



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Remote Participation via Zoom¹

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81136818419?pwd=dDFDbDhrTm56TUNQUlp3WEorYzRZZz09>

One tap mobile: +19294362866,,81136818419#,,,,*722490# US (New York)

Dial in via phone: 1-929-436-2866 • Meeting ID: 811 3681 8419 • Passcode: 722490

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81136818419?pwd=dDFDbDhrTm56TUNQUlp3WEorYzRZZz09>

Download the app at least 5 minutes before the meeting starts: <https://zoom.us/download>

Physical Location

Central VT Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin

(Facial coverings required for in-person participation)

Page **AGENDA**

6:30² Adjustments to the Agenda

Public Comments

2 **6:35 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Grace Vinson, Planner** (enclosed)
Eligible activities, sharing municipal ideas.

9 **7:05 Capital Improvement Planning – Christian Meyer, Senior Planner** (enclosed)
Funding opportunities are here. Is your community ready for them?

13 **7:35 Ivy Computers Letter of Support** (enclosed)³
7:50 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan (to be sent separately)³
CVRPC comment letter.

19 **8:20 Meeting Minutes** (enclosed)³

23 **8:25 Reports** (enclosed)
Update/questions on Staff, Director, and Committee Reports

8:30 Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 11, 2022

¹ 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 at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

² Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

³ Anticipated action item.

ARPA Funding: Eligible Uses and Best Practices



What You **CAN** Spend \$ On

Seven (7) Categories in 66 Expenditure Categories:

1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
4. Premium Pay
5. [Revenue Replacement](#)
6. Infrastructure (Water, Sewer, Broadband)
7. Administrative



Appendix 1: Expenditure Categories

The Expenditure Categories (EC) listed below must be used to categorize each project as noted in Part 2 above. The term "Expenditure Category" refers to the detailed level (e.g., 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination). When referred to as a category (e.g., EC 1) it includes all Expenditure Categories within that level.

1: Public Health	
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination [^]
1.2	COVID-19 Testing [^]
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.) [^]
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19
1.10	Mental Health Services [^]
1.11	Substance Use Services [^]
1.12	Other Public Health Services
2: Negative Economic Impacts	
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs [^]
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid [^]
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers [^]
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs [^]
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention [^]
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers [^]
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives) [^]
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General) [^]
2.10	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations [^]
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries
2.13	Other Economic Support [^]
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff
3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning [^]
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts [^]
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services [^]
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services [^]
3.5	Education Assistance: Other [^]
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care [^]
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting [^]
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System [^]

What You CAN Spend \$ On:

Pandemic Response (Public Health)

- COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
- Public Health and Public Safety Employees

Pandemic Response (Economic Impacts)

- Grants/loans to businesses
- Assistance to households (rent, utility assistance)
- Additional eligible uses If supporting low income/minority populations

→Consider: what negative public health or economic impact of COVID will the project/purchase address?

Examples

- Ventilation/HVAC improvements at municipal buildings
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Financial support for food pantries

What You CAN Spend \$ On:

Premium Pay

Premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency

or

Grants to third-party employers with eligible workers performing essential work

Examples

- Grocery store or restaurant workers
- Public health and safety staff
- Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff
- Social service and human services staff

What You CAN Spend \$ On:

Lost Revenue

For the **provision of government services** to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such municipality due to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Base year revenue (FY ending June 2019)
- MINUS Growth year revenue (FY ending Dec 2020)
= Lost Revenue (use this amount for provision of government services)

NEMRC can provide assistance with [Lost Revenue Calculator](#)

May not qualify this year but may in a subsequent year (2020, 2021, 2022)

Provision of Government Services

- Maintenance of infrastructure/pay-go spending for new infrastructure, including roads;
- Cybersecurity (hardware, software, protection of critical infrastructure);
- Health services;
- Environmental remediation;
- School or educational services;
- Provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

*Pay-go infrastructure funding: funding capital projects with cash on hand from taxes, fees, grants, and other sources rather than borrowed sums

What You CAN Spend \$ On:

Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Water/sewer projects must align with Drinking Water or Clean Water Revolving Fund, and must have water quality benefit

Broadband

- Focus on serving unserved/underserved populations (less than 25/25 mbps upload/download) and projects that achieve last mile connections
- Assistance to households/businesses to provide internet access or digital literacy assistance is also eligible

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

- Construct, improve, and repair WWTP;
- Control non-point sources of pollution;
- Green infrastructure; manage and treat stormwater (projects in SWMP/River Corridor Plans)

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

- Planning/design, focused on improving public health/regulatory compliance issues

What You CAN NOT Spend \$ On

- Federal Match
- Pensions
- Infrastructure Not Directly Addressed in ARPA
- Rainy Day Funds, Financial Reserves, and Outstanding Debt

Best Practices

- Be Patient and methodical: no need to rush
- Review municipal priorities and programs
- Consult citizens
survey, public forum, ARPA committee
- Consider eligible uses and exclude ineligible expenses
- Leverage other funding sources: Identify needs and potential funding sources-
spend municipal ARPA \$\$ on what you can't get anywhere else



Best Practices, cont'd.

- **Transfer funds** to nonprofits or other 3rd party organizations
- **Pool funds:** Pool funds with other municipalities to achieve scale for deeper impact
- **Think Bigger:** Consider [State of VT's ARPA Money](#) or other federal funding:
 - \$100m Water, Wastewater, Stormwater
 - \$150m Vermont Community Broadband (CUDs)
 - \$64m Affordable Housing
 - \$20m Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy
 - \$18m Housing Weatherization



ARPA Reporting

- All municipalities required to report on their spending directly to Treasury, by [ARPA expenditure categories](#)
- Annual reporting schedule, first Project and Expenditure Report due **April 30, 2022**
- Reporting guidance issued by Treasury and additional ARPA resources posted on [VICT's ARPA webpage](#)
- **11/5 UPDATE:** "Beneficiary" not subject to Audit requirements, "Sub recipients" are subject to Audit



Appendix 1: Expenditure Categories

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1.10	Mental Health Services*
1.11	Substance Use Services*
1.12	Other Public Health Services

Best Practices



ARPA Municipal Project Selection

1. Be Patient and Methodical

There is no need to rush! Funds must be obligated by 2024, and must be expended by 2026.

2. Review Municipal Priorities and Programs

What does your Municipal Plan prioritize for future investment? Develop an initial list of project ideas from your Municipal Plan goals and strategies. Consider what's changed. How do these needs connect with the four ARPA eligibility buckets?

- Respond to the public health emergency or negative economic impacts
- Premium pay for essential workers
- Revenue replacement, and
- Water, sewer, broadband infrastructure.

Municipal Priorities

- Improve drinking, waste, or storm water infrastructure
- Buildout broadband
- Strengthen village center and business economic resilience
- Improve certain outdoor space
- Further childcare goal

3. Consult your Citizens

Use a public process to solicit and prioritize project ideas. Reach out to community groups. ARPA funding can be distributed to nonprofits or other eligible third-party organizations performing eligible projects that benefit your community!

