



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm

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

**Please Note
Change of Time!**

6:00 pm – Goodbye social for Dan Currier (pizza & pie!)

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	6:30 ¹	Adjustments to the Agenda
		Public Comments
2	6:35	Daniel Currier Recognition of Service
	6:40	Central VT Economic Development Corporation, Jamie Stewart
3	6:50	Capstone Community Action, Sue Minter, Executive Director
		Presentation of Community Needs Assessment and activities
18	7:45	Election of Secretary/Treasurer and Appointment of Executive Committee Member At Large (enclosed)²
		The bylaws amendment modified officer positions.
19	7:50	Clean Water Advisory Committee Letter of Concern, Amy Hornblas, CWAC Chair (enclosed)²
		Discuss, and potentially act upon, Committee recommendation.
26	8:20	Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2019 (enclosed)²
30	8:25	Staff, Executive Director, and Committee Reports (enclosed)
	8:30	Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 11, 2020

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.



RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Whereas, Regional Planning Commission staff must master the intricacies of federal and state laws govern contracting, be equally adept at working with municipalities, engage the public in a variety of forums to foster ideas and move them to action, and perform multiple other duties;

Whereas, Daniel Currier has fulfilled these duties with uncompromising and unparalleled dedication during his 15-year career at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and stands as a model for his colleagues to emulate;

Whereas, Dan Currier has been a constant presence at CVRPC through times of change, always willing to help where needed and with pride in his ability to provide institutional and professional knowledge to aid in our service to the region's municipalities and stakeholders;

Whereas, Dan Currier has an uncommonly refined ability to leverage his vast trove of knowledge into a mentorship style that is at once supportive, but also encouraging of those under his guidance to develop and strengthen their own capacity, making him not only a beacon of reference and advice, but also an integral resource to the continuing professional development of the staff;

Whereas, Dan Currier is the person Road Foremen know to call in times of need and a pleasure to work with as noted by communities;

Whereas, Dan Currier has a unique ability to present information in a manner that ensures everyone understands what their piece of the pie entails;

Whereas, Dan Currier greeted his co-workers with a "hello" and smile, ensuring a smile in return and causing his peers to look to him for kindness and humor as well as guidance and knowledge; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2019 Dan Currier is concluding service with CVRPC; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

1. honors Daniel Currier on a highly accomplished career at CVRPC; and
2. presents this Resolution to him at the January 14, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting in celebration of his service and with best wishes as he transitions into a new career.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on January 14, 2020.

Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair

**2019
Needs
Assessment**

CAPSTONE
— COMMUNITY ACTION —



www.capstonevt.org

In This Report

Summary: Overview of the Data.....	3
Priority 1: Housing.....	9
Priority 2: Transportation.....	10
Priority 3: Health and Mental Health.....	11
Priority 4: Food and Nutrition.....	12
Priority 5: Jobs and Economic Development.....	13
About Us	15



Prepared by Brown, Buckley, and Tucker
April 2019



20 Gable Place / Barre, VT 05641
802.479.1053 / 800.639.1053

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Capstone Community Action honors diversity and does not discriminate in hiring or providing services on the basis of race, color, culture, language, national origin, religion, creed, political affiliation, family composition, marital status, sexual orientation, class, gender/gender identity, age, and mental/sensory/physical abilities. Capstone is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Capstone Data Analysis: The Story

SUMMARY:



Capstone Community Action serves the central Vermont counties of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington. While Vermont has a lower rate of poverty than the U.S. as a whole, the child poverty rate (children 0–4 living in poverty) for the Capstone service area is significantly higher than the statewide rate. The declining homeownership rate has contributed to an increasingly tight (and expensive!) rental housing market throughout the area. The Capstone service area also has a higher unemployment rate than the statewide rate for Vermont and a lower median income than Vermont as a whole.

As is evident in the data displayed below, within Capstone's catchment area **Lamoille County stands out as the region of greatest need** in multiple areas. Lamoille County has the lowest median income of the three counties, **the highest poverty rate, highest child poverty rate, highest number of older Vermonters in poverty, highest rate of people who are uninsured, and the highest unemployment rate.** The high needs of this area are also evident when looking at housing: **28% of households** in Lamoille County **pay more than 50% of their income toward housing**, a situation likely caused by that county's 0.0% residential vacancy rate.

While a greater number of services appears to be available in the other two counties, particularly in Washington, residents of Lamoille are unable to access these due to lack of transportation.

Population

Capstone's service area is comprised of three counties: Lamoille, Orange, and Washington. Between 2000 and 2016 the population of Lamoille grew the most significantly at 8.19%, followed by Orange at 2.38%, and Washington at 1.59%. The state of Vermont saw a 2.86% increase in population over the same 16-year period.

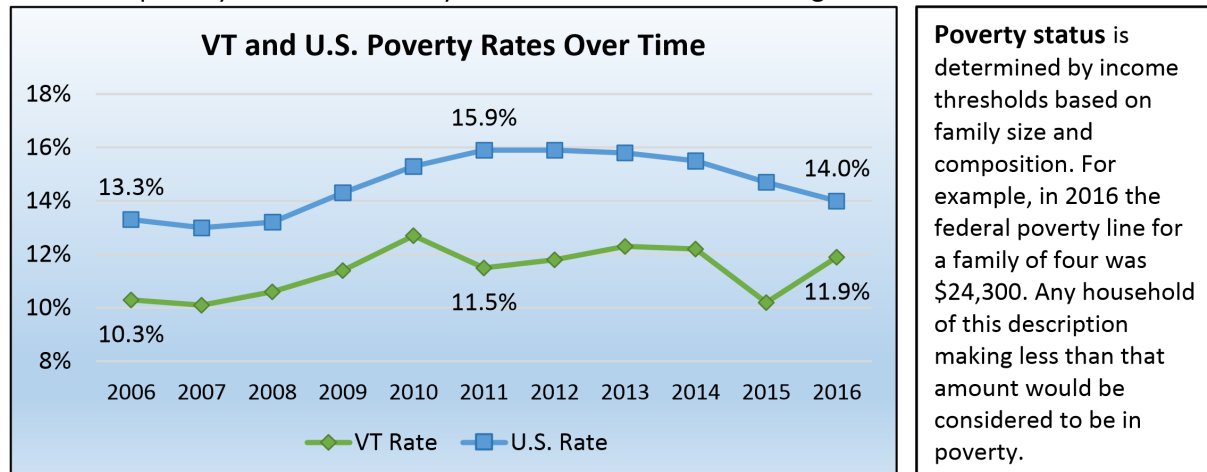
Report Area	Total Population 2016 ACS	Total Population 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000-2016 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000-2016 Census/ACS
3-County Area	112,996	109,498	3,498	3.19%
Lamoille County	25,136	23,233	1,903	8.19%
Orange County	28,897	28,226	671	2.38%
Washington County	58,963	58,039	924	1.59%
Vermont	626,249	608,827	17,422	2.86%
United States	318,558,162	281,421,906	37,136,256	13.2%

Income

Median income level in each county is \$54,899 (Lamoille), \$56,584 (Orange), and \$60,602 (Washington).¹ Median household income for Vermont is \$57,808, higher than that in both Lamoille and Orange counties.

Poverty

Vermont's poverty rate is consistently lower than the National average.



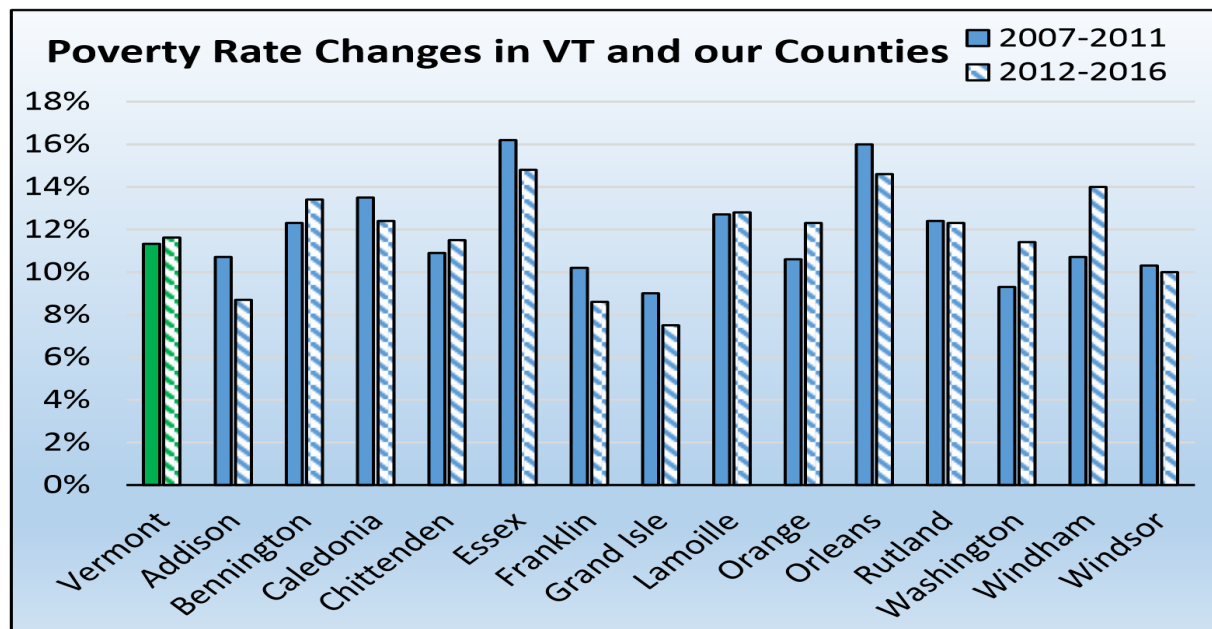
As of July 2018, the statewide percent of people living in poverty is 11.3%.² The estimated level of poverty increased in all three counties in Capstone's catchment area, with Lamoille County now at 11.8%, Orange at 10.4%, and Washington 9.4%. **Far more families report female-led households live in poverty than those with male-led households:** Of all households living in poverty in Capstone's catchment area, **59.4%** of households in Lamoille County are female-led households, compared to 3.3% of male-led households; **45.7%** are female-led households in Orange County, while 11.6% are male-led households; and **61.7%** are female-led households in Washington County, compared to 12.7% male-led households.

