



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 8, 2022 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

Or 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>

<u>Page</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	6:30² Introductions
	Adjustments to the Agenda
	Public Comments
2	6:35 West Central Vermont Strategic Economic Development Strategy (enclosed) Continued discussion of rural economic development strategies and CEDS/Regional Plan compatibility.
26	7:35 Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process, Bill Arrand, Municipal Plan Review Committee Chair (enclosed; additional information to follow) ³ Report and recommendation from Municipal Plan Review Committee regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Town of Duxbury – plan approval, confirmation b) Town of East Montpelier – plan approval, confirmation
28	8:05 Municipal Dues (enclosed) ²
31	8:15 Minutes (enclosed) ²
34	8:20 Reports (enclosed) Update/questions on Staff, Director, and Committee Reports
	8:30 Adjourn

Next Meeting: December 13, 2022

¹ Persons with disabilities who require assistance or alternate 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.



MEMO

Date: November 3, 2022
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Jon Ignatowski, Planner
Re: CEDS and Regional Plan Compatibility

☒ **ACTION REQUESTED:** No action is requested. This memo provides information for the Board's consideration.

A question was raised at the September meeting regarding the compatibility of the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) with the CVRPC Regional Plan. Staff has prepared a spreadsheet that analyzes the compatibility for the Board's consideration.

The first column, titled "Goal / Action", lists the specific goal or action from the CEDS. The second column contains the full-text language associated with the specific goal or action from the June 17, 2022 draft. The third column contains full-text language from the November 1, 2022 draft. All revisions made between the June 17 and November 1 draft are green and underlined. The November draft of the CEDS incorporated feedback received from the public and from CVRPC Commissioners' comments.

For the spreadsheet, the column titled "Regional Plan Alignment" provides a staff assessment of the conformity of goal or action with the Regional Plan for the Board's consideration.

- "Aligned" indicates that a goal or action conforms to the Regional Plan.
- "Silent" indicates that the Regional Plan does not contain language that supports or contradicts the goal or action.
- "Contradict" indicates that a goal or action does not conform to the Regional Plan.

The column titled "Regional Impact" evaluates if the goal or action would impact urban or rural communities. A rationale has been provided for goals or actions that impact only one type of community.

Staff concludes that the CEDS generally is aligned with the Regional Plan. Out of 61 goals and actions,

the Regional Plan is aligned with 36 and is silent on 25. There does not appear to be any goals or actions that contradict the Regional Plan.

Lastly, staff concluded that almost all of the CEDS goals and actions provide benefits to both rural and urban communities. Staff identified two actions that appeared to primarily impact urban communities, while identifying two actions that appeared to primarily impact rural communities.

Staff believes that the CEDS is compatible with the Regional Plan. The Regional Plan is available on CVRPC's website at <https://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2016-CVRPC-Regional-Plan-amended-2020.pdf>. The November 1, 2022 draft of the CEDS is at <https://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Draft-CEDS-20221101-1.pdf>.