Invite Ideas

- Host a public forum
- Conduct a survey
- Use events
- Send a letter
- Leverage social media
- Ask committees

4. Exclude Ineligible uses

- ARPA funds cannot be spent on:
- Match to other federal programs (you can add to federal funding received)
 - Pensions
 - Infrastructure not directly addressed in ARPA, or
 - Rainy day funds, financial reserves, and outstanding debt.

City/Town/Village of _____

EXAMPLE

As of: _____ (insert date)

ARPA Funds Allocated to Our Municipality: \$ _____

Project Idea	Perceived Need for the Project is High, Medium or Low/No	Project Impact is Wide, Moderate, or Narrow	Is there a COVID Nexus? High, Medium, or Low/No	Does ARPA Encourage, Authorize or Prohibit ARPA Funds to this?	Sufficient \$: ARPA Alone, with Known Sources, or Doubtful?
1 ex. Bike or Walk Path from village to school	Identified	Benefits Some	Not Really/Not At All	Authorizes	VTrans
2 ex. Town-wide Wi-Fi/Broadband	Identified	Benefits All	Yes	Encourages	Public Service Dept.
3 ex. Paving roads	Identified	Benefits All	Not Really/Not At All	Prohibits	As Available
4 ex. Village water upgrade	Some Need	Benefits Some	Yes	Encourages	ANR
5 ex. Create community center	Low Desire/Need	Benefits Some	Somewhat	Prohibits	CDBG
6 ex. Loans to business owners for recovery	Some Need	Benefits Some	Yes	Encourages	ACCD/USDA
7 ex. Create revolving loan fund for business expansion	Low Desire/Need	Benefits Few	Somewhat	Authorizes	ACCD/USDA/US EDA
8 ex.					
9 ex.					
10 ex.					

Note: Based on a template developed by the Town of Brandon Selectboard

Early Ideas from Municipalities

- improving air quality in town hall / building ventilation
- wastewater treatment plant to support housing development / extending water and sewer lines / water and sewer systems / updating pump stations
- broadband development
- neighborhood stabilization / housing rehab / housing
- digitizing land records
- stormwater projects
- radio coverage for EMS / improving EMS/EOC facilities
- hybrid meeting support
- revenue replacement
- grants to businesses
- COVID modifications to public facilities
- premium pay (police)
- restoring staffing levels

Search

ARPA Committee

The Town of Richmond has been awarded over \$1.2M in ARPA funds. These funds are a direct payment to municipalities to aid in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. There will be many projects in Richmond which qualify for funding, but there are also strict stipulations regarding what the money may be spent on. The Selectboard has formed the ARPA Committee with the goal of better understanding the guidelines for how the money may be spent, actively engaging the community in a process to collect ideas on how Richmond should spend these funds, and making recommendations to the Selectboard on projects to fund.

Agendas:
[ARPA Committee 11-18-21](#)

Minutes:
[ARPA Committee 11-18-21 Minutes](#)

Documents and Resources Related to ARPA
[ARPA Committee Outline](#)
[ARPA Presentation Oct21 Deck](#)

CVRPC Available to:

- assist with project prioritization and eligibility consideration
- meet with Selectboard or municipal stakeholders to discuss ARPA
- host public forum, develop survey, or assist with other outreach

Contact: Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com



Capital Improvement Programming

Board of Commissioners
December 14, 2021

Why engage in Capital Improvement Programming?

- To help residents better understand why and when large municipal capital expenses are needed;
- To strive for stable annual capital budget levels, rather than highly-fluctuating levels, in order to provide predictability for town taxpayers;
- To identify proposed funding sources;
- To create an open process and provide opportunity for residents, and municipal departments, and organizations to propose and comment on capital improvements and priorities.

What is a Capital Improvement Program?

*A CIP is, at **minimum**, a six-year document: the capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year, plus the following five years of anticipated investments.*

Section 4430 of Chapter 117 defines a capital project as:

- *a **physical betterment** (buildings, furnishings, machinery, apparatus, or equipment);*
- ***land** or interests in land;*
- *preliminary **studies** related to any betterment, land, or interests in land;*
- *or **any combination** of the three.*

What does a CIP involve?

An Inventory

- Summary by facility
Includes major new investments, equipment, or maintenance
Yes: New roof, excavator, overhead doors, new construction or expansion, boiler, scoping studies, roads...
No: Heating fuel, salaries, light switches...
- Aggregated Across Facilities

What does a CIP involve?

A Process

WHY

Principles

WHO

The CIP Committee

WHAT

Policies
Inventory

HOW

Maintenance and Intake
Evaluation
Adoption of the CIP
Monitoring
Process Review
Record Keeping

CIP Project Intake Form

An opportunity to provide a structured description of a proposed project including its purpose, need and how it fits into broader town planning goals.

The Planning for Improvements Beyond the CIP

- A CIP can open a dialogue between departments, committees, citizens and the governing body
- Helps identify needs

However:

- A CIP will not necessarily identify a fitting solution.
 - Town Input
 - Engineering
 - Costs

Thank You

Christian Meyer, CVRPC
meyer@cvregion.com



MEMO

Date: December 7, 2021

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Clare Rock, Senior Planner, and Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director

Re: Request for Letter of Regional Plan Compatibility and Support

✉ ACTION REQUESTED: Approve a letter of Regional Plan compatibility and support for the Ivy Computers Vermont Economic Growth Incentive (VEGI) program application.

Staff requests Board approval regarding a letter of support for Ivy Computer's Vermont Economic Growth Incentive (VEGI) program application. Board input is requested for this application because the project may trigger Substantial Regional Impact due to cumulative impacts of development along the Rt. 100 corridor. Letters are due to VEPC by December 17.

CVEDC, via its work with Ivy Computers, requested the letter. It is not unusual for compatibility and support letter requests to arrive with limited notice. CVRPC understands that projects can evolve quickly. As a regional partner, CVRPC works to meet an organization's deadline when possible.

The VEGI program provides incentives from the State of Vermont to encourage prospective economic activity in Vermont that is beyond a business's organic growth—growth that would not occur, would not occur in Vermont, or would occur in a significantly less desirable manner without the incentive. ([ACCD website](#)). The Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC), which administers the VEGI program, looks for both RDC and RPC comment when reviewing applications. Projects at the VEGI incentive stage generally have conceptual development ideas that allow for financial proformas, but projects have not applied for permits.

CVRPC Compatibility & Support Letters

Staff customarily writes Regional Plan compatibility and CVRPC support letters for grant and financing applications upon request and based on a project's conformance with the Regional Plan. For letter of compatibility or support, staff first reviews a project's conformance with the Regional Plan. If the project is compatible, staff determines whether the Regional Plan suggests the project should be supported. For project involving construction activities, compatibility and support letters include the following language: "CVRPC reserves the right to make further comments on the project if it proceeds

1 through the State Act 250 permit process.”

2
3 Staff is seeking confirmation that the Board generally supports this project expansion as a whole even
4 if the Board identifies a need for transportation corridor improvements when full development plans
5 are available. The Board *is not* being asked to review development details and comment on the project
6 as if the project were in the development review process.

