quarries.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 28 That registered slate quarries be required to give notice of their operations to neighboring property owners.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 29 The registered slate quarries be added to the ANR Natural Resources Atlas.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 30 Repeal provision that allows quarries to be held in reserve without being considered abandoned.  
42.86% readily support 57.14% cannot support
- 31 Repeal the exemption for farming, logging, and forestry below 2,500 feet when these occur in areas that have been designated as critical resource areas.  
57.14% readily support 42.86% cannot support
- 32 Consideration of a process under which release from jurisdiction could be obtained under specific circumstances.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support
- 33 Further data collection, better permit tracking, addressing delayed applications, improving annual reports, and addressing District Commission variances in order to address the difficulties of conducting an Act 250–related statistical analysis.  
85.71% readily support 14.29% cannot support
- 34 Act 250 appeals be heard by an administrative board that also has the existing functions of the Natural Resources Board and that this board also hear appeals of ANR permit decisions.  
57.14% readily support 42.86% cannot support
- 35 The Natural Resources Board or its successor work with the other State agencies to create a predictable timetable for the permitting process.  
71.43% readily support 28.57% cannot support

Thank you to all who responded.



## Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

### Nominating Committee Guidelines

Adopted by the Commission March 9, 1999

The prime consideration of the Nominating Committee should be the best interest of the Commission and its future.

The Nominating Committee shall seek to balance the interests of the Commission in order to have the Executive Committee as reflective of the Commission as possible.

As long as one member of the Nominating Committee wants an individual considered, the entire Committee will objectively evaluate that potential candidate. The Nominating Committee, having any reasonable interest in a qualified candidate, shall request that the candidate express his or her interest in being considered.

The quality of Executive Committee participation is more important than length of stay on the Committee. Candidates willing to dedicate one year to the Executive Committee should be considered.

The Nominating Committee feels that in order to continuously provide fresh views it is good to have a small turn over in members of the Executive Committee.

The Chairperson will be elected with the assumption that the Chairperson will serve for two terms. The Nominating Committee will first consider a previous vice-chair (if at all possible). A service record that shows dedication to the Commission shall be considered.

To be nominated for vice-chairperson, the person should have previously served on the Executive Committee for at least one year and have an attendance record that shows dedication to the Commission. It is assumed the vice-chair will succeed to the chair.

The treasurer, secretary, and three members-at-large will also be nominated. The following requirements must be met by the candidates:

- served on the Commission for at least one year;
- participated on one or more committees during their term; and
- an attendance record that shows dedication to the Commission.

**CVRPC Nominating Committee**

Executive Director serves as ex officio member.

**2003**

Harrison Snapp, Waitsfield  
Carol Davis, Washington  
Kathleen Lott, Northfield

**2004**

Peter Comart, Worcester  
Ed Larson, Montpelier  
Tim Carver, East Montpelier

**2005**

Mark Nicholson, Barre Town  
Rhonda Shippee, Calais  
Margaret Torizzo, Fayston

**2006**

Stan Walker, Duxbury  
Carol Davis, Washington  
Harrison Snapp, Waitsfield  
George Malek, Orange

**2007**

Ed Larson, Montpelier  
John Hurley, Berlin  
Tom Frazier, Roxbury  
Dick Payne, Cabot

**2008**

Harrison Snapp, Waitsfield  
Tim Carver, East Montpelier  
Don La Haye, Warren

**2009**

Tom Frazier, Roxbury  
Larry Hebert, Williamstown  
Ray McCormack, Washington  
Gunner McCain, Waterbury

**2010**

Robert Wernecke, Berlin  
Tim Carver, East Montpelier  
Rhonda Shippee, Calais

**2011**

Larry Hebert, Williamstown  
Gunner McCain, Waterbury  
George Malek, Orange

**2012**

Bill Arrand, Worcester  
Tim Carver, East Montpelier  
Byron Atwood, Barre Town

**2013**

Gunner McCain, Waterbury  
Bob Wernecke, Berlin  
Larry Hebert, Williamstown

**2014**

Faeterri Silver, Marshfield  
Tina Ruth, Montpelier  
Ron Krauth, Middlesex

**2015**

Bob Wernecke, Berlin  
Dara Torre, Moretown  
Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield

**2016**

Don La Haye, Waitsfield  
Bill Arrand, Worcester  
Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury (Chair)

**2017**

David Strong, Plainfield (Chair)  
Byron Atwood, Barre Town  
Ivan Shadis, Marshfield

**2018**

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

**May 2013**

Chair: Don La Haye, Waitsfield

Vice-Chair: Byron Atwood, Barre Town

Treasurer: Michael Miller, Barre City

Secretary: Tina Ruth, Montpelier

At large: Bob Wernecke, (past chair) Berlin; George Malek, Orange; David Strong, Plainfield

**May 2014**

Chair: Don La Haye, Waitsfield

Vice-Chair: Byron Atwood, Barre Town

Treasurer: ~~Michael Miller, Barre City~~ David Strong, Plainfield (to fill unexpired term)

Secretary: Tina Ruth, Montpelier

At large: Bob Wernecke, (past chair) Berlin; George Malek, Orange; ~~David Strong, Plainfield~~ Julie Potter, East Montpelier (to fill unexpired term)

**May 2015**

Chair: Byron Atwood, Barre Town

Vice-Chair: Julie Potter, East Montpelier

Treasurer: David Strong, Plainfield

Secretary: Tina Ruth, Montpelier

At large: Don La Haye (past chair) Waitsfield; Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield; Larry Hebert, Williamstown

**May 2016**

Chair: Byron Atwood, Barre Town

Vice-Chair: Julie Potter, East Montpelier

Treasurer: David Strong, Plainfield

Secretary: Tina Ruth, Montpelier

At large: Don La Haye (past chair) Waitsfield; Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield; Larry Hebert, Williamstown

