Weekly News Roundup
May 25, 2020 - May 29, 2020

Upcoming Events

Public Meeting - Draft 2020 Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan
Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 - 7:15
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Basin 14 Watershed Planner will host a virtual meeting to gather feedback on the draft plan. The public is encouraged to attend the online meeting, hear a presentation, and offer comments and suggestions. The public meeting will go live from 5:30 to 7:15PM, and the presentation will begin promptly at 5:45PM.

Link for meeting. A call-in option is available for those without computer audio or internet service: 802-828-7667 | Conference ID: 802126424#.

Open Meeting Law Compliance Amid COVID-19 Webinar
Wednesday, June 3, @ 2 PM
Led by VLCT Staff Attorney Susan Senning, this one-hour training will cover the basic requirements of the Open Meeting Law, note the temporary changes in Act 92, and provide guidance and resources to ensure compliance during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency. Register here.

New Tools for Sustainable Forest-Based Recreation Webinar
Tuesday, June 2, 10 a.m.
Vermont’s Urban & Community Forestry Program has developed a Town Forest Recreation Planning Toolkit to support all Vermont communities in sustainable, forest-based recreation planning in town forests. This webinar will explore the community planning process and the toolkit in depth. Be prepared to become inspired and ready to engage in town forest recreation planning! Register here!

Trails and Wildlife Webinar
Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m.
A new mapping tool and guide called Trails for People and Wildlife aims to encourage people to get outside and enjoy nature while allowing wildlife to thrive. Intended for landowners, conservation groups, and natural resource professionals, the objective of Trails for People and Wildlife is to help facilitate the placement of thoughtfully located networks of well-maintained trails. Register here!

Community News

Emerald Ash Borer Update
The EAB Flight Season Starts on June 1st and continues until September 30th. This is the time when EAB emerge from ash trees and infested and untreated ash wood products, such as ash firewood, and seek new host trees and a mate. Without due care, anyone can inadvertently spread EAB to uninfested areas. By following the “Slow the Spread” recommendations consulting foresters, loggers, landowners, utilities, purchasers of ash forest products, and others, can responsibly move ash wood products and limit the rate of human-caused spread. Help slow the spread of EAB by following and sharing these recommendations as there is a high risk of spreading EAB at any time of year if ash firewood is delivered for use as homeowner firewood outside the infested area, whether it is log-length or split but not heat treated.

Draft 2020 Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan Release

The Draft 2020 Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan was officially released for public comment last week. Read more in this press release and summary handout. You can view the entire draft on the Basin 14 webpage. The plan will be available for public comment on May 18, 2020 through June 19, 2020. A paper copy can be requested from Danielle Owczarski by email or phone: Danielle.Owczarski@vermont.gov (802) 490-6176. Comments should be directed by email: anr.basin14comments@vermont.gov or by mail to Danielle Owczarski, Basin 14 Comments, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 3, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Berlin I-89 Bridge Deck Replacements

Work installing protective measures on the underside of Bridge 38 located at the Exit 7 on ramp is scheduled to be completed early in the week of 6/1. Motorists can expect flaggers onsite to help with the flow of traffic and to help keep traffic at appropriate speeds within active construction activities. Short periods of stoppages will occur in order for the contractor to move equipment and materials in and out of the construction zone.

Work on the interstate building the crossovers is scheduled for completion this week. Crossovers are scheduled to be paved on Monday, 6/1 weather and surface conditions permitting.

The installation of concrete barriers on the interstate is scheduled for Wednesday, 6/3. Once installation of the barriers has been completed, and all necessary traffic control measures are in place, the crossovers will be opened, and Northbound traffic will crossover to the Southbound side of the interstate within the project area. The crossovers may be activated as early as Thursday, 6/4. An update will be issued prior to the opening of the crossovers.

Shoulder widths within the Southbound area of travel will be narrow, and motorists are advised to observe speed limits and use caution when driving through the project area.

COVID 19 Updates

Pandemic EBT

P-EBT is a new resource available to families with school-aged kids who have been impacted by the current school closure. P-EBT provides money to purchase groceries to families with kids who would be accessing free school meals if school wasn’t closed.

Many families have already been notified that they qualify and will be receiving P-EBT soon. Households already enrolled in 3SquaresVT will have P-EBT loaded on the card they already have. Other households will get an EBT card in the mail, similar to a debit card, that can be used at most food retailers. The following links provide additional information: Pandemic EBT, FaceBook

FEMA Meal Boxes

The Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont National Guard will be at the Edward F. Knapp State Airport at 1979 Airport Rd. in Berlin on Thursday, 6/4, 10AM-2PM distributing FEMA meal boxes, along with produce, chicken, and dairy products provided by the Abbey Group while supplies last.
Anyone is welcome to come pickup food. For more details, visit: [https://www.vtfoodbank.org/event/farmers-to-families-food-box-distribution-berlin](https://www.vtfoodbank.org/event/farmers-to-families-food-box-distribution-berlin).

**News from CVRPC**

**CVRPC Municipal Updates** are available on our website with COVID-19 resources. Check back often as they are updated every few days.

If your community has a need, we can assist you with, please contact us at [CVRPC@cvregion.com](mailto:CVRPC@cvregion.com) - Stay Safe!

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**Upcoming Meetings**

*Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings*

**JUNE**

- June 1 3 pm Executive Committee Meeting, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
- June 2 9 am VEM Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop, via technology
- June 9 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
- June 11 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
- June 15 3 pm Executive Committee Special Meeting, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
- June 18 7 pm Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, via technology
- June 23 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee - TBD
- June 25 4 pm Project Review Committee - TBD