



Weekly News Roundup April 8, 2022

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Upcoming Events

Vermont Climate Council Public Forums

The Vermont Climate Council is holding public forums on April 12 and 13 to share information about its ongoing work and to hear from Vermonters across the state. Come learn about Vermont's Climate Action Plan, the legislative initiatives it has inspired, and the Council's plans for this year. We'll split into smaller groups to discuss the feedback Vermonters want to share with the Council. Use the link below to register for an early evening session on April 12 or lunch session on April 13. Please note, these meetings will be in English, but the Council is continuing to explore ways to reach more Vermonters by offering future engagement events in multiple languages. If you want to learn more about this ongoing work, please feel free to email Jane Lazorchak at Jane.Lazorchak@vermont.gov. Register here: https://cbuilding.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdOyvrTooEtKUxbir_EWO40ItKD046U-R

Community News

Opportunity to Provide Feedback on Creation of Climate Toolkit

The Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council is required to recommend tools for municipalities to assess their emergency preparedness, evaluate their capacity to address environmental, social, and infrastructure resilience, and to meet their climate and energy goals. The toolkit will include resources that cover a broad approach, including also public health, frontline and impacted communities, rural community outreach and support, and how to implement a just transition. Please share your needs and successes in [this short survey](#).



Washington County Scores with VOREC Grants

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) announced recently 24 recipients of the VOREC Community Grant Program. These grants support outdoor recreation as an important means for economic recovery and development. Of the 24 statewide recipients, the following four grants in Central Vermont were awarded.

Cabot (\$62,500) – Building connections between the Village of Cabot, the Town's four-season trail network, the Cross Vermont Trail and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Making infrastructure improvements to enhance access and wayfinding, purchasing equipment to support ongoing maintenance, and building capacity for the Trails Committee to be a sustainable and effective organization. **Montpelier** (\$213,000) - Strengthening downtown connection to existing outdoor recreation assets through the construction of two connector trails and design of an urban Whitewater Park. The Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps will employ young people of

all backgrounds to build the connector trails. Creating promotional videos and an adventure guide that will highlight the City's connection to the outdoors. **Mad River Valley Recreation District** (\$408,019) - Developing a recreation hub including a welcome center with parking and restrooms. The hub will act as a jump off point for the surrounding trails, including Mad River Riders' 60+ mile trail network which connects to Camel's Hump State Forest. The project will also build a new pedestrian/bike bridge across the Mill Brook with a new crosswalk across VT 100 to link the hub to Waitsfield's walkable downtown. **Northfield & Northfield Conservation Commission** (\$122,965) - Improving Town Forest by restoring a trail that was damaged during Hurricane Irene, removing invasive species, developing and implementing a wayfinding masterplan that will connect the trail to town, installing trailhead kiosks with maps, designating nearby parking spaces for trail users, and expanding outdoor gear lending at the local public library.

Moretown Seeks Zoning Administrator

The Town of Moretown (population 1,753 in 2020) seeks a part-time zoning administrator (8 – 10 hours average per week). Nestled in the hills between the capitol city, Norwich University, Mad River Valley ski areas and accessible to I-89, Moretown is a centrally located welcoming community committed to growing in a manner that retains its historic rural character. More information can be found [here](#).

Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP) due May 1st

Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP) must be submitted by May 1, 2022 to Bonnie Waninger at waninger@cvregion.com, as required by Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). The LEMP is updated annually by town officials and is critical for response efforts during natural disasters and is an incentive for communities to increase the state share of federally declared disasters through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). The adoption form, as well as templates for the Local Emergency Management Plan, can be found at <https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/lemp>. If your town needs a copy of their 2021 LEMP for reference, please email waninger@cvregion.com to request a copy.

CVFiber Hires Telecom Veteran as Executive Director

CVFiber has hired Jennille Smith as its first Executive Director. Smith is a Vermont native, attorney, and Bristol resident with experience in building telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas, which is a great fit for the construction of the 1,200 mile, \$50 million CVFiber Community Network, which will begin later this year. More information can be found at <https://cvfiber.net/executive-director-2022>

RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines

Funding Available for Community Projects in Vermont

Senator Bernie Sanders recently announced \$38 million in Congressionally Directed Funding for community projects in Vermont as part of the 2022 Appropriations Bill. In a March 29 email, Sanders said projects may be related to "affordable housing, infrastructure, health care, environmental protection, education, protecting our most vulnerable citizens, community engagement, agriculture or anything else."

"What I like about the Congressionally Directed Funding process is that it allows individuals and local organizations to bring forth proposals that are important to their communities -- some of which may have been long-neglected. In other words, this is not a top-down bureaucratic process but one which encourages input from the grassroots," he wrote.

Applications may be found here: <https://oampublic.senate.gov/constituent/login/cf80fd34-fbb6-4528-88f7-ee22c4b1403f/>. The deadline to apply is April 22, 2022.



Equitable and Inclusive Communities Grants

In cooperation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the state of Vermont's Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Community Foundation is seeking proposals from Vermont villages, towns, and cities that close the [opportunity gap](#) by supporting local efforts to foster inclusion and belonging for people of all races and backgrounds. We recognize the powerful leadership roles that local governments can play in removing structural barriers and building a more inclusive and diverse state, and want to support communities in fulfilling that potential.

We recognize that Vermont communities are starting in different places in their work on equity, inclusion, and belonging, and that communities will need different things at different times. We welcome communities at all stages of learning. Grants are up to \$10,000. Because of this, the program is open to a range of proposals that meet locally defined community needs. This may include:

- Requests for funding to support consultant-led work within a community
 - introductory trainings on diversity, equity, and inclusion
 - implicit bias trainings
 - equity assessments
 - planning efforts
 - review of hiring practices
- Community-wide conversations
- Support for the creation and work of municipal equity committees
- Stipends for community members to be involved in the work (for example, so that people can take time off work, pay for child care or transportation, or otherwise have their time appropriately compensated)
- Or a combination of these activities

Eligible applicants are Vermont cities, towns, and villages. Nonprofit organizations or community groups doing work on behalf of and in coordination with a city, town, or village may apply if a letter of support from the municipal partner is included. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more, and see the evaluation criteria and application requirements, [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our [website](#) for details).

APRIL

Apr 12 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners
Apr 13 5 pm Nominating Committee
Apr 18 6 pm Brownfields Advisory Committee
Apr 19 6 pm Nominating Committee
Apr 21 1 pm Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Apr 26 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
Apr 27 5 pm Nominating Committee
Apr 28 4 pm Project Review Committee

STAY CONNECTED