**May 2017**

Chair: Julie Potter, East Montpelier

Vice-Chair: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield

Treasurer: Michael Gray, Woodbury

Secretary: Dara Torre, Moretown

At large: Byron Atwood (past chair), Barre Town, Don La Haye, Waitsfield, Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury

**May 2018**

Chair: Julie Potter, East Montpelier

Vice-Chair: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield

Treasurer: Michael Gray, Woodbury

Secretary: Dara Torre, Moretown

At large: Byron Atwood (past chair), Barre Town, Don La Haye, Waitsfield, Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2019**

**Commissioners:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paula Emery, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	Camilla Behn
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Julie Potter, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Karl Klein	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Melissa Seifert	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Kirby Keeton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock, Jonathan DeLaBruere

Guests: Secretary Michael Shirling (ACCD)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business. J. Potter welcomed CVRPC's newest staff member Jonathan DeLaBruere, Assistant Planner. DeLaBruere will work on emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, and land use.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Potter noted that we will proceed with Secretary Shirling's presentation and defer the other presentations until another meeting due to the inclement weather.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STATE ECONOMIC INITIATIVES**

J. Potter welcomed Michael Shirling, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce & Community Development.



1 Mr. Shirling provided an overview of agency and where the administration currently sees both  
2 challenges and opportunities.

3  
4 He noted that over the last two years the number one challenge to growing the economy is population  
5 and putting a workforce into jobs in Vermont. He stated this is not a Vermont specific trend, but is a  
6 non-urban commonality. Also noted was Vermont is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest state in the nation which creates  
7 challenges for the workforce due to the aging population. Affordability is another challenge in both  
8 Vermont and other non-urban areas nationwide.

9  
10 He stated that from challenges come opportunities. Vermont's size is both a challenge and an  
11 opportunity. It would be helpful to grow at a modest pace. He highlighted Vermont's 230-year history  
12 of innovation (agricultural to commercial to technological). Vermont is recognized for its quality  
13 workforce and reputation.

14  
15 Sec. Shirling outlined the core operating goals of ACCD:

- 16  
17
  - Tell the story of Vermont – beyond just the things Vermont is known for
  - 18 • Deploy 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce – ongoing job training
  - 19 • Ensure housing for all – affordable housing and an array of options
  - 20 • Create vibrant regional economies and ecosystems (10 statewide)
  - 21 • Accelerate business growth and recruitment

22

23 A robust discussion followed with Commissioners asking questions about education consolidation,  
24 infrastructure, housing, transportation, technology, development, Air B-n-B, marketing and workforce  
25 training. Mr. Shirling addressed the questions in detail and provided the Board with the Agency's role in  
26 the areas in question.

27 **MEETING MINUTES**

28 *G. D'Amico moved to approve December minutes; B. Arrand seconded. Discussion addressed two*  
29 *corrections needed. Motion carried.*

30  
31 **ADJOURNMENT**

32 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:01 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. The motion and second were withdrawn*  
33 *due to a request to approve the minutes. D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:07 pm; L. Cattaneo*  
34 *seconded. Motion carried.*

35  
36 Respectfully submitted,

37  
38 Nancy Chartrand  
39 Office Manager

**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, January 2019

F: 802-223-1977

**LAND USE PLANNING & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE****Regional Planning:** Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com).

- Participated in a Montpelier Housing Task Force meeting to discuss housing needs. Discussed preliminary ideas for workforce/employer housing needs.
- Met with ACCD Planning & Policy Director to discuss local and regional issues, Berlin New Town Center designation, State enhanced designation legislation, and village wastewater project.
- Participated in CVEDC Board meeting.

**Municipal Planning:**

- Coordinated Town Plan Review Committee meeting.
- Scheduled the Winter/Spring Planning and Zoning Roundtables. First roundtable dedicated to modern Community Engagement. Key take away: there is no “general public” to engage. There is only a series of interest groups, such as parents with young children, Green Up Day volunteers, people who carpool, etc. Determine who you need to engage and go to them. Video of event available at <https://vimeopro.com/vtvt/cvrpc/video/314981274>.
- Provided information to Plainfield about the town plan update and adoption process and potential CVRPC assistance.
- Provided Plainfield with a quote to re-format its proposed zoning regulations.
- Discussed forest products industry municipal planning needs with industry representative. Approached VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation about development of a municipal training to complement VT Conservation By Design work.

**Energy Planning:**

- Participated in an energy planning training with a planner from the Northwest RPC.
- Reviewed East Montpelier’s draft energy plan against State guidelines and met with Town representatives to discuss the review.
- Scheduled joint training with Moretown, Waitsfield, and Middlesex for upcoming enhanced energy work.

**Act 250 & Section 248:**

- Coordinated a Project Review Committee meeting and a joint meeting of the Regional Plan and Project Review Committees.
- Reviewed legislative report on Act 250 changes
- Participated in the Act 250 site walk and public hearing for the Montpelier Hotel & Parking Garage application. Developed post-event summary for Project Review Committee.

**Mapping:**

- Provided map and data to Marshfield for comparison of draft zoning and highest priority forest blocks and surface waters.
- Updated Middlesex's webmap.
- Continued Woodbury and Duxbury's parcel mapping.
- Completed the upload for overlay districts data to VCGI portal to facilitate public access.
- Created a Food Access map for use by the Washington County Hunger Council.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

**Local/Regional Planning:**

- Meet with the Waterbury Floodplain Management Committee to discuss the Community Rating System related trainings. Staff will be helping to develop a "meeting-in-a-box" which is a train-the-trainer-like approach. The "box" contains materials and pre-made presentations local officials can use and share with local stakeholders.
- Participated in VEM/RPC meeting to discuss Memorandum of Agreement for SEOC, SEOC reorganization and trainings, work program progress, and other items.

