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Quarterly Newsletter – Summer
2019

Stormwater Mitigation Construction Takes Off in Summer 2019



This summer Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is in full swing with stormwater construction. Two stormwater mitigation projects are currently underway: one at Union Brook Road and Water Street in Northfield and one on Pouliot Avenue in Barre City. The Northfield project came out of a Village Stormwater Planning effort completed by CVRPC in 2015. With a grant through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), final

design for the Water Street stormwater treatment has been completed and construction is expected to be finished by early August. The treatment practice entails new and replacement stormwater pipes and catch basins along Union Brook Road and an infiltration chamber system installed underground in a Town owned lot along Water Street. This chamber system will reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Dog River by almost 75 percent, which will help Northfield contribute to the state-wide effort of phosphorus loading reduction to Lake Champlain.

The stormwater mitigation project in Barre City entails restoring a gully which was formed by a stormwater outfall at the end of Pouliot Avenue along with overland flow increased from upslope development. The gully is expanding each year and left as is would continue to provide a source of sediment and therefore phosphorus to the Stevens Branch. CVRPC procured funds for Barre City to complete this project through the Vermont Clean Water Block Grant Program. The restoration will involve installing a series of gabion dams (stone and wire baskets), logs, and natural vegetation to slow down stormwater flows and arrest further erosion of the gully. Barre City has advertised a bid for the construction, which is expected to begin in August. The project will stabilize the gully and prevent it from becoming a worsening hazard for the Pouliot Avenue neighborhood along with reducing sediment loading by 65 tons per year and phosphorus loading by 61 pounds per year; making this another significant effort in the region for water quality improvement. Thanks to Barre City, the Vermont DEC, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, Friends of the Winooski River, landowners, and Watershed Consulting Associates for all of their efforts working together with CVRPC and making this important water quality project possible.

Stormwater Master Planning Completed for Eight Central Vermont Towns



CVRPC completed the stormwater master planning process for eight of its member municipalities in the Kingsbury Branch and Mad River Watersheds! Through funding provided by the [Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program](#) at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the CVRPC in partnership with

the Friends of the Mad River retained Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) to complete two Stormwater Master Plans: one for the Kingsbury Branch Watershed including chapters for the towns of Calais, East Montpelier and Woodbury; and one for the Mad River Watershed including chapters for the towns of Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, and Duxbury. WCA created story maps for each of the towns to provide outreach and education on stormwater, solutions to stormwater mitigation using green stormwater infrastructure, and results of the stormwater master planning process. The results include the top five priority sites for each of the eight municipalities, along with 30% engineering designs and site renderings for projects to address water quality issues at these sites. By completing the initial engineering designs for these priority sites, each municipality can focus on securing funds for final engineering designs and project implementation, which will help the state advance goals to reduce phosphorus loading in the Lake Champlain basin.

Click on the following links to see the story maps for each town and their stormwater mitigation priorities:

Mad River Stormwater Master Plans:

[Duxbury SWMP Story Map](#)

[Fayston SWMP Story Map](#)

[Moretown SWMP Story Map](#)

[Waitsfield SWMP Story Map](#)

[Warren SWMP Story Map](#)

Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans:

[Calais SWMP Story Map](#)

[East Montpelier SWMP Story Map](#)

[Woodbury SWMP Story Map](#)

Planning & Zoning Updates

CVRPC recently held a roundtable for municipal planners and zoning administrators focused on the Essentials of Land Use Planning, Act 143 (accessory on-farm businesses), as well as village wastewater solutions to promote infill development.

Clare Rock of CVRPC began the evening with a brief overview of the Essentials of Land Use Planning resources and presentation available for future use.

Stephanie Smith from the Agency of Agriculture, Farms, and Markets (AAFM) followed this

discussion with a presentation on 2018's Act 143, the act that allows farms to operate accessory on-farm businesses. Smith provided an overview of the legislation, the definitions of farms, farming, farm stays, qualifying products, and principal production, as well as the roles of the AAFM, municipality, and farm operator. Attendees expressed some concern over the municipalities without zoning that may be surpassed during State review of these accessory businesses. Discussion continued further into the definitions of a use versus an event, and how performance standards would apply. Upon inquiry, Clare Rock advised she would confer with other RPCs to see if draft zoning amendments suitable for this legislation currently exists.

Lynnette Claudon of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation concluded the night with a presentation on Village Wastewater Solutions. She presented the numbers behind wastewater output from food and beverage industries versus residences, and referenced the opportunity for Vermont villages to utilize decentralized community wastewater systems. She referenced the integration with the planning process, as well as possible support available from the state and case studies from other communities.

Copies of the information presented can be found on our [website](#). CVRPC plans to continue holding Planning and Zoning Roundtables in the future. Please contact Clare Rock at rock@cvregion.com or Zachary Maia at maia@cvregion.com for more information about these events.



Energy Planning in Central Vermont

The State of Vermont has a goal to transition to 90% renewable energy by 2050. The next 31 years will be pivotal, and your municipality can play a major role by adopting an enhanced energy plan. An enhanced energy plan can help you identify opportunities for renewable energy development, understand important natural resources to protect, and leverage community engagement to lead in energy efficiency, development, and fuel-switching.