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Goal #1: Attract New Workers and Expand Labor Force	Attract new workers of all skills sets, training, and expertise to the Region, and remove existing barriers to workforce participation for existing residents, to combat the state-wide labor shortage due to the impacts of COVID-19, an aging population, and other structural barriers to labor participation.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The Economic Element supports attracting new workers and expanding the labor force (see page 7-12).	Urban & Rural	
Housing	Implement actions in partner regional plans that support increases in housing supply through the development of perpetually affordable, workforce, and market rate housing in geographic areas designated for growth and located near public transit. This includes working with municipalities to implement practices in the Zoning for Great Neighborhoods Guide to incrementally remove zoning barriers to housing development in areas planned for growth.	Implement actions in partner regional plans that support increases in housing supply, <u>including housing for agricultural workers</u> , through the development of perpetually affordable, workforce, and market rate housing in geographic areas designated for growth and located near public transit. This includes working with municipalities to implement practices in the Zoning for Great Neighborhoods Guide to incrementally remove zoning barriers to housing development in areas planned for growth.	Aligned - The Housing Element supports the development of housing opportunities for all residents (see page 6-17).	Urban & Rural	
Child Care	Work with stakeholders in the child care field (e.g. Building Bright Futures, existing childcare providers, school districts) and potential funders (e.g. Vermont Community Development Program, Northern Borders Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration) to identify existing sites that could support child care facilities (particularly for infant care) and assist with accessing grant/loan funds for costs associated with business startup, associated workforce development, and construction. Improve access and funding for prekindergarten programs so that children are ready to learn by the time they begin kindergarten and support the ability of early care and education providers to develop the skills and knowledge needed to care for and educate children. Support increased public investment in child care.	Work with stakeholders in the child care field (e.g. Building Bright Futures, existing childcare providers, school districts) and potential funders (e.g. Vermont Community Development Program, Northern Borders Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration) to identify existing sites that could support child care facilities (particularly for infant care) and assist with accessing grant/loan funds for costs associated with business start-up, associated workforce development, and construction. Improve access and funding for pre-kindergarten programs so that children are ready to learn by the time they begin kindergarten and support the ability of early care and education providers to develop the skills and knowledge needed to care for and educate children. Support increased public investment in child care <u>and programs designed to provide childcare for students enrolled in post-secondary education (e.g. Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program).</u>	Aligned - The Child Care Goal supports this action (see page 5-58).	Urban & Rural	
Marketing and Support	Seek grant funding to support on-going marketing efforts by project partners and local employers to attract new workers to the West Central Vermont Region. Work collaboratively with the Stay to Stay network, a group that connects potential Vermont residents to local employers, realtors, and community leaders, in an effort to attract new residents and ease their transition to the state.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 11 of Goal 3 in the Economic Element encourages efforts to market careers and opporuntunities poised for growth (see page 7-18).	Urban & Rural	
New American / Refugee Programs	Aid municipalities, and associated non-profits, seeking to establish designated refugee resettlement community programs within the Region. These programs provide refugees with direct assistance with securing housing, employment, education/training, and other essential support, like translation, to overcome social, cultural, and economic barriers.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Partner Inclusion Program	Create a Partner Inclusion Program (e.g. Trailing Spouse Integration), to serve the Region, or specific Regional Development Corporation territories, based on an existing program at Middlebury College. The program should aim to assist with establishing employment for spouses and helping new Vermonters understand local resources and opportunities available to them.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban	Rationale: larger institutions that this would apply to are generally located in more populated areas
Returnship Programs	Work with the Vermont Returnship Program, created by the VT Department of Labor and administered by Associates for Training & Development, to strengthen and expand existing programs that help experienced workers transition to new careers that maximize their existing knowledge, transferable skills, and job goals.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 2 of the Economic Element supports life-long training opportunities (see page 7-13).	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Goal #2: Equity		<u>Facilitate equitable economic development planning, and the delivery of services and programs, that advance opportunities for the traditionally under-represented populations in the regional economy</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Continued Engagement and Intentionally Connecting		<u>Future applications for EDA Planning and Technical Assistance grants will request funding to ensure engagement with the BIPoC community and other underrepresented segments (refugees and immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, Veterans, people living with handicaps, women, and rural/micro enterprises) of West Central Vermont’s population. This engagement may be general in nature or may be focused on a particular CEDS implementation project. Engagement may occur in coordination with organizational partners focused on entrepreneurship and the professional development of under-represented communities. Engagement efforts will strive to reach underrepresented folks in their communities and will address transportation, childcare, and food-related barriers that prevent some community members from actively participating in outreach efforts.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)		<u>Organizations participating on any future West Central Vermont Economic Development District (EDD) Board of Directors must intentionally address bias and inequality by actively implementing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging policies, training, and awareness for both leadership, staff members, and board members to ensure organization-wide understanding of systemic inequities faced by BIPoC individuals and business owners. Training should be included in both the employee onboarding and board of director training. Trainings should provide touchpoints to critique, evaluate, and implement new processes to dismantle system in equalities and uplift historically underserved individuals, community members, and businesses. EDD partners will incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goals in their operations, programs, and services.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Rules and Practices Restricting Access to Capital		<u>Most grant and loan programs available through regional and local organizations are funded by state and federal agencies, which do not provide the latitude to adjust program rules and requirements for specific individuals or groups. We can, however, advocate on behalf of underserved populations with Federal and State funders to provide flexibility when financing and making grants to underserved business communities. Similarly, we will advocate for change among financial institutions and equity investor lending and investment to better serve socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI) and businesses.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
BIPoC Business Basics		<u>Work with partners to develop a “business basics” course specifically for BIPoC small business owners in the “start-up” or early stages of developing their business. Work with the State partners to develop a step-by step guide and a directory of programs, services, and technical assistance and make it available to everyone.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
BIPoc Business Support		<u>Create better awareness of availability of existing programs (regional development corporations, Small Business Administration, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development) that support small businesses and connect BIPoC businesses to the West Central Vermont economy. Capitalize on the entrepreneurial spirit of recent immigrants and ensure that they are a cornerstone of economic development policy and actions.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Hiring and Retention		<u>Work with partners to create and/or support trainings to help employers better understand the needs of immigrant and refugee communities and build relationships with employees from underrepresented communities.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Women-Owned Business		<u>Collaborate with the Vermont Women’s Fund and other partners to implement projects that address the specific needs of women-owned businesses as identified in the This Way Up! campaign. Potential projects may include assisting with the development of mentorship programs or utilizing the philanthropic power of women business owners to assist other women business owners.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Just Transitions		<u>Work with the Vermont Climate Council to develop public policy and business actions that will ensure that the impacts of Vermont's transition into a low or zero greenhouse gas emitting economy will benefit and support all residents of the State of Vermont fairly and equitably.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Funding		<u>Prioritize seeking grant funding and technical assistance to support the needs of BIPOC and women-owned businesses, and other under-served populations.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Data		<u>Data. Ensure that all data collection conducted by a future WCVT EDD includes information about race and gender to more accurately understand and report on economic development efforts and populations served/impacted.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Goal #3: Business Development and Job Creation	Support job retention and growth at existing high wage employers, expand economic diversification, and create a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs to create and grow their business within the Region.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The Economic Element supports job retention and growth of "high quality jobs" (see page 7-12 through 7-15).	Urban & Rural	
High Wage Employers	The Region should increase economic diversity by identifying and supporting businesses in sectors with high location quotients. The high wage sectors which West Central Vermont expects to drive our economy are: Information Technology, Communications and Media (including Information Technology, E-Commerce, and Digital Media); High Value- Added Manufacturing; Higher Education; Clean Tech/Green Tech; and Health Care and Wellness.	<u>To add high wage employment, attract businesses with high location quotients and encourage the growth of those already here, including:</u> <u>a. Information Technology</u> <u>b. Communications and Media (including Information Technology, E-Commerce, and Digital Media)</u> <u>c. Advanced Manufacturing</u> <u>d. Higher Education</u> <u>e. Clean Tech/Green Tech</u> <u>f. Health Care and Wellness.</u>	Aligned - Goal 3 of the Economic Element supports incomes that meet all household needs and Policy 9 encourages livable wages (see page 7-17).	Urban & Rural	
Economic Gardening		<u>Practice economic gardening as the primary method of economic development. Create jobs by supporting local entrepreneurs and existing companies, especially those with local ownership, including employee ownership, and other connections to the community.</u> <u>Actions to include:</u> <u>a. Seek resources, make referrals to resources, and provide technical assistance to small- and medium-size businesses in the region.</u> <u>b. Strengthen business networking and communication networks in the region, especially between sectors.</u> <u>c. Seek resources and provide assistance to small operations important to the vitality of rural villages and towns, such as general stores, independently-owned grocery stores, farm stands, food hubs, etc., to keep them vibrant and locally-owned.</u> <u>d. Assist fossil-fuel based businesses develop plans and strategies to transition into the clean-energy economy while retaining and creating jobs.</u>	Aligned - Policy 3 of the Economic Element supports the retention, growth and development of businesses that are a good fit with the existing economic base (see page 7-13).	Urban & Rural	
Access to Capital		<u>Work with partners to develop and administer programs that provide low-barrier access to capital for start-up small businesses, particularly BIPOC and women-owned small businesses. This may include grants with low match, or no match, requirements. This may also include exploration of a shared-equity program for commercial properties similar to existing residential shared-equity programs in the region.</u>	Aligned - Policy 4 of the Economic Element supports the expansion of capital for entrepreneurs (see page 7-14).	Urban & Rural	
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development		<u>Promote and expand support systems for entrepreneurs from every sector, including the creation of a system of resources that is easily navigable at all stages of the innovation and entrepreneurial continuum, including the following:</u> <u>a. Engage business leaders and entrepreneurs to understand business needs, including an assessment of regional needs to attract, support, and expand businesses.</u> <u>b. Fund, aggregate, and make referrals for services such as capital, mentorship, prototyping, business incubation, and commercialization.</u> <u>c. Ensure services are available to entrepreneurs as appropriate for each stage of growth.</u> <u>d. Develop co-working spaces, shared office spaces, incubators, business accelerators, and support maker spaces in cooperation with municipalities or other partners.</u> <u>e. Work with partners to seek funding to establish, support, and expand entrepreneurial ecosystems in each sub-region, at the appropriate scale and aimed at the appropriate sectors for the sub-region.</u>	Aligned - Policy 4 of the Economic Element promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in all business sectors (see page 7-14).	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Entrepreneurship Ecosystems	Work with partners to seek funding to establish entrepreneurship ecosystems in each sub-region. Entrepreneurship ecosystems should be of appropriate scale to the sub-region and ideally located in locations with access to sufficient infrastructure (e.g. high-speed broadband, water, sewer).	Work with partners to seek funding to establish, <u>support, and expand</u> entrepreneurship ecosystems in each sub-region. Entrepreneurship ecosystems should be of appropriate scale to the sub-region and ideally located in locations with access to sufficient infrastructure (e.g. high-speed broadband, water, sewer).	Aligned - Policy 4 of the Economic Element promotes entrepreneurship ecosystems (see page 7-14 through 7-15).	Urban & Rural	
Canadian Exports		<u>Canadian Exports. Strengthen partnerships with the US International Trade Administration and Vermont’s Trade and Investment Representative to Canada with the intent to support the Vermont State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) and to develop other specific programs to support the expansion of Regional exports to Canada.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Goal #4: Workforce Development and Employee Rentention	Facilitate connection-building across public and private labor force stakeholders to improve workforce training and education alignment, collaboration, insights, and strategies on the regional level. Provide regional coordination among stakeholders to deliver effective workforce training and education to new and existing workforce.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The policies of Goal 2 and 3 of the Economic Element support workforce training and education (see page 7-12 through 7-18).	Urban & Rural	
Improve Short-term and Long-term Business Recruitment and Retention Practices		<u>Seek funding to provide assistance to businesses to take short-term steps and develop long-term strategies to improve their chances of finding and retaining talent:</u>	Aligned - The policies of Goal 2 and 3 of the Economic Element generally support the recruitment and retention of talent (see page 7-12 through 7-18).	Urban & Rural	
Develop Partnerships that Build Pathways to Promising Careers		<u>Facilitate connection-building across public and private labor force stakeholders to improve workforce training (including agricultural workforce training) and education alignment, and collaboration at the regional level.</u> <u>a. Coordinate among regional stakeholders to ensure new, existing, and future members of the labor force are aware of workforce training and education resources.</u> <u>b. Ensure connections are made between employers and middle schools. High schools, career and technical centers, and others:</u> <u>c. Arrange employer visits to schools;</u> <u>d. Coordinate internships, job shadowing, coop experiences; and</u> <u>e. Facilitate employer participation on career center boards.</u>	Aligned - The policies of Goal 2 and 3 of the Economic Element generally support the recruitment of and retention of workers (see page 7-12 through 7-18).	Urban & Rural	
Improve Career Center Education		<u>Increase the percentage of students entering CTE education and the trades by:</u> <u>a. Encouraging high school guidance counselors and parents to include CTE education when considering their students’ career pathway.</u> <u>b. Advocate for more funding for CTE facilities and for changes to the CTE funding system to encourage higher attendance at CTE centers.</u> <u>c. Advocate for permanent funding for adult education programs and staffing at CTE Centers.</u>	Aligned - Policy 1 of Goal 2 in the Economic Element generally supports career exploration for all young people and to reduce barriers to education (see page 7-12 through 7-13).	Urban & Rural	
Emerging Workforce Needs	Seek funding in cooperation with Community College of Vermont (CCV), and other partners, to support CCV’s work to develop courses/curriculum to address emerging workforce needs in the West Central Vermont Region.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 1 of Goal 2 in the Economic Element generally supports the expansion of curriculum at CCV (see page 7-12 through 7-13).	Urban & Rural	
Non-profit Sector Support	In cooperation with Common Good Vermont, seek funding to support workforce development efforts, business planning, and training specifically targeted to the needs of the non-profit sector.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Weatherization	Collaborate with existing Weatherization Assistance programs that serve the Region (e.g. Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, BROCC Community Action, Capstone Community Action) in their efforts to expand and retain their workforce and to implement recommendations of the Weatherization Workforce Plan developed by Efficiency Vermont in October 2021. Support the development of an in-state weatherization training center based on the ReSource model.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Nursing and Health Care	Work with regional partners, including local hospitals and universities, to implement the recommendations of the Green Mountain Care Board’s Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan to close the workforce needs identified by the Vermont Talent Pipeline in the Health Hiring Needs Assessment.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services	Assist regional non-profits and governmental entities that seek to fund programs that provide mental health support and substance abuse-related services to regional workers to support employee retention and positive economic outcomes for all parties.	Assist regional non-profits and governmental entities that seek to fund programs that provide mental health support and substance <u>misuse</u> -related services to regional workers to support employee retention and positive economic outcomes for all parties.	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Worker Reentry Support	Support partner efforts to provide training and support for people who are leaving incarceration and reentering the workforce. This includes programs at Vermont Works for Women, Working Fields, and local community justice centers.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Employer of Choice Program	Develop regional programs that recognize employers who tailor their work requirements, conditions, and expectations to attract the work force of today and the future.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Learn as You Earn Programs		<u>Support partners efforts to create “learn as you earn” programs where workers receive ongoing training leading to certifications and credentials that are pathways to well-paying jobs and essential jobs.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Reskill Workers in Fossil-Fuel Based Industries		<u>Work with the Vermont Climate Council, Community College of Vermont (CCV), and other partners to assist workers in fossil-fuel based industries obtain the skills and job training needed for better-paying employment in low or zero greenhouse gas emitting sectors.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Goal #5: Infrastructure and Resilience	Actively participate in the planning, funding, and construction of infrastructure projects needed to strengthen the regional economy and that support equity, smart growth principals, and economic resilience in response to climate change and other disasters.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 7 of Goal 2 of the Economic Element encourages the planning of infrastructure to support business growth and expansion (see page 7-16 and 7-17).	Urban & Rural	
RDC Priority Project List	Annually update Regional Priority Project Lists (See Appendix D) and seek funding to plan and implement identified projects. All projects identified on Regional Priority Project Lists are hereby adopted as a part of the CEDS.	Annually update Regional Priority Project Lists (See Appendix D) and seek funding to plan and implement identified projects. All projects identified on Regional Priority Project Lists <u>as most recently amended</u> , are hereby adopted as a part of the CEDS.	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Tax - Increment Financing	Support the creation of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts within the Region and legislation that would enable the development of project-specific TIFs.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 2 of Goal 3 in the Land Use Element recognizes TIF as a valuable tool for infrastructure development (see pages 2-39 through 2 - 40).	Urban & Rural	
Water and Wastewater Planning	Work with municipalities, VT ANR, NBRC, and USDA-RD to plan for future water and sewer needs and to complete preliminary engineering reports (PER) which are necessary to make informed municipal decisions regarding project affordability and required to access to State and Federal funding sources for final design/construction.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 7 of Goal 2 of the Economic Element calls for the implementation of the goals and policies of the Energy, Utilities, Facilities and Services, and Transportation Element of the Plan, which supports water and wastewater systems that encourage appropriately scaled development (see pages 7-16 through 7-17).	Urban & Rural	
Water and Wastewater Funding	Advocate for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Intended Use Plans, and RDC Priority Project Lists, to provide greater priority to projects focused on economic development and community development. This includes projects located in smart growth locations, areas with unmet housing need, and areas where housing costs are misaligned with area median income.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The wastewater treatment goal and the water system goal of the Utilities, Facilities & Services Element generally supports the funding of water and wastewater infrastructure for appropriate development (see pages 5-48 through 5-50)	Urban & Rural	
Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure	Work with VELCO and distribution utilities to plan, and seek grant funding, for upgrades to the electric transmission and distribution system to ensure a resilient, renewable, and low-carbon electric grid that supports a vibrant renewable energy-related economy and low electricity costs.	<i>same language</i>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
EV Charging	Work with municipalities and relevant stakeholders to plan for local EV charging networks that support regional destinations (e.g. downtowns, villages, resorts, tourist sites) and along major regional transportation routes.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - CVRPC's Regional Energy Plan specifies actions for protecting and enhancing the EV charging network (see page 25)	Urban & Rural	
Broadband	Assist Communication Utility Districts and existing service providers in accomplishing universal broadband access within the Region and plans to implement high-speed broadband service expansion in areas planned for growth.	Assist Communication <u>Union</u> Districts and existing service providers in accomplishing universal broadband access within the Region (<u>including rural areas</u>) and plans to implement high-speed broadband service expansion in areas planned for growth.	Aligned - The Broadband Goal of the Utilities, Facilities & Services Element encourages the expansion of broadband access (see page 5-60).	Urban & Rural	