**Trainings and Workshops:**

- NFIP Training for Realtors/Municipal Officials - Worked with Vermont Association of Realtors and the Department of Environmental Conservation to coordinate a successful NFIP training for twenty-one realtors and municipal officials.
- Local Emergency Management Director (EMD) Course – Thirteen participants attended the Local EMD Course in Barre to strengthen their understanding of the EMD role and steps towns can take to clarify the role's authority during disaster events.
- Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Seminar - Starting in 2019, Vermont Emergency Management has new requirements for Local Emergency Management Plans (formerly known as Local Emergency Operations Plans). Hosted a seminar about the changes and resources available to support plan updates.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP):**

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

East Montpelier – Scheduled kickoff meeting with Town Administrator.

Moretown – Held kickoff meeting with Planning Commission. Using CVRPC website for document exchange and public engagement. Incorporating LHMP and enhanced energy planning efforts into statutory consultation to build global approach to town planning efforts.

Warren – The plan was completed and approved pending adoption by FEMA.

Williamstown – Kickoff meeting snowed out; rescheduled to February. Incorporating LHMP kickoff into statutory consultation to build global approach to town planning efforts.

Worcester – The Town adopted the plan and transmitted it to FEMA.

Woodbury – The plan was completed and approved pending adoption by FEMA.

CVRPC has funding available to assist towns whose plans have expired or will expire in 2019. Contact Jonathan DeLaBruere, [delabruere@cvregion.com](mailto:delabruere@cvregion.com), if your town is interested in these free services.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Field Services:** Contact Ashley Andrews, [Andrews@cvregion.com](mailto:Andrews@cvregion.com), for 2019 counts and inventories.

Traffic Counts: Collected data from the permanent Mad River counter.

Road Surface Inventories: Worked with Northfield to select roads for the Town's FY20 capital budget aimed at maintenance and reconstruction activities.

Ash Tree Inventories: Began road right-of-way inventory in Barre Town. Discussed approaches and options with Waterbury. Agreed to train volunteers in Calais and East Montpelier to complete inventories and assist towns on Emerald Ash Borer Response Plans.

### Transportation Studies:

Paratransit Inclusive Planning: Developed an outline and main findings from our engagement during the paratransit planning study. Need to provide more education to riders and drivers so that the transit experience works for both parties. Worked on a second grant to fund the development of these education materials. Met with VT's Public Transit Director to discuss results.

Microtransit Working Group: Leading the microtransit land use subcommittee to identify land use and development patterns that support a microtransit system.

Cabot Trail Planning Study: Attended a Trails group meeting to review the work plan. CVRPC is the project's consultant.

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

Board of Commissioners – See Committee updates.

Leadership Committee – Regular and special meeting to discuss addressing FY20 budget deficit and potential transit route suspensions.

Finance Committee – Special meeting to discuss approaches to resolve the FY20 budget deficit.

Rt. 100 Commuter – Participated in a discussion with GMT about possible service changes to Route 100 commuter. These changes include the addition of a second trip from Waterbury to Morrisville.

Seasonal Service – See Executive Director Report. Met with Mad River Valley Planning District and TAC and with Selectboards of Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren. Assisted municipalities and Sugarbush to understand challenges and explore potential increase to local contribution. Coordinated with other RPCs to review GMT-provided information.

Participated in Welcome Legislator's Reception and sent emails to brief Legislators on transit discussion results, next steps, and global funding-sustainability challenge. Met with VT Public Transit Director to discuss GMT experience and expectations. Provided data and information on Northfield Commuter to citizen and Regional Commissioner at their request; Northfield Selectboard voted not to include local funding article on Town Meeting warning. Discussed Northfield Commuter and Next Gen Study

recommendations and potential cost savings with Northfield Town Manager and GMT staff.

**Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP):** Continued work with Calais and Woodbury on a road erosion inventory capital plan.

**Municipal Roads Grants in Aid:** Contact Dan, [currier@cvregion.com](mailto:currier@cvregion.com).

Completed invoice review and submission for work completed by Warren.

**Municipal Assistance:** Assisted Northfield with development of a Better Connections grant for a trail network masterplan.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Pam DeAndrea, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com), unless otherwise noted.

### **Winooski River Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:**

- Worked on project development with Winooski Basin Planner, Conservation District, and Friends of the Mad River.
- Wrote Ecosystem Restoration Program grant applications for stormwater projects in Woodbury and the Mad River Valley and a stormwater master plan in Waterbury.
- Conducted outreach on river corridor protection and model bylaws. Assisting Barre City to determine how to incorporate river corridor protections into its flood hazard regulations. Contact Pam at [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com) if you would like CVRPC and/or the Regional Floodplain Manager to discuss river corridor bylaws and increasing the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) eligibility for your community.

**Re-classification of Surface Waters (604b):** Continued outreach to communities on re-classification according to 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards. These opportunities were identified in the recently finalized Tactical Basin Plans. This effort is funded by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources through a statewide RPC agreement to the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission. Contact Pam DeAndrea at [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com) to discuss reclassification of surface waters in your town.

**Clean Water Block Grant Program:** If your project is ready for final design or implementation, please contact Pam to determine eligibility. There is a 20% match for these funds, which can be in-kind.

Berlin Town Office Stormwater Design: Continued project management for final design. Consultant submitted 60% design and met with team to review the plans and next steps. Berlin is excited to move forward with this project and is very happy with the outcome thus far.

Pouliot Avenue Stormwater Construction: Continued project management for stormwater mitigation of a gully. Construction will occur next spring.

**Ecosystem Restoration Program Grants:** The next application deadline is March 11. Please contact Pam for grant writing or project development assistance. CVRPC received an award to complete final design of a stormwater mitigation project at the Plainfield Health Center; awaiting state contract offer.

