



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

### *Remote Participation via GoToMeetings<sup>1</sup>*

Join via computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/552444045>

Dial in via phone<sup>2</sup>: (872) 240-3212; Access Code: 552-444-045

Download the app at least 5 minutes before the meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/552444045>

### Page **AGENDA**

- |    |                         |   |
|----|-------------------------|---|
|    | <b>6:30<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>Adjustments to the Agenda</b>  |
|    |                         | <b>Public Comments</b>  |
| 2  | <b>6:35</b>             | <b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and Workforce Development</b> , Penny Chamberlain, Director/Principal, Central Vermont Career Center (enclosed)<br>Overview of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century education, its role in workforce development, and re-envisioning the Career Center. |
| 6  | <b>7:15</b>             | <b>USDA Grant Application</b> (enclosed) <sup>4</sup><br>Authorize Chair to sign resolution approving application and document signing.   |
| 7  | <b>7:25</b>             | <b>Draft Clean Water Service Provider Rule</b> , Grace Vinson, Planner (enclosed) <sup>4</sup><br>Approve CVRPC comments on the Rule.   |
| 16 | <b>7:40</b>             | <b>Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2021</b> (enclosed) <sup>4</sup>   |
| 20 | <b>7:45</b>             | <b>Reports</b> (enclosed)<br>Update/questions on Staff and Committee Reports.   |
|    | <b>8:00</b>             | <b>Adjournment</b>  |

**Next Meeting: March 9, 2021**

<sup>1</sup> Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or [chartrand@cvregion.com](mailto:chartrand@cvregion.com) at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

<sup>2</sup> Dial-in numbers are toll numbers. Fees may be charged dependent on your phone service.

<sup>3</sup> Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.



## MEMO

Date: January 25, 2021  
To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director  
Re: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Development presentation

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➔ **ACTION REQUESTED:** Prior to the Commission meeting, review two videos on the *Re-Envisioning* CVCC webpage at <https://cvtcc.org/cvcc--reenvisioning-team.html>. Each video is ~ 2 minutes long.

### Presentation Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to develop a common understanding of education and vocational training in advance of the upcoming Regional Plan update. State planning goals direct municipalities and regions “To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters” (24 V.S.A. § 4302(3)). This is to be accomplished through coordinated land use planning. Commissioners are requested to consider how municipal and regional planning might assist to further access to educational and vocational training (see Relationship to Regional Plan). What tools and skills can CVRPC use to assist the region and municipalities with meeting this goal?

Recommended websites to review in advance of the presentation:

- Central Vermont Career Center: [cvtcc.org](http://cvtcc.org)
- Vermont Career & Technical Education: [vtcte.org](http://vtcte.org)

The Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC) presentation team includes:

- Penny Chamberlain, Director/Principal
- Scott Griggs, Assistant Director
- Clifton Long, Plumbing and Heating Instructor

### Background

CTE is the acronym for Career and Technical Education, a learning approach that involves hands-on real-world training in a variety of career paths and concentrations.

Vermont's regional technical centers are public schools and high school students can attend at no cost to the student. In addition, under Vermont law, adults who do not have high school diplomas and adults who have GEDs can also attend at no cost to them, if space is available. Technical career centers also offer adult education courses for members of the community for career preparation or advancement, certification, or personal enrichment

CTE programs offer students a range of opportunities, including the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials, college credits through the Vermont Fast Forward Dual Enrollment initiative, articulation agreements with colleges in Vermont and throughout the Northeast, and paid, professional work-based learning experience

The Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC) is part of the Barre Unified Union School District. It programs of study include automotive technology, baking and culinary arts, building trades, co-op education, cosmetology, digital media arts, electrical technology, emergency services, exploratory technology, medical professions, natural resources and sustainability, and plumbing and heating.

## Relationship to Regional Plan

Access to educational and vocational training opportunities may have a nexus to the following Regional Plan elements:

- **basic policies** to guide the future growth and development of land and of public services and facilities and to protect the environment.
- **land use element** (areas that are likely candidates for State designations, proposed developments with a potential for regional impact, land development for necessary community facilities and services).
- **energy** conservation and efficiency policy and renewable energy development/siting.
- **transportation** and circulation facilities.
- local and regional community **facilities and public utilities**.
- **investment strategy** for regional facilities and services based on capacity studies.
- **relationship** to development trends, needs, and plans and regional plans for adjacent municipalities and regions (consistency with...).
- **housing** need for all economic groups in the region and communities.
- **economic** development conditions and desires.

# By the Numbers

**∞** # of hours EACH  
CVCC student spends  
practicing their skills  
during the school year.

**27** students  
earned **122**  
college credits  
across **8** programs!

**122**   
students earned  
**223** credentials!



Central Vermont Career Center  
155 Ayers Street, Suite #2  
Barre, VT 05641

The Central Vermont Career Center  
does not discriminate on the basis of sex,  
race, color, creed, national origin, religion,  
disability, sexual orientation, gender  
identity, and marital status in admission  
or access to, or treatment or employment  
in, its programs and activities.

If you need this information in an  
alternative format please call (802)476-6237.

Education that **works.**



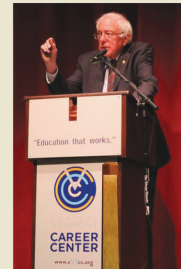
"Vermont is facing a shortage of skilled trades workers. As people in the construction industry are quickly reaching retirement age, we lack a pipeline to fill those openings. We need to be doing everything we can to face this issue head-on, not only in the construction sector but across the economy."

– Governor Phil Scott

"Since 1969, Central Vermont Career Center has educated students for lifelong professional careers. By connecting young Vermonterers with real job opportunities, Vermont's Career and Technical Education Centers like CVCC play a critical role promoting the skills students can build today for the jobs of the future."

By 2025, two-thirds of all Vermont jobs will require some education beyond high school, yet only about half of Vermonterers currently have postsecondary or professional training. CTE centers provide that training while students earn their high school diploma. More than ever, CTE Centers are instrumental in giving students the skills they need to thrive in today's economy."

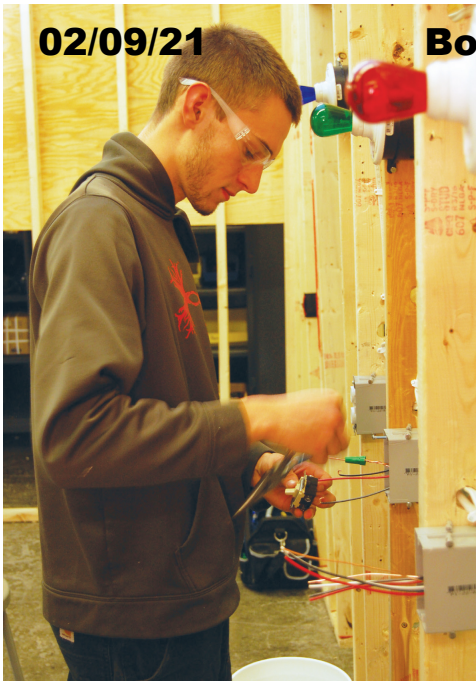
– US Senator Bernie Sanders



Central Vermont  
Career Center  
2019 Annual Report

Your Community,  
Your Youth,  
Our Future!