7 8 **Project Information**

9 Ivy Computer is a computer software development company located on Route 100 in Waterbury. It is
10 proposing to expand its facilities and workforce. CVRPC understands from CVEDC that Ivy Computer
11 wants to build a new, two-story, 20,000 square foot office building on the same property on which the
12 business is currently located. The property is located at 2933 Waterbury-Stowe Road/Route 100,
13 Waterbury. The new office building would be placed in the footprint of the old Waterbury Festival
14 Playhouse, which is currently being removed from the property. Ivy anticipates hiring an additional 81
15 people in the expanded facility. It is CVRPC’s understanding that Ivy Computers is in the process of
16 securing financing for the expansion and will then proceed with the permit process.

17
18 Based upon ANR’s Natural Resource Atlas’ mapping platform, the property is approximately 8-acres. It
19 hosts five commercial buildings (including the Playhouse building) and a small-scale solar array. All
20 buildings are accessed via a semi-circular driveway which has two access points onto Route 100. The
21 property is under Act 250 jurisdiction. In 2018, the owner received State approval to convert the
22 former furniture store on the site to office space for 60 employees, and to convert the former Agway
23 shed to a woodworking shop and space for 7 employees. To view the approved site plan see:
24 [https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/ANR/Planning/5W0531-6/Application%20Documents/017%20%20C2-](https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/ANR/Planning/5W0531-6/Application%20Documents/017%20%20C2-01%20Master%20Site%20Plan.pdf)
25 [01%20Master%20Site%20Plan.pdf](https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/ANR/Planning/5W0531-6/Application%20Documents/017%20%20C2-01%20Master%20Site%20Plan.pdf). As mention above, CVRPC understands the existing seasonal
26 tent/Playhouse building will be removed and a new two-story, 20,000 square foot office building will
27 be constructed.

28 29 **Regional Plan Conformance & Support**

30 Staff found the Ivy Computer development concept is in general conformance with Regional Plan.

31
32 The property is located within the Regional Plan’s Rural Future Planning District. It is located on Route
33 100, a Minor Arterial. Prime Agricultural Soils are present. The property is not located in a State-
34 identified Highest Priority Forest Block; is not within the floodplain; and there are no steep slopes.

35
36 The Regional Plan recognizes and acknowledges that the Rural Areas include residential, small-scale
37 commercial and industrial, and recreational uses. Associated Regional Plan policies aim to guide
38 development that does not diminish the rural character and encourages safe vehicular and pedestrian
39 movement, including measures such as traffic calming, within the site, and in relation to adjacent areas
40 or roads. With regard to non-residential uses, including small professional offices, the Regional Plan
41 recognizes them to be acceptable land uses for Rural Areas provided they are planned as relatively

1 small in size or scale, are not primary or dominant uses in an area, and do not unduly conflict with
2 forestry or agricultural uses. The Plan goes on to state that “Towns should limit the number and size of
3 such establishments to prevent a proliferation of scattered commercial development that does not
4 serve the needs of the community.”

5
6 The proposal indicates a two-story, 20,000 square foot building. It is unknown if the building footprint
7 is 20,000 square feet or if this is the cumulative square footage over 2-stories. The latter would be
8 more in keeping with the size and scale of the existing Playhouse building and would therefore be in
9 keeping with the existing scale and pattern of development. Site design, including the location of a
10 new parking area, landscaping, screening, and stormwater management, would be determined during
11 the site design phase of the project. These factors can also contribute to the visual compatibility and
12 environmental impacts of new development in rural areas. A site plan depicting these elements will be
13 necessary to determine if the project’s development proposal fully conforms to the Regional Plan.

14
15 As the project proceeds through the permit process, further site design details and traffic impacts will
16 need to be reviewed to determine if the project’s development proposal conforms to the Regional
17 Plan. The Route 100/108 Corridor Management Plan, developed in 2017-2018, notes the corridor is
18 subject to significant traffic volumes, especially during special events and seasonal tourism. The
19 corridor is becoming a new “left turn” corridor. Next steps that emerged from the Corridor Plan
20 include preparing a village roadway master plan and conducting left and right turn lane warrant
21 analysis in the area of Waterbury Center and Waterbury State Park. The proposed development may
22 or may not result in a need to make roadway improvements in the project area.

23
24 While preliminary information indicates this project is a redevelopment of an already developed site,
25 development in the Route 100 corridor is happening incrementally. Continued scattered commercial
26 development will adversely impact the scenic characteristics of the Rural Planning Area and contribute
27 to increased traffic congestion.

28
29 The Regional Plan’s transportation goals envision a transportation system that is appropriately
30 structured and designed to safely, effectively, and economically move goods and people.
31 Accompanying policies suggest the region encourage access management policies that reduce traffic
32 congestion. Additional employees at the site will generate additional traffic onto Route 100, a State
33 route which burdened by increasing traffic, especially during peak tourist season. The actual impacts
34 of the proposed project are unknown at this time. Variables needed to understand the project’s traffic
35 impacts would include estimated work hours, number of shifts, and the incorporation of any travel
36 demand management strategies which may reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips during peak times.
37 As the project moves through the permit process, it will be the applicant’s responsibility to calculate
38 the number of vehicle trips generated by the increased number of employees. This information will
39 assist CVRPC to assess fully the traffic impacts on Route 100 and Regional Plan conformance.

1 Creation of new jobs and retention of existing business is fully supported by the Regional Plan. Plan
2 policies specifically support and encourage expansion in sectors that are poised for growth, such as:
3 high tech manufacturing, software development and information technology. While commercial and
4 industrial uses that do not require a rural location are preferred to be located in downtowns, villages
5 and adjacent industrial areas, other acceptable areas are those locations that have been developed
6 and are zoned for such purposes, such as 2933 Waterbury-Stowe Road. The economic chapter of the
7 Regional Plan also indicates the need to ensure the transportation system can accommodate and
8 support business growth and expansion and that the transportation system efficiently transports goods
9 and services and employees to their place of work. These economic development policies further echo
10 the need to ensure new development does not negatively impact the efficiency of the transportation
11 system.

12
13 **Staff Recommendation**

14 Staff recommends that the enclosed compatibility and support letter be provided to VEPC for the Ivy
15 Computers expansion project.

Draft Letter of Conformance and Support

December 14, 2021

Abbie Sherman, Executive Director
Vermont Economic Progress Council
One National Life Drive
Deane C. Davis Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
abbie.sherman@vermont.gov

Dear Ms. Sherman,

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is pleased to support Ivy Computer's application to the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive program. CVRPC understands Ivy Computer desires to build a new, two-story, 20,000 square foot office building on the same property on which the business is currently located. The property is located at 2933 Waterbury-Stowe Road/Route 100, Waterbury. The new office building would be placed in the footprint of the old Waterbury Festival Playhouse, which is currently being removed from the property. CVRPC also understands that Ivy anticipates hiring an additional 81 people in the expanded facility. It is CVRPC's understanding that Ivy Computers is in the process of securing financing for the expansion and will then proceed with the permit process.

The proposed project is located within the Regional Plan's Rural Future Planning District. It is located on Route 100, a Minor Arterial. Prime Agricultural Soils are present. The property is not located in a State-identified Highest Priority Forest Block; is not within the floodplain; and there are no steep slopes.