**Mad River and Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans:** Project team completed summaries of potential solutions for five priority stormwater sites in each in the Mad River and Kingsbury Branch watersheds. 30% designs are being completed for these sites. Staff worked with consultant, Friends of the Mad River, and the municipalities to determine which projects were ready for final design funding now. The master plans will be completed this spring.

**Northfield Water Street Stormwater Mitigation:** Managed project to ensure design can be completed in February for spring bid process. DEC awarded the project an additional \$385,600 for changes related to floodplain challenges and adjacent property opportunities. Construction expected summer 2019.

**Water Wise Woodlands:** Steering committee planning for a late winter/early spring pancake breakfast and workshop. The cartoon has been distributed to media outlets (available at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org)). Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com).

**Forest Integrity:** Preparing a proposal to increase awareness and share ideas for towns which are seeking to maintaining forest blocks while simultaneously supporting the wood products industry. Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Worked with a consultant to write an application for assessment funding. Grant awards anticipated for May. Assessment activities continue at the Bonacorsi and Granite Works sites.

### Partnerships for Progress:

- Assisted Mad River Valley Planning District with seasonal transit services advocacy.
- Completed Food Access map for Washington County Hunger Council workgroup.
- Discussed anticipated housing market changes with Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.
- Discussed potential joint RPC proposal for ACCD Housing Bylaw RFP with other RPCs and Vermont Natural Resources Council staff.
- Scheduled meeting with Capstone Community Action's new Executive Director.
- Briefed CVEDC and CV Chamber Directors on proposed transit route suspensions and local and regional actions to avoid suspensions. Discussed employer transit needs with CVEDC Director.
- Discussed CVRPC Act 250 participation with District Coordinator.

## OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Office:

- Completed annual office organization/clean-up; reducing paper by sending documents for digital scanning.

- Interviewed candidates and checked references for open land use planner position; job offer anticipated by Board meeting.
- Negotiated new contract for postage meter service that will result in a \$500/year savings.
- Held phone conference with attorney regarding her review of CVRPC Personnel Policy.
- Participated in CVRPC Bylaws workgroup meetings; Bylaws draft anticipated for Executive Committee discussion in March.
- Drafted Grants Management Policy and updated GIS Cost of Services Policy.
- Submitted FY2020 Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to VTrans for approval.

**Professional Development:** Three staff participated in *Orientation to the State Emergency Operations Center* training. VEM has substantially revised how the SEOC is organized to better support situational awareness, long-term recovery planning, and event operations and logistic support. Five staff participated in the Community Engagement training hosted by CVRPC.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Please verify meeting location at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org) by viewing meeting agendas.

#### FEBRUARY

Feb 8	10 am	2019 Ice Jam/Spring Flooding Seminar, SEOC, Waterbury
Feb 12	4 pm	Town Plan Review Committee, CVRPC Officed
Feb 12	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Feb 13	9:30 am	Ash Inventory Training, CVRPC Office
Feb 18		<i>President's Day – CVRPC Offices Closed</i>
Feb 21	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 22	10 am	Local Emergency Management Plan Training/Writing Workshop, CVRPC
Feb 26	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin

#### MARCH

Mar 4	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 4	6 pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee 5, TBD
Mar 12	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Mar 21	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
Mar 26	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin

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

## Executive Director's Report

January 30, 2019

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### Blue Zones – Making Healthy Choices Easy Choices

At the Welcome Legislator Reception earlier this month, I spoke with a manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. We discussed the health care industry's change from illness-based case management to a preventative care model. He suggested I check out the Blue Zones Project®. Blue Zones are rare longevity hotspots around the world. The Blue Zones Project® is helping transform communities across the U.S. into areas where the healthy choice is easy and people live longer with a higher quality of life.

One aspect of Blue Zones is social connectedness. Mounting research has shown a link between loneliness and poor health outcomes. Some data has shown that loneliness has worse health effects than smoking, obesity and a sedentary lifestyle. Lonely people die earlier than non-lonely people due to a host of health conditions. They report increased depression.

Locally, a Washington County partnership is addressing the social determinates of health - economic stability, physical environment, education, food, social context, and access to the health care system. The partnership, known as THRIVE, is focused on building social connectedness among the region's residents. Through events and engagement activities THRIVE aims to bring people together by collaborating with existing community events to magnify connections. CVRPC is participating in THRIVE.

### Public Transit Funding

CVRPC is Washington County's representative to GMT's Board of Commissioners. At past Board meetings, I've update the Board about Green Mountain Transits (GMT) fiscal challenges.

GMT has faced increasing costs and level or reduced funding that resulted in deficit budgets for the past four years. The Board has worked with staff to implement a range of activities that reduced expenses and increased revenues. While some progress was made, GMT's FY20 budget projected almost a \$1 million gap. GMT staff proposed additional expense reductions, one of which was suspending seasonal service in the Mad River Valley and Stowe and suspending the St. Albans and Middlebury Links and Jeffersonville Commuter. The Board asked staff to engage affected stakeholders in a conversation about these proposed changes.

GMT is able to move forward with a balanced budget for FY20 that does not include route suspensions. The budget assumes savings from implementing some NextGen efficiencies, fare increase in the urban area, administrative efficiencies, additional VTrans grants, and increases in revenues from other partners. If those assumptions hold, GMT will not need route suspensions in FY 20. It will need to continue to work toward a longer term sustainable model. In the upcoming year, CVRPC will assist GMT to engage stakeholders so that our region continues to benefit from public transit services.