The child poverty rate reported for children 0–4 in the three counties is 20.3%, higher than the statewide rate of 16.5%. It is not surprising that, of the three, **Lamoille County has the highest child poverty rate** for that age group, **with 23.3% of children affected.** Washington County follows with 20% of children, and Orange County at 18.2%.

Another population of concern is people over 65. The poverty rate for this age group in Vermont as a whole is 7.3%. Across Capstone's service area, an average of 6.9% live in poverty. The county with the largest percent of older Vermonters in poverty was Lamoille at 9.6%. In Orange County, 7.3% of older Vermonters live in poverty, and in Washington County, 5.7%.

¹ Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016

² Ibid



Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Report Location	5,431	1,105	20.3%
Lamoille County, VT	1,310	305	23.3%
Orange County, VT	1,327	241	18.2%
Washington County, VT	2,794	559	20.0%
Vermont	29,267	4,827	16.5%
United States	19,532,877	4,350,252	22.5%

Unemployment

Of the three counties, Lamoille has the highest unemployment rate, with 3.2% of the residents in that county unemployed. Orange followed at 2.6% and Washington at 2.5%.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
3-County Area	65,535	63,796	1,739	2.7%
Lamoille County	14,434	13,969	465	3.2%
Orange County	16,284	15,864	420	2.6%
Washington	34,817	33,963	854	2.5%
Vermont	348,360	338,600	9,760	2.8%
United States	162,996,774	156,527,318	6,469,456	4%

³ Ibid

Transportation

One of the challenges related to accessing employment is transportation. Approximately 2% of households in the three-county area do not own a car. Although 43% of workers have a commute time of 10–30 minutes and 26.26% of workers have a commute time of 30–60 minutes, 76% of these individuals report driving to work alone. **The transportation energy burden in Barre City is noted to be one of the highest in the state, with 9.8% of total income, or \$1,557, spent annually** (based on median household income in Barre City of \$15,888).⁴

	Lamoille County		Orange County		Washington County	
# of Cars	# of Households	%	# of Households	%	# of Households	%
0	236	1.8%	312	2.1%	654	2.1%
1	2,425	18.8%	2738	18.7%	6,413	21%
2	5,817	45.1%	6662	45.6%	14,960	49%
3	2,997	23.2%	3076	21.1%	5,905	19.3%

Education

Another concerning statistic is the low rate of educational attainment among residents in the three-county area. The percent of individuals without a high school diploma is 7.04%, while 29.75% of residents have obtained a high school diploma but no higher education.⁵ (Sixty-one percent of Capstone customer survey respondents indicated that they have less than a bachelor's degree.)

According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, **Vermonters with less than a high school diploma earn an average annual salary of \$25,433** (men average \$29,820, **while women average only \$17,700**). For those with a high school diploma or equivalency, earnings average \$31,228, with men earning \$36,307 and women \$24,952. And for those who have attended some amount of college earnings average \$35,028 annually—\$40,618 for men and \$30,618 for women. Clearly, there is a strong relationship between education and earning ability. Gender also appears to play a role.

Benefit Eligibility

The lack of income among residents of the three-county area affects many areas of their lives—including access to food, housing, health care, and fuel—and contributes to the prevalence of substance abuse.

⁴ <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/news-blog/whitepapers/mapping-total-energy-burden-vermont>

⁵ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2013 – 2017.

While 5,673 people in the three-county area receive SNAP benefits, an additional 3,021 people are eligible but not receiving these benefits. Children whose families are at 130% of poverty or less are eligible for free school lunches, and those between 130% and 185% are eligible for reduced-cost lunches. In Lamoille County, 45.4% of children receive free or reduced-cost lunches, 50.6% in Orange County, and 39.6% in Washington County.⁶ The overall rate for Vermont of children receiving free or reduced-cost lunches in 2017 was 44.1%.

Housing Status

Income levels also correlate with housing status. **Between 2000 and 2017, there was a 16% drop in home ownership rates in Capstone's service area.** This means there are now more people looking for rental housing. The high demand for housing is evidenced by the area's overall 0.9% residential vacancy rate. **In 2017 Lamoille County had a 0% residential vacancy rate.** Poor housing availability leads to an increase in people living in unsafe, unsanitary homes. Overall, there has been an improvement in that area, with the rate of housing without plumbing decreasing from 0.91% to 0.74% in the 17-year period.⁷ However, it should be noted that Washington County saw an increase in homes without plumbing—0.63% to 0.88%—over the same time period. All three counties reported an increase in occupied housing units, yet there are still significant unmet housing needs.

Report Area	Residential Addresses	Vacant Residential Addresses	Residential Vacancy Rate
Area	51,910	487	0.9%
Lamoille County, VT	12,440	0	0%
Orange County, VT	12,038	130	1.1%
Washington County, VT	27,432	357	1.3%
Vermont	297,543	4,064	1.4%
United States	146,832,025	3,825,190	2.6%

Housing is generally considered “affordable” if households spend less than 30% of their income on housing costs. In Orange County, 51% of renters pay 30% or more of their income for rent, and 47% of those in Lamoille and Washington Counties are doing so. However, the housing burden in the three-county area can be considered extreme, with **28% of households in Lamoille County paying 50% or more of their income for rent, while 23% of renters in Orange County and 22% of renters in Washington County are likewise burdened.** The hourly wage necessary to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair-market rent value is \$19.48 in Lamoille County (that is, 1.5 full-time jobs are needed to afford rent), \$18.79 in Orange County (1.8 jobs needed), and \$20.46 (1.9 jobs) in Washington County.⁸

⁶ <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8185-students-enrolled-in-the-free-reduced-price-school-meals-program?loc=47&loct=5#detailed/5/6798-6811/false/1603,1539,1381,1246,1124,1021,909,857,105/any/16703>

⁷ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2013-2017. Source geography: County

⁸ Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing. National Low Income Housing Coalition 2018.

Energy Costs

Energy costs can place a significant burden on households with low incomes. This is especially evident in eastern Barre City, where the energy burden (percentage of median household income spent on energy) is among the highest in Vermont. **There the electricity burden is 7.1% and the transportation energy burden is 9.8%, placing east Barre City among the five highest energy cost-burdened census blocks in Vermont.**

When added to the housing cost burden, the energy burden faced by families with low incomes can make meeting basic needs a difficult and persistent challenge.

Health Care

Across the state, the average rate of individuals without health insurance is 2% to 4%. Washington and Orange counties fall within this bracket, with 2% and 4% uninsured, respectively. Lamoille County, however, is an outlier: **11% of Lamoille County residents lack health insurance, the highest uninsured rate in the state.**⁹

Substance abuse—in particular, opioid and other drug use—is another issue of great concern in the Capstone service area. According to the Vermont Department of Health, as of January 2019, 493 people in Washington, Lamoille, and Orange counties received treatment with buprenorphine (163) or methadone (330) at a treatment “hub.” (In Vermont’s promising system for substance abuse treatment—the “hub and spoke” model—a “hub” is a facility where individuals with more complex needs can receive services, while a “spoke” provides services to those requiring less intervention or who have been treated at a hub and are now needing less intensive services. There are three hubs in Lamoille County, two in Orange County, and four in Washington County.

⁹ http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/VHHIS_Report_2018.pdf

Assessing the Area's Priorities

Capstone solicited input from recipients of agency services (customers), community members, community partners, agency staff, and the Capstone board of directors. A total of 1238 individuals responded to surveys, providing input on perceived community and family needs and assessing the relative importance of issues facing the community. Analysis of the survey responses yielded the following needs (in order of priority):

1. Housing
2. Transportation
3. Health and mental health care
4. Food and nutrition
5. Jobs and economic development

These priorities are supported by the demographic data available for the three-county area. It is apparent that all three counties served by Capstone have a high rate of people living in poverty, a higher unemployment rate than the rest of Vermont, and lower median income than the rest of the state. Contributing to this is the number of people lacking the requisite education to support higher paying jobs and an extreme discrepancy between the wages of women versus men.