The Regional Plan recognizes and acknowledges that the Rural Areas include residential, small-scale commercial and industrial, and recreational uses. Associated Regional Plan policies aim to guide development that does not diminish the rural character and encourages safe vehicular and pedestrian movement, including measures such as traffic calming, within the site, and in relation to adjacent areas or roads. With regard to non-residential uses, including small professional offices, the Regional Plan recognizes them to be acceptable land uses for Rural Areas provided they are planned as relatively small in size or scale, are not primary or dominant uses in an area, and do not unduly conflict with forestry or agricultural uses.

As the project proceeds through the permit process, further site design details and traffic impacts will need to be reviewed to determine the project's regional transportation impacts. The Route 100/108 Corridor Management Plan, developed in 2017-2018, notes the corridor is subject to significant traffic

1 volumes, especially during special events and seasonal tourism. The corridor is becoming a new “left
2 turn” corridor. The Regional Plan’s transportation goals envision a transportation system that is
3 appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively, and economically move goods and people.
4 Accompanying policies suggest the region encourage access management policies that reduce traffic
5 congestion. The proposed development may or may not result in a need to make roadway
6 improvements in the project area, which may increase project costs if not already incorporated into
7 the project budget. A previous Ivy project at this site was required to pay an Act 145 fee to support
8 transportation improvements in the corridor, and the company is familiar with that process.

9
10 Creation of new jobs and retention of existing business is fully supported by the Regional Plan. Plan
11 policies specifically support and encourage expansion in sectors that are poised for growth, such as:
12 high tech manufacturing, software development and information technology. While commercial and
13 industrial uses that do not require a rural location are preferred to be located in downtowns, villages
14 and adjacent industrial areas, other acceptable areas are those locations that have been developed
15 and are zoned for such purposes, such as 2933 Waterbury-Stowe Road. The economic chapter of the
16 Regional Plan also indicates the need to ensure the transportation system can accommodate and
17 support business growth and expansion and that the transportation system efficiently transports goods
18 and services and employees to their place of work.

19
20 The *2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2020*, includes goals and policies relevant to this
21 project and finds the Ivy Computer proposal to be in general conformance with the Regional Plan.
22 CVRPC reserves the right to make further comments on the project if it proceeds through the State Act
23 250 permit process.

24
25 Sincerely,

26
27
28 Clare Rock
29 Senior Planner

30
31
32 cc: Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
November 9, 2021**

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" 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	Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Clarice Cutler (Interim)	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock

Guests: Danielle Ozcwarski, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

Call to Order

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan

Danielle Ozcwarski of the Department of Environmental Conservation shared the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Story Map Overview with the Board. The Story Map is available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/31866e2766c94400b86b4c88b954d91a>. A video of the previously-held public meeting is available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin7>. Ozcwarski can mail hard copies upon request.

Ozcwarski provided details on what a basin is and how a watershed is impacted. Tactical Basin plans are strategic guidebooks produced by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to protect, maintain, enhance and restore Vermont's surface waters. Plans identify where Water Quality standards are not met, where they are exceeded, and where they need to be maintained. She noted the importance of collaboration and partnerships in the basin planning process. This collaboration includes Agency of Agriculture, AA Farm Markets, Agency of Transportation, Forest Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Regional Planning Commissions, Natural Resources Conservation Districts, local watershed groups, non-profit organizations, municipalities, town boards and commissions. Regional Planning Commissions play an important role on reaching out to towns to assist in implementation of basin plans.

Plans are issued every five years for Vermont's 15 basins to identify and address issues of water quality, as well as identifying funding for water quality projects. She advised a Report Card would be provided in January for the Lamoille Basin with a list of all that has been done in the basin over the last five years.

The floor was opened to questions and reclassification was discussed. Ozcwarski advised reclassification could help in town planning to ensure best practices are being used. She advised a full question and answer session could be set up in the future to address reclassification. M. Gray advised that in Woodbury there is a large lumber company that has begun proceedings to close on a significant piece of land on Woodbury Mountain Ridge, which flows into the Winooski and Lamoille Basins. This land will become the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve. He also advised land by Nichols Pond and East Long Pond will likely be preserved in the future.

Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the draft letter in the packet. He noted that in the draft letter there is question if guidance could be added to the plan regarding reclassification. Ozcwarski advised she would likely address this question in the Responsiveness Summary to the Plan if that comment is included. Waninger's memo recommended removing the text regarding conformance with the draft Woodbury Town Plan removed, as it is not the Town's role to determine local plan conformance.

There was a question regarding the use of "overarching" on page 11 of the packet. Rock advised the draft was completed by DeAndrea and confirmed that the term was overarching, not overreaching. She believes the term is being used to indicate there are goals and objectives that address multiple topics.

G. D'Amico moved to adopt the draft letter, striking out the section on conformance with the draft Woodbury Town Plan; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried

Regional Economic Development Project Priority Committee Appointment

Jamie Stewart of CVEDC noted this is a process run by the Development Corporations as part of their contract with the Agency of Commerce. It must be done in collaboration with the Regional Planning Commissions. The goal is to create a 'living list' of projects, obtaining information from a variety of sources with the focus being projects that will drive economic development in the region which are then scored via matrix and Committee review. State and Federal entities use this list when determining where to fund projects. It is important to be sure we are reaching out to as many people as possible to ensure their projects are brought forward and ranked as part of this process.

1 With regard to the Regional Economic Project Prioritization Committee, Chair Lotspeich advised that in
2 March the Board appointed Paula Emery and Peter Carbee. He inquired whether another Board
3 member might be interested. Stewart advised there would be two meetings of the Committee. One
4 would be a training providing the criteria, goals and objectives, and process. He noted then projects
5 would be solicited with outreach in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission and other
6 partners. Once applications are received, Committee members will review the applications and
7 individually score them. A second meeting of the Committee will be held to review the scores and
8 prioritize 10 projects for submission to the State. The Committee makeup will be three members each
9 of the CVEDC Board and CVRPC Board as well as J. Stewart and B. Waninger.

10
11 Stewart noted the West Central Vermont CEDS will have a similar process and priority list. After this
12 year, it likely that the majority of the work will be done in the CEDS process vs. this process.

13
14 Rich Turner advised he was very interested in participating on the Committee.

15
16 *R. Wernecke nominated Rich Turner to the Committee; L. Hill-Eubanks seconded. Motion carried.*

17
18 Stewart advised he would get additional information to the Committee members next week. He
19 implored the rest of the Commission members to speak to people in their communities about potential
20 projects to be included on the list.

21 22 **Winooski Basin Water Quality Council**

23 Chair Lotspeich provided an overview. He advised the Executive Committee had a fair amount of
24 discussion and recommended a process. B. Waninger presented the process which includes the
25 following:

- 26 • CVRPC staff to distribute invitation to letters to all municipalities in the Basin (50)
- 27 • CVRPC staff to host informational sessions
- 28 • Candidates will submit letters of interest
- 29 • CVRPC staff will seek additional information about candidates
- 30 • CVRPC Nominating Committee will meet to recommend appointees
- 31 • CVRPC Board will be asked to appoint Basin Water Quality Council municipal representatives

32
33 A schedule is proposed to have the final appointment voted on at the January Board meeting. This
34 misses the State contract deadline, but allows sufficient time for municipalities to respond to the initial
35 invitation. With the Board's approval, staff would advise the State of the reason for the delay.