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Streets	Cooperate with municipalities, VTrans and other stakeholders to plan, engineer, fund, and construct walkable/multi-modal transportation improvements (“Complete Streets”) in areas planned for growth that can enable economic development and housing development.	Cooperate with municipalities, VTrans and other stakeholders to plan, engineer, fund, and construct walkable/multi-modal transportation improvements (“Complete Streets”) in areas planned for growth that can enable economic development, housing development, <u>and access for all residents (including those that lack access to a vehicle) to a range of safe and affordable transportation modes when commuting to work.</u>	Aligned - Goal 1 of the Transportation Element (see page 4-5), Goal 4 of the Economic Element (see page 7-18, 7-19) and the Regional Energy Plan (page 22 & 26) encourages multi-modal transportation improvements.	Urban & Rural	
Rail	Cooperate with municipalities, VTrans, and other stakeholder to plan, engineer, fund, and construct appropriate rail infrastructure that support commercial and industrial development.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Goal 5 of the Transportation Element (pages 4-7 through 4-8), Goal 4 of the Economic Element (see page 7-18, 7-19) and the Regional Energy Plan (page 23) support rail infrastructure.	Urban	Rationale: commerical and industrial development near rail may be applicable to some rural areas
Brownfields	Seek funding from the EPA to continue funding assessment and site planning and to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to specifically serve brownfield cleanup in the West Central Vermont Region.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 3 of the Land Use Element (page 2-22), Goal 3 of the Land Use Element (page 2-40) encourage brownfield cleanup and development.	Urban & Rural	
Underutilized Sites		<u>Support partner efforts to develop master redevelopment plans for currently underutilized sites within the Region, particularly closed college campuses and public schools, that could be used to support housing, commercial development, municipal uses, or community uses.</u>	Aligned - Policy 3 of the Land Use Element (page 2-22), Goal 2, Policy 6 of the Economic Element (page 7-16), and Goal 4, Policies 13 & 14 advocates for the redevelopment of existing buildings.	Urban & Rural	
Investment in Historic Structures		<u>Support partner efforts to secure funding to rehabilitate and reuse historic structures in our Regional downtowns and villages.</u>	Aligned - The Historical and Archeological Resources Goal of the Utilities, Facilities & Services Element encourages the rehabilitation and reuse of historic structures.	Urban & Rural	
Data	Cooperate with the University of Vermont Office of Engagement, and other statewide and regional economic development organizations, to develop an Integrated Data and Research Infrastructure to create the “capacity for the state of Vermont to have extensive access to data across scales and sectors.”	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policies 2 & 6 of Goal 2 of the Economic Element supports data collection regarding the workforce and commercial and industrial spaces.	Urban & Rural	
Funding	Investigate ways that a future EDD could access grant funding, and/or develop funding programs, to assist with the planning, engineering, and construction of infrastructure projects that support economic development within the Region.	Investigate ways that a future <u>Economic Development District</u> (EDD) could access grant funding, and/or develop funding programs, to assist with the planning, engineering, and construction of infrastructure projects that support economic development within the Region. <u>Work with municipalities interested in leveraging local ARPA funds to invest in economic development.</u>	Silent	Urban & Rural	
Goal #6: Quality of Life	Balance economic development goals and growth with the importance of retaining key elements of our high quality of life in West Central Vermont (e.g. ample access to outdoor recreation, arts and culture, high quality K-12 public schools, and compact settlement surrounded by rural countryside).	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The Plan supports all the aforementioned examples and promotes a high quality of life in West Central Vermont	Urban & Rural	
Land Use	Implement the land use goals and policies from partner regional plans that plan for housing and economic development in our areas planned for growth and for conservation of our working lands for use in agriculture, forestry, and outdoor recreation.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - The Plan develops land use goals and policies that include related housing and economic development policies and goals	Urban & Rural	
Farm to Plate	Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects identified in the 2021-2030 Vermont Agricultural and Food Systems Strategic Plan (Vermont Farm to Plate), or other regional projects intended to support local agriculture and value-added food product sales, that will support continued growth of the local farm, food system, and forestry economy within the Region.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policies 2 & 3 of the Land Use Element (page 2-29), Goal 2 of the Land Use Element (pages 2-37 through 2-38) support farm and forest economies.	Rural	Rationale: Significantly pertains to rural communities, may have an impact on some urban areas
Outdoor Recreation	Collaborate with Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) to further the economic interests of the outdoor recreation economy within the Region.	Collaborate with Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) , <u>Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, and regional recreation collaboratives led by the regional planning commissions,</u> to further the economic interests of the outdoor recreation economy within the Region	Aligned - Policy 9 of the Land Use Element (page 2-30), the Outdoor Recreation Goal of the Utilities, Facilities & Services Element which includes Policies 1 - 14 (pages 5-52 through 5-53) support the development of outdoor recreation.	Urban & Rural	
Forest Economy		<u>Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects and actions intended to strengthen the Region’s Forest Economy as identified in the 2017 Vermont Forest Action Plan and the Vermont Forest Sector Systems Analysis.</u>	Aligned - Policies 2 & 3 of the Land Use Element (page 2-29), Goal 2 of the Land Use Element (pages 2-37 through 2-38) support forest economies.	Rural	Rationale: Rural communities are generally the most significant stakeholders in the forest economy