The housing burden in the three-county area—along with an extremely low vacancy rate—strongly supports survey respondents' view of housing as the area's number one priority.

PRIORITY 1:

Housing stock in the area is aging, and homeownership is becoming increasingly cost-prohibitive. This is placing a greater demand on rental properties. There is an extremely low vacancy rate throughout the three-county area, particularly so in Lamoille County, where the vacancy rate is 0.0%. The quality of the housing stock diminished in Washington County where the rate of homes without plumbing increased from 0.63% in 2000 to 0.88% in 2017. In Lamoille and Orange counties, the number of homes without plumbing has decreased.

The lack of affordable housing in the area was cited as another factor in the housing crisis. In Orange County, 51% of renters pay 30% or more of their income for rent, while 47% of renters in Lamoille and Washington Counties are doing so. However, the housing burden in the three-county area can be considered extreme, with 28% of households in Lamoille County paying 50% or more of their income for rent, while 23% of renters in Orange County and 22% of renters in Washington County also burdened with such high housing costs.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.housingdata.org/profile/rental-housing-costs/rent-cost-burden>

FY 2019 HUD Fair Market Rents (Monthly)

County	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms
Lamoille	\$829	\$988
Orange	\$735	\$960
Washington	\$785	\$1,036

The housing data outlined above reinforce the survey results, in which housing was considered by Capstone customer, community, partner, staff, and board to be the number-one priority need for families and communities. The needs assessment of the Central Vermont Medical Center likewise identified housing as a major issue.

According to the Capstone survey responses, the top three strategies to address housing needs were identified as:

- Homelessness prevention/housing stabilization
- Fuel/utility assistance
- Maintain/increase safe, affordable apartments

Two areas prioritized by the Lamoille Housing Study and Needs Assessment are expansion of market-rate rental housing and subsidized housing.

As part of the Capstone survey, customers were asked to comment on the main problems with housing and utilities. Of the 162 narrative responses received, 34% were related to lack of money, 15% indicated respondents' inability to make necessary home repairs, 12% identified the lack of affordable housing, and 11% expressed the need for weatherization of their homes.

PRIORITY 2:

OVERVIEW

The three chief issues cited by Capstone survey respondents regarding transportation were:

- Lack of public transportation to get to work
- Obtaining an affordable car
- Vehicle maintenance and repairs

The area is fortunate to have available bus transportation: Green Mountain Transit has routes to the Burlington, Montpelier, and local area; the Montpelier Circulator operates Monday through Saturday and includes evening operating hours; and the Stagecoach provides rides throughout Orange county as well as commuter transportation to the Montpelier and West Lebanon, NH areas. The Stagecoach also provides scheduled service three days a week to small towns such as Hancock and Chelsea. In addition, there are routes scheduled for shopping trips to Berlin and West Lebanon, New Hampshire, on a monthly basis. All transit providers have an option for individuals to schedule rides. Despite this, access to the bus can be a challenge as customers noted:

"Public transportation is not reliable—early or late continuously."

"I can't go anywhere but doctors or groceries."

"Services are not available. Buses do not run when I need them."

"I work a lot and they don't really take me to work and back because of my hours."

"We need to expand the reach of GMT buses. While they run in the downtown areas, those just outside of the service area have no options."

Another transportation challenge identified by survey respondents was not having the money to buy reliable cars or to afford needed maintenance and repairs. Cars fall into disrepair and/or become inoperable and are unable to pass state inspection. Capstone customers aptly summed up their dilemma:

"Can't keep my car 'road worthy.'"

"I can't afford to fix it, and now it's not inspected."

"Just hard to afford the upkeep on beaters and can't afford anything nice and sometimes it's hard to work a schedule around public transportation."

PRIORITY 3:

Health/mental Health was identified as the overall number three priority by all five groups of respondents to Capstone needs assessment surveys. The top issues identified were:

- Accessible and affordable health care for all
- Mental health counseling/treatment
- Accessible and affordable dental care for all
- Opiate/substance abuse counseling/treatment

Customer respondents (129) identified the following areas of challenge when attempting to access health or mental health care:

- Mental health diagnoses (29%)
- Accessing mental health treatment in a timely manner (15%)
- Access to dental care and lack of dental insurance (10%)
- Paying for care (9%)
- Stress (9%)
- Lack of medical insurance (8%)

In Lamoille County—where the uninsured rate, at 11%, is the highest in state—a Community Health Team helps patients navigate the health care system, utilize community services, find affordable prescriptions, and assist in managing chronic medical conditions.

The three-county area has 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). (An FQHC is a medical center that qualifies for special reimbursements under Medicare and Medicaid and is mandated to offer services to all, regardless of ability to pay.)

Customers noted that finding dentists that take Medicaid is a particular challenge. Perhaps this is why in fiscal year 2018, only 25% of adult Medicaid beneficiaries received any dental service, and 13% of those received services at or above the \$510 cap. Only 9% of adults received a preventative cleaning. In contrast, 71% of children received dental care in calendar year 2017.¹¹

PRIORITY 4:

Food and nutrition were the fourth overall priority needs, according to Capstone customer, community, partner, staff, and board survey respondents. According to Feeding America, the food insecurity rate in Lamoille County is 12% (3,120 people), Orange County 11% (3,180 people), and Washington County 11% (6,600 people).¹²

There are 5,673 people in the three-county area who currently receive SNAP benefits but 3,021 people who are eligible but not enrolled.

The top three strategies identified by the Capstone survey respondents to address food and nutrition issues were:

- Affordable, nutritious food
- Basic food security for all
- Food shelves and distribution systems

¹¹ Utilization of Dental Benefits by Medicaid Members. Cory Gustafson 2-18-19

¹² <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2016/overall/vermont/county/washington>

Highlighted specifically was the need to address the region's "food deserts," such as Barre City, with sustainable solutions (beyond food shelves).

When customers were asked to identify the programs or services that they lacked, 11% of the 79 respondents who wrote in an answer to the question indicated that access to food was an issue.

Other Capstone customer comments regarding food and nutrition issues included:

"I could benefit if I used the food shelf. My grocery money would stretch further but there are people that need it more than myself."

"I use the food shelf to help cut back on the monthly cost of food bill. It saves me so much money."

"I don't know where the food shelves are or how to go about accessing them. There isn't enough money to save for new clothing if something wears out."

"I should apply for Food Stamps, but I don't because I do not want to take what others need and the rules are continuously changing to receive."

PRIORITY 5:

As of August 2018, the unemployment rate in the three-county area was 2.7%, with Lamoille County the highest, at 3.2%.¹³ Customers identified age discrimination, transportation, childcare, and disability as the biggest barriers to accessing employment. **While the unemployment rate is low, available jobs are often in the service and retail sectors, both of which are traditionally low-paying fields. In addition, transportation and educational barriers remain challenges to be addressed.**

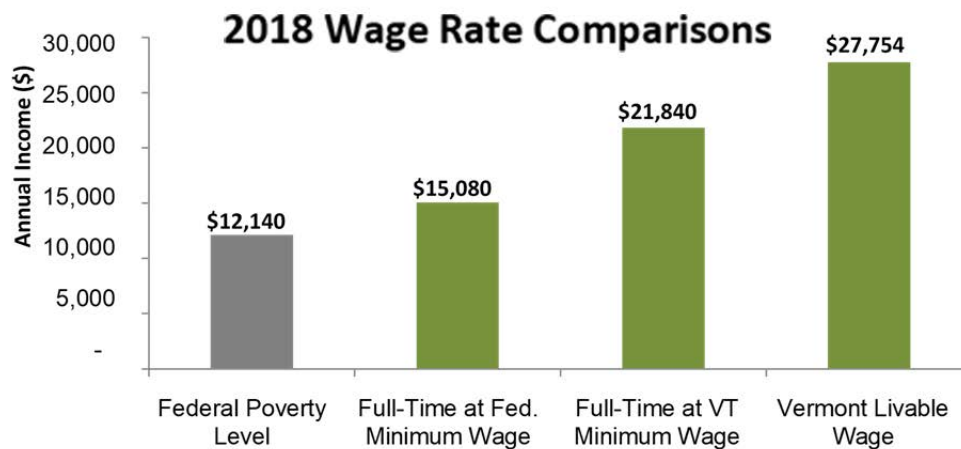
For example, while access to transportation has improved, public transportation schedules do not work for those in outlying areas or who have hours other than the traditional 7:00 am–3:00 pm or 9:00 am–5:00 pm. Childcare is also noted to be difficult to find, especially when care for an infant is needed. And cost is often prohibitive. For parents with several children, childcare can cost more than their income.