36
37 The floor was opened to questions. None raised.

38
39 *L. Catteneo moved to approve the process for appointment for municipal representatives to the Winooski*
40 *Basin Water Quality Council; R. Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.*

41 42 **Municipal Dues**

43 Chair Lotspeich said CVRPC is basing FY23 dues on 2020 Census population data. He highlighted the
44 recommended increase as well as other options which were open to discussion.

Question was raised if the proposed \$3,200 increase would be critical, and how would it be multiplied by grants, etc. B. Waninger advised it was critical as State agencies consider municipal contributions as a form of support for the RPCs. Additionally, the Executive Committee directed staff to use a portion of annual dues to build a reserve fund over 20 years to ensure activities at the Commission can be maintained in times of emergency.

Further discussion ensued as to whether a 5% increase or 3.9% increase should be approved.

R. Krauth moved to adopt an FY23 municipal dues assessment at 3.9% increase; R. Wernecke seconded.

A. Quackenbush suggested making it 4% vs. 3.9%; which facilitated discussion of percentage vs. the dollar amount (\$1.33 this year vs. \$1.28 last year). It was suggested it be left at the \$1.33 per resident.

R. Krauth agreed to keep his motion it at 3.9% and include \$1.33 per person to the motion. R. Wernecke accepted this change to his second. Motion carried with one opposition.

Meeting Minutes

A. Quackenbush questioned why we review and approve our minutes as last item agenda, vs. first item agenda. B. Waninger advised several years ago she was asked to move minutes and reports to end of agenda to be respectful of guests who are at the beginning of agenda.

L. Hill-Eubanks moved to approve the minutes for September 14, 2021; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.

R. Wernecke moved to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Waninger noted CVRPC has hired Blaine Hoskins as Assistant Planner. Blaine currently is finishing her graduate degree and is working part-time from Alabama. She will join the team in Vermont in January. She asked Board members if they were aware of any housing in the Barre-Montpelier area to please contact her. She also noted we will begin recruiting this week for a Climate and Energy Planner and a Senior Natural Resource Planner. She noted the workforce marketplace is very competitive now. Staff is working on a variety of projects. Pam's work has been distributed among staff until the Natural Resource position is filled.

L. Hill-Eubanks raised concern regarding the VAPDA update in the Committee reports regarding the Net Metering Rule update and suggested they reconsider removing the joint letter option when addressing excessive forest clearing.

Adjournment

D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm; J. Brabant seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, November 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 unless otherwise noted.

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Continued Middlesex parcel GIS data update and tax map revisions.
- Prepare materials and meet with Middlesex PC to discuss changes the density standards and preliminary changes to subdivision regulations.
- Put Moretown zoning survey into survey monkey platform for electronic distribution.
- Attended Woodbury's second town plan hearing and updated town plan documents based upon comments received.
- Review the Worcester Town Plan and provided written comments for the hearing.
- Draft childcare town plan language for Berlin.
- Review draft sections and provide comments to East Montpelier re energy and telecom.
- Drafted support letter for Marshfield grant application to the EPA Recreation Economy Technical Assistance grant. If awarded, CVRPC will assist the Town to implement the resulting action plan. Marshfield's efforts complement work by the City of Montpelier and CVRPC to develop Central Vermont's recreation economy.
- Edited energy maps for Waitsfield.
- Gathered data to update Calais parcel data and web map.
- Assisted Northfield with its GPS to Arcmap connection.
- Assisted Montpelier with GIS question.
- Edited East Montpelier Zoning Maps.
- Researched Census block level mapping for Barre City (assists with redistricting).
- Finalized Cabot Town Plan amendment and Village Center Designation process calendar.

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Inventoried municipal plans for forest blocks and habitat connectors protection. Staff is building a regional perspective of municipal approaches to compare with the Regional Plan's approach.
- Participated in RPC Energy Coordinators meeting.
- Researched childcare and municipal strategies for addressing statutory goal. CVRPC is preparing a municipal "idea guide" to bolster municipal and regional action on this goal.
- Researched FEMA Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities definitions as part of Regional Plan equity planning.

Partnerships for Progress:

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC): Discussed Ivy Computer project with Executive Director.

THRIVE: Prepared Leadership Committee meeting agenda and minutes. Participated in Leadership Committee meeting to provide CVRPC update. Participated in CVMC Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) survey. CVRPC is a member of the CHNA Advisory Committee. The CHNA provides direction for CVMC services for the next three years.

Washington County Hunger Council: Chaired Council meetings discussion how the Council can reach out to organizations that formed during COVID to keep the work going and to check in on the status of shelters.

Wrightsville Beach Recreation District (WBRD): No activity.

CVFiber: Prepared Governing Board and Finance and Audit Committee meeting minutes. Met with CVFiber to discuss preparing website updates and initiated said updates. Researched USDA Reconnect grant and met with CVFiber.

Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD): Did not meet in November.

VT Urban and Community Forestry Council: Participated on the Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation Grants Review Committee. Participated in Council Leadership Committee meeting. Bonnie currently is Vice Chair.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

Contact Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Local/Regional Planning:

- Attended monthly regional RPC/VEM meeting
- REMC: Conducted outreach to all municipalities to appoint REMC representatives. Discussed REMC with Barre Town, Duxbury, Moretown, and Waitsfield. Planned agenda topics for first REMC meeting.
- Grant Applications: Collaborated with Calais Selectboard and SLR Consulting on FEMA 2021 BRIC Application for Kent Hill Road culvert. Attended two Calais Selectboard meetings to discuss project.
- LEMPs. 21 out of 23 LEMPs received. 21 out of 23 LEMPs approved by VEM.
- Inventoried Central Vermont's public safety providers.
- Participated in State Emergency Operation Center and Health Operation Center meetings to maintain situational awareness regarding COVID response and recovery needs/actions.

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

Calais/Montpelier: Prepared project close out report and final invoicing.

Marshfield: Prepared project close out report and final invoicing.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA):

- Monitored Selectboard meeting minutes for ARPA situational awareness.
- Attended Orange and Worcester Selectboard meetings to discuss ARPA and answer questions.
- Attended Barre Town Selectboard for situational awareness on ARPA ideas.
- Participated in call with VLCT and Calais on ARPA ideas.
- Met with VLCT to discuss options for municipalities desiring to pass ARPA funding to Communication Union Districts.
- Attended NEMRC Revenue Loss calculator webinar and distributed information to municipalities.
- Attended DEC ANR ARPA webinars on *Helping Homeowners Replace Failed Drinking Water Wells and Septic Systems* and *Developing Community-Scale Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems*.
- Communicated with Cabot, Calais, Plainfield residents, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Weston Mobile Home Park, Woodbury, Worcester on ARPA process.
- Participated in two RPC/VLCT meetings.

TRANSPORTATION

Contact Christian Meyer, meyer@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Field Services: Road counts are done for this year. Please contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, to be placed on next years' service list.

Grants in Aid: Completed FY21 BMP invoice review. Held pre-construction site visits in Cabot, Fayston, and Marshfield for FY22 BMP.

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 General Manager contract process to frame Board discussion. Held Executive Session to discuss performance appraisal.