In 2016, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 174, a law enabling municipalities to adopt enhanced energy plans. An enhanced energy plan is part of the municipal planning process, and requires a higher standard of planning than 24 VSA § 4382. Once approved, a municipality obtains substantial deference under the Public Utility Commission's (PUC) Section 248 process. The plan's language will then be applied as it is written in energy generation siting cases before those sites can obtain their certificate of public good.

Beginning in 2017, CVRPC has been providing assistance to municipalities in drafting these plans. In the first year, Barre Town, Waterbury, and East Montpelier received assistance. In 2018, Barre City, Calais, Marshfield, and Warren received assistance. In 2019, Middlesex, Moretown, Plainfield, Waitsfield and Washington are in the process of drafting their plans. CVRPC has provided energy use and Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning (LEAP) target data to every municipality in the region, making energy planning much more accessible.

In 2018, CVRPC's Regional Plan was amended to include an enhanced energy element, which then was approved by the PUC. As a result, CVRPC's language will be given substantial deference in siting cases in the region before the PUC. CVRPC is also now able to issue determinations of energy compliance to plans within the region.

While many energy plans haven't been incorporated to the municipal plans yet, some municipalities are beginning to adopt them. In 2019, Waterbury submitted their enhanced energy plan along with their Town Plan for review and approval by CVRPC. This plan was approved in July of 2019. CVRPC has also assisted Marshfield and Barre Town in reviewing their draft plans.

This work will continue as part of the Municipal Planning process beyond 2019. It will also continue through CVRPC's collaboration with local energy committees, who are often in charge of implementing the goals and actions of the plans. CVRPC is able to provide support in the form of organizing workshops for residents, holding meetings to review energy data, providing draft language for enhanced energy plans, and more!

Please contact Zachary Maia at maia@cvregion.com for more information about the energy assistance provided by CVRPC.

2020 Municipal Planning Grants

Towns may apply for up to \$22,000; and joint applications from several municipalities (a consortium) may apply for up to \$35,000. A wide range of municipal planning and implementation activities are eligible for funding. Strong grant applications must demonstrate community engagement and buy-in. It is suggested you reach out now to stakeholders and discuss local needs, opportunities and strategies for change.



Eligibility requirements are outlined in the [Program Description](#) and the new [Application Guide](#) provides criteria for successful applications. [Read More »](#)

Application Schedule:

- Online application (GEARS) opens for use: August 1, 2019
- Training videos posted: August 1, 2019
- RPC confirmation of municipal planning process (for eligibility): September 30, 2019
- Application Deadline: September 30 @ 6:00 p.m., 2019
- Award Decisions: Early December 2019

If you have any questions about the Municipal Planning Grants or wish to talk through project ideas, please do not hesitate to contact a staff member at CVRPC (802-229-0389) or Jennifer Lavoie, Jennifer.Lavoie@vermont.gov, at the Department of Housing and Community Development.

CVRPC Bids Farewell

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Jonathan DeLaBruere in early August. Jonathan started at CVRPC in December as an Assistant Planner and has been our point person on Emergency Management; facilitating the Local Emergency Planning Committee, acting as CVRPC's liaison with the Department of Emergency Management; as well as assisting in both our Land Use and Transportation programs. He will be missed and we wish him all the best as he pursues the next chapter of his professional career.



Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Vision, Strategy and Skills for the Future
August 12, 2019 | Vermont Technical College,
Randolph

Join local leaders working to improve life in their communities at the Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2nd Annual VT Community Leadership Summit!

- Follow up on action and progress since the 2018 Summit
- Hear inspiring stories of community success
- Access skills to support community initiatives
- Engage in envisioning the future of Vermont leadership
- Connect to leadership resources

In democracy, all citizens are called upon to lead – where leaders step up, communities achieve great things. Local Citizens Make It Happen!

Registration - Contact the Vermont Council on Rural Development with any questions at info@vtrural.org or 802-223-6091.



Quarter 2 Press Releases – [Read More »](#)

CVRPC Commissioners

Barre City – Janet Shatney
Barre Town – Byron Atwood
Berlin – Robert Wernecke
Cabot – Amy Hornblas
Calais – John Brabant
Duxbury – Alan Quackenbush
East Montpelier – Julie Potter
Fayston – Karl Klein
Marshfield – Robin Schunk
Middlesex – Ron Krauth
Montpelier – Kirby Keeton
Moretown – Dara Torre
Northfield – Laura Hill-Eubanks
Orange – Lee Cattaneo
Plainfield – Bram Towbin
Roxbury – Gerry D’Amico
Waitsfield – Don La Haye
Warren – Alison Duckworth
Washington – Peter Carbee
Williamstown – Richard Turner
Woodbury – Michael Gray

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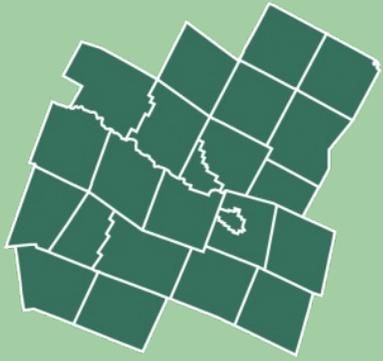
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