Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Staff Report, December 2015

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Regional Plan Update:

<u>2008 Regional Plan Amendments</u>: Amendments to the 2008 Economic Element, Utilities, Facilities & Services Element, Land Use Element, and the new Future Land Use Map are now in effect. The 2008 Regional Plan as amended may be viewed on the CVRPC website. Contact Gail Aloisio, <u>aloisio@cvregion.com</u>.

<u>2016 Plan Central Vermont:</u> Upcoming work will focus on energy, land use and substantial regional impact, compatibility with neighboring regions, and a plan implementation strategy. The Transportation element was accepted by Commissioners in November; the Housing element will be reviewed by the Commission in December. CVRPC's VISTA volunteer, Marian Wolz, is developing a public engagement strategy for the Energy Element and the finalized Plan. It is anticipated that the Energy element will have a strong presence on issues related to renewable resources, such as wind, solar, and biomass. Contact Eric Vorwald, <u>vorwald@cvregion.com</u>.

Municipal Technical Assistance: Staff provided assistance to Plainfield with issues related to phosphorus loading and storm water management; a pending grant application would assist the Town. Staff reviewed an amendment to the Town and Village of Waterbury bylaws that would amend parts of the Campus and Downtown Area Zoning and which primarily impacts the State Office Complex location. Staff participated in an extended Mad River Valley stormwater working group. This five town effort funded by the High Meadows Fund joins Duxbury and Moretown to the Valley's watershed planning efforts and will examine how the towns might work together and independently to improve flood resiliency.

Emergency Planning: Staff worked with Barre City and Plainfield on home buyout applications to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Barre City's three home buyouts were awarded funds. Staff provided administrative and organizational support to the LEPC 5.

CVRPC will continue to promote and encourage training in our Region for all first responders in an effort to meet the requirements of DEMHS to have all first responders trained in ICS 100 and ICS 200. The DEMHS Training & Exercise calendar is available at http://vem.vermont.gov/event. Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): CVRPC will be assisting nine communities with updates to Local Hazard Mitigation Plans: **Barre Town, Barre City, Cabot, Fayston, Middlesex, Northfield, Orange, Roxbury and Worcester**. These effort will include a plan update and completion of the Community Rating System's "Quick –Check," and a vulnerability assessment. Contact Laura Ranker, ranker@cvregion.com.

Transportation Planning Initiative: Staff completed traffic counts in Waitsfield, Barre Town, and Woodbury, set up counters in Barre City and Barre Town, and worked on Moretown's culvert inventory. The TAC held a public meeting for the Transportation Board. Staff attended a coordination meeting with Vermont Emergency Management, VTrans, and the Agency of Natural Resources. Staff attended a meeting of the Regional Elderly and Disabled Committee. Staff is participating in Board and Committee meetings of GMTA. With the merger of CCTA and GMTA several years ago and a new General Manager last year, the organization is slimming down, targeting services, and rebranding itself into one entity. Look for the new *Green Mountain Transit* roll out in summer 2016.

GIS/Fluvial Erosion Hazard: Staff completed the inventory of sewer manholes for Barre Town, developed maps for East Montpelier, continued work on Worcester's parcel mapping update and Cabot's parcel data, and provided map layers of natural resources for the Warren Planning Commission. Staff also met with the VT Geologic Survey to discuss Central Vermont data for landslides and mass failures. Staff assisted Waterbury with a "quick check" for the Community Rating System and discussed green infrastructure options with Plainfield's Wastewater Committee.

Brownfields: CVRPC is gearing up its Brownfields Program to accept applications for assistance. Staff has met with owners and developers about potential sites in five communities. Staff is also revitalizing the program's Advisory Committee. Contact Gail Aloisio, Aloisio@cvregion.com.

Water Quality: Staff has been meeting with regional and state partners in advance of the Winooski Basin Plan update. The State's new basin planning process is aimed at developing a more strategic document focused on implementation actions to achieve water quality targets. The Winooski Plan is schedule for update in 2017. In the upcoming year, staff will assist at least four communities with road erosion assessments and gearing up for new water quality requirements related to local roads, stormwater, and wastewater. To date, CVRPC has assisted 65% of its member communities complete erosion assessments, and municipalities have begun addressing problem sites.

Wrightsville Beach Recreation District: Staff provides administrative, fiscal, and technical assistance to the District. The beach and park are now closed for the 2015 season. The website for Wrightsville Beach has photos of the shelters and amenities; visit www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com. It's never too early to make reservations for summer 2016!

Project Review Committee: CVRPC reviews development requiring an Act 250 permit or Section 248 Certificate of Public Good for conformance with the Regional Plan. Act 250 applications being reviewed include: an amendment to the Waterbury State Office Complex regarding grading and lighting. Contaminated soils were identified in several areas of the project site and the proposed amendment includes on-site remediation of the soils. A Section 248 application has been filed regarding a solar installation in Williamstown.

Remember to visit CVRPC's web site at <u>www.centralvtplanning.org</u> to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.