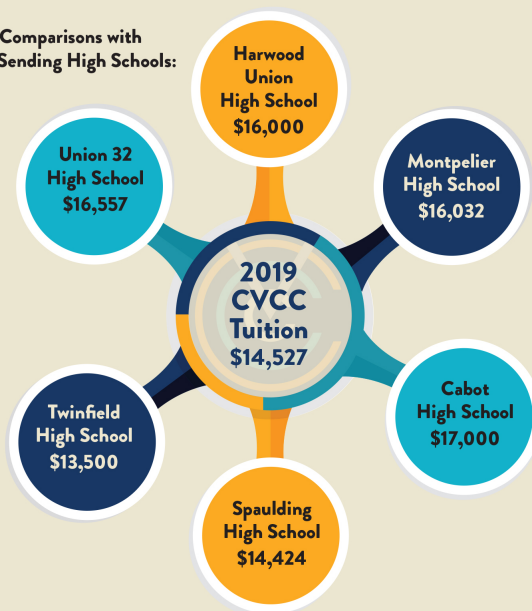
Thank you for your continued support of the Central Vermont Career Center students and programs. We welcomed 148 students into our programs this year. Our 13 programs all have strong ties to local businesses and industry, and we are grateful for the business partners who participate on Program Advisory Committees and employ students through our Cooperative Education Program.

CVCC's faculty and staff have been deeply engaged in aligning all programs to the Vermont Graduation Proficiencies and Indicators. At present, we have aligned over 90 indicators per program in Science, Math, Literacy, Global Studies, Art, Work-Based Learning and Transferrable Skills. CVCC Programs provide a rigorous pathway for students who wish to learn more about and prepare for post-secondary education and employment in careers that lead to high paying job opportunities. CVCC programs also offer students the opportunity to earn rigorous Industry Recognized Credentials, national certifications, and fully portable and transferable dual enrollment college credits.

The Career Center faculty and staff invite you to stop in for a visit and tour. Please call 476-6237 for more information. Our career and technical programs continue to be of high interest and high demand to the students in our region. Please visit our website: [www.cvtcc.org](http://www.cvtcc.org) to see what the students have been doing and check us out on Facebook and Twitter!

Penny Chamberlin, CVCC Director

#### Tuition Comparisons with CVCC Sending High Schools:



#### Tuition Comparisons with Tech Centers of similar size as CVCC:

<b>Central VT Career Center</b>	<b>\$14,527</b>
Burlington Tech. Center	\$18,832
Green Mountain Tech. (Lamoille)	\$17,488
Randolph Tech.	\$16,639
Stafford Tech. (Rutland)	\$15,457

CVCC Ranks  
**#6 of 16**  
of all  
CTE Centers  
in full-time  
equivalent  
comparisons.

*"My child is happy  
and loves going to school."*  
– A CVCC parent

*"I feel comfortable.  
I feel supported.  
I'm learning really  
important things."*  
– A CVCC student

**95%** of students  
understand how what  
they are learning  
at CVCC is  
**preparing them  
for college or  
employment.**

*"CVCC cares about our futures  
after high school."*  
– A CVCC student

**89%**  
of parents **value the  
learning experience**  
CVCC provides  
to their child.

*"What do I most appreciate  
about CVCC?  
Knowledge of the instructors –  
it's top notch."*  
– A CVCC parent

**6,186**  
# of hours CVCC  
students spent in  
**coop positions with  
local businesses**  
in 2018.

*"Two things I most appreciate about  
CVCC? Great career opportunities  
and opportunities to succeed with  
or without college."*  
– A CVCC community member

**Gaining experience, earning credentials and college credits is a winning combination!**

Give us a call, schedule a visit, or check out our website: [www.cvtcc.org](http://www.cvtcc.org)

Central Vermont Career Center • 155 Ayers Street, Suite 2, Barre, VT 05641 • 802.476.6237



## **RESOLUTION**

### **for USDA Rural Business Development Grant Application**

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Plan identifies Economic Goal 2 as *Business retention, growth and development that anticipate and meet market opportunities.*

Whereas the Winooski Valley Cooperative Market, Inc. (d.b.a. Plainfield Co-operative) is a not-for-profit cooperative market whose purpose is to establish and maintain a not-for-profit cooperative market for the distribution of food and other goods; to provide an outlet for local producers and growers; to operate the market in a manner and on a scale conducive to the regeneration of a sense of community among the dispersed rural population; and to work with the existing and emerging federations of cooperatives in realizing shared goals.

Whereas retention and growth of the Plainfield Co-operative is anticipated to be substantially affected by closure of the Main Street bridge during the Route 2/Main Street intersection reconstruction project because the bridge is the primary access point for the Co-operative's members and customers.

Whereas the Plainfield Co-operative has requested assistance from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to apply for a United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Development Grant, and the Town of Plainfield has expressed support for the Commission providing this service.

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission intends to apply for a United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Development Grant to assist the Plainfield Co-op with a financial feasibility study; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Board of Commissioners:

1. authorizes the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to apply for a United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Development Grant; and
2. authorizes Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director, to sign grant documents.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on February 9, 2021.

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Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair



## MEMO

Date: February 5, 2021  
To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Grace Vinson, Planner, and Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director  
Re: Proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule Comments

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### ➔ ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve CVRPC comments on the proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule.
2. Authorize the Chair to review and approve the addition of new or revised comments that may emerge from continued review of the proposed.

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has published its proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule. The public comment period is open until February 19, 2021. The purpose of the Rule is to assign a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP, pronounced “quisp”) to each basin described in 10 V.S.A. § 922(a) for the purposes of achieving pollutant reduction values established by the Secretary. These basins are waters listed as impaired pursuant 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d) and not subject to the stated exception.

- For background, see: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/statutes-rules-policies/act-76>.
- The proposed, 25-page Rule is posted at <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/executive-committee/>.

CVRPC applied for, and is proposed to be designated as, the CWSP for the Winooski River Basin. Entities proposed as CWSPs were invited to participate in ANR’s Act 76 Advisory Committee. Committee members reviewed a draft Rule prior to its being submitted to the [Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules](#) (ICAR). Proposed CWSPs, led by the Chittenden County RPC, submitted joint comments. Most, but not all, of those comments were address prior to this proposed Rule. Proposed CWSPs are continuing to work together to review the proposed Rule and develop commonly-supported comments. CWSPs intend to submit separate letters and reinforce a similar list of comments. This approach has the most impact in the rule-making process.

Staff reviewed the proposed CWSPs and discussed it with the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) and Executive Committee. The CWAC raised the following concerns:

- a) *More information should be provided about how pollution reduction value, standard project cost, and design life methodologies will be developed.* This concern is more appropriately addressed in the CWSP Guidance Document, which will be developed by ANR in the future.

- b) *More information should be provided about Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) membership and how “knowledgeable” is defined.* This concern is more appropriately addressed in the CWSP Guidance Document.
- c) *Conflict of Interest: BWQC members should be permitted to vote on a slate of projects, and they should recuse themselves from voting if projects they sponsor are presented individually for a vote.*

The Executive Committee recommended the Board submit comments included in the enclosed draft letter.