¹³ US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018, August.

The top employment-related issues cited by Capstone survey respondents are:

- Livable wages/good benefit jobs
- Job readiness/life and workplace skills
- Job retention: Work supports and interventions

The **Vermont Livable Wage** is defined in state statute as the hourly wage required for a full-time worker to pay for one-half of the basic needs budget for a two-person household, with no children, and employer-sponsored health insurance, averaged for both urban and rural areas. **The 2018 Vermont Livable Wage is \$13.34 per hour.**





Capstone Community Action works with individuals and families to rise out of poverty and advocates for economic justice for all Vermonters. Capstone Community Action's purpose is to empower individuals and families with the tools, resources and capacity to create more resilient households and communities.

Serving the communities of Lamoille, Orange and Washington Counties since 1965, Capstone Community Action has earned a reputation for leadership and advocacy on behalf of low-income families, and as an incubator for innovative strategies and programs to transition households out of poverty.

www.capstonevt.org



MEMO

Date: January 7, 2020
To: Executive Committee
From: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
Re: Bylaw Transition Actions

☒ ACTION REQUESTED: Appoint Dara Torre as Secretary/Treasurer and Michael Gray as Member At Large on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the FY20 term.

To comply with CVRPC's newly adopted bylaws, the Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners appoint Dara Torre to the Secretary/Treasurer office and Michael Gray to the new Executive Committee Member At Large seat.

The new bylaws combined the Secretary and Treasurer positions into one Secretary/Treasurer position. The bylaws maintained a 7-member Executive Committee by adding a fourth At Large member to the Committee.

CVRPC Bylaws - Section 403.B.

The executive committee (the "Executive Committee") shall consist of seven Commissioners (in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4343(b)), including the three (3) officers and four (4) at-large members who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Duly-appointed Commissioners are eligible for Executive Committee membership. The officers of the Board shall be the officers of the Executive Committee.



MEMO

Date: January 8, 2020

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director

Re: Clean Water Advisory Committee Request for Authorization to Send Letter

✉ **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve having the Clean Water Advisory Committee send the proposed letter of concern to the Agency of Natural Resources and other Clean Water Advisory Committees in Vermont on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

The Clean Water Advisory Committee consists of 3 Commissioners, 5 municipal representatives, 3 watershed organizations, and an interested citizen. In February 2019, a member raised a concern that the CWAC's voice had not been heard during public comments on the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan. When the concern continued to be raised, the CWAC elected to draft a letter expressing the concern. Based on recommendations from the Committee Chair, staff developed a first draft in April. The CWAC has been editing the letter at its monthly meetings since then. CWAC attendance is declining. All three watershed organizations have stepped away from the CWAC.

The CWAC is an advisory committee to the Board of Commissioners (Rules of Procedure enclosed). CWAC Chair Amy Hornblas will discuss the CWAC's concerns and its request to send its letter of concern to ANR and other CWACs in Vermont.

The Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan was approved by the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources on December 7, 2018. It is available at

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/2018%20Winooski%20River%20TBP.pdf>.



CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

PURPOSE: To oversee the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's (CVRPC) water quality planning program in accordance with CVRPC plans, policies, and procedures, to act as a liaison between local communities and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), and to provide local and regional input regarding water quality issues important to the region.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Oversee programming related to the CVRPC's assistance to ANR with basin planning and surface water management, including but not limited to:
 - a. Development of tactical basin plans.
 - b. Technical assistance and data collection activities, including information from watershed organizations, to inform municipal officials and the State in making water quality investment decisions.
 - c. Coordinating municipal planning and adoption or implementation of municipal development regulations to meet State water quality policies and investment priorities.
 - d. Implementing a project evaluation process to prioritize water quality improvement projects within the region to assure cost effective use of State and federal funds.
 - e. Guidance for project prioritization for submittal of grant applications for water quality improvement or planning projects.
2. Undertake water quality related technical assistance and policy activities and coordinate activities with the Transportation Advisory Committee including but not limited to activities related to implementation of Municipal Roads Stormwater General Permits.
3. Participate in special studies conducted by the CVRPC.
4. Provide input and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding pertinent water quality issues, including review of State plans, policies, and legislation.

ADVISORY ROLE: The CWAC shall be advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The advice of this committee should, where possible, be science-based, not opinion, whim, or personal attitude. At the very minimum the advice shall not be contrary to research-based water quality and water process facts. The CWAC will offer advice and input to ANR and other organizations and individuals as appropriate,

provided it is compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. CWAC advice and input may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the CVRPC 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 Chair of the CWAC shall be a CWAC member elected by the CWAC or appointed by the Chair of the CVRPC. There shall be up to 13 members with representation as follows:

- 3 CVRPC Commissioners and 1 Alternate
- 5 Representatives of the region's municipalities
- 1 Representative of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ex-officio, non-voting)
- 1 Representative of the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District
- 1 Representative of the Friends of the Winooski River
- 1 Representative of the Friends of the Mad River
- 1 Interested stakeholder

For organizations, the organization may appoint its representative and may send an alternate as needed by the organization. Alternates may vote when an appointed representative is unable to make the meeting.

The CVRPC Board of Commissioners will make initial appointments to one and two year terms to create staggered terms. Membership term shall be two years thereafter. Appointments not associated with a named group above will be appointed by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUMS: A quorum shall consist of a majority of members (51%). 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 CWAC. The CWAC shall meet at least eight (8) times per year, or as determined by the Chair to be necessary to carry out the stated purpose.

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.
- Draft policies and resolutions shall be forwarded to CWAC members and interested/affected parties for comment before action by the CWAC, or final action/approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Committee membership brings the expectation of active involvement outside of meeting time. CWAC members are expected to review shared materials in advance of meetings and to become knowledgeable concerning background facts and information regarding issues to be discussed.
- Minutes of all regular and special meetings will be prepared by staff, distributed to CWAC 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.
- CWAC members are encouraged to serve as liaisons to their local legislative boards by facilitating communication and coordination on a regular basis.

- CWAC members are encouraged to offer input on all matters before the CWAC, and are encouraged to bring up items of local or regional concern for CWAC consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the event any CWAC 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 CWAC, 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 CWAC 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 CWAC may, at any time, vote to amend these procedures, upon 51% vote of the CWAC membership. Proposed amendments will be forwarded to CWAC members, chairs of local legislative boards, and interested parties before consideration at a regular CWAC meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

The CWAC is a special committee of the Regional Planning Commission, and is therefore subject to the Commission's bylaws. These Rules of Procedure, combined with Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the CWAC.

Recommended by the Clean Water Advisory Committee: 06/08/18

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners: 07/10/18

Julie Potter, Chair
CVRPC Board of Commissioners

January 10, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

The Clean Water Advisory Committee is submitting a letter for your review. We felt the need to bring attention to water quality issues that did not get due attention in the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan we were charged with reviewing. We felt follow-up to our concerns was needed.

We would like to submit this letter to the Agency of Natural Resources.

To clarify, the CWAC's Rules of Procedure, which were adopted by the CVRPC, states our purpose to be oversight of water quality planning program, act as liaison to VANR and to provide input regarding water quality issues important to the region. Within the stated list of our general activities are these key directives:

1. Oversee programming related to the CVRPC's assistance to ANR with basin planning and surface water management, including but not limited to:
 - a. Development of tactical basin plans.
 - b. Technical assistance and data collection activities, including information from watershed organizations, to inform municipal officials and the State in making water quality investment decisions.
4. Provide input and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding pertinent water quality issues, including review of State plans, policies, and legislation.

We've had four community partners who have been unable to attend our meetings for several months. We have checked in with them and found that all four have funding issues that prevent their attendance. One partner also stated that the CWAC's discussions about glyphosate (Round-Up) were outside their agency's scope.

We will be at the CVRPC meeting on Tuesday, January 14th to explain further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Amy Hornblas
CWAC Chair

January, 2020

RE: Concerns from CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee

The Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) reviewed the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and found gaps in water quality policies and practices. As the scope of water quality considerations is wide, at present CWAC is concerned with the following:

1. The Winooski Basin Plan is incomplete and thus contributes to ill-informed allocation of funds to improve water quality.
 - Phosphorus load allocations and reduction targets do not include the role of chemical fertilizers.
 - Many municipalities are required to spend more on technological infrastructure to create small changes in loading.
2. Practices to reduce sediment or phosphorus may exacerbate other water quality problems.
 - No-till methods to decrease sediment runoff may increase the use of Glyphosate (aka Roundup) and other pesticides that reduce water quality and may lead to ecosystem damage.
3. Other Pesticide / Herbicide Concerns are not included in the plan:
 - Pesticides, including neonicotinoids, remain and are re-cycled in surface water and groundwater, and are potential threats to beneficial insects.
 - The Statewide PFAS (including PFOA) contamination problem needs to be identified and described.
4. Phosphorus reduction programs will not go far in reducing the problem:
 - Efforts to address phosphorus, such as the *Required Agricultural Practices*, do not focus sufficient attention on chemical fertilizers.
 - Reducing phosphorous input to Lake Champlain, while important, will not by itself solve the Lake's phosphorous problem. Residual, legacy phosphorous incorporated in lake sediment must be identified as a factor limiting phosphorous reduction in lake waters.
5. Groundwater:
 - Groundwater quality and the interaction between groundwater and surface water is not

factored into surface water management strategies. The CWAC recommends including the interaction of groundwater and surface water in the planning and strategies for surface water quality improvement.