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

January 2019

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

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

- Heard presentation from Batchelder Associates. Accepted the FY2018 audit report.
- Reviewed 1231 financial report. Year is going well.
- Reviewed progress on FY19 strategic plan activities. Making steady progress. Delayed action on Regional Plan completion to FY20.
- Discussed FY20 Nominating Committee. Asked Byron Atwood to recruit Commissioners to participate on the Committee.
- Adopted revised Cost of Services Policy for GIS Services. Revisions update service rate for for-profit businesses to 1.5 times CVRPC actual cost. This helps insure CVRPC does not unfairly compete with for-profit GIS businesses.

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

Did not meet.

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

- Held joint meeting with the Regional Plan Committee to discuss renewable energy siting with Green Mountain Power, Northfield City Electric, and Washington Electric Cooperative.
- Heard presentation by applicants for the Montpelier Hotel and Parking Garage Act 250 Application (5W1591). Chose not to submit comments at this time and to have staff monitor the project.

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

- Held joint meeting with the Regional Plan Committee to discuss renewable energy siting with Green Mountain Power, Northfield City Electric, and Washington Electric Cooperative.

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

- Reviewed proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure.
- Discussed the committee's role in town plan review and confirmation/consultation process.

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

- Prioritized local planning projects for funding by CVRPC.
- Prioritized Town Highway Bridge pre candidate projects.

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

This Committee will not be meeting regularly until new grant funds are secured.

**CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 4pm)**

Patti Casey from the Vermont Agency of Agricultural, Food and Markets present to the CWAC on monitoring of pesticides in groundwater and surface water in Central Vermont. She helped ease concerns over the use of Glyphosate (aka, "Roundup") on farm fields in Central Vermont.

**VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**

- Discussed legislative reports and bills RPCs will track, including rural economic development, Act 250 bill and Commission report, and the ANR water quality bill. Discussed the proposed review of regional plans in the draft Act 250 bill.
- Discussed meetings with watershed groups and ANR staff, changes to the clean water block grant, and the clean water fund board meeting.
- Appointed Shaun Coleman as VAPDA representative on the AHS Individual and Family Needs Task Force.
- Heard presentation from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board representatives about the Rural Economic Development Initiative.
- Heard presentation on 2020 Census schedule and the PSAP responsibilities and opportunities.
- Received overview of the VT State Data Center.
- Discussed establishing a venue for RPC senior staff to meet to learn from one another, coordinate on statewide projects, and hear presentations from technical staff.

**VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL**

No activities from Central Vermont.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT**

- Heard presentation from staff on 5-year cost saving measures employed by GMT.
- Heard presentation from VTrans on statewide comparison of transit services and costs.
- Awarded van contract to DATTCO.
- Approved resolution granting staff the authority to open a line of credit with the stipulation that any use of the credit line be reported to the Board at its next meeting following the borrowing.
- Discussed FY20 budget and identified opportunities and challenges for closing the budget gap. Directed staff to use extra 5307 funds, fare increase in the urban area, increased urban assessments, implement NextGen Study recommendations in FY19 and FY20, and plan for additional contributions by stakeholders and VTrans. VTrans has committed to providing additional funds to support seasonal service.
- Held Executive Session for annual General Manager evaluation.

**MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT**

- Discussed Mad River Valley transportation survey.
- Discussed potential MRV application to the Vermont Council on Rural Development's (VCRD) Climate Economy Model Communities program. Elected not to support an application this year because staff time was fully committed to other activities and the Valley has completed much of the work that VCRD traditionally supports. The Committee supported having discussions with VCRD this year to determine if VCRD might support assisting the MRV to implement actions it has already identified.
- Discussed GMT proposal for seasonal transit route service suspension. Reviewed GMT actions and discussed actions MRV stakeholders could take.
- Discussed revitalization of the Housing Coalition. Action is needed that results in housing construction. Discussed opportunities and partnerships for this work.
- Received update on progress of Local Opportunities (FLO) Committee to develop local options tax for MRV. Public engagement is underway to build support for a model that could work in the Valley.

## Legislative Report

February 5, 2019

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### Clean Water Funding

In June of 2015, Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, was passed that enabled a Clean Water Board to administer a Clean Water Fund. Since 2015, this fund has been used to invest in clean water projects over the next 20 years. State agencies such as the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Agency of Transportation through various grant programs. Recently, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Agency of Administration proposed a different model for the fund - Clean Water Districts. The "Districts" would will receive multi-year block grant funding to implement the projects either directly or with partners. See enclosed information.

ANR will still be the lead for any water quality monitoring, planning and assessment and provide guidance and oversight to the Districts. The Districts would select and implement projects. The Districts could implement projects themselves or pass funds to partners, such as municipalities, watershed groups, Regional Planning Commissions, and Conservation Districts. The Clean Water Districts will also be responsible for the on-going operation and maintenance of the projects and showing that the projects are meeting targets for phosphorus reduction.

This concept transitions non-regulatory projects into a regulatory framework (local or regional utility district). From the State's perspective, the partnership approach to Districts makes sense and addresses limited resources available for repetitive grant writing. The State also sees the regulatory approach to non-regulatory projects as a means of addressing operations and maintenance challenges demonstrated by previously constructed projects.

Municipalities and stakeholders would like the ability to prioritize and manage project work based on P and N reduction rather than grant applications. Stakeholders have expressed concern about the large syphoning off of general fund and Property Transfer Tax dollars with no clear replacement strategy, and the very real possibility that since these districts or utilities can 'raise revenues' this would become a large unfunded mandate to complete water quality projects that municipalities were otherwise not responsible for implementing.

### Commission on Act 250 Recommendations

The recommendations will be discussed at the Board meeting. Testimony is underway in multiple Legislative Committees regarding the recommendations.

VAPDA submitted its perspective on the recommendation for external technical review of Regional Plans. Please see the attached VAPDA letter.