Operations Committee – Discussed proposed Vaccination and Testing Policy. As a +100-employee organization, GMT is required to address vaccination requirements under federal rules. The policy focuses on providing proof of vaccination or a negative test. Discussed enforcement of passenger mask mandate and enforcement impacts to drivers. Some passengers are becoming increasingly hostile. Recommended company policy to ensure uniform approach for GMT. Received update on Burlington Downtown Transit Center safety and security. GMT has held initial conversations with the Sheriff's Department regarding security. Discussed potential sub-lease of Montpelier Transit Center as an after-hours warming center for individuals who are homeless. Received an presentation on the FY23 capital budget and potential vehicle replacements.

- Drafted GMT General Manager contract extension and new contract.
- Completed GMT General Manager annual performance appraisal.
- Reviewed GMT video in regards to passenger complaint about actions of another passenger. Concurred with GMT staff that no violation of GMT rules or passenger code of conduct policy occurred.

Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program: CVRPC hosts the Central Vermont E&D Committee (REDPAC). Regular tasks include staffing meetings and executing the REDPAC work program.

- Compiled results from the mid-cycle E&D ridership survey.
- Developed deliverables and presentation for the December E&D Committee meeting.

Municipal Assistance:

- Studying the feasibility of improved forest access for Northfield using consulting services. Recent work included identifying preliminary alternatives and presenting concepts to Northfield Select Board.
- Serving as municipal project manager for the Waitsfield Village West sidewalks construction project.
- Serving as municipal project manager for the Walkable Middlesex Scoping Study.
- Working with Waitsfield to pull together background materials for Route 100 and Route 17 intersection planning.

Regional Activities:

- Participated in TPI Monthly Meeting
- Participated in the VTCulverts update meeting
- Facilitating multi partner discussion on after-hours transit needs from Central Vermont Medical Center.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com unless otherwise noted.

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Received grant award notices for Design Implementation Block Grant Program for the following projects: Barre City Auditorium (a 3-acre site) stormwater final design and the Moretown Elementary School & Town Office stormwater construction.

- Presented the Draft Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Regional Plan conformance review to the Board.
- Reviewed CWAC Rules of Procedure and discussed non-voting members with CWAC member.
- Discussed upcoming CWAC meeting with Committee Chair.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP): Conduct outreach on Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) appointments. Planned BWQC informational sessions. Developed text for CWSP website. Brainstormed project management and grant tracking systems.

Design Implementation Block Grant Program (DIBG):

Woodbury Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Contractor has completed 100% designs for Elementary School and staff has sent deliverable to grantor. Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com.

Calais Stormwater Mitigation Final Designs – Contractor has completed the 100% plans and staff has sent deliverables to the grantor. The project is ready for construction upon availability of funding. Developed press release for East Calais stormwater treatment design phase. Met with Calais Selectboard.

Moretown Elementary School Stormwater Final Design: The consultant team completed the 100% design. Final deliverables were sent to DEC. Developed press release. Submitted construction grant application to the DIBG program.

Woodbury Elementary School/Fire Department Annex Final Design: Contractor has completed the 100% plans for Elementary School. Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com.

Plainfield Gully Restoration: Researched easement development process and coordinated execution with Selectboard. This project originated from a Stormwater Master Plan that was funded for final design from the DEC, which was completed in 2019. Construction is expected to occur summer 2022. Contact Christian Meyer at meyer@cvregion.com.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Onboarded new land use Assistant Planner, Blaine Hoskins
- Hosted CVRPC's contracted accountant, Ahsan Ijaz, at the office for a two-day site visit.

Professional Development/Leadership:

- Bonnie participated in a Northern Borders Regional Commission grant administration workshop. CVRPC will be assisting one or more grantees with grant administration in the upcoming year.
- Bonnie participated in the Secretary of State's training on the Federal Office of Management and Budget update related to audits, VT Public Records Act, and ethics.
- Staff discussed a video presentation on diversity, equity, and inclusion in Vermont given by Xusana Davis, State Director of Racial Equity to the Bennington County Regional Commission. RPC staff and Boards statewide are considering how diversity, equity, and inclusion can be strengthened in their organizations.
- Nancy participated in a Unique Entity Identifier training related to the transition from DUNS to UEI (SAM), which goes into effect in April 2022 for all recipients of federal funding/awards.
- Blaine participated in Open Meeting and Public Records Law training.

Upcoming Meetings:

All CVRPC meetings currently are being held as hybrid meetings, with a physical location and remote access. Meeting access information is provided on agendas at www.centralvtplanning.org.

December

Dec 13	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office and via Zoom
Dec 14	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce and via Zoom
Dec 15	6 pm	Clean Water Service Provider and Basin Water Quality Council Info Session 2, CVRPC Office and via Zoom
Dec 23	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office and via Zoom
Dec 24		<i>Office Closed - Holiday</i>
Dec 31		<i>Office Closed - Holiday</i>

January

Jan 3	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office and via Zoom
Jan 11	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce and via Zoom
Jan 17		<i>Office Closed - Holiday</i>
Jan 25	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office and via Zoom

WEEKLY NEWS HEADLINES

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

November 12th

- \$10 Million in Grants May Be Available to Help Install Pretreatment Systems
- COVID Vaccine Info Series
- CVRPC Welcomes Assistant Planner Blaine Hoskins
- CVRPC Seeks Municipal Candidates for Winooski Basin Water Quality Council

November 19th

- Emergency Management Director's 8-hour course
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Offers \$240,000 in Grants for Organizational Support and Education and Outreach Projects

- CVRPC Seeks Municipal Candidates for Winooski
- Webinar Series on Water Quality Funding
- Vermont Women's Fund This Way UP Survey
- Cross Vermont Trail Completes Historic Construction Season
- Managing Ash Trees in Waitsfield
- Funding Opportunity for Municipal Road Projects
- ARPA CSO funding for Northfield and Montpelier
- Broadband and ARPA: A Roadmap to the Last Mile

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

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

Meeting minutes for CVRPC Committees are available at www.centralvtplanning.org.

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

Meets November 13th.

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

Did not meet.

BYLAW WORK GROUP (A sub-committee of the Executive Committee)

- Reviewed and approved transmittal memo to the Executive Committee.
- Completed a final review of the draft document. Confirmed acceptance of proposed language in several sections. Clarified language details in several sections. Requested staff align terms throughout the document for consistency.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February - April; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

Did not meet.