Since the Committee endorsed the letter, additional comments have emerged that would be beneficial to include in CVRPC’s letter of comment. Those comments are included in the Board packet. *Staff recommends these comments be included in CVRPC’s letter.*

As proposed CWSPs and other parties continue to review the proposed Rule, other comments may emerge that would benefit from endorsement via CVRPC’s letter. *Staff requests the Board authorize the Chair to review and approve additional comments that may emerge between now and the deadline for submission of comments.*



February 10, 2021

Mr. Chris Rottler, Environmental Analyst VI  
Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Water Investment Division  
1 National Life, Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510  
Sent via email to: [chris.rottler@vermont.gov](mailto:chris.rottler@vermont.gov)

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Clean Water Service Provider Rule. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission appreciates the extensive consultation and outreach DEC staff conducted during the proposed Rule's development.

The following comments were reviewed and authorized by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners at its February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. CVRPC's Clean Water Advisory Committee was consulted during development of the comments. We suggest the following clarifying edits with additions noted in ***italics, bold and underlined*** and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~:

**Comment 1: The Rule should align the Basin planning process and the CWSP project identification process.** Basin Plans should mention the pollution reduction targets allocated to each Basin. This establishes a connection between the Basin Plan and its implementation.

§ 39-401. Secretary's Allocation of Pollutant Reduction Targets to CWSP.

(a) Pollutant Reduction Determination, Allocation, and Standard Cost.

For waters described in 10 V.S.A. § 922(a) (water listed as impaired pursuant 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d) and not subject to the stated exception), the Secretary shall include the following in an implementation plan ***as part of the basin plans***:

.....

**Comment 2: The standard cost per unit of pollutant reduction should include the cost of maintenance.** The proposed Rule includes the costs of project identification, project design, and project construction only.

§ 39-401. Secretary's Allocation of Pollutant Reduction Targets to CWSP.

(a) Pollutant Reduction Determination, Allocation, and Standard Cost.



(3) A determination of the standard cost per unit of pollutant reduction by sector. The Secretary shall publish a methodology for determining standard cost for pollutant reductions. The standard cost shall include the costs of project identification, project design, ~~and~~ project construction and maintenance.

**Comment 3: Conflicts of Interest inherent to the Legislature's designation of Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) membership should be recognized in the Rule.** As currently written, the Rule may negate the BWQC's participation in project prioritization. If BWQC members must recuse themselves from voting on projects they sponsor, the BWQC regularly may not have sufficient voting members to make decisions about project priorities.

The Legislature codified membership requirements for BWQCs to foster Councils knowledgeable about water quality. The majority of BWQC members are project implementers who will be proposing projects. Recognizing the inherent conflict of interest and minimizing it to the extent possible can be reconciled by permitting BWQC members to vote on a slate of projects, only recusing themselves from voting if projects they sponsor are presented individually for a vote.

#### Subchapter 6: Conflicts of Interest

Each CWSP shall adopt a conflicts of interest policy that includes, in part, the following:

- (a) All persons engaged in the decision making of the respective CWSP or BWQC or both, shall conduct themselves according to high ethical standards.
- (b) Conflict of interest means an interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, of a person with a CWSP or BWQC decision making role, or such an interest, known to that person, of a member of that person's immediate family or household, or of a business associate, in the outcome of a particular matter pending before the CWSP or BWQC or which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the person's duties under this Rule.
- (c) A BWQC member that proposes to implement a clean water project must disclose any potential conflict of interest and shall recuse itself from any BWQC decision making subject to that conflict if any of the following conditions are present:
  1. If a project is being considered by itself per §39-403(e)(5), or the project's score or ranking is being considered by itself, the project sponsor shall recuse itself from the BWQC decision making related to that individual project.
  2. If a BWQC-member's project is being considered as part of a list or package of projects being voted on and the funding passed through to its subcontractors (engineers, construction firms, etc.) and/or for materials and supplies constitutes in total less than 50% of the overall cost of the project.
  3. The project involves payments for fee simple for land or for purchase of an easements to the member, the member's immediate family or household, or to a business associate.

1  
2  
3 If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, I hope you will contact me at (802)  
4 229-0389 or [waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com). Thank you for consideration of our comments, and for the  
5 inclusiveness DEC demonstrated during development of the proposed Rule.  
6

7 Sincerely,  
8  
9

10 Bonnie Waninger  
11 Executive Director  
12

13 cc: Adam Lougee, ACRPC  
14 Charlie Baker, CCPRC  
15 Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC  
16 Ed Bove, RRPC  
17 Peter Gregory, TRORC  
18 Karen Freeman, VHCB

**Revised and Additional Comments Requested for Inclusion  
in CVRPC's Proposed CWSP Rule Comment Letter**

**Comment 2 REVISED: The standard cost per unit of pollutant reduction should include the cost of *project development and maintenance*.** Project development is when landowners and stakeholders begin buying into an identified project and the needs of all parties begin to be defined. Project development helps insure project design funds are used wisely.,

§ 39-401. Secretary's Allocation of Pollutant Reduction Targets to CWSP.

(a) Pollutant Reduction Determination, Allocation, and Standard Cost.

(3) A determination of the standard cost per unit of pollutant reduction by sector. The Secretary shall publish a methodology for determining standard cost for pollutant reductions. The standard cost shall include the costs of project identification, *project development*, project design, ~~and~~ project construction *and maintenance*.

**Comment 3 REVISED: Potential and action conflicts of Interest inherent to the Legislature's designation of Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) membership should be recognized in the Rule and not paralyze the decision making process.** Some of the BWQC members will represent entities that are capable of effectively proposing, construction and operating clean water projects. The proposed Rule may negate the BWQC's designated role and participation in project prioritization. If BWQC members must recuse themselves from voting on projects they sponsor, the BWQC regularly may not have sufficient voting members to make decisions about project priorities.

The Legislature codified membership requirements for BWQCs to foster Councils knowledgeable about water quality. The majority of BWQC members are project implementers who will be proposing projects. Recognizing inherent and action conflicts of interest and minimizing them to the extent possible can be reconciled by permitting BWQC members to vote on a slate of projects, only recusing themselves from voting if projects they sponsor are presented individually for a vote.

Subchapter 6: Conflicts of Interest

Each CWSP shall adopt a conflicts of interest policy that includes, in part, the following:

- (a) All persons engaged in the decision making of the respective CWSP or BWQC or both, shall conduct themselves according to high ethical standards.
- (b) Conflict of interest means an *financial* interest, direct or indirect, ~~financial or otherwise~~, of a person with a CWSP or BWQC decision making role, or such an interest, known to that person, of a member of that person's immediate family or household, or of a business associate, in the outcome of a particular matter pending before the CWSP or BWQC or which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the person's duties under this Rule.
- (c) A BWQC member that proposes to implement a clean water project must disclose any potential conflict of interest and shall recuse itself from any BWQC decision making subject to that conflict *if any of the*

following conditions are present:

1. If a project is being considered by itself per §39-403(e)(5), or the project's score or ranking is being considered by itself, the project sponsor shall recuse itself from the BWQC decision making related to that individual project.
2. If a BWQC-member's project is being considered as part of a list or package of projects being voted on and the funding passed through to its subcontractors (engineers, construction firms, etc.) and/or for materials and supplies constitutes in total less than 50% of the overall cost of the project.
3. The project involves payments for fee simple for land or for purchase of an easement to the member, the member's immediate family or household, or to a business associate.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the conflicted BWQC member may answer questions on the subject project in an open meeting of the BWQC.

