

Weekly News Roundup December 4, 2020

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Upcoming Events

Updating Your Town Plan for Forest Integrity (Act 171)

December 7, 2020 | 1:00pm-2:00pm

Since January 1st, 2018, towns and Regional Planning Commissions are required to identify forest blocks and habitat connectors, as well as plan for development in those places in ways that minimize forest fragmentation. This requirement asks towns to look at the larger patterns of forests and dive into the science of what is known about connectivity in their region at multiple scales. Some of the data involved is immediately actionable, but some of the models warrant caution and additional research. Tune in to hear how VT Fish & Wildlife Department can help your town interpret available data and translate it into actionable planning and policy. [Register Here](#)

Presenters: Jens Hilke & Andy Wood



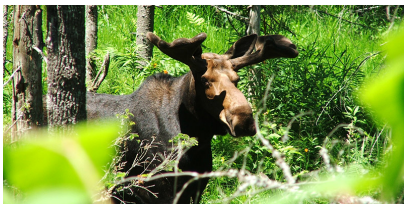
Calais Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Meeting #3

December 10, 2020 | 12:00 pm

The Town of Calais is beginning the process of updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. LHMPs enable towns to qualify for grant funds, and they make our communities safer. The third Calais Hazard Mitigation planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10. The focus of the meeting will be to further discuss a preliminary list of hazards for assessment.

The meeting is open to all interested community members. The meeting can be accessed by computer using the following link (<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/124535125>) or by phone: +1 (408) 650-3123) using the following Access Code (124-535-125).

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans identify mitigation strategies and actions to reduce damage from foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards. For more information, please contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com



Wildlife on the Move: Protecting Landscape Connections One Parcel at A Time

Dec 15, 2020 | 12 pm - Vermont Land Trust Webinar

Vermont is very important to animals such as bear, moose and bobcat. These animals need large, undeveloped areas to survive. Vermont's forests and mountains link wildlife habitat

between New York, New England, and Canada. Climate change, invasive species, roads, and development are all threats. Many people are working hard to protect wildlife corridors—or undeveloped, natural landscapes—so these animals can survive, and thrive. Explore these corridors and the threats facing animals. Take a closer look at the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor in Waterbury and Stowe. Hundreds of acres have been conserved there in the last two years. This free webinar is perfect for those interested in learning more about wildlife and conservation.

[Registration](#) (photo credit: Vermont Land Trust)

AOT Virtual Town Hall

December 17, 2020 | 4:00 - 5:30pm

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) invites the public to participate in a virtual Town Hall to help update the Vermont State **Rail** and **Freight** Plans. This Town Hall will help narrow in on recommendations for the Rail Plan. [Join here.](#)

Community News

VTrans 2021 External Research Projects

Do you have an idea for a research project that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) should consider? Every year, VTrans funds 2-4 external research projects and the submittal process is open to everyone. Project ideas must be submitted by December 18, 2020 for consideration in the 2021 program. To move forward, research ideas must be matched with a VTrans Technical Staff Champion who understands the value of the research and the benefit to the Agency. To submit your research idea, complete **this form** before December 18th.

VTrans is also developing a Qualified Researcher List. To generate this list VTrans will release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), open to all interested entities, by early December 2020. Organizations on the Qualified Researcher List will receive Problem Statements in January 2021 generated by the VTrans Technical Staff Champions that are matched to the submitted research project ideas. Research teams interested in responding to a specific research project will submit two page Letters of Interest by the end of January.

For questions regarding these programs, contact Emily.Parkany@vermont.gov.

New VT DEC Stormwater General Permit 3-9050 In Effect 12/1/2020

All applications for an operational stormwater permit for new development, redevelopment, permit renewal, or for "three-acre sites" received on or after 12/1/20 must be under General Permit 3-9050. DEC is in the process of updating their website and application forms. They hope to have the 3-9050 Notice of Intent forms available by 12/1/20 but expect there may be some glitches and delays as the new system is launched. Your patience is appreciated as they make this transition. If you have any questions concerning General Permit 3-9050 and its applicability to any of your projects please contact the Stormwater Program staff for the region in which your project is located. <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/contacts> Information on General Permit 3-9050 is available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/9050>

Stowe and Waterbury Roadway Repaving Projects

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has completed the majority of work for the Stowe and Waterbury Repaving Projects. In the Spring, crews will return to complete final line striping touch-ups. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey about the projects. Your responses will help guide future construction planning. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey! Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

COVID 19 Updates

Farmers to Families Extended

The USDA has extended the Farmers to Families program through the end of the year! This may be the final months of distribution for the Farmers to Families program. Distributions will take place weekdays throughout the state beginning November 16th and ending after December 31st.