## Environmental Protection

### Strengthening Clean Water Project Implementation & Improving Regulations



- **INTRO:** Over the next 20 years, Vermont – both the public and private sectors – will need to invest \$2.3 billion to meet federal and state clean water goals.<sup>1</sup> This effort will require the construction and on-going stewardship of thousands of water quality projects across the landscape. Some projects will be required by permits or regulations, while others will be “above and beyond” or non-regulatory activities that are necessary to restore and maintain the quality of Vermont’s rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Above-and-beyond activities are not required by permits or regulations but are necessary to achieve Vermont’s water quality standards and remove waterbodies from the list of impaired waters.
- **WHAT:** The Agency of Natural Resources and Agency of Administration propose establishing Clean Water Districts to achieve clean water targets and anticipates the State will provide full funding to implement projects not currently required by regulatory programs administered by the Agency of Natural Resources and Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. A network of Clean Water Districts will have the ability to partner with municipalities, regional planning commissions and conservation districts, as well as directly to municipalities, to identify, tackle and sustain critical water quality improvement projects.

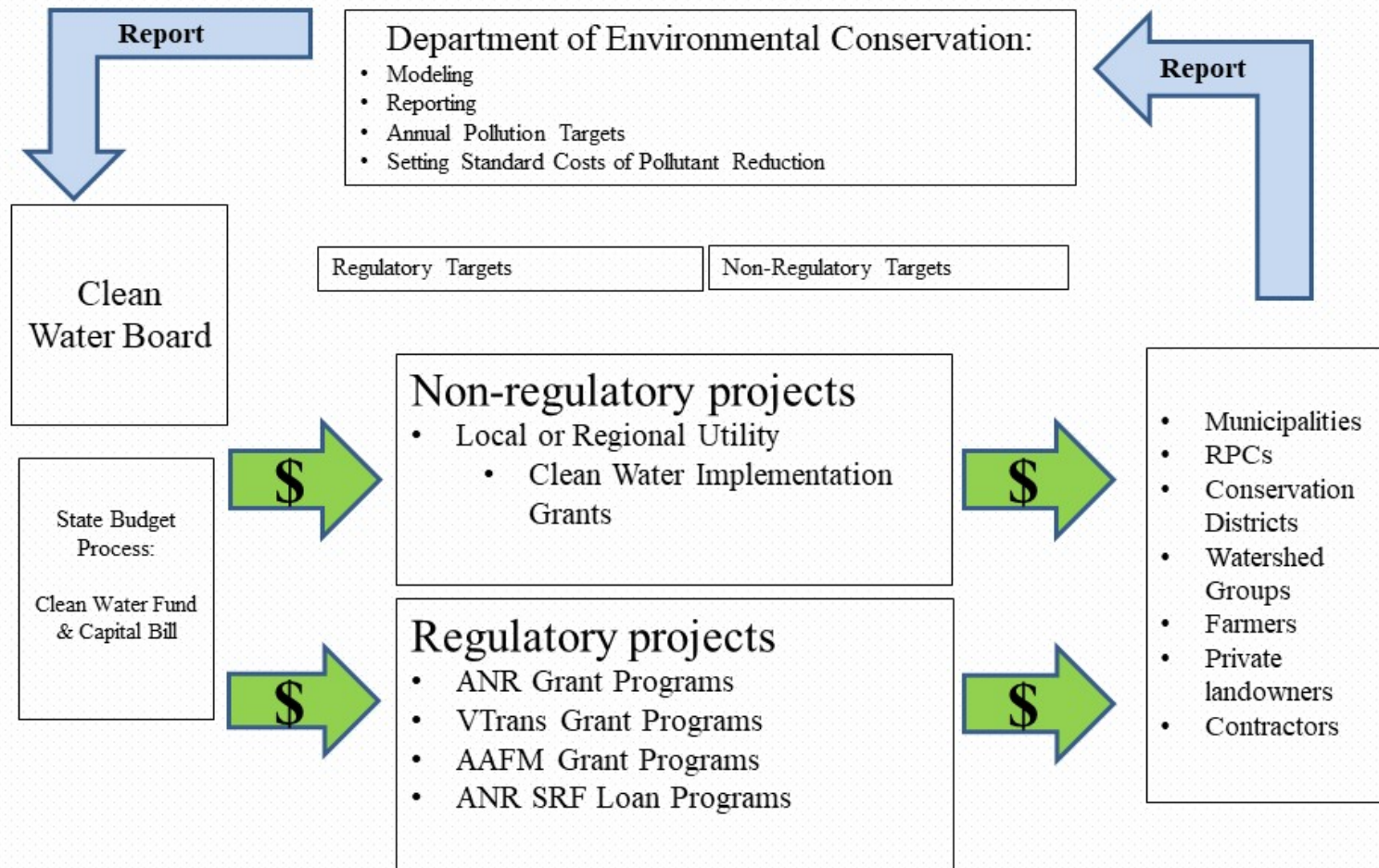
Clean Water Districts will be provided with reliable block grant funding for water quality projects over multiple years, incentivizing districts to take on the most productive water quality projects within their service area first. This multi-year financial stability also helps them build clean water programs tailored to their communities in meeting pollution reduction targets provided by ANR. Districts can also seek other opportunities to leverage clean water fund dollars to invest in projects that provide multiple benefits like conserving land, reducing the risk of flooding or other disasters, and improving wildlife habitat.

