

# May 2013 Newsletter



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

~ [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org) ~

## CVRPC Commissioners

Barre City - Michael Miller  
Barre Town - Byron Atwood  
Berlin - Robert Wernecke  
Cabot - Richard Payne  
Calais - Rolf Mueller  
Duxbury - Brian Fitzgerald  
East Montpelier - Tim Carver  
Fayston - Carol Chamberlin  
Marshfield - Faeterri Silver  
Middlesex - Ronald Krauth  
Montpelier - Tina Ruth  
Moretown - Deb Sargent  
Northfield - Laura Hill-Eubanks  
Orange - George Malek  
Plainfield - David Strong  
Roxbury - David McShane  
Waitsfield - Don La Haye  
Warren - Craig Klofach  
Washington - Vacant  
Waterbury - Gunner McCain  
Williamstown - Larry Hebert  
Woodbury - Janet Shatney  
Worcester - Bill Arrand

## Geomorphic Study of Great Brook in Plainfield, VT

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and its consultant, Bear Creek Environmental, have started work on the collection of geomorphic data along 3.5 miles of the Great Brook in Plainfield, VT. The data collection will include walking along and in the brook channel cataloging the various features that we see (bars, flood chutes, woody debris, etc), along with making measurements of the channel width and depth.



Bank erosion. Photo by CVRPC

All of the field work will be conducted during June and July when the Brook's water depth is at its lowest. Once the data is collected, it will be provided to our Region's River Scientist who works at the Department of Environmental Conservation. Later in the fall, Bear Creek Environmental will use the geomorphic data to develop a River Corridor Plan for Great Brook.

For more information, please contact Dan Currier (GIS Manager) at [currier@cvregion.com](mailto:currier@cvregion.com) or 229-0389

## In this issue

Geomorphic Study of Great Brook

Northfield Stormwater  
Remediation

Town Plan Reviews and Con-  
sistency with State Goals

We're on Facebook!

Ecosystem Grants Available

Vermonters are Ready to Go!

Make \$\$\$ by Saving Energy

Plan Central Vermont: Shaping  
Our Region from the Ground Up

## CVRPC ~ May 2013 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

#### **State Economic Development Summit**

June 3 ~ 9am-4pm  
Paramount Theater in Rutland

#### **e-911 Coordinator Workshop**

June 5 ~ 9am-12pm  
CVRPC Offices in Montpelier

#### **Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference**

June 7 ~ 9am-4pm  
Barre Opera House in Barre  
More info >>

#### **Census Data Training Session**

June 10 ~ 10am-12pm  
CVRPC Offices in Montpelier

#### **Zoning Administrators Roundtable**

June 18 ~ 3pm-5pm  
CVRPC Offices in Montpelier



### **Stormwater Remediation Project Development**

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and its consultant, Watershed Consulting Associates, have started work on the identification of sites in Northfield, VT for possible stormwater remediation projects. The intent is to develop 1 larger stormwater project and several small low impact projects within Northfield and then prepare a follow up grant in 2013/2014 to construct these projects.

The analysis of the sites will include the calculation of stormwater runoff and sediment loading and will be conducted in June and July with the preliminary site plans completed by the end of November.

For more information please contact Dan Currier (GIS Manager) at [currier@cvregion.com](mailto:currier@cvregion.com) or 229-0389



### **We're on Facebook!**

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission now has a Facebook page! You can find our page by logging in to your personal Facebook account and searching "Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission" or by visiting this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Vermont-Regional-Planning-Commission/162736940555216>



"Like" us on Facebook and share with your friends to help us build an engaged, online community around news, issues and success stories tied to planning and sustainable place-building in our towns and Central Vermont as a region.

Our new Facebook page allows us to send quick updates to your newsfeed regarding everything from events, workshops, grant alerts and legislative updates to scenic photos and interesting tidbits about special places in the Region. We can also respond to comments from interested citizens and stay tuned in to happenings in our Region's 23 towns by connecting to their Facebook pages. Towns within our region that currently have a Facebook page include Northfield, Waitsfield, City of Montpelier, Cabot and Williamstown with countless local downtown partnerships, energy committees, non-profit and community groups on Facebook, as well.