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 (4th Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

- GMT's Christopher Damiani joined the meeting to discuss the first year of operations of the MyRide on-demand transit service active in the Montpelier and Berlin area.
- The TAC adopted its 2022 meeting schedule: 1/25, 2/22, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24, 6/28, 7/26, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2nd Thursday, 4pm)

Did not meet.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Did not meet. Upon receiving the Brownfields funding contract staff will schedule the next meeting to coordinate program set up.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)

- Discussed draft Brownfields grant agreement and its focus on economic outcomes.
- Discussed legislative issues; met with Vermont Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski for updates on the upcoming session.
- Discussed Vermont Department of Health grant to RPCs in support of health community design. This 18-months project includes workshops and trainings, working with towns, stipends to support municipal interest, and a subgrant to one municipality in each region for a project. The project kicks off in January.
- Received update from Kevin Marshia with VTrans on the VPSP2 project prioritization process.
- Clay Purvis of the Public Service Department explained a possible cell service identification project and sought RPC participate in the project. If funded, the project would deploy 100 cell towers to reach unserved areas in Vermont for \$50M. Drive tests for actual service would be completed (CVRPC completed drive tests for all drivable roads in Central Vermont in 2019). The State would test all federal aid highways, employ consultants to identify possible tower locations, and identify priority areas with stakeholder involvement (RPCs, towns, public safety, landowners, etc.).
- Discussed ANR wastewater and water proposals under ARPA. Expressed concerns to ANR staff about state money being the last in, the assertion of what ratepayers should be able to afford, and that ANR will only fund new projects and not existing systems. ANR agreed to engage in further discussions with RPCs and ACCD.
- ACCD assessed interest among RPCs to develop a common mapping strategy across regions. The idea is to provide a statewide picture of regional land use planning. There was broad interest.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

The MTX Group VEGI incentive will be reviewed by VEPC in December. The award may be withdrawn by the State. A new proposal from Ivy Computers in Waterbury will be reviewed in December.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- VTrans has alerted transit provided that they should be working toward a 20% local match from all communities for FY23. Currently, the State contributes 10% of the required match, but State funds will be limited because the State needs to match its ARPA funds. This announcement means most municipalities likely will see requests for funding increases. Most Central Vermont communities contribute 7-15% match. Staff anticipates bringing a transit financing study presentation to the CVRPC Board in January. The study proposes alternate methods for achieving transit match.
- VTrans and VPTA selected a contractor for 12 microtransit feasibility studies 70 around the state. One study will be completed for the Barre area.
- The Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee has developed definitions on common words and phrasing and has developed key questions that will assist staff and the Board with future decision making.
- The Maintenance Unit ratified the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with GMT. Negotiation of the Rural Operators CBA is in progress.
- Approved Employee Vaccination and Testing Policy.
- Approved adjustments to the FY22 Operating Budget and FY23 Capital Budget.
- Discussed the FY23 Passenger Fare Policy. GMT has been operating fare free since 2020. Currently, the Legislature provided funding for fare free operations in rural areas, and GMT uses pandemic funds to underwrite fares in the urban area. Fare free service is not expected to be sustainable into the future without an alternate funding source for the urban area.

- Held Executive Session to discuss the General Manager's performance appraisal. Voted to extend the General Manager's existing contract term through 12/31/21. A new contract for the General Manager will be voted on in December.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

Did not meet.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Forest Conversion for Net-Metering: Trends & Options to Reduce

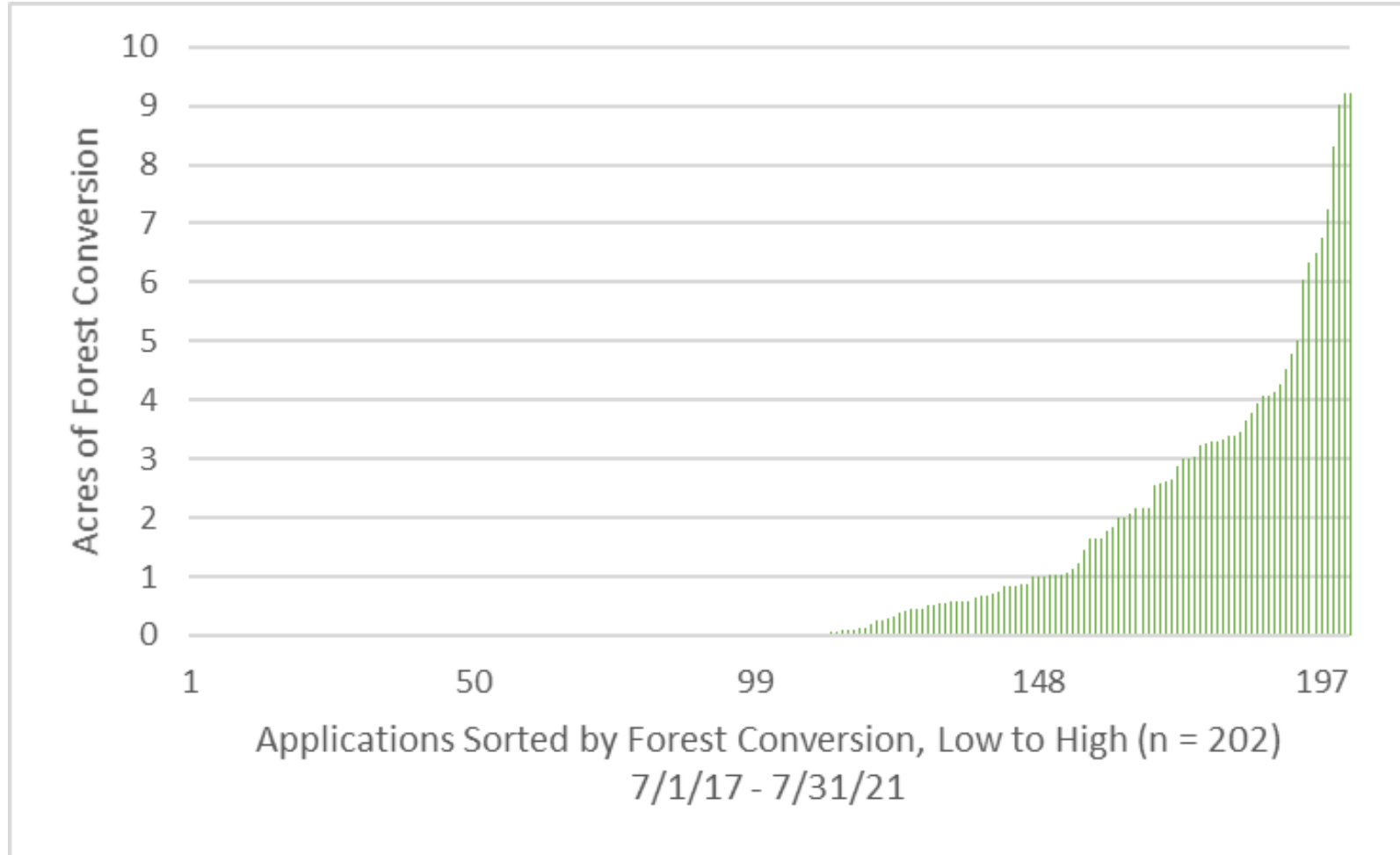
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
August 24, 2021



Report to the Vermont General Assembly on the Net-Metering Program Pursuant to Act 99 of 2014 (2017)