6. Solutions:

- Consideration should be given to allocating funding to sectors where phosphorus reduction per dollar would be greater. However, the modeling used to assess those contributions should include all sources, especially chemical phosphorus application.
- A shift to local small-farm agriculture will provide better control of phosphorous release to surface waters, and programs/policies should support this shift.
- Greater funding needed where phosphorus loading is greatest.
- Strengthen heavy forest cutting regulations to reduce storm water runoff.

Thank you for assisting our efforts to address water quality concerns we feel are lacking in the river basin plans. The CWAC would like to forward this letter to others. The Chair and members of the CWAC are available to meet to explain these concerns. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
The CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee

Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
Larry Becker – Middlesex Conservation Commission
John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard
Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
December 10, 2019

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input 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 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	Alison Duckworth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Grace Vinson, Zachary Maia, Nick Kramer, Clare Rock

Guests: George Clain, Barre Town Planning Commission

Call to Order

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business. The meeting began with introductions.

Adjustments to The Agenda

The agenda was readjusted to accommodate speakers.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Energy Planning Best Practices & Data

Chair Hill-Eubanks introduced our speakers, Zachary Maia and Nick Kramer of CVRPC. They provided a detailed overview of the Enhanced Energy Planning process. A copy of the presentation is available on

1 website at - [http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-](http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf)
2 [Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf](http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf).

3
4 CVRPC has worked with 11 municipalities over the last several years on enhanced energy planning.

5
6 A plan must include three major requirements: analysis and targets; pathways and implementation
7 actions; and mapping. Since 2015 CVRPC has put together data for communities to utilize in the
8 planning process for the analysis and targets requirements and Energy Action Network (Community
9 Energy Dashboard) and Efficiency Vermont also has updated data to enhance CVRPC's. It is important to
10 note the data provides estimates to inform the planning process. An overview of the data available on
11 the Community Energy Dashboard was provided.

12
13 When addressing pathways and implementation it was noted municipal capacity is important to
14 consider when choosing your pathways to ensure you have the people available to achieve the
15 pathways identified. Also noted was the importance of using clear policy statements in the plans.

16
17 Additional review was provided on preferred sites; which can provide incentives for development,
18 reduction in land use conflict, and open up development of 150-500 kW sites to help reach 2050 goals.

19
20 Energy plans must be consistent with the municipal plan; and effective energy plans should include
21 reasonable recommendations, be based on well-established and specific planning goals; and should
22 include land conservation measures and clearly stated policies.

23
24 Also provided was an overview of the Section 248 Process for obtaining certificates of public good. It
25 was noted that small net metering applications (less than 15kW) do not need to go through the full
26 process (just the 45-day notice prior to filing). For larger projects it was suggested that municipalities
27 review and act in the 45-day notice timeframe to identify support, concerns, and potential mitigation in
28 order to save time, money and capacity once the application has been filed.

29
30 Zach noted the take away from the presentation should be orderly development of the region and land
31 conservation measures. Regional impacts are the most important to address and to discuss how to
32 incorporate into your Enhanced Energy Plans; and with substantial deference, include strong policy
33 statements (shall, must).

34
35 During the Q/A, discussion ensued regarding substantial deference and whether the Department of
36 Public Service will side with a municipality as part of substantial deference or challenge the municipality;
37 would an enhanced energy plan open the door to for-profit developers. Also noted was a recent article
38 on VPR regarding the PUC's relationship with large utilities.

39
40 There was question if the Best Practices Guidance is available on our website, which Zach confirmed he
41 would check – a link to this guidance follows: <http://centralvtplanning.org/wp->

1 [content/uploads/2016/12/Municipal-Enhanced-Energy-Planning-in-Vermont-Best-Practices-and-](#)
2 [Resources-FINAL.pdf](#) .

3
4 In addition, there was discussion on the importance of incorporating language in the Municipal Plan that
5 recognizes the Energy Plan and vice versa, so that the two are linked together. Concern was also shared
6 regarding the apparent increase in wood heat opposition and a push for a transition to utilization of
7 wood pellets instead of log wood.

8
9 R. Krauth also shared data on his home system which includes a power wall from GMP and 23 solar
10 panels.

11 12 **Regional Plan Committee Rules of Procedure**

13 Potter inquired about the disconnect in terms of the Regional Plan Committee Rules of Procedure (ROP)
14 and the draft bylaws; and suggested that on bottom of page 2 that the language be change to “one”-
15 year term in order to match up with the draft bylaws amendment. D’Amico advised you would also
16 have to strike the following sentence; and Rock noted that the third sentence would also need to be
17 struck. Potter advised that due to the draft bylaws many committee ROP’s will have to be updated;
18 which is easier than amending bylaws.

19
20 *G. D’Amico moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure with the changes discussed; B. Towbin seconded.*
21 *Motion carried.*

22 23 **CVRPC Bylaw Amendment**

24 Hill-Eubanks introduced Julie Potter, who provided an overview of the bylaw update process; advising
25 the draft bylaws amendment in the packet is the same that was provided last month with no changes
26 made. She noted it cannot be amended tonight if it is to be adopted tonight. If it is amended tonight, it
27 will need to be put on a future agenda. It was also noted that 60% of member municipalities is required
28 to approve the bylaws changes (14 members).

29
30 G. D’Amico thanked Julie and the work group for their work amending the bylaws.

31
32 *P. Carbee moved to approve the proposed bylaws amendment as written, seconded by J. Shatney.*
33 *Motion carried.*

34 35 **Meeting Minutes**

36 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.

37
38 *A. Hornblas moved to approve the November 12, 2019 minutes; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried*
39 *with one abstention.*

40 41 **Reports**

1 Wanager shared that the Barre City Council endorsed the Greater Barre City Working Communities
2 Grant application that CVRPC has been facilitating. This is a partnership of approximately 20 agencies
3 and employers; focused on fostering a workforce development system that bridges gaps between
4 employees and employers, with a target population of single women led households living below the
5 poverty level.

6
7 Wanager also introduced Grace Vinson, CVRPC's new Planner. Her duties include emergency
8 management and special projects. The intent of the position is to be adaptable between programs.

9
10 C. Rock advised an evaluation for the presentation done this evening will be forwarded via email.

11
12 **Adjournment**

13 *D. Torre moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm; J. Potter seconded. Motion carried.*

14
15 Respectfully submitted,

16
17 Nancy Chartrand
18 Office Manager

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, December 2019

F: 802-223-1977

LAND USE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**Municipal Planning:**

- Provided weekly interim planning and zoning administration services to Waitsfield.
- Developed Town Plan maps for Barre Town, Plainfield, and Washington.
- Updated web map for Orange and parcel maps for Duxbury.
- Assisted Cabot with their QGIS software and parcel map updates.
- Completed Enhanced Energy Plans for Middlesex, Moretown, Plainfield, Waitsfield, and Woodbury.
- Met with Plainfield Planning Commission Chair to finalize details on 2020 Town Plan Update.
- Began discussions with Woodbury Planning Commission regarding its 2020 municipal plan update.
- Provided comments on Fayston's draft municipal plan ahead of public comment period.
- Met with Berlin Planning Commission to discuss a possible municipal trail planning project.
- Facilitated prospective funders meeting for wastewater extension from Montpelier to the Weston Mobile Home Park on Rt. 12 in Berlin.
- Discussed CVRPC's capacity to assist Twin Valley Senior Center with expansion plans with USDA.

Training & Education:

- Held Planning and Zoning Roundtable.
- Held Modern Wood Heat Workshop with region-wide attendees and presentations from Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation and the Clean Energy Development Fund.

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Hosted a regional housing summit planning meeting.
- Participated in a childcare presentation and discussion hosted by the Federal Bank of Boston and Let's Grow Kids. The Federal Bank of Boston is undertaking a survey of childcare needs in the northeast. Let's Grow Kids is seeking to address the deficit of quality affordable childcare in VT.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING**Local/Regional Planning:**

- Met with VEM staff to discuss Emergency Management Performance Grant program and duties.
- Participated in monthly RPC/VEM call to hear about RPC updates and upcoming spring flood workshops.
- Provided flood hazard map for a portion of Mill Brook in Fayston showing FEMA flood zones compared with consultant modeled flood zones. The town will use this map to update its flood hazard by-laws.
- Contacted Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) to gather ideas for upcoming EMD roundtable.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Contact Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com, for assistance. Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Calais – Contacted the Town to initiate planning team formation.