Our Facebook page also helps us to stay up-to-date with news and events from our state and regional partners in land use, transportation, community and economic development, working lands, housing, energy, brownfields, and hazard mitigation planning. We encourage you to comment, post on CVRPC's fan page, or send posting ideas, announcements and links of interest for sharing to Kim McKee at [mckee@cvregion.com](mailto:mckee@cvregion.com).



## ***Ecosystem Grants Available***

The Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce the State fiscal year 2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) for grants under the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The ERP's goal in awarding these grants is to reduce surface water pollution from runoff containing nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and sediment.

While budgets for proposals are expected to vary widely, typical project budgets range between \$10,000 and \$75,000. Funding for projects is contingent upon availability of Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Capital Construction funds. More information is available online at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/grants.htm>.

The deadline for pre-proposal submittal is 4:30 on June 13, 2013. Contact Heather Bullett 490-6112.

## **CVRPC ~ May 2013 Newsletter**

### ***Town Plan Reviews and Consistency with State Goals***

CVRPC is currently wrapping up an enhanced consultation process that involves a review of municipal plans for consistency with State planning goals and conformance with the requirements of a municipal plan. Staff hit the road over the past two years to visit with planning commissioners, select board members and town staff from all 23 towns for a discussion of the review, status of current or future plan updates, and recommendations on how towns can "make substantial progress" towards meeting those State goals going forward. Other recommendations included strengthening plan language, identifying conflicting goals, and developing additional strategies and implementation measures. Staff also provided significant assistance to towns regarding the newly required economic development element and the energy element of a municipal plan and, of course, took pleasure in applauding towns for excelling in crafting particular elements of their local plans.

CVRPC appreciates the opportunity to meet with all of our member towns and thanks the engaged board volunteers and staff for identifying training needs and important local and regional issues. The information we are able to compile and report back to the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) together with the 10 other regional planning commissions that underwent this process will provide valuable guidance on priority needs for resources and training. The next step of our review work includes a similar enhanced review of local bylaws. Is your town in the midst of updating its bylaws (zoning, subdivision, and/or unified)? Are you looking for guidance as to how to draft your ordinance language to effectively protect natural resources or encourage development in desired areas? If your town is interested in the enhanced bylaws review, please contact Kim McKee at [mckee@cvregion.com](mailto:mckee@cvregion.com) or Jackie Cassino at [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com), or 802-229-0389.

### ***Wrightsville Beach Opens!***

The facilities at the Wrightsville Beach on Route 12 north of Montpelier are open for swimming, disk golf, hiking on the nature trails, boating, and picnicking. The large shelter is ready for use and reservations can be made at CVRPC by

contacting Laurie Emery at [emery@cvregion.com](mailto:emery@cvregion.com). The beach staff is looking forward to another banner year with lots of sunny days and fabulous swimming. Visit the web site at <http://www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com/>



## CVRPC ~ May 2013 Newsletter

### **VERMONTERS ARE READY TO GO!**

#### ***Local Organizations and Businesses participated in the Way to Go! Commuter Challenge***

The seventh annual Way to Go! Commuter Challenge kicked off on May 13, and it generated a lot of excitement in Central Vermont. Statewide, 220 businesses signed up to participate, and more than 3,190 commuters pledged to take part. A number of school students in our Region accepted the challenge which Moretown Elementary School won last year. This year, schools in Berlin, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, Waterbury, and Worcester participated with special events. In addition, Governor Shumlin officially proclaimed May 13-17 as "Way to Go! Week" in Vermont to voice his support for the effort; an effort that saves money while reducing air pollution and congestion.

Way to Go! is designed to raise awareness of transportation options among commuters by encouraging them to travel in ways other than driving alone. Participants pledge to take the bus, bike, walk, carpool, car share, or telecommute during the week of the challenge, and become eligible to win a variety of prizes, including gym memberships, ski passes, hotel stays, transit passes, and much more. The businesses that are most successful at encouraging their employees to sign up will be rewarded with the prestigious "Carbon Cup" trophy, as well as recognition of their commitment to their environment – and their employees.