To keep wait times to a minimum, reservations will be required for the distributions. To register and see the dates and locations (updated weekly), please visit <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/food-help> or call 802-476-0316 for assistance.



VCRD - The Vermont Proposition

The Vermont Proposition is a conceptual framework for our state's future. This first draft of the Proposition has been built based on dozens of personal interviews; inputs from local, regional, and statewide COVID recovery convenings; and ideas from partners, policy councils and the tens of thousands of people who have engaged with us to set and advance action to improve life in their communities. [Learn More](#) and share your input and ideas by taking their current [Survey](#)

Central Vermont Pop-Up Testing

Due to increased COVID-19 activity in central Vermont, further expanded testing has been planned for the region for the next several weeks ([dates and locations here](#)). If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing- to schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310. Pre-registration is required here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

Continuity of Operations Plans and Mutual Aid Agreements between Municipalities

To facilitate emergency planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as winter approaches, road and maintenance crews are encouraged to:

- Review and/or update mutual aid agreements and continuity of operations plans (COOP) as a way to share resources and or services with other municipality. VEM and VLCT have templates available at the links below (these are written to accommodate a wide range of situations, so please customize for your municipality).
 - o <https://www.vlct.org/resource/mutual-aid-agreement-between-municipalities-sample>
 - o <https://vem.vermont.gov/news/continuity-operations-plan-template-local-communities>
 - Research and establish private contracts that can assist in road clearing, especially if crews may have to quarantine or are sick
 - Pre-identify and prioritize routes for emergency access that should be cleared first.
- Please contact CVRPC for assistance at vinson@cvregion.com

Department of Public Service: Arrearage Assistance to Municipal Water and Sewer/Wastewater Departments, Community Water Systems, Fire Districts

The VT COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program (VCAAP) is providing assistance with past-due bills from an expanded list of water and wastewater (sewer) utilities. In addition to helping out with past-due electric, landline telephone, private water company, and Vermont Gas bills, consumers can now also apply to VCAAP for assistance with their delinquent water and sewer/wastewater charges. The expanded list of utility bills that VCAAP can help with now includes municipal water and sewer/wastewater departments, community water systems, fire districts, and other systems that provide water and sewer/wastewater services to consumers.

As with other regulated utility charges, those eligible for funding under the VCAAP must be at least 60 days in arrears. Consumers will also need to attest to financial hardship due to COVID-related loss of income. Consumers will not need to upload a water and sewer/wastewater bill with the application. Applications are open through December 15, 2020. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Department's Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program webpage](#).

News from CVRPC

The status of many municipal offices has changed in recent days - please see our [Municipal Status](#) chart for the latest information (in red). If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at CVRPC@cvregion.com. Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

Local Government Expense Reimbursement Program: December 11 Documentation Deadline

To avoid denial of reimbursement, LGER applicants must ensure documentation for all expenditures is submitted to tax.MuniGrants@vermont.gov by end-of-day on December 11, 2020. Please consult the [reimbursement instructions](#) and utilize the [Reimbursement Request Form](#) posted at <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants/lger-grant>. Contact vinson@cvregion.com or tax.MuniGrants@vermont.gov with any questions.

Upcoming Meetings

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

DECEMBER

Dec 10 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Dec 15 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Dec 17 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Dec 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Dec 25 Christmas Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

JANUARY

Jan 1 New Year's Day Holiday - CVRPC Office closed
Jan 4 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 4 6:30 pm Local Emergency Planning Committee #5, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 12 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 14 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 18 Martin Luther King Holiday - CVRPC Office closed
Jan 20 9 am Green Mountain Byways Steering Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 26 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Jan 28 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

STAY CONNECTED

