

Communication/Outreach: CVRPC has a Facebook page and a Twitter page to enhance communication with towns, partnering organizations, and the public. "Like" CVRPC's page on Facebook and "follow us" on Twitter to receive updates regarding events, meetings, success stories, programs and other activities. Find us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/centralvtplanning>. Find us on Twitter! <http://www.twitter.com/centralvtplan>.

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery: Community Development funds continue to be available to assist with disaster recovery from the spring and summer 2011 and 2012 flooding events that received a Presidential Declaration. Projects for which funding is available have to be directly related to flood damage and must have a documented un-met need. Contact CVRPC for assistance with determining if your project is eligible and with the application process. Staff continued to work with Plainfield, Warren, Northfield, and Roxbury to provide technical assistance with the application process. Staff participated in meetings of the Waterbury flood working group.

Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD): Staff continues to provide technical, administrative, and bookkeeping assistance to the District (Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren). Technical assistance to the three Towns is ongoing, as is data gathering for evaluating the impacts of development, and assistance with flood resilience. Staff attends the monthly meetings of the Planning District Steering Committee.

Mad River Resource Management Alliance: Staff continues its work with the Alliance (which includes the Towns of Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Northfield, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Warren, and Waterbury). Please contact John Malter at 244-7373 or malterport@aol.com for more information.

Transportation Planning Initiative: Staff is updating the transportation section of the Regional Plan working on the Air, Freight, Bicycle and Pedestrian sections. Staff is participating on a committee that is developing updated culvert standards. Staff is assisting the Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, Waterbury, and Middlesex with their byway work. Staff continues to work on the Central Vermont Regional Path with Berlin, Barre City, Barre Town, and Montpelier. An updated status map is available. Staff did traffic counts in Waitsfield. Work has begun on the Berlin US Route 302 bike and pedestrian plan. Public meetings have been held, and a youtube video on the road diet VTTrans plans to try next summer is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS7zEg_Y8kI&list=UUKnAQcn3p5ePl3ezFJJashg.

Consultants are working with Cabot, Calais, and East Montpelier on a road maintenance activity program, Orange ditch inventory, and a study on flood resiliency and impacts on the transportation network. Staff assisted the Cross Vermont Trail Association with mapping and data.

Transportation Technical Assistance: Staff continues to provide technical assistance on transportation related issues. Contact Steve Gladczuk at CVRPC for assistance with special transportation studies and technical assistance that may be needed in your community and are within the scope of work of the transportation contract with the Agency of Transportation. Municipal officials that would like to have bicycle/pedestrian, vehicle volume, speed, or classification studies done for their towns can contact CVRPC staff for assistance.

VT Economic Resiliency Initiative (VERI): Staff continued to identify economic assets, commercial zones within the study area (Barre City and Barre Town along Gunners Brook), gathered data on local businesses, identified opportunities to raise awareness/do outreach about the project, and participated in site visits along the Gunners Brook with municipal representatives and the consultant.

GIS/FEH: Updated and/or developed the following: Duxbury parcel map, Plainfield Village designation map, road maps for Barre Town, Duxbury, Northfield/Roxbury, and Plainfield, Natural Resource map for the Regional Plan, provided GIS training to Friends of the Mad River staff, provided GIS assistance to Northfield, Waterbury, Plainfield, Cabot, Calais and Montpelier, and attended the flight of Plainfield Village. Staff continues to update the CVRPC web site, www.centralvtplanning.org, where you can read the latest planning news on our blog, and maintains the IT network. You can [Find us on Facebook!](#) and [Find us on Twitter!](#)

Regional Plan Update: *Regional Plan Update:* *Plan Central Vermont* will take up a variety of issues between now and 2016 to build a more sustainable and engaged Region. The Natural Resources working group concluded its review of the Natural Resources and Environment profile, the draft Key Challenges and Trends document, and the Goals, Policies and Strategies for the element at their December 17 meeting. The Regional Plan Draft Review committee continued to discuss these documents at their meeting on January 6.



The Health and Community working group had their second meeting on January 8. The meeting focused discussion on the Healthy Communities element, with an emphasis on narrowing the focus of the chapter and drafting key challenges and trends. The draft goals for Health and Community were approved by Regional Plan Draft Review committee at their meeting on December 2. We are still in need of a CVRPC

Commissioner to join the Health and Community working group. Contact Emily Nosse-Leirer at nosse-leirer@cvregion.com to sign up. Upcoming meeting information and meeting summaries can be found here: <http://plancentralvermont.org/news-events/>.

