



NEWS BRIEF

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

September 2011

CVRPC Commissioners

Barre City - Michael Miller
Barre Town - Byron Atwood
Berlin - Robert Wernecke
Cabot - Richard Payne
Calais - Peter Brough
Duxbury - Vacant
East Montpelier - Tim Carver
Fayston - Vacant
Marshfield - Jon Groveman
Middlesex - Ronald Krauth
Montpelier - Tina Ruth
Moretown - Robert Roberts
Northfield - Arlington Supplee
Orange - George Malek
Plainfield - David Strong
Roxbury - Vacant
Waitsfield - Harrison Snapp
Warren - Don La Haye
Washington - Ray McCormack
Waterbury - Gunner McCain
Williamstown - Larry Hebert
Woodbury - Janet Shatney
Worcester - Bill Arrand

Flood Recovery Numbers:

FEMA 800/621-3362

VEM Emergency Operations: 802/951-2712

Central VT Emergency Management Planner Paul Luciano 802/881-1654

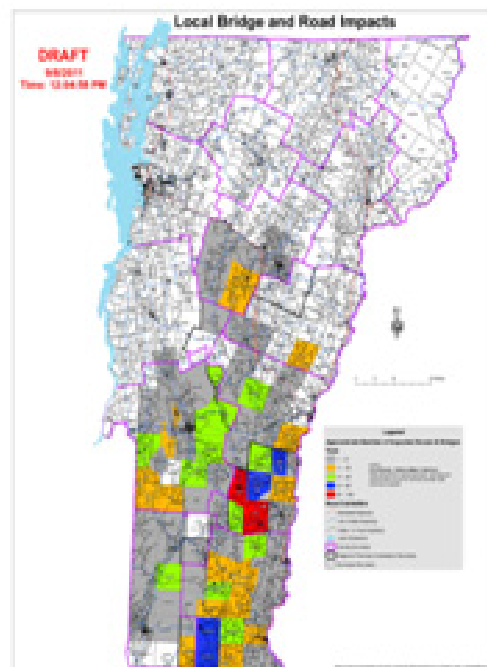
To find a contractor: 802/223-2374

VT River Management Engineer Patrick Ross 802/279-1143

CVRPC Transportation Disaster Response to Irene

We all know how significant an event Tropical Storm Irene was. In Central Vermont, the Dog and Mad Rivers ravaged their respective valleys. These waters entered the Winooski River resulting in significant damage to Waterbury Village. As bad as that is, when you look at a map of road and bridge damage throughout the State, there are areas in the south that were much more affected.

VTrans is working to get the State system operational, and doesn't have all the resources to provide assistance to towns as they have had in the past. VTrans has asked all the RPC's in the State to be the points of contact for local road needs. CVRPC staff has been asked to contact each affected town daily on the status of road closures and areas of limited use. A report is developed and sent to VTrans, Vermont Emergency Management, and FEMA. The data will be used to update maps that can warn travelers of what to expect, and to create a "big picture" look of the state of our transportation system.



The RPC's have also been asked to meet with each town and fill out a detailed report for each affected road, bridge, and culvert. Some road repair problems can be fixed



in the short term, but the most significant damages are being addressed with temporary fixes and will still need long term repairs. The goal is to get the local transportation system into safe operational shape before the snow flies, so winter maintenance can occur. Areas where this cannot be accomplished will become priorities for available resources. Because there are so many roads and bridges damaged in the southern part of the State, less- affected regions will be sending staff down to help with this reporting.

The RPC's will also offer technical assistance by identifying resources. VTrans has indicated that they will provide available cones, barrels, signs, barriers, and gravel. RPC's also have information on FEMA, engineering firms, and contractors. Maps showing what State roads are open or operating in a limited function can be found at www.aot.state.vt.us. A Central Vermont Regional map showing local road closures and links to Vermont Emergency Management & FEMA can be found at www.centralvtplanning.com. Information on local road status for the entire State is under development. For more information, contact CVRPC's Senior Transportation Planner, Steve Gladczuk, Gladczuk@cvregion.com, or GIS Manager, Dan Currier, Currier@cvregion.com, or by calling either at 229-0389. You can contact Paul Luciano, Regional Emergency Management Planner, on his cell phone at 802-881-1654.

Municipal Planning Grants

Guidelines for the 2012 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program have been announced, with applications due **OCTOBER 31**. This grant program funds planning and implementation projects aimed at revitalizing communities and guiding future development. Priority will be given to projects that further smart growth principles and town plan projects that address the new economic development element as passed by the legislature this year as Act 52 (See section 33).

The FY12 MPG program is funded at \$400,000, which is about the same level as last year. A cash match is now required for grant requests between \$8,000 - \$15,000. Matching funds are not required for grant requests of \$8,000 or less. Please review the online [Program Description](#) for details. Note that applications must be submitted online. You can begin working on your application and developing your work plan and budget using the [Sample Application](#) as a reference. See [Application First Steps](#) for instructions on getting started now. Towns without an approved plan can apply to develop a plan that will then meet the statutory requirements for approval. For more information please contact Wendy Tudor at Wendy.Tudor@state.vt.us, 802-828-5249 (direct line) or (800) 622-4553 (toll free) or visit the website at: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/OnlineApplication2012.htm>

Energy Planning Guides Available

The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) recently released two publications that can help communities address energy use and consumption. The Energy Planning and Implementation Guide for Vermont Municipalities shows Vermonters how to work with local officials to use the energy element of their town plan to address a range of energy issues. Communities Tackling Vermont's Energy Challenges showcases dozens of success stories of innovative, entrepreneurial and

proactive approaches Vermonters are taking to help save money, reduce energy consumption, transition to renewable sources and combat climate change. A limited number of copies are available from VNRC, but both are available for download at: <http://www.vecan.net>.