West Central Vermont CEDS and Regional Plan Alignment

Goal / Action	Language from 06.17.22 CEDS draft	Language from 11.1.22 CEDS draft (revisions are <u>underlined</u>)	Regional Plan Alignment	Regional Impact	Rationale
Permit Reform	Advocate for the removal of duplicative Federal, State, and local development review permitting jurisdiction and processes.	<u>Advocate for less duplicative and overlapping federal, state and local permitting processes.</u>	Aligned - The Plan identifies the following policy in regards to housing: "Encourage towns to develop a streamlined permitting process for housing along with density bonuses and lowering of impact fees in growth centers, village centers and downtowns, and other areas where housing growth is desired" (page 6-18). Additionally, lengthy permitting processes have been identified as a "challenge" to economic development in the region (pages 7-8 to 7-9).	Urban & Rural	
Creative Economy and the Arts	Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects identified in the 2021 CreateVT – Action Plan for Vermont’s Creative Sector. This portion of the economy is fundamentally unique in that it is a significant contributor to the culture in our Region.	<u>Continue to strengthen the recognition of the economic impact of, and support for, the creative economy.</u> Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects identified in the 2021 CreateVT – Action Plan for Vermont’s Creative Sector. This portion of the economy is fundamentally unique in that it is a significant contributor to the culture in our Region.	Aligned - Goal 2, Policy 4 of the Economic Element advocates for the promotion of the creative economy.	Urban & Rural	
Tourism	Cooperate with partners, including the VT Convention Bureau, local Chambers of Commerce, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative and Lake Champlain Byway, to support growth of the tourism industry in the Region.	<i>same language</i>	Aligned - Policy 3, 16, & 17 of the Economic Element supports the growth of tourism in the Region.	Urban & Rural	

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE WEST CENTRAL VERMONT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) FROM 1st DRAFT (6/17/22) TO 2nd Draft (11/1/22)

Executive Summary

- Added primary purpose of the CEDS: “to improve the economic wealth and well-being of the region’s residents”;
- Added note about the increase in the racial diversity of the Region;
- Added note about the economic development-related planning efforts in the Region in the last several years. These efforts will guide the work of the CEDS partners to fortify the Region’s rural economy;
- Note added about the results of the Vermont Professionals of Color focus groups which indicated the challenges faced by the Region’s BIPOC community;
- Note added about the Region’s housing shortage and skyrocketing costs which are relevant to economic development.

I. Introduction to West Central Vermont

CEDS Components

- Added language addressing the intent of the CEDS to facilitate equitable economic development, including benefitting historically under-served populations. To achieve this, the CEDS Economic Profile includes information about the differences in wealth and education between white and non-white residents.

II. Economic Profile

- **Race** – Added data on racial demographics in the Region;
- **Poverty, Homelessness, and Substance Misuse** – Added discussion about substance misuse to this section, noting that this misuse increased in Vermont during the Covid 19 pandemic and has had a significance impact on the workforce;
- **Commuting Patterns** - Added a note indicating that the increased commuting times result in decreased air quality and increased amounts of time spent idle, which contribute to incidences of obesity and chronic disease;
- **Regional and Sub-Regional Economy** - Added a note that the Region accounts for 59% of the State’s GDP. Chittenden County alone accounts for 35% of the State’s GDP;
- **Employment by Supersector** - Added a note indicating that as of 2018, 9.3% of all jobs in Vermont are in the creative economy (arts, culture, media, design, artisan crafts, and food). 9.7% of jobs in Chittenden County and 8.4% of jobs in Addison and Rutland

County were in the creative economy. Specific data for Washington County are unavailable. Jobs in the creative economy in Addison and Rutland counties grew by 11% between 2010 and 2018 with most growth in Artisan Foods and Performing Arts;

- **Location Quotient** - Added a note indicating that the Region has very high Location Quotient scores for several categories of specialized manufacturing and working lands-related industries. The Region should continue to capitalize on the strength of existing industry clusters and pursue any competitive advantage it may have within these specific industries;
- **Labor Force Participation Rate** - Added a definition of Labor Force Participation Rate;
- **Exports** - Notation added to indicate that Canada is the largest market for Vermont exports (\$826 million in 2021). Expanding exports to Canada is a key strategy to support continued economic development in the Region.
- **Infrastructure** - Notation added to reflect the new Amtrak service from Burlington, through Vergennes and Middlebury, to NYC and back;
- **Broadband and Telecommunications** - Mention made that mobile phone coverage remains a challenge in some parts of the Region. The Vermont Department of Public Service is conducting mobile wireless drive tests to determine “dead spots” along major Vermont Roads;
- **Municipal Water and Wastewater Treatment** - Added a note that the Region has several wastewater systems that have issues with complying with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus set for Lake Champlain;
- **Electricity** – Added a note that VELCO, Vermont’s electric transmission utility, has a 2021 Long- Range Transmission Plan which notes that the regional transmission system adequately serves existing needs, yet may require substantial upgrades in the future;
- **Childcare** – Comment added that early childhood education is a key determinant of future economic earning potential as well as general health and well-being;
- **Working Lands and Outdoor Recreation** – Notation made that per the U.S. Agricultural Census, between 2012-2017, 18% of the land in farms in Addison County and 13% of the land in farms in Chittenden County, were converted to another use or were no longer in production;
- **Brownfields** – Notations were made that re-use of historically productive properties supports infill development and promotes community and economic growth;
- **Resilience/ Covid** – Added comment that there are many reasons why the workforce has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Early retirement, lack of accessible childcare, risk of Covid-exposure, and increased rates of substance abuse are among the many reasons that have contributed to the demographic drought in Vermont and nationwide. Health care worker burnout is a problem nationwide.

III. Strategic Direction, Action Plan and Evaluation Framework

- **Goal #1 Attract New Workers and Expand Labor Force**
Housing - Added action about the need for agricultural worker housing;

Childcare - Added comment about the need for programs designed to provide childcare for students enrolled in post-secondary education (e.g. Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program);

- **Goal #2 Equity**

Added a comprehensive section on equity, informed by a report by the Vermont Professionals of Color Network, to facilitate equitable economic development planning and the delivery of services and programs that advance opportunities for the traditionally under-represented populations in the regional economy.