Brownfields: Staff submitted an application for the EPA's Brownfield Assessment Grant program on December 19. A brownfield is "a former commercial or industrial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination." If the grant application is successful, these funds will provide for the evaluation of eligible brownfields in the Region. By completing this application, CVRPC is already working to achieve one of the Strong and Diverse Economy strategies of the Regional Plan: "Maintain inventory and support the reclamation and redevelopment of blighted, contaminated or potentially contaminated sites (i.e. "brownfields"). Continue to actively seek funds to facilitate this effort."

Wrightsville Beach Recreation District: Staff provides administrative, fiscal, and technical assistance to the District. The beach and park facilities include hiking trails, a ball field, 18 hole disc golf, grills, picnic tables, as well as two picnic shelters that can be rented, and of course, swimming, canoeing, and kayaking. If you want to rent one of the picnic shelters for your birthday, reunion or other event, it is best to do so early (Yes, even now for next season!); contact Laurie Emery at 229-0389 or emery@cvregion.com. The website for Wrightsville Beach has photos of the shelters and amenities; take a look at www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com.

Enhanced Consultation: If your community is in the process of revising its town plan or is planning to do so in the near future, now is the time to have us assist. Staff will provide local officials with recommendations on how their plan is or is not consistent with the State planning goals and how the town can make "substantial progress" toward meeting those goals as outlined in 24 VSA Chapter 117. For more information, please contact Kim McKee at Mckee@cvregion.com.

DEMHS/Emergency Planning/Hazard Mitigation Funding: If your community has not yet submitted a Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP), please do so immediately or request assistance from CVRPC as the new ERAF rule went into effect on Oct. 23. Staff assisted the State Emergency Operations Center with local liaison reporting and damage assessment inquiries on Dec. 11-12 and 16-17 following a winter storm event. Staff also attended a site visit and researched mitigation and brownfield funding strategies for a flood mitigation project in Woodbury Village.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Twenty towns have received final FEMA approval of their local hazard mitigation plans (LHMP). The Montpelier LHMP received Approval Pending Adoption from FEMA in December. Staff made revisions to Marshfield LHMP and circulated a draft to the Village Trustees. If your community is interested in technical assistance from CVRPC, please contact Kim McKee at mckee@cvregion.com.

Flood Resilience/Flood Hazard Area Regulations: Staff continues to assist municipalities with Flood Hazard Area and Fluvial Erosion Hazard bylaw adoption processes, as well as impacts from flooding and planning for flood resilience. Staff attended a training and began reviewing the newly released VT DEC statewide River Corridor

maps available at: <http://floodready.vermont.gov/> Staff corresponded with PC members in the Town of East Montpelier in coordinating the map adjustment process for the newly released River Corridor. For assistance with developing your town's flood resilience element, please contact Kim McKee at mckee@cvregion.com.

Community Survey Assistance: If your community is interested in learning more about digital survey services offered through CVRPC, please contact CVRPC at mckee@cvregion.com.

Forest Stewardship: Staff continues this work in partnership with the Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as well as four other regional planning commissions. The RPC's are developing tools that can be used to address priority forest landscapes. The project will enable landowners and local officials to access and better understand the data which can then be applied to management situations. Staff reviewed town plans and regulations in Northfield and Duxbury. Please contact Dan Currier at currier@cvregion.com with questions and to get involved in the project.

Town Plan Review: Staff held a consultation with and distributed resources to the Warren Planning Commission on Dec. 10 regarding their Town Plan update. Staff scheduled a Jan. 15 consultation with the Williamstown Planning Commission regarding their Town Plan update.

Town Technical Assistance: Staff assisted the Town of Berlin with a request for proposals regarding a recently awarded Municipal Planning Grant, provided a support letter to Barre City/Barre Area Development regarding a planning grant, and assisted the Town of Cabot with a telecommunications tower continuity of operations inquiry. Staff also assisted Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District with a potential site inventory for a future facility.

Green Mountain Byway: Staff continued to provide assistance and revisions to the design of a Cultural & Historic Resources brochure.

Healthy Community Design/Food Systems Planning: Staff will be hosting a Central Vermont Food Systems Council meeting on Jan. 6 to plan for a Feb. 2015 workshop on Local Food System Planning. If interested in participating, please contact Kim McKee at mckee@cvregion.com.

Project Review: Act 250/Section 248 Applications received – Waterbury: Renovation of the Hunger Mountain Children's Care Center facility including connecting the two buildings, adding an elevator/lift for access to upper floors, and improving the outbuilding for on-site storage and use as outdoor covered space for children. **Fayston:** 45-day notice from VTel to construct a wireless telecommunications facility at 247 High Country Road. Cabot: Petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mobility to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility at 352 Bolton Road.

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