East Montpelier – Plan received approval-pending adoption. Plan adopted by Selectboard. Plan received final approval. Final approval letter received from FEMA. Congratulations!

Moretown – Worked with Planning Commission to finalize plan and submit it to VEM for final review.

Washington – Created deliverable worksheets and public engagement posters and sent to Planning Team.

Montpelier – Met with Fire Chief to discuss planning process and planning team formation.

Williamstown – Submitted revised plan to Planning Commission Chair for final approval. Plan now awaits Selectboard review ahead of final submission to VEM for Approval Pending Adoption.

TRANSPORTATION

Field Services: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, to be put on a list for 2020 counts and inventories.

Traffic Counts: 2019 Season is complete

Ash Tree Inventories: No active inventories.

Bike and Ped Counters: Conducting pedestrian counts for Montpelier.

Transportation Studies:

Cabot Trail Planning (Municipal Planning Grant): Worked with the Trails Committee to update the landowner permission letter and identified the first round of landowners for outreach.

Northfield Trails (Better Connections Grant): Worked with the Steering Committee and contractor to host a community event Spirit to gather input into the key destinations and local concerns.

Transportation Resilience Planning Tool: Worked with VTrans and the consultant team to complete the vulnerability analysis. Sent data to UVM, which is calculating criticality on structures or road segments.

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 – Confirmed new employee health care contribution share would be 4%.

Discussed progress on delivery of electric buses. Discussed approach to address Milton's underpayment of FY20 assessment. Reviewed Board agenda. Approved formation of a retreat planning committee. Held Executive Sessions related to a potential new labor relations agreement and potential employment and/or evaluation of employees. No action taken.

Strategy Committee – Reviewed a draft service policy and evaluation criteria to help the Board determine how to analyze routes for system expansion, reductions, or elimination. GMT

anticipates system contractions beginning FY21.

Operations Committee – Discussed progress on delivery of electric buses. Received update about the FY21 Bus Purchase Plan. The goal is to create a sustainable replacement schedule, replacing roughly 5-6 buses per year. Staff recommended working to right-size buses to ridership given projections regarding ridership. This would lower operating cost per mile. GMT staff is evaluating what routes would qualify. Received updates on facilities. GMT has hired a customer service employee for the Montpelier Transit Center. For the Berlin facility, VTrans requested GMT stop work on improvements while VTrans researches whether the grant funds can be used for a new facility. The current facility has many challenges, a key one being it is undersized and cannot be expanded because it is located in the floodplain. Celebrated the arrival of an on-time performance schedule module. This means GMT can now track bus locations via GPS so it can analyze data and more reliably match printed schedules to bus travel time.

General Manager Search Committee – The application period has closed. 28 applications were received. 13 applicants are being vetted by the executive search firm as possible qualified candidates.

Other Transit Activities:

- Conducted outreach to our transit partners to request access to their client lists for transit ridership satisfaction for older adults and people with disabilities survey distribution.
- Participated in a meeting between Central VT Council on Aging and VTrans Public Transit to discuss how new community partners could be added to an existing Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Committee and receive funding to provide qualified trips.
- Facilitated a working group meeting focused on planning a Central Vermont transit week campaign.
- Attended a meeting of the VT Public Transit Advisory Council as the RPCs representative.
- Met with current GMT Board Chair to begin transitioning duties. Bonnie transitions in as Board Chair on January 21, 2020.

Municipal Assistance:

- Facilitated a meeting between VTrans and Calais to discuss local concerns about VT 14 in East Calais Village and the need for new traffic calming measures.
- Met with Northfield to review and update their Road Service Management Software data.
- Facilitated a meeting between VTrans and Calais to discuss local concerns about VT 14 in East Calais Village and the need for new traffic calming measures.
- Processed and submitted two community invoices for completed Grants in Aid projects.

Regional Assistance:

- Participated in VTrans' meeting to update its project selection and prioritization processes.
- Participated on the I-89 Advisory Committee and contributed to the discussion of the study vision, goals and objectives.
- Met with outside partner to discuss a potential Vermont Outdoor Recreation Communities grant focused on linking public transit routes and recreation trail heads

- Attended the VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee Kick-Off Meeting and Application Review as the RPCs representative.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Continued communication with Basin 14 Basin Planner on the Tactical Basin Plan development.
- Continued project development with Winooski Basin Planner, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Friends of the Winooski River, and the Friends of the Mad River for projects within the Winooski River Basin.

Design Implementation Block Grant Program (formerly Clean Water Block Grant Program): Funding for projects >\$20,000 will soon be available for implementation of clean water projects. Significant changes in the program include no match requirement, and the municipality may be the direct applicant/grantee for these projects. All projects must be completed and closed out prior to December 31, 2021. If your town's project is ready for implementation funding, please contact Pam DeAndrea at deandrea@cvregion.com to determine eligibility.

Staff submitted 4 applications for the <\$20,000 design/implementation block grant. These applications were for projects in Calais and Woodbury. Each town is interested in bringing two projects to final design. The projects were listed as top priorities in the Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plan. For Calais, the projects will treat stormwater that reaches the East Calais Village and has resulted in a badly eroding gully along the Kingsbury Branch. In Woodbury, both projects are in the village and will treat stormwater on-site instead of directly dumping into the Kingsbury Branch.

Plainfield Health Center Stormwater Final Design: This gully stabilization project emerged from the Plainfield Stormwater Master Plan. The consultant met with the Plainfield Road Crew to get their insight on the feasibility of implementing the project and its future operation and maintenance. The consultant then updated the 60% design plans, which were submitted to DEC. The final design is expected to be complete in February 2020. The consultant will present the 90% designs to the stakeholders and the Plainfield Selectboard to incorporate final comments.

Berlin Stormwater Final Designs: The CVRPC, Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA), and Civil Engineering Associates (CEA) gained approval from the School District Superintendent on the updated concept (30%) design for the Berlin Elementary School, allowing the consultant team to move forward with 60% design. The consultant team is also completing 60% designs for stormwater improvement projects at the Chimney Sweep and the Berlin Fire Station. The team will present the designs to the Berlin Selectboard and other stakeholders. The 60% designs are expected to be completed in January 2020 and the final designs in May 2020.

Public-Private Partnership on 3-Acre Stormwater Sites (P3): This project involves identifying stormwater sites subject to the stormwater general permit 3-acre rule where a collaborative treatment approach may be more prudent. CVRPC is assisting Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC (WCA) to work with municipalities and private landowners to design treatment solutions that will satisfy the permit's requirements. CVRPC and WCA met with Waterbury to discuss which projects would be viable candidates. WCA will reach out to private landowners involved to gauge their interest and willingness to participate. 30% stormwater designs will be provided to selected sites.

Forest Integrity: Attended steering committee meeting with partners to provide updates and identify next steps towards project deliverables. The survey is still in draft phase while awaiting comments from FPR. Staff is in process of developing a grant proposal to the Lake Champlain Basin Program to continue work in the Winooski River headwaters to promote the value of retaining forested headwaters for water quality and flood resilience.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields: Staff worked collaboratively to submit Brownfields Assessment Grant to EPA. Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Partnerships for Progress:

THRIVE – Team worked to understand how to use the Community Action Network (CAN) Results Checklist and continued CAN work on actions to address homelessness and transportation.

Working Communities Challenge: CVRPC submitted the Barre Region application. The Barre Region team has been invited to participate in an interview with a jury of the grant selection committee. This means our application is one of those being considered for an award.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Enrolled staff in 2020 MVP Health Plan.
- Distributed 2019 Reports for inclusion in municipal Annual Reports for Town Meeting.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Transportation Program Manager Dan Currier. Dan has accepted a position with the State of Vermont as a Public Transit Coordinator. He will manage the [Go Vermont](#) program and oversee and assist one or more public transit providers. Dan has worked with CVRPC for 15 years. He staffed and eventually managed CVRPC's GIS program, initiated then managed our natural resources program when the State began focusing on river corridors, flood resilience and stormwater planning in the early 2000s, and moved into managing our transportation program in 2017. It has been a joy to watch his leadership skills grow through the years. His ever-ready smile, rays of sunshine, and willingness to coach will be sorely missed by staff and communities.
- Toured prospective office space in Barre. CVRPC's lease ends September 2020.

- Discussed CVRPC interest in becoming a Clean Water Service Provider with other Lake Champlain RPCs.

Professional Development/Leadership:

- Zach attended the annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Conference to meet with energy committees and learn about climate action in Vermont.
- Bonnie, Grace, and Zach participated in a conference call with Efficiency Vermont and other RPCs to learn about their residential weatherization incentives and the revised data report for 2019.
- Grace participated in ICS 100 training and State Emergency Operations Center Orientation Training.

Upcoming Meetings:

Please verify meeting location at www.centralvtplanning.org by viewing meeting agendas.