- **WHY:** The quality of our water, and our natural environment as a whole, is one reason Vermont is the healthiest state in the nation and offers such a high quality of life that keeps and attracts families and jobs. This is a critical time to bring local community leaders and State officials together to build a foundation for the next 20 years of clean water work. Protecting, maintaining, and restoring our water resources requires a shared commitment to make smart investments that prioritize cost-effective solutions, and provide long-term sustainable funding.
- **HOW:** The State of Vermont will maintain a lead role in water quality monitoring, planning and assessment, as well as track the results of individual projects and programs, ensuring they are having the anticipated cumulative impact. The State will also provide high-level guidance and oversight to clean water districts but will not be directly involved in project selection or implementation.
  - The proposed legislation requires the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to:
    - Set clean water goals for activities that go above and beyond (non-regulatory) and allocate pollutant reduction targets for above-and-beyond activities to clean water districts;

<sup>1</sup> According to State Treasurer’s 2017 report ([www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/committees-and-reports/FINAL\\_CleanWaterReport\\_2017.pdf](http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/committees-and-reports/FINAL_CleanWaterReport_2017.pdf))

- Estimate the effectiveness of the most common stormwater and agricultural practices;
- Issue block grants to clean water districts to reach pollution reduction targets set by the State for above-and-beyond activities; and
- Track clean water districts' progress in meeting pollutant reduction targets.
- The Clean Water Board will:
  - Make recommendations to the Governor regarding funding required to achieve clean water goals established by ANR.
- Clean Water Districts will:
  - Use clean water funds to implement projects, directly and/or with partners;
  - Annually report their progress meeting pollution reduction targets for above-and-beyond activities. Failure to meet the targets over a five-year time period will result in loss of eligibility for State grants and contracts;
  - Have authority to raise revenues, adopt ordinances, and enter into contracts; and
  - Be responsible for on-going operation and maintenance of clean water projects.

## Clean Water Redesign (1/9/2019)



State apportions a category of funds directly to a district/utility or municipality to support implementation based on a formula. Municipalities report back to state funding agencies or district/utility to certify compliance.



## **VAPDA Position on the External Technical Review of Regional Plans**

The Boards of Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions represent our local member municipalities. Each regional planning commission prepares their Regional Plan through extensive and inclusive public processes. Regional plans vary as they reflect the local perspective of the respective commissions and geography. Each is then subject to vote for adoption by the commission members. Additionally, member municipalities have a 35 -day period before a plan becomes final to reject any plan. Accordingly, each is subject to a local review process that makes us accountable to our member municipalities.

All plans are required to include certain statutory elements. The Regional Planning Commissions understand that we are all accountable for making sure that Regional Plans meet the requirements set forth in law. We also recognize the interest in having statewide review of plans in order to assure that all plans adhere to statute. In the original legislation, that function was allocated to the "Council of Regional Commissions." However, that organization was never formally implemented.

The Regional Planning Commissions are concerned that it would be highly inappropriate for the Natural Resources Board to review Regional Plans for their conformance with state requirements. Regional Plans are a required element evaluated in every Act 250 process. In our opinion, asking the NRB to review our plans for administrative completeness and then asking the NRB to evaluate the same plans in its quasi-judicial function as part of the Act 250 process creates a potential conflict within the quasi-judicial function the NRB serves.

If the legislature believes additional state oversight of Regional Plans beyond the local approval process already in place is required to ensure plans include all statutory elements, we believe a representative or representatives of state government with strong knowledge of Vermont planning statutes should conduct the review. This might include the Agencies of Commerce, Transportation and Natural Resources. We would also suggest including a representative or two from other Regional Planning Commissions to include an element of peer review.

We wish to emphasize that we understand why there is an interest in technical review of Regional Plans to ensure each meets all statutory required elements. However, it is extremely important that Regional Plans continue to reflect the character and interests of their local regions gathered through our commissioners representing our member municipalities, and the extensive public outreach and due process conducted by each Regional Planning Commission. We hope to work with the legislature to accomplish both goals.

Thank you for your consideration.





## MEMO

Date: February 5, 2019  
To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager  
Re: Board of Commissioner's Survey on Meeting Effectiveness

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☒ **No action is required.** This is a brief overview of the results of the Board of Commissioner's Survey conducted in December.

Due to an early adjournment in January and a full agenda in February, the sharing of the results of the Board Survey conducted in December has been postponed until March. There will be a brief presentation of the results at our March 12, 2019 meeting.

Fourteen Commissioners/Alternates participated in the survey. Of those 14 participants, 12 also serve on CVRPC Committees.

A significant number of respondents advised the information provided prior to meetings is helpful and that the Chair is doing an excellent job. It was noted that information could be provided more timely prior to meetings.

The highest ranked choice for date and time of meetings was Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. In March, the Board will discuss whether a time change should be considered and the appropriateness of the current meeting space.

In addition, some great suggestions were provided for topics of discussion in 2019, as well as organizations to invite to speak at the meetings.

Thank you all for your participation!

## VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RPC Funding Return on Investment

October 10, 2018

Talking points drafted by VEM for its leadership's discussion with the Vermont Legislature.

Two great highlights for CVRPC work on the last page!

### Overview

- VEM's long-standing partnership with Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) helps VEM meet its requirements and fill gaps in preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. RPCs provide a critical link between VEM and towns, serving as a source of local information, assisting with outreach, and helping build an ever stronger cadre of Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) in each of Vermont's cities and towns.
- In many cases, the success of VEM activities depends on the engagement of RPCs—through facilitating and encouraging participation in VEM trainings and exercises, providing feedback on Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) to ensure that key information is included, and helping towns complete Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs), among others. With 251 towns in Vermont, this level of local engagement could not be replicated by VEM staff alone.