Note that our preferred language for #2 above is as follows: If the project is one of many on a list or package considered by the BWQC as they determine the ranking and priorities for funding and the sponsorship of the project is the only potential conflict of interest; all members of the BWQC may vote on the list or package. If there are other potential conflicts of interest, each member shall disclose the potential conflict and the BWQC shall determine if the member may vote upon the list or package. However, the proposed 50% threshold language is offered as a potential compromise.

**Comment 4: The Rule should permit Basin Water Quality Councils and CWSPs to define which co-benefits are most beneficial in a basin.** Co-benefits can vary among projects and basins and reflect the value of the project to other goals in a basin.

§ 39-201. Definitions.

- (8) "Co-benefit" means the additional benefit to local governments and the public provided by or associated with a clean water project, including but not limited to flood resilience, hazard mitigation, educational, ecosystem improvement, and local pollution prevention.

**Comment 5: Clarity is needed regarding use of funds provided to CWSPs.** Before implementation can occur, clean water projects must be developed and designed. As these activities are eligible costs, the Rule would benefit from incorporating these activities by name. Additional modifying the procurement language clarifies that a CWSP must solicit three quotes, not obtain three quotes. Regarding insurance, because coverage is specific to CWSP activities, it is helpful to clarify that any additional cost can be paid from CWSP funds.

§ 39-306. Fiscal Management.

- (i) Procurement, Goods and Services. Procurement by the CWSP or its subgrantees, for anything except for pre-qualified entities selected by the BWQC to develop, design, or implement a clean water project, shall be by a competitive process for services, with a solicitation for quotes sent to

~~of~~ at least three quotations from qualified entities. Purchasing of goods shall require the solicitation of at least two different quotations, except when purchasing items valued at \$1,000.00 or less. Records related to the procurement of services shall be retained for the term of the contract plus three years. Records related to the procurement of goods shall be retained for one year after the audit covering the period of purchase of those goods. Procurement of a good or category of goods totaling \$15,000.00 or greater from one vendor in one year shall be by written contract. Equipment and other durable assets purchased by a CWSP shall be maintained.

- (j) Insurance. The entity serving as CWSP shall comply with the insurance requirements of Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants. Professional liability insurance shall be required for any engineers or architects that are subgrantees or subcontractors, with the CWSP listed as additional insured. The CWSP shall obtain Errors and Omissions insurance for BWQC members. **Funds provided by the Agency of Natural Resources to a CWSP may be used to pay the premiums for this insurance.**

.....  
**Comment 6: The DEC Basin Planner should be consulted as part of the project selection process in the event that the BWQC does not achieve quorum and the CWSP must make a decision.** This provides a conflict of interest solution should a CWSP have a project in the slate.

§ 39-403. Clean Water Projects.

- .....  
(e) Clean Water Project Selection. Based upon project priorities identified under § 39-403(d), the BWQC shall consider the preliminary scoring and ranking of all proposed clean water projects drafted by the CWSP for both project development or implementation categories and make any adjustments to the co-benefits scoring as needed. The BWQC shall vote on a prioritized slate of clean water projects for both development and construction to fulfill pollution reduction goals. In the event the BWQC is unable to obtain a quorum to vote on a slate of clean water projects as a result of conflicts of interest among its members pursuant to Subchapter 6 of this Rule, the CWSP, **in consultation with the applicable DEC Basin Planner,** shall be empowered to make a final decision on projects selected for funding. In the event an individual clean water project is brought up for consideration outside of the normal cycle of consideration, the BWQC will consider and decide upon the selection of the individual project consistent with the ranking process and priorities.

.....  
**Comment 7: The CWSP should be permitted to assign site control to a third party.** The entity that develops and implements a project will have the strongest relationship with the property owner. Also, a CWSP may contract with a third party for maintenance activities, and that party may be best positioned to hold site control.

§ 39-403. Clean Water Projects.

- (j) Quality Control and Site Control. The CWSP shall ensure site control to access property where clean water projects are installed, which may include acquisition of a fee simple interest, a maintenance and access easement, or a maintenance and access agreement. Such site control in fee simple, easement, or agreement shall be documented on a form provided by the Secretary. **Such fee simple interest, maintenance and access easement, or maintenance and access**



agreement may be assigned to a third party such as a municipality, non-profit watershed association, conservation district or non-profit conservation organization subject to the approval of the Secretary.

**Comment 8: The proposed language regarding proportionality should be struck.** Proportionality means if one additional member is authorized eight additional members would have to be added to maintain proportionality. The requirement of BWQQC unanimity and Secretary approval provide sufficient safeguards.

§ 39-501. Membership and Structure.

(a) Each CWSP shall establish a basin water quality council (BWQC) for each assigned basin. BWQC membership shall comprise the minimum statutory members identified in 10 V.S.A. § 924(g)(2). Additional BWQC membership is only allowed if unanimously approved by the BWQC and approved by the Secretary. When considering the addition of BWQC members, the CWSP shall evaluate the costs of adding to the BWQC membership. ~~Should additional BWQC membership be authorized, the proportionality of representation established by 10 V.S.A. § 924(g)(2) shall be maintained.~~ The CWSP will coordinate assignment or replacement of BWQC members for those entities named in 10 V.S.A. §§ 924(g)(2)(D-E).

**Comment 9: Organized watershed groups that are not nonprofit organizations may be present in a basin and should have a right to participate in the BWQC.** These groups may meet the legislative intent of being knowledgeable about water quality. Affiliation with a 501(c)3 organization via fiscal sponsorship provides a legitimacy litmus test.

(b) For the purposes of selecting members pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 924(g)(2), the following definitions apply:

(3) “Local watershed protection organization” means a community-based, nonprofit organization working with individuals and communities in their local watersheds to protect and improve water quality, habitat, and flood resilience and to connect citizens with Vermont’s waters. Watershed protection organizations work with all watershed constituents and do not represent a specific constituency or interest group. Organizations that are not a 501(c)3 may serve on a BWQC provided they have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)3.

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Draft MINUTES**  
**January 11, 2021**

**Commissioners:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, Alt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>		Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>		Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Bill Arrand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Zach Maia, Clare Rock

Guests: Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC); Paul Costello, Chair of Local Solutions and Community Action Team

**Call to Order**

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

Hill-Eubanks noted that the first speaker had not arrived, and the Rules of Procedure would be moved forward in the agenda.

**Public Comments**

Hill-Eubanks advised the Executive Committee had discussed the chat process for virtual meetings and a protocol to manage participation. Staff will monitor the chat. Hill-Eubanks also advised she needed to leave the meeting at 7:00 pm and the Chair role would transition to Vice-Chair Lotspeich.