Actions will include: **1)** Continued engagement and intentionally connecting; **2)** Advancing diversity, inclusion, and belonging; **3)** Rules and practices restricting access to capital; **4)** BIPOC business basics; **5)** BIPOC business support; **6)** Hiring and Retention; **7)** Women-owned businesses; **8)** Just transitions; **9)** Funding; and **10)** Data.

Existing and planned programs to assist the BIPOC Business community in Vermont were identified and listed within the section.

- **Goal #3 Business Development and Job Creation**

High Wage Employers - Actions were added to add high wage employment, attract businesses with high location quotients and encourage the growth of those businesses already located in the Region.

Economic Gardening - Added an action on “economic gardening” which supports creating jobs by supporting local entrepreneurs and existing companies, especially those with local ownership, including employee ownership, and other connections to the community.

Access to Capital - Added an action on access to capital which supports working with partners to develop and administer programs that provide low-barrier access to capital for start-up small businesses, particularly BIPOC and women-owned small businesses.

Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development - Added an action on innovation and entrepreneurial development which encourages the promotion and expansion of support systems for entrepreneurs from every sector, including resources that are easily available at all stages of the innovation and entrepreneurial continuum.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystems - Added an action on entrepreneurship ecosystems which includes working with partners to seek funding to establish, support, and expand entrepreneurship ecosystems in in sub-region. This includes strengthening export relationships with Canada.

- **Goal #4 Workforce Development and Employee Retention**

Example Short-term and Long-term Business Recruitment and Retention Practices -

Added recommended practices to improve short-term and long-term business recruitment and retention practices, including pursuing talent from previously untapped pools; adjusting wages and benefits and offering non-wage incentives; and identifying best workers quickly and having career paths ready for them. Other practices include developing partnerships that build pathways to promising careers and improving career center education.

Learn as You Earn Programs - Added an action to support partner efforts to create “learn as you earn programs” where workers receive ongoing training leading to certifications and credentials that are pathways to well-paying jobs and essential jobs;

Reskill Workers in Fossil-Fuel Based Industries - Added an action to work with the Vermont Climate Council, Community College of Vermont, and other partners to assist workers in fossil fuel-based industries to obtain the skills and job sectors.

- **Goal #5 Infrastructure and Resilience**

Streets - Added an action that supports universal access to a range of safe and affordable transportation modes when commuting to work;

Underutilized Sites – Added an action that supports efforts to develop master redevelopment plans for currently underdeveloped sites within the Region, particularly closed college campuses and public schools, that could be used to support housing, commercial development; municipal uses; or community uses;

Investment in Historic Structures – Added an action that supports partner efforts to secure funding to rehabilitate and reuse historic structures in our regional downtowns and villages;

Funding - Added an action that supports working with municipalities interested in leveraging ARPA funds to invest in economic development.

- **Goal #6 Quality of Life**

Act 250 – Removed an action related to Act 250 permitting reform.

Creative Economy - Added an action about continuing to strengthen the recognition of the economic impact of, and support for, the creative economy;

Tourism - Added an action about cooperating with the Downtown Organizations to support the growth of the tourism economy in the Region.

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

October 11, 2022

As of September 13, 2022:

- ▶ Need additional time for review
- ▶ Remove Act 250 reform as an action
- ▶ Remove permit reform as an action
- ▶ Strengthen actions related to the rural economy and its needs
- ▶ Develop the equity section for review

CVRPC BOARD COMMENTS

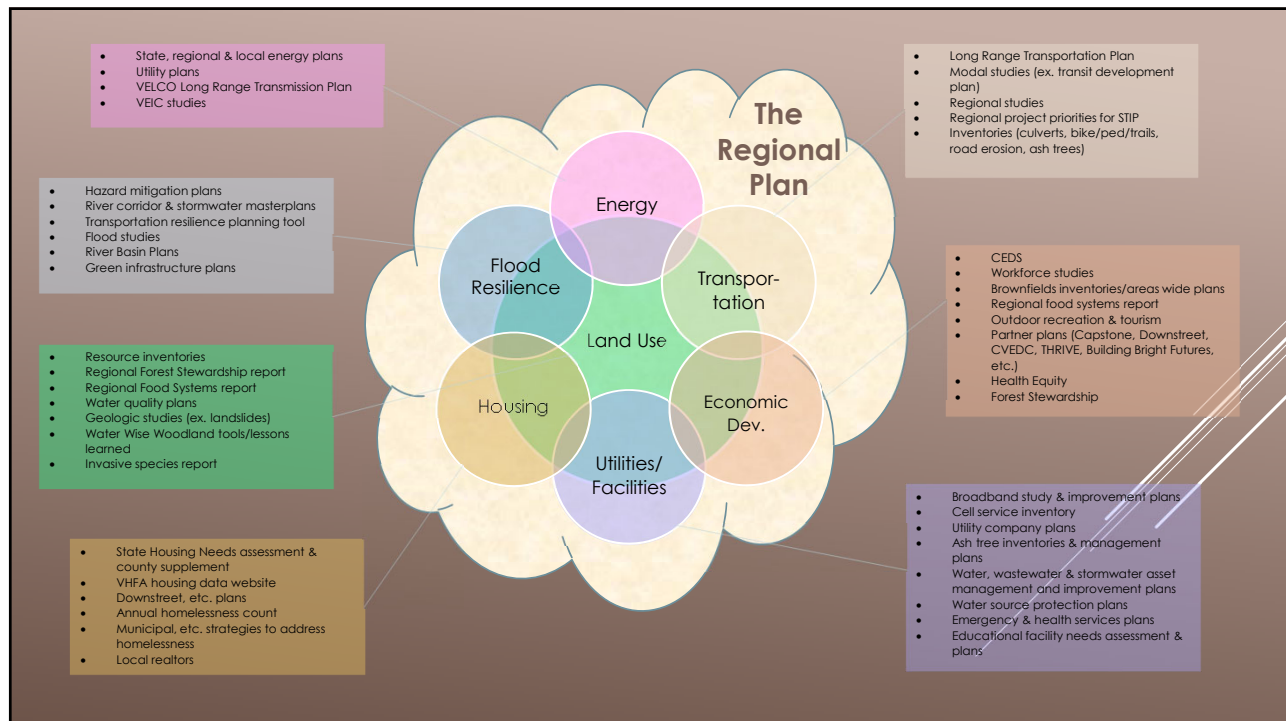
- ▶ Need additional time for review
 - ▶ *Partners requested 6-month grant extension; in discussion with EDA*
- ▶ Remove Act 250 reform as an action
 - ▶ *In discussion, removal anticipated*
- ▶ Remove permit reform as an action
 - ▶ *In discussion, making progress*
- ▶ Strengthen actions related to the rural economy and its needs
 - ▶ *Partners requested information about CVRPC needs*
- ▶ Develop the equity section for review
 - ▶ *Under development; seeking feedback from underrepresented entities*

PROGRESS TO DATE

- ▶ Need additional time for review
 - ▶ *Partners requested 6-month grant extension; in discussion with EDA*
- ▶ Remove Act 250 reform as an action
 - ▶ *In discussion, removal anticipated*
- ▶ Remove permit reform as an action
 - ▶ *In discussion, making progress*
- ▶ **Strengthen actions related to the rural economy and its needs**
 - ▶ *Partners requested information about CVRPC needs*
- ▶ Develop the equity section for review
 - ▶ *Under development; seeking feedback from underrepresented entities*

TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION

REGIONAL PLAN AND CEDS



**Compatibility**

Existing together without problems or conflict.

THE REGIONAL PLAN

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To thrive, rural economies need:

- ▶ **Sectors** - tradable goods and services that bring wealth, create employment, and carry multiplier effects
- ▶ **Workforce** - healthy, skilled people
- ▶ **Community and Connectivity** – services and amenities critical to quality of life (infrastructure, health care, childcare, arts/culture, etc.)