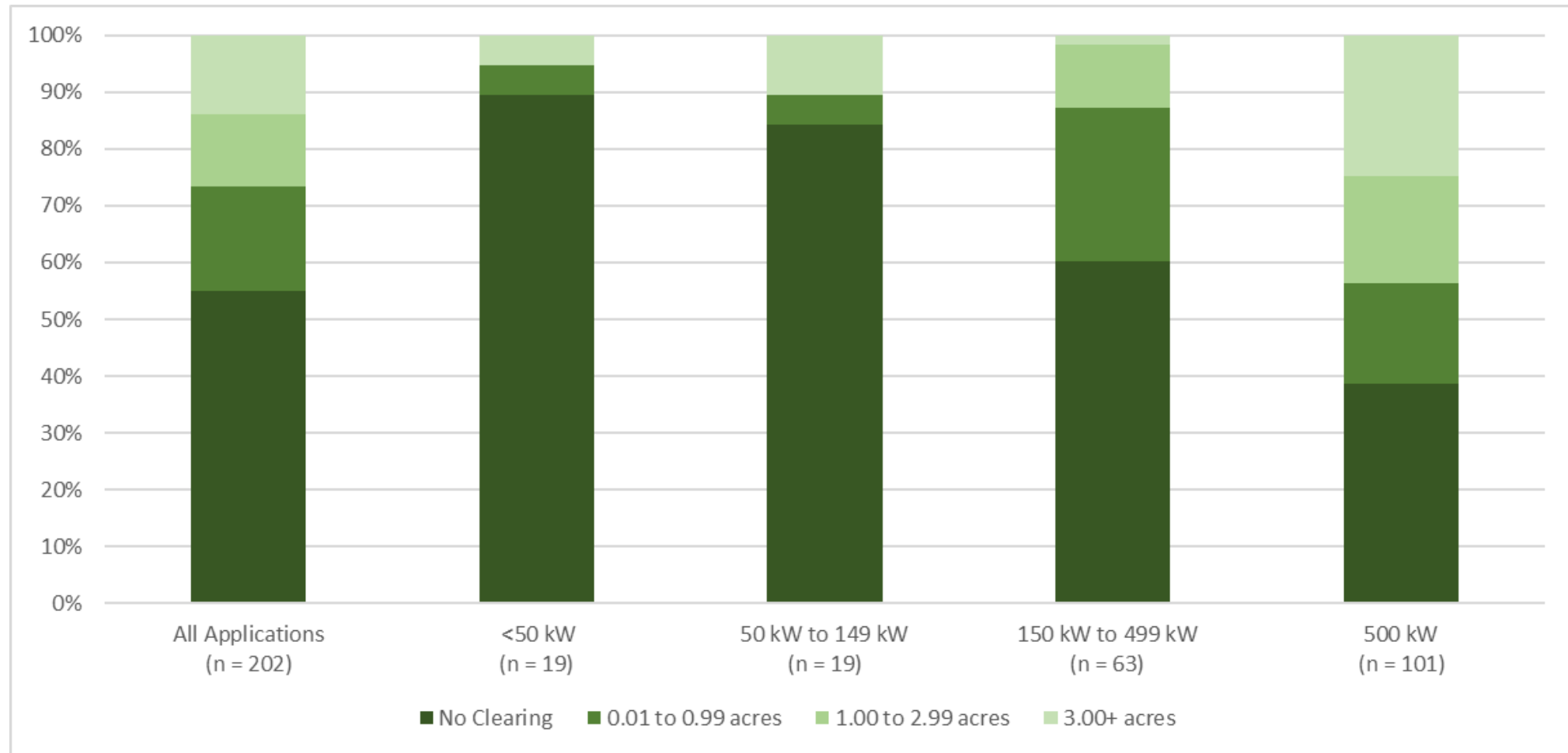
*While renewable energy facilities do not consume natural resources for fuel, such resources are consumed through the construction of such facilities. The former net-metering program provided comparable economic incentives for all net-metering systems regardless of their environmental siting impacts. As a result, **net-metering systems have disproportionately been sited in undeveloped fields and forests because greenfield sites cost less to develop. Therefore, the final proposed rule introduces incentives for constructing net-metering systems in a manner that reduces the environmental impact of such construction by offering higher rates for net-metering systems that are sited on preferred sites such as roofs and previously developed areas.***

Forest Conversion for Net Metering: Data & Trends



- 202 NM & NMP projects
- 208.2 acres forest converted
- 92 (46%) involved forest conversion
- 55 (27%) involved > 1 acre forest conversion
- 29 (14%) involved > 3 acres forest conversion
- 10 (5%) involved > 5 acres forest conversion

Forest Conversion By System Capacity



Forest Conversion By Preferred Site

Net-Metering Applications by Preferred Site Type and Forest Cleared, 7/1/17 through 7/31/21

Preferred Site	Applications	% of Total	Forest Cleared (Ac.)	Forest Cleared/Application (Ac.)
1 - New/Existing Structure	0	0.0	0.00	0.00
2 - Parking Lot Canopy	7	3.5	0.00	0.00
3 - Previously Developed	3	1.5	0.00	0.00
4 - Brownfield	4	2.0	6.19	1.55
5 - Sanitary Landfill	8	4.0	1.36	0.17
6 - Gravel Pit, Quarry, Etc.	27	13.4	16.95	0.63
7 - Muni Plan/Letter	101	50.0	143.27	1.42
8 - Superfund	0	0.0	0.00	0.00
9 - Near Customer Load	45	22.3	31.78	0.71
NA	7	3.5	8.61	1.23
Total	202	100	208.16	1.03

Forest Values and Conservation Policies

Values

- Water supply/quality protection
- Flood control and protection
- Wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Clean air, carbon sequestration, carbon storage
- Scenic beauty
- Forest products

Conservation Policies

- Use Value Appraisal
- Forestland conservation programs
- Working Lands Enterprise Initiative
- Act 171 of 2016 (24 V.S.A. Ch. 117)
- Climate Action Plan - *TBD*

Vermont Forest Action Plan (2017): https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts_forests/action_plan

Vermont Forest Carbon Inventory (2021): <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/climate-change/forest-carbon>

Option 1: Prohibit Preferred Site Development at Forested Sites

- Modify definition of preferred site, e.g., *“Preferred Site” means a site that is not a forested site and is one of the following...*
 - Define “Forested Site”, e.g., *“Forested Site” means a contiguous area of forest in any stage of succession and not currently developed for nonforest use.*
 - Applies to Category II and III systems only—those systems that must be on preferred sites and benefit from siting adjustor
 - Could be targeted to specific preferred sites types
-

Option 2: Prohibit Excessive Forest Conversion at Forested Sites

- Revise preferred site definition to prohibit “excessive forest conversion”
 - Define “excessive forest conversion,” e.g.,
 - “Excessive Forest Conversion” means forest clearing for the project in an amount greater than X acres.
 - “Excessive Forest Conversion” means forest clearing for the project in an amount greater than X times the area occupied by the energy generation component of the project.
 - “Excessive Forest Conversion” means forest clearing for the project that would result in a ratio of capacity, in kW, to acres of forest cleared that is lower than X:1.
 - Applies to Category II and III systems only; could be targeted to specific preferred site types
-

Option 3: Repeal Joint Letter or Enact Standards Requiring Consideration of Forest Impacts

- Draft potential changes to Net-Metering Rule would repeal joint letter option
 - 70% of forest conversion proposed since 7/1/17 occurred at preferred site 7
 - Commission solicited comment on standards regional and local bodies should apply to determine whether a site should be designated as preferred
 - Standards could be applied related to forest impact, e.g.,
 - Shall not be a forested site; shall not result in excessive forest conversion
 - Shall be consistent with regional and local policies regarding forest blocks and habitat connectors
-



Questions

Kevin Anderson
Agency of Natural Resources
Kevin.Anderson@Vermont.gov