New in 2013, businesses and organizations that signed up issued challenges to "throw down" against each other in mini-contests to get the competitive juices flowing among their employees – and help them save big on their commuting costs. For example, 2 State of Vermont agencies competed for first place in what was an exciting battle: "VTrans invited the Agency of Natural Resources to a friendly competition to see who might save the most miles and carbon," said Chris Cole, VTrans Director of Policy, Planning & Intermodal Development. "Everybody will see how much money and carbon is saved when we choose efficient transportation options, and they'll be eligible for prizes and gift cards."

Participation in the challenge has continued to grow since it was first held in 2006. You can visit the website to learn how you can participate next year at [www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org). Way to Go! is supported by a wide network of 34 Vermont partner and sponsor organizations, including the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and lead partner the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC).



### ***Go Vermont!***

Another related resource is the Go Vermont website <http://www.connectingcommuters.org/>

It is for travelers who want to reduce the cost and environmental impact of driving. Throughout this site you will find information about the different ways you can get around the State, and how these modes can save you money. In addition to information on bus routes, biking or walking, and other modes, Go Vermont features a free carpool/vanpool matching service, ridesharing tips, and other practical information on getting around.



It can be used for everyday commuting or one-time travel, and can provide instant feedback.

## ***Make \$\$\$ by Saving Energy***

Help your neighbors reduce their energy bills by participating in the 2013 Vermont Home Energy Challenge. We're 5 months into the Home Energy Challenge now, and for those of us who have been working hard to engage our neighbors, host events, or crawl through basements, sustaining our energy levels (no pun intended) can be tough! Just what is the Vermont Home Energy Challenge (HEC)? Efficiency Vermont has launched a year-long effort designed to encourage more Vermonters to make their homes more energy efficient. Over 75 towns from across the state, and 13 towns in Central Vermont have signed on to the "Vermont Home Energy Challenge," and the enthusiasm continues to build.

Under the Challenge, which is being promoted statewide by Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) and regional partners such as CVRPC, towns are setting a target of weatherizing 3% of the homes in their community over the year and fostering more public awareness and engagement in energy efficiency efforts. Town energy committees and other local partners will compete with other towns within their region to see which town can get the most homes weatherized within a one-year period. They will be able to measure their progress toward this goal along with that of other communities in their region and across the State. At the end of 2013, towns, regions, and local partners will be recognized for the effectiveness of their efforts to encourage participation in their communities.

Communities can be winners under the Challenge on a number of levels, including the following:

### ***CVRPC Staff***

Susan Sinclair  
Executive Director

Laurie Emery  
Office & Grants Manager

Steve Gladczuk  
Transportation Planner

Jackie Cassino  
Regional Planner

Kim McKee  
Assistant Planner

Dan Currier  
GIS Manager

Ashley Andrews  
GIS Planning Technician

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Central Vermont Regional  
Planning Commission

29 Main Street, Suite 4  
Montpelier,  
Vermont 05602

Phone:  
802.229.0389

Email:  
[cvrpc@cvregion.com](mailto:cvrpc@cvregion.com)

Website:  
[www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org)

- Every town that achieves its target will receive Statewide recognition.
- Towns achieving the highest percentage of year-round homes weatherized within their region will receive a financial reward of \$10,000 that can be applied toward a municipal energy efficiency project.
- Towns that achieve the highest percentage of residents committing to improving efficiency in their homes – based upon the submittal of "Pledge Cards" -- will be awarded with a financial reward of \$500 that can be applied toward a community energy celebration/fair.
- There will also be Statewide recognition for the community and region that gets the highest percentage of comprehensive home efficiency improvements. Winners will be announced within one month after the completion of the Challenge (February 1, 2014).

If the Challenge is successful (50 communities completing Home Performance with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> improvements in 3% of their homes), it will have a major impact. Efficiency Vermont estimates that it could result in more than 2,400 home comprehensive energy efficiency projects – and produce more than \$2 million dollars in annual energy savings. This is the equivalent of saving enough energy to heat 400 Vermont homes for an entire year. It could also result in a 5,000 ton reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the equivalent of taking 900 cars off the road.

