

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>.



Regional Plan Update: The RPDRC met on 2/17/15 at CVRPC offices to finalize the Environment and Natural Resources profile and goals, policies and strategies. The RPDRC also discussed the Future Land Use map and started to review the Utilities & Facilities element. To view the meeting summary, click here:

<http://plancentralvermont.org/event/regional-plan-draft-review-committee-february-17/>.

The next meeting will be held on 3/9/15 from noon-12pm at Capstone Community Action's offices in Barre to discuss the Future Land Use map. Peter Gregory, Executive Director of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission will be joining to offer insights on the Future Land Use map's statutory role and how it is applied in practice. Any Commissioners interested in attending are welcome and chili and cornbread will be served. RSVP to Kim at mckee@cvregion.com.

Environment and Natural Resources: Revisions to the Environment and Natural Resources element per discussion at the 2/10/15 Commission meeting and 2/17/15 Draft Review Committee meeting have been circulated. Review and approval of the final element is on the agenda for the 3/10/15 Commission meeting. A two-page summary of the element will be available soon. To view the draft element, click here:

<http://plancentralvermont.org/the-plan/environment/#regionalprofile>

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 and Freight sections. Staff is participating on a committee that is developing updated culvert standards and presented on the methodology for selecting town roads by importance. 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, as well as park and ride lot surveys. Work continues on the Berlin US Route 302 bike and pedestrian plan. 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. The TAC will begin prioritizing road and bridge projects.

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. The second public forum is being organized with local officials having been queried for a suitable date and time.

GIS/FEH: Updated and/or developed the following: draft future land use map for the Regional Plan, updated town zoning maps, provided updated parcel data to VCGI, developed a map of open land in the floodplain for Waterbury with the parcels broken out by ownership, updated Orange and Duxbury parcel maps, assisted Montpelier with use of GIS, participated in a meeting on development of a statewide parcel map, participated in GIS training at the State Emergency Operations Center, assisted the Town of Marshfield with a Town forest map, and met with the Town of Northfield on their storm water projects. 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!](#)

Brownfields: Staff continues to be involved in the redevelopment of brownfields in Central Vermont by serving on the steering committee for the Northfield area wide brownfields planning process. This staff participation fits with one of *Plan Central Vermont's* strategies for a Strong and Diverse Economy: "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 the coming 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.

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 and has attended a regional meeting to discuss the next steps of the project. Please contact Dan Currier at currier@cvregion.com with questions and to get involved in the project.

DEMHS/Emergency Planning/Hazard Mitigation Funding: Staff held LEOP meetings with East Montpelier, Calais, Berlin, and Roxbury and assisted Marshfield in the successful submission of their 2014 LEOP to DEMHS. Staff attended debriefing meetings for declared winter severe storm for December 9-12, 2014 (DR 4207) in anticipation of assisting eligible municipalities with public assistance grants (75% Federal funds). March 5 is the deadline to submit the RPA (Request for Public Assistance) to Kimberly Canarecci, Public Assistance Officer at

DEMHS at Kim.Canarecci@state.vt.us. Staff provided organizational and administrative support to LEPC #5 for their March 2 meeting. Staff provided outreach to EMD and town officials on training opportunities and the ice jam/flood summits occurring in early March and sponsored by DEMHS. Notification was sent to municipalities of rule changes for the 2015 LEOP's. It is time to update and renew the town's LEOP; May 1 is the deadline for submittal. Contact Laura Ranker for assistance with updating and submitting the LEOP and with specific training needs for your community's EMD/EMC. ranker@cvregion.com

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Twenty towns have received final FEMA approval of their local hazard mitigation plans (LHMP). Staff resubmitted the Calais LHMP to FEMA for approval and will be starting work on Waitsfield's LHMP update next. 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 will be co-presenting two trainings regarding "What Real Estate Agents need to know about Flood Risk, the National Flood Insurance Program and Hazard Disclosure," with VT DEC staff and Vermont Realtors on April 11 in Montpelier and Waterbury. Staff has been working with partners to develop a grant proposal to fund activities of a 5-town partnership in the Winooski watershed (including Moretown, Duxbury and Waterbury) and facilitated a team meeting on Feb. 25. Staff also attended VT Council on Rural Development's Creating Prosperity and Opportunity Confronting Climate Change summit in Randolph on Feb. 18. For assistance with developing your town's flood resilience element, please contact Kim McKee at mckee@cvregion.com.

Town Technical Assistance: Staff scheduled and attended a village tour and subsequent planning commission meeting in Williamstown with the Department of Housing and Community Development's Village Center Program Coordinator to discuss an application and next steps. Staff provided Williamstown with a data update for the 2015 Town Plan. Staff also assisted the Towns of Cabot and Fayston with zoning inquiries, provided a letter of support for the Town of Berlin's FEMA buy-out reuse effort, and attended a consultant selection meeting for Berlin's Municipal Planning Grant-funded subdivision/zoning update.

Fayston: The Town of Fayston requested regional approval of its 2014 Town Plan and confirmation of its planning process. The Town Plan Review Committee is scheduled to meet March 5 at 4:00 p.m. to formulate a recommendation which will be presented to the full Commission on March 10.

Green Mountain Byway: Staff continues to coordinate content gathering and revisions for a new Green Mountain Byway web site to be developed by Stowe Area Association and launched at the end of May 2015.

Healthy Community Design/Food Systems Planning: With the Central Vermont Food System Council (CVFSC), staff coordinated a Feb. 12 workshop: *Sustaining Farms and Food in Your Community: Local action to grow farms, farmers and town food plans* held at Montpelier High School. Over 30 farmers, food processors, planners, advocates, home gardeners, and consumers attended the event to network, share food served by NECI, and hear featured panelists from the Waterbury-Duxbury Food Council, Cabot Agricultural Network, and Farm-to-Plate Ag Land Use Planning Task Force. CVFSC will next be working with the Northeast Organic Farmers Association-VT to plan an April 11 event in a Barre location that will promote direct farm markets in the Region, including farmer's markets, farm stands, and summer/winter CSAs.

Project Review: Act 250/Section 248 Applications received – Cabot: 45-day pre-filing notice for construction of a 90' monopole wireless telecommunications facility at 185 Thistle Hill Rd. **Calais:** 45-day pre-filing notice for construction of a 120' monopole wireless telecommunications facility at 1056 Bayne Comolli Road. **Moretown:** Construction of approximately 5,215 ft of single-phase electrical distribution line along and adjacent to Brownsville Road (also known as Jacob Road). **Montpelier:** Construction of a multi use pathway between Granite Street and the Montpelier Civic Center on Gallison Hill Road. The path will consist of a combination of widened shoulder/bike lanes, shared use and 10-ft paved, on a new alignment. **Barre Town:** Installation and operation of a 500kW solar electric generation facility on 4 acres on Morrison Rd.

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