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Home-based or village-centered businesses
- ▶ Resource-based enterprises, such as agriculture, forestry, and mining
- ▶ Health centers
- ▶ Businesses and facilities based in:
 - ▶ Tourism
 - ▶ Outdoor recreation
 - ▶ Creative economy

RURAL BUSINESSES

WHAT'S ACTIONS ARE MISSING?

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goals and Actions

Summarized in Section IV of draft West Central Vermont CEDS

- ▶ Goal #1 – Attract new workers and expand labor force
- ▶ Goal #2 – Equity
- ▶ Goal #3 – Business development and job creation
- ▶ Goal #4 – Workforce development and employee retention
- ▶ Goal #5 – Infrastructure and resilience
- ▶ Goal #6 – Quality of life

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #1 – Attract New Workers and Expand Labor Force

Attract new workers of all skill sets, training, and expertise to the Region, and remove existing barriers to workforce participation for existing residents to combat the statewide labor shortage due to the impacts of COVID-19, an aging population, and other structural barriers to labor participation.

Actions

- ▶ **Housing** – increase supply in areas designated for growth & near transit
- ▶ **Child care** – identify sites that could support facilities; assist to access funding
- ▶ **Marketing and support** – seek grants to support on-going workforce attraction efforts
- ▶ **New American/Refugee programs** – aid municipalities/non-profits seeking to establish programs
- ▶ **Partner inclusion program** – create a program (ex. trailing spouse integration)
- ▶ **Returnship programs** – strengthen DOL program to help experienced workers transition to new careers

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #2 – Equity

Facilitate equitable economic development planning, and the delivery of services and programs, that advance opportunities for the traditionally under-represented populations in the regional economy.

Actions

- ▶ **Engage and intentionally connect** – in future grants, request funding to ensure engagement
- ▶ **Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, & belonging** – organizations on the economic district board must intentionally address bias by implementing policies, trainings, and awareness
- ▶ **Access to capital** – advocate for flexibility in federal and state programs and lending programs
- ▶ **BIPoC Business Basics** – develop course/guide/directory specifically for small business owners
- ▶ **BIPoC Business Support** – create better awareness of available programs
- ▶ **Hiring and retention** – create/support trainings for employers
- ▶ **Funding** – prioritize seeking funding/assisting to under-served businesses
- ▶ **Data** – collect data about race/gender in future related to populations served/impacted

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #3 – Business Development and Job Creation

Support job retention and growth at existing high wage employers, expand economic diversification, and create a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs to create and grow their business within the Region.

Actions

- ▶ **High wage employers** – attract/grow businesses with high location quotients (unique and specialized to our regional economy)
- ▶ **Economic gardening** – help local entrepreneurs grow their existing companies
- ▶ **Access to capital** – develop/administer programs that provide low-barrier access for start-up small businesses
- ▶ **Innovation and entrepreneurial development** – promote/expand support systems for entrepreneurs
- ▶ **Entrepreneurship ecosystems** – establish/support/expand entrepreneurship ecosystems in sub-regions (qualified workforce, favorable culture, markets, finance, governance and policy)
- ▶ **Canadian exports** – strengthen partnerships to support exports to Canada

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #4 – Workforce Development and Employee Retention

Facilitate connection-building across public and private labor force stakeholders to improve workforce training and education alignment, collaboration, insights, and strategies on the regional level. Provide regional coordination among stakeholders to deliver effective workforce training and education to new and existing workforce.

Actions

- ▶ **Improve short/long-term recruitment/retention practices** – seek funding to help businesses learn to find/retain talent
- ▶ **Develop partnerships that build pathways to careers** – facilitate connections across labor force stakeholders to improve workforce training
- ▶ **Improve Career Center (CC) education** – encourage CC pathways; advocate for more facilities funding and systems changes; advocate for adult education programs at CCs
- ▶ **Emerging workforce needs** – seek funding with partners to support CCV's efforts
- ▶ **Non-profit sector support** – work with Common Good Vermont to support workforce development for non-profits
- ▶ **Weatherization** – support Weatherization Assistance programs' workforce efforts and trainings

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #4 – Workforce Development and Employee Retention

Facilitate connection-building across public and private labor force stakeholders to improve workforce training and education alignment, collaboration, insights, and strategies on the regional level. Provide regional coordination among stakeholders to deliver effective workforce training and education to new and existing workforce.

Actions (continued)

- ▶ **Nursing and health care** – work with partners to close workforce needs for this sector
- ▶ **Mental health and substance misuse** – assist entities that seek/fund programs to support employee retention
- ▶ **Worker reentry support** – support partners to provide training/support for people leaving incarceration and reentering the workforce
- ▶ **Employer of Choice program** – develop programs to recognize employer that modernize their efforts to attract workforce
- ▶ **Learn As You Earn programs** – support partners' effort to create ongoing training programs for existing workers
- ▶ **Reskill Workers in Fossil-Fuel Based Industries** – reskill workers in low or zero GHG emitting sectors

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #5 – Infrastructure and Resilience

Actively participate in the planning, funding, and construction of infrastructure projects needed to strengthen the regional economy and that support equity, smart growth principals, and economic resilience in response to climate change and other disasters.

Actions

- ▶ **RDC project priority list** – update the list annually and seek funds for projects
- ▶ **Tax-increment financing** – support creation of TIF districts and legislation
- ▶ **Water and wastewater planning** – work with partners to plan for future needs and complete preliminary reports
- ▶ **Water and wastewater funding** – advocate for State plans and RDC project lists to provide greater priority for project focused on economic and community development
- ▶ **Electric transmission and distribution infrastructure** – work with VELCO/utilities to plan and fund transmission and distribution upgrades
- ▶ **Electric vehicle charging** – work with stakeholders to plan for local networks to support regional destinations and transportation routes
- ▶ **Broadband** – assist CUDs and service providers to accomplish universal broadband access

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #5 – Infrastructure and Resilience

Actively participate in the planning, funding, and construction of infrastructure projects needed to strengthen the regional economy and that support equity, smart growth principals, and economic resilience in response to climate change and other disasters.

Actions

- ▶ **Streets** – cooperate with stakeholders to plan/fund/construct walkable/multi-modal transportation improvements in areas planned for growth
- ▶ **Rail** – cooperate with stakeholders to plan/fund/construct appropriate rail infrastructure
- ▶ **Brownfields** – seek funding from EPA to continue funding assessment/planning/RLF/clean up
- ▶ **Underutilized sites** – support efforts to develop master redevelopment plans for underutilized sites
- ▶ **Investment in Historic Structures** – support efforts to rehabilitate and reuse historic structures in towns and villages
- ▶ **Data** – cooperate with partners to develop an integrated data and research infrastructure
- ▶ **Funding** – investigate ways an economic development district could access grants and/or develop programs to assist infrastructure projects

WEST CENTRAL VERMONT CEDS – GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal #6 – Quality of Life

Balance economic development goals and growth with the importance of retaining key elements of our high quality of life in West Central Vermont (e.g. ample access to outdoor recreation, arts and culture, high quality K-12 public schools, and compact settlement surrounded by rural countryside).

Actions

- ▶ **Land use** – implement land use goals/policies from regional plans
- ▶ **Farm to Plate** – cooperate with stakeholders to implement VT Farm to Plate & regional agricultural/ag product projects
- ▶ **Outdoor recreation** – collaborate with partners to further economic interests in this economy
- ▶ **Forest economy** – cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects/actions to strengthen the forest economy
- ▶ **Permit reform** - advocate for less duplicative and overlapping federal, state, and local permitting processes
- ▶ **Creative economy and the arts** – strengthen recognition of the economic impact of/support for the creative economy
- ▶ **Tourism** – cooperate with partners to support growth of the tourism industry



RESOLUTION

Whereas Title 24, VSA, Section §4350 requires that regional planning commissions, after public notice, shall review the planning process of member municipalities and shall so confirm when a municipality:

1. is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under 24 V.S.A. § 4382; and
3. is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes;

Whereas as part of the consultation process, a regional planning commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan;

Whereas a regional planning commission shall review and approve plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted, and a commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

1. is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is compatible with its regional plan;
3. is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
4. contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. § 4382(a)(1)-(12);

Whereas the Town of East Montpelier prepared a municipal plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A Chapter 117;

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission concluded that the *2018 East Montpelier Town Plan Amended July 11, 2022* meets the requirements for approval; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

1. approves the *2018 East Montpelier Town Plan Amended July 11, 2022*; and
2. consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of East Montpelier.