**Committee Rules of Procedure Updates**

1 *P. Carbee moved to adopt the Municipal Plan Review Committee Rules of Procedure and Nominating*  
2 *Committee Rules of Procedure and Guidelines; R. Wernecke seconded. Hill-Eubanks advised staff had*  
3 *requested separate motions for clarity.*

4  
5 *P. Carbee moved to amend his motion to adopt the Municipal Plan Review Committee Rules of*  
6 *Procedure; R. Wernecke accepted that amendment. Motion carried.*

7  
8 With regard to the Nominating Committee Rules of Procedure, discussion ensued regarding the  
9 language on page 9, line 34 with regard to resignations and new appointments applying to all members  
10 not just the chair and vice chair. Waninger provided suggested changes based on the discussion, which  
11 were shared verbally and visually, and agreed upon.

12  
13 Question was raised on Attachment A, Guidelines, and the language "To continuously provide fresh  
14 views and to foster knowledge of and participation in CVRPC, the Nominating Committee should  
15 periodically consider having a small a turnover in members of committees." It was confirmed this is not  
16 a requirement, but a suggestion that this occur periodically to ensure everyone has an opportunity to  
17 serve and to provide fresh perspective.

18  
19 *R. Wernecke moved to adopt the amended Rules of Procedure for the Nominating Committee and to*  
20 *adopt the Nominating Committee Guidelines; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*

### 21 22 **Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force**

23 Hill-Eubanks introduced Paul Costello, Chair of Local Solutions and Community Action Team. Costello  
24 briefly reviewed Governor Scott's approach to COVID. While the approach is considered one of the  
25 most effective initiatives in the country, it also resulted in considerable challenges to the people of  
26 Vermont and the economy. As part of this approach, the Local Solutions and Community Action Team  
27 was created to accelerate response strategies. Their charge was to identify and replicate regional and  
28 community recovery initiatives and gaps in recovery efforts to ensure equitable distribution of  
29 resources, especially in rural areas and underserved populations.

30  
31 The Team went to each county to learn the issues specific to that county and overall received a  
32 tremendous amount of input. Common themes identified were fundamental importance of broadband  
33 and childcare, immediate needs and challenges facing businesses, and a hope to not just return to  
34 "normal" based on all the crises that are being faced nationwide. Costello highlighted other findings in  
35 the report.

36  
37 Costello's organization, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, has created a database and website  
38 portal that shares best practices community by community. As a team, they evaluated all information  
39 and documented a short list of fundamental challenges and ideas to present to the Governor.

40  
41 Costello also discussed economic recovery, innovation, and the need to combat racism in all its forms to  
42 advance equity.

43  
44 Commissioners asked questions about the report's wording via the housing discussion, which might be

1 read as encouraging suburban development. Costello noted this was not the intent; the intent was to  
2 support downtowns and village centers. Board members highlighted the need for ubiquitous broadband  
3 statewide in conjunction with strong planning across the state.

4  
5 Costello also advised their final report, "Connecting Toward Recovery and Renewal," was published on  
6 11/6/2020 and is on the VCRD website , which can be found at  
7 [https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-](https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-Force-Report.pdf)  
8 [Force-Report.pdf](https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-Force-Report.pdf).

#### 10 **Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update**

11 Vice Chair Lotspeich introduced Jamie Stewart, Executive Director of CVEDC. Stewart confirmed they  
12 are in the midst of an exceptionally busy time. Some of the highlights noted:

- 14 • Working Communities grant funds for the single female head of households work that is being  
15 undertaken in Barre. A grant application process that B. Waninger spearheaded and successfully  
16 managed.
- 18 • Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) received CARES monies to provide technical  
19 assistance to businesses. It was very successful and used local/regional service providers  
20 (accountants, architects, web designers, social media designers) to support local businesses.  
21 This benefited both small businesses who needed technical assistance and local providers of  
22 those services. They hope to see more money to continue this work in next round of funding.
- 24 • RDCs participated with the State in recovery grant reviews. Stewart noted the level of need due  
25 to impact of COVID has been huge. He also noted that innovation and willingness to pivot  
26 (downsize, flex, remote work) has helped to maintain the workforce and keep companies afloat.  
27 Based on the level of impact, he expects it will be a 1-2 years before businesses stabilize.

28  
29 Stewart noted communities without significant broadband are suffering with regard to the housing  
30 market as it is an important component of supporting communities to grow.

31  
32 RDCs are strongly advocating for broadband development, building out daycare systems, and housing  
33 solutions. These are seen as being principal issues that we can all address together to support and  
34 promote opportunities and options that are available today due to funds in response to COVID.

35  
36 Discussion ensued regarding the possibilities for childcare. Stewart said that Let's Grow Kids is creating  
37 a comprehensive approach for dealing with it over the next three years. The approach calls for  
38 employer contributions to assist with funding and potential tax code changes.

39  
40 There was also discussion on the status of supporting our workforce through immigration and/or return  
41 of young folks back to Vermont. With regard to immigration, Stewart noted he believes a change in the  
42 federal administration is needed for this to occur and that many in Vermont's business community  
43 support immigration of workforce into Vermont. With regard to bringing youth back to Vermont, he  
44 confirmed that is an ongoing battle, and also the flight from cities to Vermont due to COVID has caused

1 issues in the housing market. Keeping housing affordable for a young workforce will continue to be a  
2 challenge. Also discussed was the hope that grand list growth supports the needs for additional services  
3 in individual communities to support a growing population; and the challenges that limited water and  
4 wastewater infrastructure creates in supporting and promoting population growth.  
5

### 6 **Nominating Committee Appointment**

7 Lotspeich provided a brief overview of the need to elect Commissioners to the 2021 Nominating  
8 Committee. He described the Nominating Committee role. He stated the Executive Committee  
9 nominates a slate of Julie Potter, Gerry D'Amico, and Peter Carbee for FY22.  
10

11 *R. Wernecke moved to elect Julie Potter, Gerry D'Amico, and Peter Carbee to the 2021 Nominating*  
12 *Committee; R. Turner seconded. R. Wernecke asked if they should inquire if there are any additional*  
13 *nominations from the floor. G. Clain advised he believed that since the nominations were a charge of the*  
14 *Executive Committee, that Robert Rules allows for there not to be nominations from the floor, which*  
15 *Waninger confirmed. Motion carried.*  
16

### 17 **Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020 and December 8, 2020**

18 R. Turner noted December minutes showed November minutes were approved (Line 19). The Board  
19 bypassed voting on November minutes.  
20

21 *R. Wernecke moved to accept the December 8 minutes; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*  
22

### 23 **Reports**

24 Waninger advised that interviews begin this week for the transportation planner. She also advised  
25 CVRPC has been approached by a Board member from CVFiber who requested CVRPC draft a proposal  
26 to provide administrative and accounting services to CVFiber. For more details, please contact her.  
27

28 Z. Maia commented that his work over the past 18 months has allowed him to work with a variety of  
29 partners to bring information regarding energy to the communities. He noted the energy contract has  
30 ended. He appreciated the opportunity to engage with municipalities on those topics.  
31

32 C. Rock highlighted CVRPC's Zoning Administrators Roundtable to be held next Thursday and invited  
33 Commissioners to participate. The agenda includes discussion on accessory on-farm businesses and  
34 changes to accessory structures, flood hazard regulations, as well as other topics. With regard to Zoning  
35 for Great Neighborhoods, ACCD is hosting a training at the end of January where planners can obtain  
36 more in depth information. CVRPC will share the link to participate in that training. CVRPC will  
37 subsequently be sharing this information with municipalities.  
38

### 39 **Adjournment**

40 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*  
41

42 Respectfully submitted,  
43

44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager



**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, January 2021

F: 802-223-1977

All CVRPC staff continue to work remotely per the Governor's order to support remote work for employees to the extent possible. (Addendum 12 to Executive Order 01-20)

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Contact Clare Rock, [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com), or Zach Maia, [maia@cvregion.com](mailto:maia@cvregion.com), unless otherwise noted.

**Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:**

- Hosted meeting with Roxbury Planning Commission to present demographic and housing information.
- Conducted additional research regarding accessory on farm businesses, reviewed first round of zoning changes with Middlesex, and identified additional areas for research.
- Discussed Worcester Town plan approach with Planning Commission Chair. Update Town Plan maps.
- Reviewed selection of Town Plans for telecommunication sections and provided sample to East Montpelier.
- Participated in Fish and Wildlife orientation for the Community Values Mapping planning exercise with Woodbury. Compiled preliminary community assessment data ahead of drafting goals and policies for the 2021 Town Plan. Closed survey and sent results to Planning Commission/resident partner.
- Participated in USDA grant workshop regarding the Plainfield Co-op financial feasibility study. Discussed application requirements and scoring criteria with Co-op Board member. Met with Co-op Board to discuss how to increase the application's competitiveness.
- Provided Washington with contact information to fulfill notice requirements for Municipal Plan adoption.
- Continued review of Plainfield draft zoning document with information on updated legislation.
- Drafted schedule and coordinated with Moretown Planning Commission to begin zoning revision.
- Coordinated with Duxbury regarding municipal plan adoption timeline.
- Provided Waitsfield with information on municipal plan adoption regarding its enhanced energy plan.
- Consulted with ACCD regarding submission timing for Berlin New Town Center Designation application; State then revised the date the Town could submit its application to match the Town's desired date.

**Training & Education:**

- Facilitated a Zoning Administrators Roundtable focused on accessory dwelling units, accessory on-farm businesses, administration of flood hazard bylaws, and enforcement.

**Regional Planning and Implementation:**

- Participated in a 4-Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Partners meeting; reviewed Stakeholder Engagement Plan and preliminary data points. Discussed analysis for determining strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, aspirations, and results. Outlined and researched data.
- Began review of two 500 kW Solar Facilities in Barre Town; coordinated with applicant for Project Review Committee presentation.

**Partnerships for Progress:**

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC): Participated in Board meeting. Let's Grow Kids presented its legislative platform to increase the availability of child care in Vermont.

THRIVE: Participated in Design Team meeting, weekly Leadership Partners check ins, and monthly Community and Leadership Partners meetings. Agreed to host VISTA volunteer on behalf of THRIVE; discussing whether this would be a shared volunteer or fully dedicated to THRIVE.

Washington County Hunger Council: Chaired Council Meetings and several meetings discussing the Food Access Map/ Tool for use by other organizations. Heard a presentation from the Barre City Coop Group.

Participated in New Chairs Orientation meeting

Barre Area Development Corporation: Reported on regional projects and updates at monthly Board meeting.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

Contact Grace Vinson, [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com), unless otherwise noted.

### Local/Regional Planning:

- Consulted with Plainfield about potential grant application for Brook Road bridge replacement.
- Participated in Hazard Mitigation Project Review Committee meeting.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP)**: Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Calais – Hosted meeting about community engagement and text updates needed. Distributed survey electronically and printed out paper copies for distribution.

Marshfield – CVRPC was awarded the contract to assist the Town with its update. Contracting is underway.

Montpelier – Hosted meeting on hazard identification and analysis, planned next meeting. Distributed survey electronically

Washington – Selectboard adopted plan; FEMA Final Approval Letter received. Plan Complete! Congratulations!

### COVID-19 Response & Recovery:

- Participated in State Emergency Operation Center and Health Operation Center meetings to maintain situational awareness regarding response and recovery needs/actions.
- Prepared and submitted final report for Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) program.
- Continued COVID-19 interviews with municipal officials and staff to gather best practices and lessons learned in COVID response and recovery.
- Updated status of municipal offices with regard to closures and updated COVID webpage for easier access of information.

## TRANSPORTATION

Contact Ashley Andrews, [andrews@cvregion.com](mailto:andrews@cvregion.com), unless otherwise noted.

**Field Services**: Contact Ashley Andrews, [Andrews@cvregion.com](mailto:Andrews@cvregion.com), for 2021 counts and inventories.

**Public Transit**: CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Board of Commissioners. Staff participated in the following GMT meetings:

Board of Commissioners – See Committee updates.

Leadership Committee – Discussed upcoming compensation study. Discussed next step in Board retreat – discussion of a strategic plan. Discussed the potential to reinstate premium pay due to the pandemic.

Operations Committee – Reviewed updates to the Performance Dashboard. COVID is causing challenges with recruiting seasonal service operators. If this causes unsustainable cost increases, service may be further modified. Montpelier Transit Center expected to reopen by January 4<sup>th</sup>. Microtransit service also scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> launch. A Washington County Site Analysis Study has been initiated; goal is to relocate GMT Berlin facility. Data gathering in progress. Draft report anticipated for April 2021.

GMT Board of Commissioners Chair Role Activities:

- Reviewed GMT diversity, equity, and inclusion Request for Proposal.
- Consulted with GMT General Manager on Leadership Committee and Board agendas and discussed Board engagement in upcoming labor negotiations; solicited ideas from Board members for engagement process.

**Municipal Assistance:**

- Distributed Complete Streets Compliance Form to municipalities for inclusion in the 2020 Implementation Inventory and provided assistance in completion where needed.
- Submitted FEMA grant application for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for railroad trestle #308. The trestle is in imminent failure and its mid-stream pier exacerbates flooding. The grant would study alternatives, including repair and multiple removal scenarios.
- Met with Orange Planning Commission members to discuss mapping services for Town Forest trailing planning project.
- Drafted transportation study request for proposals and developed application form. CVRPC is soliciting ideas from municipalities, partners, and the public regarding transportation studies.

**Regional Activities:**

- Participated in the Mad River Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.
- Participate in Microtransit/MyRide Advisory Committee meeting. Staffed Montpelier Shaws bus stop to assist riders with microtransit/MyRide transition. Service doing well; minor transition challenges for some riders which GMT is working to address.
- Represented RPC's in the monthly Phase 3 meeting for the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT).
- Hosted Regional Elderly and Disabled Persons Committee quarterly meeting. Wrote ride guide for Elderly and Disabled Persons Transportation. Interviewed stakeholders for mobility access in region, and initiated analysis of transportation service availability, gaps and opportunities.
- Participated in GMT Berlin Facility Site Selection Advisory Committee; updated Barre City officials post-meeting.
- Held Monthly TAC meeting to discuss TPI-funded studies that have been completed.
- Participated in the monthly TPI meeting
- Completed ANR Road Erosion Inventory report for FY20 field work
- Participated in the MRGP Road Erosion Inventory RPC debrief meeting on how the field season went.
- Participate in VTrans briefing of RPC Directors about updates to the State transportation project prioritization process (VPSP2).