NFIP Bylaws Update

Most of the communities of Central Vermont have updated their flood hazard bylaws for the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) in order to be compliant with the Program's requirements so that residents in flood-prone areas are eligible for flood insurance at a reduced premium. This effort in Washington County was initiated as a result of the DFIRM (flood) maps being updated to digital maps. The following communities are compliant by FEMA: Barre City, Barre Town, Cabot, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Plainfield, Waitsfield, Warren, and Worcester. As of this writing, the following towns are either in the hearing process or just completed it and are waiting to hear from FEMA: Berlin, Fayston, Middlesex, Roxbury, Waterbury, and Woodbury. All of these communities are to be congratulated for their diligence, persistence, and effort in making their bylaws compliant and thereby providing access for their residents to flood insurance should they need it. Given all the flooding of this spring, it is even more important than usual that our communities are as prepared as possible for weather-related events.

Broadband News

The state recently launched BroadbandVT.org to serve as a one-stop information resource and interactive tool for Vermonters to stay informed about broadband in Vermont. The public can use the site to learn about news and initiatives, internet speeds and service maps, and read Vermont stories on the blog. This project is a partnership of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI), the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS), the UVM Center for Rural Studies and the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA), and Vermont Telecommunications Providers. Visit <http://www.broadbandvt.org/> to learn more.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is participating in a grant to develop a broadband access plan for the Central Vermont Region. A broadband technology committee has been meeting to determine the needs of the Region. The Technology team is also currently conducting interviews of those employed in the healthcare, education, emergency management, government, media and agricultural sectors to gain additional input. If you would like to be interviewed on your thoughts regarding future uses of broadband, please contact Jennifer at mojo@cvregion.com.

Cultural Facilities Grant Program

The cultural facilities grant program is administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The program awards grants on a competitive basis to assist nonprofit organizations and municipalities to improve community facilities used to provide cultural activities to the public. The purpose of the program is to enhance or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural programming. Grants range from \$1,000 - \$20,000 and require a 1: 1 match (at least 75% of which must be in cash and up to 25% of which may be in well documented in-kind materials and/or labor). The Arts Council will offer cultural facilities grant workshops in September. Details will be posted on the Council's website. Application deadline is Monday, October 3, 2011 for projects taking place between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. For more information, contact: Sonia Rae, Vermont Arts Council 828-5425; (Srae@vermontartscouncil.org) Website: www.vermontartscouncil.org

Historic Barn and Agricultural Buildings Grant Program

Since 1991, a 60/40 matching grant program has been assisting owners of historic agricultural buildings (barns, corn cribs, silos, grist mills, etc.) located in Vermont through the Division for Historic Preservation. The State provides 60% of the grant project funding, up to the award amount, and the grant recipient provides 40%. Grants of up to \$15,000 are awarded by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to assist in the restoration and repair of endangered buildings which can be in private ownership. Historic barns

may qualify whether they are in active agricultural use or non-agricultural use. Eligible work includes restoration and repair of roofs, structural elements, windows, foundations, and other important components of historic agricultural buildings. Application deadline is Monday, November 7, 2011. For more information, contact: Judith Williams Ehrlich, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (828-3049; judith.ehrlich@state.vt.us) Website: www.HistoricVermont.org

Brownfields

Merchant’s Row, Barre City Update: CVRPC continues to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Barre City on the Merchant’s Row redevelopment project. Most recently, an extensive area wide historical assessment and data gap analysis was completed. This purpose of this assessment was to help develop a strategy for a Phase II assessment which will allow for better identification of possible contaminants and their concentrations. For the assessment, Stone Environmental reviewed Manning City Directories, Sanborn Maps, as well as information from the Land use Change Project at UVM to identify historical uses of the Merchants Row area. The Main Street/Merchants Row area was home to liveryes and feed stables, millineres (hat makers), dry cleaners, granite manufacturers, dentists, black smiths, machinists, and print shops. The following graphic shows the historical land uses of the project and adjacent areas.



EPA assessment funding extension – PERFORM YOUR DUE DILIGENCE! – Prior to purchasing a property, one should perform an environmental assessment to determine if there is contamination. CVRPC has received a one year extension of its EPA brownfields assessment funding and has funding available to provide free or reduced cost Phase I/II environmental assessments and clean up action plans. Funding is available for sites which may be contaminated with hazardous materials or petroleum products. Such sites include old gas stations, fuel storage areas, facilities associated with granite storage and production, as well as many others.

Calling all those interested in brownfields redevelopment!

- The CVRPC Brownfields Initiative Committee is looking for new members. Meetings are held once a month on an as needed basis. If you are interested in participating on the Committee or enrolling a property for a free or reduced cost assessment, please contact Jen Mojo at mojo@cvregion.com for more information.



Front Porch Forum

CVRPC has recently signed up with Front Porch Forum (FPF) as a way to better connect with the Region's towns and residents. We are currently using FPF to survey residents about their broadband use and experience. Towns in the Region currently signed up with Front Porch Forum include Moretown, Calais, Worcester and Middlesex. FPF is a moderated weekly digest that can include town government updates, lost and found, meeting schedules, group activity organization etc. More recently, FPF has proved to be a valuable tool for organizing volunteer efforts in towns affected by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. For more information regarding Front Porch Forum or to learn how to enroll your town, please contact Jennifer at mojo@cvregion.com or visit www.frontporchforum.com.

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