To learn more, take a pledge to reduce energy usage in your home, or see how your community is doing in meeting its goals, [www.efficiencyvermont.com/homeenergychallenge](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/homeenergychallenge) for details. For more information, contact Jackie Cassino, CVRPC Regional Planner at 802.229.0389 or [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com).

## CVRPC ~ May 2013 Newsletter

### *Get Involved*

### ***Plan Central Vermont-Shaping Our Region from the Ground Up***

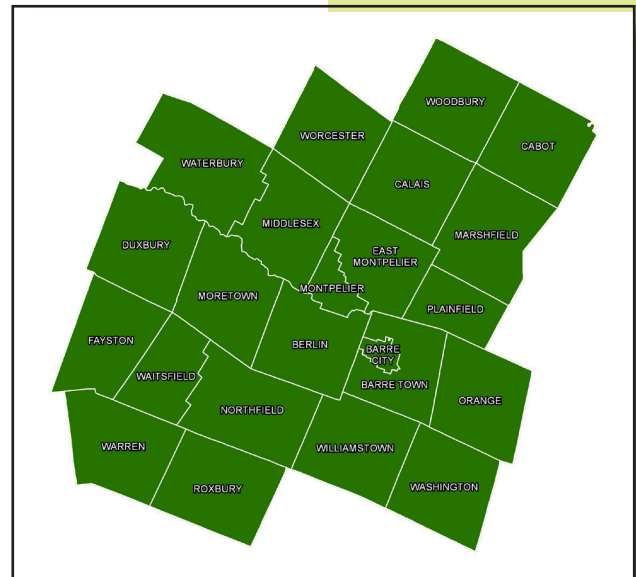
It's that time again! Every eight years, as directed by Title 24, Chapter 117 of the Vermont Statutes, CVRPC updates its Regional Plan. As outlined in State statute, the regional plan "shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, efficient and economic development of the region which will, in accordance with the present and future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity and welfare of the inhabitants as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. This general purpose includes, but is not limited to recommending a distribution of population and of the uses of the land for urbanization, trade, industry, habitation, recreation, agriculture, forestry and other uses as will tend to:

- (1) create conditions favorable to transportation, health, safety, civic activities and educational and cultural opportunities;
- (2) reduce the wastes of financial, energy and human resources which result from either excessive congestion or excessive scattering of population;
- (3) promote an efficient and economic utilization of drainage, energy, sanitary and other facilities and resources;
- (4) promote the conservation of the supply of food, water, energy and minerals;
- (5) promote the production of food and fiber resources and the reasonable use of mineral, water, and renewable energy resources; and
- (6) promote the development of housing suitable to the needs of the region and its communities."

Staff has begun developing a draft work plan in order to update and adopt our Regional Plan by 2016. "Plan Central Vermont-Shaping Our Region from the Ground Up" or "Plan Central Vermont" for short, will take up a variety of issues between 2013 and 2016 to build a more sustainable and engaged region. In addition to meeting statutory requirements and promoting sustainable planning, the Plan's main focus will be social engagement. Social engagement is an important component of a sustainable region. Public outreach and participation are essential to this community-based project.

CVRPC will work directly with regional commissioners, local governments, community-based organizations and other regional partners to form a Regional Plan Committee to review and make recommendations on amendments to the Regional Plan. Final drafts will be submitted to the Regional Commission for adoption. The Regional Plan Committee will also be charged with developing a guiding Vision Statement and developing a regional definition for sustainability. Staff is developing a separate Public Outreach and Engagement work plan to ensure broad and diverse participation from communities throughout the Region.

The goal of a Fall 2013 kickoff means there are a variety of opportunities for residents and officials to get involved, including: public participation events occurring throughout the region and recruitment for the Regional Plan Committee and subsequent work groups.



Stay tuned for more information. Questions may be addressed to Jackie Cassino at 802.229.0389, [cassino@cvregion.com](mailto:cassino@cvregion.com).