<u>January</u>		
Jan 14	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Jan 16	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Jan 20		<i>Martin Luther King Day HOLIDAY, CVRPC Office Closed</i>
Jan 21	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee, CVRPC Office
Jan 28	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Jan 30	5 pm	Welcome Legislators Event, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier
<u>February</u>		
Feb 3	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 6	6 pm	Transportation Climate Initiative Public Meeting, City Hall, Burlington
Feb 11	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Feb 13	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 17		<i>President's Day HOLIDAY, CVRPC Office Closed</i>
Feb 17	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 20	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 25	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin

Visit CVRPC's web site at www.centralvtplanning.org to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.

Executive Director's Report

December 31, 2019

A Snapshot of Monthly Activities

- Developed and submitted the Barre Area Working Communities grant application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The project focuses on improving the workforce development system by linking and providing supports to both employers and employees. The regional team of economic, education, public, and private sector partners aims to reduce the number of single women with children who live in extreme poverty in Barre City. CVRPC facilitated stakeholder discussions to define and refine the project concept involving numerous meetings and telephone interviews, drafted the application text, and secured Barre City Council support. CVRPC will act as grant administrator and project manager. Thank you to Nick, Grace, and Nancy for their support with research, meetings, and logistics.
- Organized and facilitated a prospective funders meeting aimed at extending wastewater from Montpelier to the Weston Mobile Home Park on Rt. 12 in Berlin. Prospective funders included VHCB, ANR, ACCD, and USDA. The team developed a draft action plan.
- Completed an RPC-wide fringe benefit survey.
- Was interviewed by The Bridge reporter for article on regionalization of services.
- Organized and chaired a GMT General Manager Search Committee meeting.
- Assumed Leadership Committee role for VT Urban & Community Forestry Council.
- Shared idea for VT Outdoor Recreation Community grant with Jon Copans from the VT Council on Rural Development and the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board and VTrans. CVRPC will facilitate development of an application focused on reducing transportation impacts by linking communities and outdoor recreation opportunities through public transit services. Clare will lead application development.
- Participated on US Economic Development Administration call to discuss communications equipment for Barre and Montpelier. CVRPC likely will assist with a grant application.
- Met with new VT Public Transit Program Manager about VTrans investment in Rt. 12 wastewater project and for budget discussions as I transition into the GMT Board Chair role.
- Participated in THRIVE Design Team to plan upcoming THRIVE group and leadership partner meetings and facilitated THRIVE Transportation Community Action Network meeting.
- Met with Cara Robeck, Executive Director of the Vermont Energy Education Partners. VEEP helps schools build an understanding of energy and climate through workshops and action programs.
- Represented CVRPC at Central VT Economic Development Corporation and Mad River Valley Planning District meetings.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports
December 2019

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

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

- Approved recommending the Board appoint Dara Torre as Secretary/Treasurer and Michael Gray as member-at-large on the Executive Committee to comply with the newly adopted bylaws.
- Met with Clean Water Advisory Committee Chair (CWAC) Amy Hornblas to discuss the CWAC's proposed letter of concern on the Winooski River Basin Plan.
- Authorized staff to develop a proposal for CVRPC to act as a Clean Water Service Provider.
- Appointed Julie Potter as Chair of a Personnel Policy Workgroup. Additional members to be determined.
- Approved revised personnel evaluation form.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

Did not meet. Next meeting is January 16, 2020. Anticipating presentation from Central Vermont Medical Center regarding planned expansion.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

- Approved changes to the current Regional Plan, including removing the Housing Distribution Plan from the Housing Chapter and making a technical correction to the Regional Future Land Use Map to better align the Regional Center land use planning area with the Montpelier Growth Center.
- Scheduled next meeting for January 21 at 4 pm.

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

Did not meet.

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

Did not meet.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Monday, 4pm)

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

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2nd Thursday, 4pm)

- Finalized letter to present to the Board of Commissioners describing concerns about the Winooski River Basin Tactical Plan.
- Discussed upcoming Act 76 and Clean Water Service Providers and potential changes for the CWAC
- Received update on the Design/Implementation Block Grant and the four, <\$20,000 project applications from CVRPC - stormwater final designs for sites in Calais and in Woodbury.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- Reviewed upcoming Legislative session and bills we expect to follow – Act 250, housing, marijuana, water quality, Transportation Climate Initiative, Global Solutions (climate/energy).
- Met with Agency of Commerce Lindsay Kurrle. Discussed importance of workforce and related housing issues to economic development in the state; concepts in upcoming community investment legislative package; shared interests in focusing development in centers and related concerns about how to factor in river corridor and other regulations; and RPCs and how they work with RDCs in their regions.
- Reviewed recent discussions with ANR on river corridors and developed centers. ANR leadership recognizes the issue and supports infill; however, implementation differs.
- Discussed Clean Water Service Provider RFP.
- Discussed upcoming changes in Grants in Aid program. Program shifting from DEC to VTrans. RPC assistance to towns secured for FY21. Future years under discussion. Working to encourage a 3-year transition plan for end of town technical assistance. Discussed Stowe report on cost of compliance with MRGP compliance and factors leading to its anticipated cost significant steep terrain and significant above average number of road segments that do not currently comply with the standards. Most municipalities do not have similar issues.
- Agreed to maintain current dues structure.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No activities from Central Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- Discussed Montpelier Transit Center staffing. Staffing occurring during peak times only.

- Notified by VTrans that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will allow the repurposing of the earmark designated to the Berlin facility for another facility located in Washington County. GMT will work with VTrans on identifying next steps including scoping work for a potential new Washington County maintenance and administrative facility.
- Notified that Barbara Donovan will be retiring as VT Public Transit Program Manager.
- Discussed dates for General Manager interviews.
- Requested documentation from Federal Transit Administration regarding FTA procurement guidance on potential roof lease to Encore Renewable Energy for a solar project.
- Maintained urban assessments at 4% for FY21. Have asked 12 rural communities for a 5% increase over FY20 contributions. Rural contributions are voluntary. Increases have not been requested since 2008.
- Held Executive Session regarding personnel as related to the FY21 budget. No action taken.
- Discussed initial draft of Service Guidelines Policy.
- Discussed draft Service Agreement with the Town of Colchester. The agreement is designed to assist Colchester with moving towards GMT municipal membership. Requested changes.
- Scheduled Board Retreat for February 11, 2020.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

- MRV Community Fund has agreed to fund a part-time position for 26 weeks to help facilitate and structure Housing Coalition, organize housing summit, pursue short term actions. The MRV is planning a spring housing summit.
- Heard presentation and update from Steve Sharp about the MRV Backcountry Commission. The organization was created in response to the State's Camels Hump management plan; felt need to articulate how backcountry skiing could/should be managed given increasing interest. Nationwide, participation in backcountry skiing is increasing faster than downhill skiing. Backcountry skiing is defined as skiing in areas with no ski lift access.
- Debriefed on format, content, and outcome of 5-Town Leadership meeting. Agreement that while presentations were succinct and informational, event is data/talking heavy. Next year's focus should be on greater engagement between the towns with a reformat to provoke deeper discussion.
- Sugarbush Resort provided updates on current projects. I suggested it would be helpful to discuss the projects with CVRPC's Project Review Committee in advance of any Act 250 applications to facilitate project review and develop shared expectations. Sugarbush was amenable to the idea. Clare is working to schedule the presentation.

Informational Only

Joint Testimony of Peter Walke, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources, and Brian Shupe, Executive Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council, before the Vermont House Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife Committee on 1/7/20

For the record, Peter Walke, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources.

For the record, Brian Shupe, Executive Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council

We appreciate the opportunity to come before you on the first day of session. We want to thank Chair Sheldon and the Committee for immediately launching back into hearings on the future of one of the most consequential laws in Vermont's history.

Your work last session that built on the work of the Act 47 Commission raised critical challenges and opportunities to modernize Act 250 to meet our contemporary issues 50 years after Act 250 was enacted.

Over the course of the summer and fall, the Administration and the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) held a series of conversations and engaged other stakeholders. Our goal was to further develop the policy considerations you debated last session and to see if we could reach consensus on a package of modernizations that maintain and enhance the environmental and land use protection outcomes of Act 250 while addressing critical challenges. In conducting that work, we have relied heavily on your deliberations and intent.

We also worked to address the issues that prompted the Legislature to establish the Commission on the Future of Act 250. These include:

- An erosion of consistency in decision making among the various regions of the state since the Environmental Board was eliminated 2005;
- Changes in state permitting, municipal and regional planning, and the establishment of state land use designation programs since Act 250 was established;
- Act 250 is not adequately addressing contemporary environmental issues that were not widely recognized 50 years ago, such as forest fragmentation and climate change;
- Projects have gotten increasingly complex, and the process has grown more complicated and less accessible to all parties.

Consequently, we agreed that, relying heavily on the Committee's work, we would agree to explore possible compromises and take a fresh look at Act all aspects of the law, even if it means reexamining previously held positions.

The Chair asked us to come in and present the package of Act 250 changes we jointly propose. Today, we will walk you through the high-level themes. Matt Chapman, Greg Boubol, and Jon Groveman will walk you through the proposed language if you are interested in exploring this package further.