### Planning

- In FFY17, VEM provided \$549,966 in sub-awards to RPCs under the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)—an average of nearly \$50,000 per each of the 11 RPCs.
- With FFY17 EMPG funds, RPCs have assisted towns with completing an estimated 197 LEOPs. While the level of LEOP assistance varies according to the need, RPCs play a valuable role in providing input into and identifying gaps within LEOPs due to their detailed local knowledge. As VEM Regional Coordinators (RCs) cover a significant number of towns—for instance, the Northeast RC covers 85 towns—they are not able to be as familiar as the RPCs with the intricacies of each town and how specific pieces of information may need to be built into the LEOP.
  - Windham Regional Commission (WRC) also developed three supplemental LEOP annexes that the state adopted—a flood guidance document, an evacuation plan template for town-wide evacuation planning, and an animal resources appendix for considering animals during events/evacuations. These annexes have been distributed to towns for inclusion in their LEOP.
- RPCs also serve as an important resource for the VEM RCs, providing local contextual information on challenges and personalities in the towns that helps the RCs better approach and receive responses from towns.

- In addition to support with LEOPs, RPCs provide key local information into state plans. For instance, RPCs provided localized information on natural, technological, and man-made hazards and vulnerabilities for the State Emergency Management Plan, filling a gap in information on local perceptions of hazards.
- Utilizing FFY17 and FFY18 EMPG funds, RPCs have and will play an instrumental role in updating the LEOP format to the new Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), which municipalities will be using in 2018. RPCs played an important role in the development of the LEMP template and will be influential in the successful roll out and implementation of the plan update. RPCs have been working with VEM RCs to schedule LEMP trainings for town administrators and served on the LEMP working group to ensure the updated document is the best framework to capture a municipality's emergency program.

### Training and Exercises

- With FFY17 EMPG funding, RPCs have assisted with an estimated 57 trainings and 12 exercises.
- Over the past year, the RPCs have been increasingly important in helping to bring training to their communities. Last year, VEM began the process of using the RPCs to host/organize and promote the ICS 402 courses following town meeting day. This coordination led to more trainings being scheduled, better attendance, and no trainings needing to be cancelled. This year, VEM is repeating the process but including the new Vermont EMD course, G191 – ICS EOC Interface, and the American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals course.
- The added support provided by the RPCs, including training coordination and promotion, has taken the burden off the VEM Training Administrator and has increased the number of people VEM is training. The numbers of cancelled courses has dropped significantly, as VEM is using the RPCs to offer the right times and locations and get the word out to more people.
- Similarly, the State Exercise Administrator has utilized RPC outreach as a way to increase local involvement in exercises, including in preparation for the Statewide CAT4 exercise.

### Disaster Response and Recovery

- As of October 10, RPCs had identified 40 staff to serve in various positions within the SEOC, as needed. Through EMPG funding, RPCs receive training to serve in the SEOC and participate in related exercises. These RPC staff form an important pool of personnel that can be called upon during significant events that may strain available VEM personnel, as well as fill in key gaps in VEM staff expertise. For instance, RPC staff

can provide Geographic Information Systems support—something not currently available within VEM.

- RPCs also play a valuable role as Local Liaisons, when activated. In the past year, the RPCs were activated as Local Liaisons for three events, including two that resulted in Federal Disaster Declarations and a high wind event that did not result in a Federal Disaster Declaration request.
- For smaller-scale events, the Local Liaison process, while not as critical as during larger-scale events, is a useful and efficient way of gathering information on damages. For catastrophic events, such as Tropical Storm Irene, the Local Liaison role takes on greater urgency and scope. During Tropical Storm Irene, damage extended well beyond roads and culverts, including libraries, town halls, ball fields, museums, and thousands of homes. RPC staff were extra “boots on the ground,” collecting information and supporting the creation of regional Long-Term Recovery Committees. In the absence of county government, the Local Liaisons help the SEOC to solve what would otherwise be an overwhelming challenge with span of control—with the SEOC trying to compile information from 251 towns.
  - Following the January and February ice jam and flooding events, Northwest RPC (NRPC) assisted Swanton Village, Swanton Town, and Highgate Town Emergency Management with recovery efforts. This included providing direct assistance for case management for Swanton/Highgate flood victims and working with the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund to finalize applications for flood-affected individuals.

## Mitigation

- In 2015, VEM sub-granted \$1.2 million to RPCs to complete 102 Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) across the state, covering 40 percent of the state’s communities. As the RPCs are the most familiar entity with their respective towns, they have been able to complete this task at a much more competitive rate than private contractors. They were also willing to cover their own indirect costs in order to complete this important work.
- In addition to regularly developing LHMPs for municipalities through a variety of funding sources, RPCs are also eligible to apply for mitigation project grants for their regions.
  - Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) has managed over \$3 million in mitigation project applications in their region over the past 3 years, helping their towns successfully implement several important projects that would otherwise likely not have been successful if VEM and/or the towns in question were asked to implement them on their own.

- Central Vermont RPC (CVRPC) expended a great deal of time and financial resources towards developing a proactive, multi-million dollar floodplain restoration project in flood-prone Waterbury Village. They also regularly assist their towns in developing mitigation project applications.
- Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) has been an extraordinary partner to VEM mitigation, applying for several education and outreach related grants and being a necessary entity in achieving a successful, statewide buyout program, for which VEM and TRORC have, together, purchased and removed nearly 150 flood-damaged or flood-vulnerable structures.
- Difficult, multi-faceted projects like structural elevations are often taken on by RPCs to manage, as many Vermont municipalities do not have the capacity or capability to implement these projects. CVRPC, LCPC and Chittenden County RPC are currently involved in several elevations in their regions, totaling approximately \$500,000.
- Since 2015, VEM has sub-granted or contracted LHMP development out to RPCs as plans approach expiration. VEM does not have the resources in-house to develop LHMPs for all of Vermont's towns and, as such, rely heavily on assistance from our RPCs.
- The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 prohibits the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from providing flood insurance in a community unless that community adopts and enforces floodplain management regulations that meet minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria. Utilizing FFY17 EMPG funds, RPCs have assisted approximately 100 towns with various NFIP compliance activities, to include facilitating Community Rating System evaluations, working on floodplain bylaws, and assisting with hazard mitigation plan mapping, among others.