Under 24 V.S.A. § 4350, when the adopted municipal plan expires in 2026, its approval and confirmation of the municipality's planning process also expire. Recommendations made by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission are attached and should be considered when developing the next municipal plan.

A municipality that has adopted a plan may define and regulate land development in any manner that the municipality establishes in its bylaws, provided those bylaws are in conformance with the plan and are adopted for the purposes set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4302.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on November 8, 2022.

Steve Lotspeich, Chair



RESOLUTION

Whereas Title 24, VSA, Section §4350 requires that regional planning commissions, after public notice, shall review the planning process of member municipalities and shall so confirm when a municipality:

1. is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under 24 V.S.A. § 4382; and
3. is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes;

Whereas as part of the consultation process, a regional planning commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan;

Whereas a regional planning commission shall review and approve plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted, and a commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

1. is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is compatible with its regional plan;
3. is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
4. contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. § 4382(a)(1)-(12);

Whereas the Town of Duxbury prepared a municipal plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A Chapter 117;

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission concluded that the *Duxbury Town Plan Approved October 13, 2020* meets the requirements for approval; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

1. approves the *Duxbury Town Plan Approved October 13, 2020*; and
2. consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Duxbury.

Under 24 V.S.A. § 4350, when the adopted municipal plan expires in 2028, its approval and confirmation of the municipality's planning process also expire. Recommendations made by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission are attached and should be considered when developing the next municipal plan.

A municipality that has adopted a plan may define and regulate land development in any manner that the municipality establishes in its bylaws, provided those bylaws are in conformance with the plan and are adopted for the purposes set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4302.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on November 8, 2022.

Steve Lotspeich, Chair



MEMO

Date: November 1, 2022
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Executive Committee
Re: FY24 Municipal Dues

✉ ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt an FY24 municipal dues assessment rate of \$1.33 per capita.

CVRPC has two flexible sources of funds: municipal assessments and regional planning funds provided by the Vermont Legislature. When viewed together, CVRPC's flexible funds have not kept pace with the rate of inflation over the past 10 years. This coincided with increased match requirements for grants and increased municipal service requests.

Raising dues helps maintain CVRPC's staff capacity so municipalities can rely on our services and reach into our staff pool for support. Municipalities invested \$86,985 for FY23 dues, and will leverage \$1.8 million in services from CVRPC.

How are municipal dues used?

Municipal dues are used to match grants, make up shortfalls or reductions in grants and contracts, and help support ongoing operations and maintenance of a professional staff. State officials and legislators look to municipal assessments (the rate and the overall participation by municipalities) as one indicator of a regional planning commission's success.

How was the recommended rate developed?

The Executive Director assesses potential budgetary needs. Factors considered include overall budget, dues as a percentage of budget (buying power of municipal dues), cash and in-kind match needs, projected municipal service needs over the next 2-3 years, and potential future needs of the Commission. Wages and benefits are CVRPC's primary cost beyond consultants. CVRPC wages ranges are due to be updated. From June 2020 to June 2021, the cost of wages and salaries in New England rose by 3.7%¹, reflecting a tightening labor market. The Director provides alternatives and a recommendation to the Executive Committee, which recommends a rate to the Board.

How do dues fit within CVRPC other funding?

CVRPC is funded by municipal dues assessments, an annual allocation of regional planning funds from the Legislature, grants, and contracts for services. Of these, municipal assessments and regional planning funds are the only flexible funds. Municipal assessments are the most flexible.

¹ New England - Employment Cost Index , wages and salaries only - <http://www.bls.gov/regions/new-england/data/xg-tables/ro1xg04.htm>

How will the dues change for my municipality?

RECOMMENDED

Dues Rate Change Options →			Maintain	Increase 1.6%	Increase 3.9%	Increase 5%	\$ Change 0.00
Municipality	FY 23 Dues at \$1.33	2020 US Census	FY 24 Dues at \$1.33	FY 24 Dues at \$1.35	FY 24 Dues at \$1.38	FY 24 Dues at \$1.40	
Barre City	\$ 11,293.03	8,491	\$ 11,293.03	\$ 11,462.85	\$11,717.58	\$11,887.40	0.00
Barre Town	\$ 10,537.59	7,923	\$ 10,537.59	\$ 10,696.05	\$10,933.74	\$11,092.20	0.00
Berlin	\$ 3,789.17	2,849	\$ 3,789.17	\$ 3,846.15	\$3,931.62	\$3,988.60	0.00
Cabot	\$ 1,919.19	1,443	\$ 1,919.19	\$ 1,948.05	\$1,991.34	\$2,020.20	0.00
Calais	\$ 2,209.13	1,661	\$ 2,209.13	\$ 2,242.35	\$2,292.18	\$2,325.40	0.00
Duxbury	\$ 1,879.29	1,413	\$ 1,879.29	\$ 1,907.55	\$1,949.94	\$1,978.20	0.00
East Montpelier	\$ 3,455.34	2,598	\$ 3,455.34	\$ 3,507.30	\$3,585.24	\$3,637.20	0.00
Fayston	\$ 1,814.12	1,364	\$ 1,814.12	\$ 1,841.40	\$1,882.32	\$1,909.60	0.00
Marshfield	\$ 2,105.39	1,583	\$ 2,105.39	\$ 2,137.05	\$2,184.54	\$2,216.20	0.00
Middlesex	\$ 2,366.07	1,779	\$ 2,366.07	\$ 2,401.65	\$2,455.02	\$2,490.60	0.00
Montpelier	\$ 10,738.42	8,074	\$ 10,738.42	\$ 10,899.90	\$11,142.12	\$11,303.60	0.00
Moretown	\$ 2,331.49	1,753	\$ 2,331.49	\$ 2,366.55	\$2,419.14	\$2,454.20	0.00
Northfield	\$ 7,870.94	5,918	\$ 7,870.94	\$ 7,989.30	\$8,166.84	\$8,285.20	0.00
Orange	\$ 1,393.84	1,048	\$ 1,393.84	\$ 1,414.80	\$1,446.24	\$1,467.20	0.00
Plainfield	\$ 1,643.88	1,236	\$ 1,643.88	\$ 1,668.60	\$1,705.68	\$1,730.40	0.00
Roxbury	\$ 901.74	678	\$ 901.74	\$ 915.30	\$935.64	\$949.20	0.00
Waitsfield	\$ 2,452.52	1,844	\$ 2,452.52	\$ 2,489.40	\$2,544.72	\$2,581.60	0.00
Warren	\$ 2,629.41	1,977	\$ 2,629.41	\$ 2,668.95	\$2,728.26	\$2,767.80	0.00
Washington	\$ 1,372.56	1,032	\$ 1,372.56	\$ 1,393.20	\$1,424.16	\$1,444.80	0.00
Waterbury	\$ 7,090.23	5,331	\$ 7,090.23	\$ 7,196.85	\$7,356.78	\$7,463.40	0.00
Williamstown	\$ 4,674.95	3,515	\$ 4,674.95	\$ 4,745.25	\$4,850.70	\$4,921.00	0.00
Woodbury	\$ 1,234.24	928	\$ 1,234.24	\$ 1,252.80	\$1,280.64	\$1,299.20	0.00
Worcester	\$ 1,282.12	964	\$ 1,282.12	\$ 1,301.40	\$1,330.32	\$1,349.60	0.00
Region	\$ 86,984.66	65,402	\$ 86,984.66	\$ 88,292.70	\$90,254.76	\$91,562.80	0.00

Vermont RPC Municipal Dues Rates and Structures

The Executive Committee customarily requests information about how CVRPC's activities compare to its peers. The table below reflects how CVRPC's current dues compare to other RPCs as of 10/25/21. The data is sorted by Per Capita Equivalent to assist with comparisons. Note: CVRPC's FY24 dues rate is \$1.33