We will organize this presentation into five categories: the modernization of Act 250 jurisdiction, modernization of Act 250 criteria, structure/function of the board, updates to Act 250 permitting and permit conditions, and additional changes or study we believe to be necessary.

□ **Modifications to Act 250 jurisdiction**

During the Act 47 Commissions and this Committee's work last session, you heard significant testimony and had detailed conversations about which types of projects should come under Act 250 jurisdiction. You identified ways we could support compact development in our built environment and the need for additional review of projects planned for sensitive areas. We have different challenges than we faced in 1970, and it's appropriate to update where Act 250 should apply. The proposal we are putting forward today builds on the work that you did and would do the following:

- Last session, the Administration proposed exempting development in designated centers that have gone through an enhanced designation process. We discussed it further and think allowing an **exemption to development in designated downtowns and neighborhood development areas** without creating a new designation process is a more effective and straightforward way to support compact development patterns in all of our cities, towns, and villages.
- We also heard the committee and many voices in the housing community and propose **maintaining priority housing exemptions for new town centers, designated growth centers, and designated village centers.**
- One of the critical issues that the legislature has been grappling with for several years is how to address forest integrity and prevent fragmentation. We explored a number of measures the committee contemplated and also considered an update to an historic approach. We propose to address fragmentation and connectivity habitat through **bringing back a road length trigger for jurisdiction and expanding Act 250 jurisdiction to ridgelines.**
- Another critical jurisdictional question you discussed last year were interstate interchanges. We agreed that the best outcome was a transparent planning process to address appropriate forms of development in and around interchanges. Therefore, we propose setting a **jurisdictional trigger for commercial and industrial development within 2000 feet of an interchange and to enable a planning process to modify that default buffer.**
- In the Administration's bill from last year, H.197, the Administration proposed to exempt certain transportation projects from Act 250 jurisdiction based on the existing environmental evaluation under federal and state statutes. In your deliberations, you did not choose to add this to the language you were working on, but it remains an important topic to the Administration, so we developed a reasonable solution with which we think the Committee will be comfortable. Therefore, we propose to **exempt the acreage from areas previously disturbed by a transportation project from the jurisdictional calculation** for state projects under Act 250.

□ **Modifications to Act 250 criteria**

This Committee spent a significant amount of time considering and updating the criteria by which projects are evaluated under Act 250. One of the main topics you considered was how to update Act 250 to speak to the challenge of a changing climate. We propose some modifications to ensure that the projects we build in this state meet stringent energy standards and are built to withstand and adapt to the extreme weather events we are already seeing. Our proposal in this section largely reflects the work that you've already done with some additional implementation clarity:

- Update Criterion 1D to **incorporate river corridor and flood hazard area concepts.**
- Update Criterion 5 (Transportation) to **explicitly consider impacts to walking, biking, and transit.**
- **Add protection of Forest Blocks and Connecting Habitat to Criterion 8.** In our discussions, we also determined that it would be useful to setup a process for the Board to make clear how to comply with this new criterion. Therefore, we propose that the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, will adopt rules on the implementation of this criteria, including guidance for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation, when appropriate.
- Update Criterion 9(K) (Public Investment) to include **protection of facilities or lands receiving benefits from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.**
- Update Criterion 10 to **require that only town plans approved by an RPC are considered under Criterion 10.**
- As mentioned above, we propose **various updates to the criteria to address climate change.** Specifically, we propose requiring use of the stretch code for residential building development, requiring climate resilient building material, and adoption of new RBES and CBES codes as soon as they are adopted (which address vehicle charging, thermal efficiency. Adoption date in 9/20).

□ **Modifications to Act 250 Permitting and Permit Conditions**

This Committee took considerable testimony from former applicants, current and former administrators of Act 250, and many others on the Act 250 permitting process and the conditions placed upon projects. We have built upon that work and relied upon the experience in other permitting programs to add to this package of recommendations:

- You heard testimony last session about the need to **address permit conditions for forest-based enterprises** to address the challenges they face operating in a climate change-shortened harvest season. We have built upon the proposal that is in H.197 to address this Committee's concerns about private property rights of abutting landowners while still addressing the need to create a reasonable expansion of hours of operation when winter road conditions permit. We also propose to provide an advantage to these businesses for prime agricultural soil mitigation in the context of forest-based enterprise projects.
- We propose a new requirement that we don't believe came up during your deliberations last session. Under Section 248, which reviews energy and telecommunication projects, certain projects are required to provide 45 days notice prior to filing a permit. That process works to allow various parties to the permit to come together in advance of formal filing to identify and ideally work through any potential challenges that may exist. We propose to add a **30 day advance notice requirement for certain Act 250 permits.** Based on comments, there may be an advance public meeting. This requirement would not apply to administrative amendment and some types of projects

that would normally be considered minors. Under this proposal, the Board would determine which projects would require this notice requirement by rule.

- Include **provisions to encourage industrial park master planning** proposed in H.197.
- One topic we heard from stakeholders was a concern about the amount of time it can take to get local feedback on Criterion 6, Educational Services and 7, Municipal or Government Services . Therefore, we propose to **establish a timeline for municipal and school feedback on Criterion 6 and 7**. Under this proposal, schools and municipalities would have 60 days to respond from the date of receipt of a request.
- In H.197, the Administration proposed to change the process of rebutting presumptions created by Agency of Natural Resource (ANR) permits; however, the Committee did not signal support for that approach. Currently only certain ANR permits are included. Rather than changing the process as was proposed in H.197, we now propose to simply **expand the existing presumption to all Agency permits**.

□ **Creating an Enhanced Natural Resources Board**

This Committee spent significant time exploring potential changes to how to create consistent review of Act 250 permits and to address appeals of those permits. You proposed to create the VERB that would hear appeals from the District Commissions. After significant discussion, we have a different approach that we think addresses the intent behind your discussion: consistent application of criteria statewide, an accessible and fair process for Vermonters, and increased governance over the Act 250 enterprise. Our proposal includes the following:

- **Create a new “professional” NRB with three members**, recommended / screened by the judicial nominating board, appointed for a term of six years, removable for cause.
- The **E-NRB would also have two regional members** from the region of the proposed project who, along with the permanent members would create the factual findings for the permit record.
- The E-NRB would have original jurisdiction over all major permit application review and would hold hearings in the region where the project is proposed. **Appeals of these permits would be to the Supreme Court.**
- **District Coordinators would review minor permit applications and administrative amendments.** A party could petition to have a minor treated as a major with a hearing by the Board. Currently, minors are for all intents and purposes issued by the Coordinators.
- **Eliminates review of permits by District Commissions.**

□ **Complementary Non-Act 250 Changes and Topics for further discussion**

Under this section, we propose to address through changes to programs outside Act 250 and through additional deliberation many of the topics the Committee and Commission discussed. We believe these changes and processes will address many of the concerns voiced by and in the Committee:

- One area of significant concern was about development within river corridors. As part of the Committee bill, you proposed to expand Act 250 jurisdiction to all river corridors. We

believe that we should **address development in river corridors through an expansion of the permitting program administered by the ANR's River Program in the Department of Environmental Conservation.** We propose to do that in a three-step manner that aligns with a current process to map high priority river corridors. The first step would be to have the permitting program mirror Act 250 jurisdiction, requiring a state flood hazard and river corridor permit for any project that would otherwise trigger review under Act 250. Within three years, following the completion of the high priority river corridor mapping project, the jurisdiction would expand to development proposed in those designated high priority river corridors. Once that step is complete, we would propose to study further jurisdictional expansion and make recommendations. These permits would provide a rebuttable presumption of compliance under the Act 250 floodway criteria 1D.

- During our discussions around the presumption of ANR permits, we discussed several topics that have been part of the legislative discourse around environmental permits for some years. Under Act 150 of 2016, the Legislature directed the Agency to standardize permitting processes and enhance public participation. The Agency has made significant changes, and we believe it's now appropriate to further evaluate whether ANR permits should be appealed on the record. Therefore, we propose a **stakeholder process for evaluating on the record review and any potential changes to the presumption of ANR permits under Act 250.**
- This Committee and the Commission before it considered significant planning issues as they relate to Act 250. These topics include the status of the capability and development plan, whether that plan should be updated, and the approval of regional plans. In our deliberations, we also considered whether certain planning and designation approvals should be appealable. The breadth and depth of these topics are significant and worthy of deliberate attention by experts in the field. We, therefore, propose, that the Agency of Commerce and Community development **conduct a stakeholder process to provide recommendations to the Legislature on several planning topics.**

We also want to ensure the Committee that addressing Act 250 jurisdiction over trails is a critical component of this package. The stakeholders continue to make progress to develop a proposal. The Administration has and will continue to provide technical support and feedback to this group. We believe the topic can be resolved in time to move on this Committee's timeline.

Thank you, Chair Sheldon and Committee, for allowing us the time to go over this proposal. We are happy to take questions now and provide further testimony with the specific statutory language of our proposal.