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Pam DeAndrea, [deandrea@cvregion.com](mailto:deandrea@cvregion.com), unless otherwise noted.

**Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:**

- Continued coordination on project implementation with Winooski Basin Planner, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Friends of the Winooski River, and the Friends of the Mad River.
- Prepared and submitted a Design Implementation Block Grant program grant application for stormwater design of a 3-acre site and surrounding properties in Waterbury.
- Presented Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan start-up to the Clean Water Advisory Committee.

**Design Implementation Block Grant Program (DIBG, formerly Clean Water Block Grant Program):**

Woodbury Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Project on hold pending decision on site design modification.

Calais Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Milone and MacBroom are working on the 60% designs, due end of March. Next step is stakeholders review meeting.

Berlin Town Office Stormwater Implementation – The Town submitted notice of award and contract documents to the contractor.

**604b:** CVRPC and Rutland Regional Planning Commission have finalized the contract for creating a web map depicting Mad River Watch water quality monitoring stations and results. The Friends of the Mad River will use the site for educational activities and decision making about monitoring efforts.

**Forest Integrity:** Coordinated and participated in meeting focusing on municipal strategies to promote the forest economy; ranking survey results and planning next steps to identify most effective strategies.

## OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Office:**

- Interviewed candidates for CVRPC's transportation/land use position. Position offer made.
- Distributed Annual Reports to municipalities.
- Updated webpage to facilitate easier access to Board and committee minutes and agendas.
- Updated COVID safety procedures in office to reflect updated State guidance for public spaces.
- Drafted proposal for administrative services support at the request of CVFiber Board member.
- Participated in Vermont Planners Association Legislative Committee meeting.

**Professional Development/Leadership:**

- Pam participated in her first board meeting with the Northeast Arc User's Conference (NEARC). She is participate in planning the Spring 2021 one-day virtual conference.
- Bonnie participated in VEM's WebEOC Situational Awareness Section training as part of CVRPC's State Emergency Operations Center duties.
- Clare, Zach, and Bonnie participated in ACCD's Zoning for Great Neighborhoods training. CVRPC anticipates providing trainings for municipalities in the upcoming year.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

All CVRPC meetings currently are being held as virtual meetings. Meeting access information is provided on agendas at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org). For non-CVRPC meetings, please visit websites for host organizations.

**February**

Feb 1	4 pm	Executive Committee
Feb 2	11 am	Bylaw Review Work Group
Feb 2	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee
Feb 9	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Feb 10	4 pm	Nominating Committee
Feb 15		<i>President's Day Holiday, CVRPC office closed</i>
Feb 16	11 am	Bylaw Review Work Group
Feb 23	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
Feb 25	4 pm	Project Review Committee

**March**

Mar 1	4 pm	Executive Committee
Mar 2		<i>Town Meeting Day</i>
Mar 2	11 am	Bylaw Review Work Group (meeting may be rescheduled)
Mar 9	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Mar 11	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee
Mar 16	11 am	Bylaw Review Work Group
Mar 23	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
Mar 25	4 pm	Project Review Committee
Mar 30	11 am	Bylaw Review Work Group

**WEEKLY NEWS HEADLINES**

Click on a specific week to read more about the headlines listed. *To receive Weekly News via email, sign up on our [website](#).*

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

- My Ride by GMT Service Begins
- People, Places & Transportation
- Placemaking Meet Ups
- Better Places
- Central Vermont Pop Up Testing
- Farmers to Families Food Box Program Extended
- Sign up to VTAlert for COVID-19 Updates
- Vaccine Information on VDH Website
- VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth
- Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)
- Election Resiliency – 2021 Mobile Voting Pilot Program Grants

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Feast To-Go & Meals on Wheels Volunteer Request

- City of Montpelier LHMP Survey- Feedback Requested
- #802phonesdown!headsup! Video Challenge
- Agency of Natural Resources Basin 7 Survey
- VAPDA Annual Report
- Vaccine information on VDH Website
- Central Vermont Pop-Up Testing Expands Locations
- Small Scale Bike & Ped Grants
- Save Our Stages (SOS) Grants

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Vermont DEC Publishes MRGP 2021 Newsletter
- Public Input Requested on Scrag Mountain Town Forest Trails
- Request for Project Proposals for Transportation Planning and Studies



- Funding Opportunity! VT Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants
- CSA Grant for Childcare
- New Option for Wi-Fi Hot Spots
- Go Vermont – Transportation Survey
- Save the Date - 2nd Annual E&D Transportation Summit
- ACCD Guidance on Town Meeting Day
- Vaccination Appointments Open for Those 75 and Older
- 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Calais LHMP Survey- Feedback Requested
- “Slow the Spread” Efforts Ongoing in Vermont Despite End to Federal Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine
- H48 Passes
- Vermont Vaccine Updates – Phase 2 Begins January 25
- Microgrants Open to Vermont Artists
- New Grant Funds Available from 1772 Foundation
- EPA’s 2021 DERA National Grant Program

Visit CVRPC’s web site at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org) to view our blog and for the latest publications and news.

**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**  
**Committee & Appointed Representative Reports, January 2021**

*Meeting minutes for CVRPC Committees are available at [www.centralvtplanning.org](http://www.centralvtplanning.org).*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm)

- Authorized the Executive Director to sign the FFY21 Transportation Planning Initiative agreement amendment and amendment #2 with Dubois & King for the Woodbury Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs.
- Adopted an adjustment to the CVRPC FY21 budget.
- Recommended comments on the proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
- Requested staff organize a facilitated retreat aimed at help the Committee define initial steps for the Commission's diversity, equity, and inclusion work.
- Discussed Executive Director annual evaluation process; assigned team to facilitate the process.
- Approved Board meeting agenda.
- Held Executive Session to discuss a contract.

**PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE** (A sub-committee of the Executive Committee)

Did not meet.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Review adopted Rules of Procedure and Guidelines. Reviewed positions and materials. Agreed to send an committee interest survey to Commissioners and Alternates.

**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 4pm)

Received presentation about the two solar projects proposed in Barre Town on land owned by the same property owner and totaling over 400 KWs. Project currently is being reviewed at the local level in response to a Preferred Sites Letter request. Upon issuance of the local letters, anticipate CVRPC will received a Preferred Sites request.

**REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE** (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet

**MUNICIPAL PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE** (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

TAC approved an amendment to the FFY 21 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) workplan and budget. It had presentations on studies previously funded by CVRPC using TPI funds, and were informed of Act 151 energy and transportation legislation that went into effect this year.

**CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 4pm)**

- Discussed the Agency of Natural Resources' updated draft Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) rule that is out for public comment. The CWAC did not have any additional comments about the Rule and determined that their previous comments were best to be saved to comment on the guidance that will be developed in the future. CVRPC is proposed to be the CWSP for the Winooski Basin.
- Staff introduced the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan to set the stage for the update of the plan this year. The Basin Planner, Danielle Owczarski will be coming to the CWAC and the Town of Woodbury for outreach on the plan and would like to present the draft plan to the Board sometime next fall.

**VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)**

- Broadband updates were provided by Matt Dunne, Center on Rural Innovation Strategies (CRIS), and Rob Fish, VT Public Service Department. CRIS assisted the State to develop its COVID-19 broadband emergency response plan and has been hired to develop the State 10-year broadband plan. The Plan's goal is to have 100/100 service to all households in Vermont by 2024. This requires fiber-to-the-home connectivity.
- Green Mountain Power (GMP) filed a Certificate of Public Good petition to allow cost sharing if it provides capacity for broadband buildout in underserved areas. The PUC would need to endorse the concept of electric rate payers paying a portion of the cost for broadband buildout. The subsidy would be \$2,000 for underserved households with service at 1 Mb/sec.
- Received VTrans update on the Vermont Information Center Study. VTrans is projecting less funding will be available than needed to maintain existing centers. The Study examines alternates for addressing the funding gap.
- The Public Service Department is updating the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan this year. The Act 174 energy planning standards and recommendations will be updated as part of this work. The Dept. requested RPC input and discussed options for obtaining it.
- Approved sending a letter to FEMA on behalf of VAPDA requesting that Federal disaster thresholds remain at \$1 million. The threshold has not been updated for many years. However, rural communities continue to struggle with the impact of disaster damages, and raising the threshold would put them at a greater disadvantage. Discussion included a recommendation to tier the threshold based on community/area ability to pay. This was not included in the letter.
- ANR has developed a new online tool, the "Permit Navigator". It assists applicants with identifying permits that may be required for development, similar to ANR's Permit Specialist. Applicants answer questions about their development, and the tool generates a list of permits that may be needed. The tool has a locational component and shows some existing permits and links to the ANR Atlas. The tool generates an online version of ANR's Project Review Sheet. ANR is continuing work on the tool to add more existing permits and is in discussions with other State agencies about adapting the tool to be a one-stop-shop for all State agencies permits in the future. The tool is available at <https://vermont.force.com/permitnavigator/s/>.
- The Agency of Agriculture shared a link for a webinar it held on changes to the definition of "local": <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/businessdevelopment/strategic-planning-guidance/act-129-local-definition>. The webinar is ~1 hour in length.

**VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL**

No activities from Central Vermont.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT**

- Minor reductions in Mad River Valley service was required due to a lack of seasonal driver.
- GMT is considering legal action to remedy a contract issue related to electric bus charging stations. Chargers at the Burlington facility were required to be programmable so that GMT could insure charging occurred in non-peak hours. Proterra has not met this contract requirements, and GMT has incurred \$20,000 in costs from accidental plug ins during peak hours (including by Proterra staff).
- Adopted a FY21 Capital budget amendment.
- Adopted the FY22 Operating budget on the condition of continued fare free service in urban areas and continued discussion regarding State operating funds.
- Awarded SSTA a 5-year contract for paratransit service in Chittenden County.

**MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT**

- Discussed how to address hacking during Zoom meetings; hacking incidences are increasing in VT.
- Mad River Path recently completed a strategic plan. Ross Saxton stepped down as Executive Director.
- Broad efforts to address pedestrian safety are occurring in response to a pedestrian death in Waitsfield earlier this year.
- MRVPD and Friends of the Mad River are discussing their respective work and potentials for collaboration.
- Efficiency Vermont has selected the Mad River Valley and Moretown and Duxbury as a 2021 target communities to leverage services and assistance for business, rental and residential communities.

February 4, 2021

Rep. Michael Marcotte, Chair  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
115 State St.  
Montpelier, VT. 05633

Tasha Wallis, LCPC  
**President**

Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC  
**Vice-President**

Charlie Baker, CCRPC  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Re: FY 22 Appropriations to the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund (MRPF)**

Dear Chair Marcotte and Committee Members:

On behalf of all eleven RPCs that cover the entire state, we want to thank you for your past support for the investments the Legislature has made in planning and project development in our towns and regions. This funding support has been critical to the RPC's ability to assist in COVID response, emergency management, transportation, housing, energy, food security, land use planning, and economic development.

The demands being placed on RPCs are greater than ever, due to the increased needs of municipalities as they try to address economic and social uncertainty associated with the pandemic. Vermont's communities have seen an influx of state and federal funds at an unprecedented level, however, many of our communities had to rely on RPCs to provide grant writing and administration so they could participate in federal and state recovery programs. The RPCs, throughout Vermont, have been a consistent statewide resource for our communities, as we were with Tropical Storm Irene, in providing this critical assistance.

The receipts from the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) are near record levels due to the real estate boom in Vermont. **The RPCs have not had an increase in funding since 2014.** During this period, the operating costs for RPCs have increased dramatically, while at the same time, the demands for RPC services have also increased, creating an unsustainable financial situation for RPCs.

The RPCs have a long history of providing statewide, comprehensive, efficient program delivery. The influx of federal funds coming into Vermont can and will overwhelm many of our smaller towns, creating inequities between those communities who can apply and manage the funds and those who cannot. The RPCs can ensure that the communities that do not have the capacity will receive assistance.

**We ask your support in seeking an additional \$700,000 in Funding in FY 22 from the House Appropriations Committee.**

**What will the RPCs accomplish with the additional investment?**

**Broadband**

- Work with the Legislature, Department of Public Service, and telecommunication providers in the expansion of broadband for low and moderate-income households and households with poor broadband service.
- Work with municipalities and community groups to secure grant funding to facilitate the formation of the CUDs; commission broadband feasibility studies and broadband business plans, and assist the CUDs in hiring staff and procurement.

**Housing and Land Use Planning**

- Work with housing providers and other non-profits in the prioritization and creation of housing for older adults-, low- and moderate-income families, and vulnerable Vermonters.
- Work with VHFA, Community Action Agencies, and other agencies in the implementation and administration of weatherization programs.
- Work with our communities on the expansion of State designations in our downtowns, villages, and new neighborhoods so communities can take advantage of Vermont's Tax Credit Programs.
- Work with our communities to modernize zoning bylaws and other land use regulations to encourage the development of affordable housing.

**Statewide Economic Development Plan**

- Work with stakeholders to facilitate the review of all substate economic development strategies and state-level economic development plans to create a state Economic Development Policy and Action Plan that guides public and private investment.

**Municipal Water and Sewer**

- Work with the Agency of Natural Resources to develop a cost-effective methodology for the development of small water and waste-water systems in communities that would allow for greater housing density and commercial and industrial development in smart growth locations.

We would welcome the opportunity to appear before your Committee to discuss this proposal and other programs offered by Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions. We look forward to working with the Legislature during these difficult times in addressing the needs of Vermonters.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Kennedy*

Thomas J. Kennedy, AICP  
Chair, VAPDA Government Relations Committee