RPC	Population	Data Source	\$ Raised from Dues	# of Municipalities	Dues as % of Total Revenue	Calculation Method	Per Capita Equivalent ¹	Notes
Bennington	37,701	US Census	\$102,686	17	6%	Population: 0-250 = \$2,000; 251-500 = \$3,000; 501-1,000 = \$4,000; 1,001-2,000 = \$5,000; 2,001-3,000 = \$6,000; 3,001-4,000 = \$7,000; 4,001-5,000 = \$8,000; Over 5,000 = \$8,000 + (Population-5,000) * 3	\$2.72	
Windham	45,044	US Census	\$109,006	27	5%	\$2.42 per capita - minimum \$250	\$2.42	
TRORC	57,116	US Census	\$90,243	30	5%	\$1.58 per capita	\$1.58	
Chittenden	168,323	US Census	\$255,408	19	5%	Pro-rated based on municipal share of the county Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL) value	\$1.52	
Addison	33,517	VDH Population Estimates	\$43,997	21	6%	\$1.32 per capita, minus group quarters	\$1.31	
Central	65,402	2020 US Census	\$86,985	23	5%	\$1.33 per capita	\$1.33	FY23 rate
Mt. Ascutney	24,711	US Census	\$30,889	10	4%	\$1.25 per capita	\$1.25	FY20 rate
Northwest	54,715	US Census	\$60,576	22	4%	\$1.107 per capita; annual change based on employer cost price index	\$1.11	FY21 rate
Lamoille	24,475	US Census	\$20,000	10	3%	Pro-rated 50/50, most recent Census population and equalized grand list value; towns only, not villages	\$0.82	No 2020 Census adjustment
NVDA	62,438	US Census	\$50,215	50	3%	\$0.75 per capita - minimum dues of \$500 (few do pay \$100); \$3,500 cap	\$0.80	FY20 rate
Rutland	61,642	US Census	\$27,000	27	2%	\$1,000/year per municipality	\$0.44	

¹Amount Raised by Dues divided by Population

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
October 11, 2022

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	George Clain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Gilbar, Alt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico, Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	Alexis Leacock
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Wendt, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Spencer Harding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam	<input type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Jon Ignatowski, Clare Rock, Christian Meyer

Guests: Melissa Bounty & Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

Call to Order

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Roll call conducted. Quorum present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Lotspeich advised there is a resolution to add to the agenda prior to Reports.

Public Comments

Amy Hornblas of Cabot tendered her resignation as a Board Commissioner and shared her concerns related to CVRPC policies and regulations.

FY23 Work Plan & Budget

B. Waninger provided a presentation outlining the FY23 Work Plan and Budget adopted by the Executive Committee. Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to additional details in the meeting packet.

Questions addressed related to how revenue will be affected once pandemic response related funds are exhausted; shared services; and organization reserve funds.

Acting Director Appointment

Chair Lotspeich advised the Executive Committee met with Bonnie Waninger and Christian Meyer and is recommending Christian be appointed as Acting Director.

P. Carbee moved to appoint Christian Meyer as Acting Director, R. Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Lotspeich advised that we also needed a motion to facilitate Christian being a signatory on CVRPC bank accounts.

R. Wernecke moved to remove Bonnie Waninger as signatory on all CVRPC's bank accounts and add Christian Meyer as signatory while Acting Director, seconded by J. Shatney. Motion carried.

It was confirmed the above takes effect on Thursday, October 13th.

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update

Chair Lotspeich introduced Melissa Bounty, Assistant Executive Director of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC). She reported that CVEDC is currently working on the Community Navigator Pilot program (small business technical assistance funds); VEDA forgivable loans related to COVID impacts, and the Regional Project Priority List (which CVRPC will be involved with).

West Central Vermont Strategic Economic Development Strategy

Chair Lotspeich advised that since the last Board meeting, the Executive Committee had discussion regarding the CEDS, that he and Bonnie Waninger met with the US Economic Development Administration (USEDA); and that Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission has submitted a formal extension request for the CEDS completion to USED A, that is anticipated to be approved. Therefore, there is time for CVRPC's comments to be addressed related to the draft CEDS. Bonnie Waninger shared a presentation providing on update on how conversations are moving with the broader CEDS group and how the main comments raised at the last CVRPC Board meeting are being addressed. Following the presentation the Board shared their input on specific goals within the CEDS and Jamie Stewart and Bonnie Waninger provided response to that input. Follow-up comments can be submitted to Bonnie Waninger or Christian Meyer via email.

Minutes

J. Shatney moved to accept the September 13, 2022 minutes; L. Hill-Eubanks seconded. George Clain raised concerns that he did not see comments on governance of the CEDS. It was noted that the full transcription of the CEDS discussion was appended to the minutes and those comments were included within the transcription. The vote was called. Motion carried.

Resolution

Chair Lotspeich read a resolution honoring Bonnie Waninger's service.

P. Carbee moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by R. Krauth. Comments were shared thanking Bonnie for her service. Motion carried.

Reports

1 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and there was no discussion.

2

3 **Adjournment**

4 *P. Carbee moved to adjourn at 8:39 pm; D. Torre seconded. Motion carried.*

5

6

7 Respectfully submitted,

8 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

9

DRAFT

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, October 2022

F: 802-223-1977

The CVRPC office remains closed to the public. Staff are in the office on Mondays through Thursdays. Due to telework schedules, please schedule in-person meetings in advance. Masks are required in public areas of the office.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com unless otherwise noted.

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Continued coordination with Duxbury and East Montpelier for the municipal plan approval and confirmation of the local planning processes; and scheduled upcoming Municipal Plan Review Committee meeting.
- Connected Roxbury with tax credit specialist to further planning efforts for a property owner workshop on Village Center Designation financial benefits.
- Met with Berlin Recreation Committee chair to discuss possible funding sources for an ice rink expansion.
- Met with municipal representatives from Cabot to discuss draft Village Center Designation map
- Responded to requests for GIS data from Waterbury and Montpelier.
- Discussed town plan adoption process with Worcester and provided recommendation on next steps.
- Prepared for and staff Municipal Plan Review Committee meeting, and gathered feedback on draft letter to help communicate RPC town plan review process.
- Prepared Zoning 101 training and presented at Woodbury Planning Commission meeting.
- Provided Barre City with information on the Public Utility Commission (PUC) process and the role of municipal screening regulations.
- Used the bylaw review matrix to review Barre City's municipal bylaws

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Participated in two Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Strategy Committee meetings to discuss the draft CEDS and engagement. Presented the CEDS to the CVRPC Board and fostered Board discussion about rural economic development. Met with CCRPC and US EDA regarding grant extension request. Created a document for the CVRPC board that evaluated every goal and strategy of the CEDS for compatibility with the Regional Plan. Drafted language for the CEDS that accounted for the fossil-fuel related jobs that will be impacted by the transition to clean energy.
- Compiled and edited CVRPC's contribution to the VAPDA Annual Report and map.
- Started an inventory of census data needed for regional plan update.
- Monitored Section 248 and Act 250 applications, and started preparations for a Project review Committee meeting at the end of the month.
- Wrote a memo about regionally significant Act 250 applications on the VT 100 corridor.
- Regional Plan update process: Reviewed CEDS, Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Housing Needs Assessment for content relative to Regional Plan update. Draft outline and cross referenced with Statutory requirements.
- Distributed upcoming funding opportunities to rec group.
- Attend the MRV Housing Summit and facilitated break out group on the topic of Housing Advocacy.
- Began developing future town trainings including grant/program specific workshops, and training on recruitment and community engagement (community outreach inventories, formalizing engagement strategy- both for existing committees and municipality to recruit for committees)

Health Equity: (Contact Sam Lash, lash@cvregion.com)

- Participated in RPC statewide meetings to discuss Health Equity Toolkit progress and Implementation Projects (focus included development of questions for review and trainings, target population definitions, etc) and including in person training.
- Provided additional health equity questions and comments for review of toolkit reframing physical activity in terms of employment, caregiving, etc. in addition to recreation. Reviewed data for Central VT on proximity to green spaces, transportation/sidewalk accessibility, etc. in context of national campaigns (e.g. Trust for Public Land).
- Prepared quarterly progress report.
- Began outreach to regional groups and municipalities for case studies for customized regional toolkit, review of toolkit, upcoming events to attend with surveys and training, and to partner on health equity projects.
- Part II health equity and transportation discussion with Transportation Advisory Committee (integrating equity frameworks into project development, selection, and prioritization processes).

Economic Development: (Contact Jon Ignatowski, ignatowski@cvregion.com)

- Plainfield Co-operative Business Assistance - Prepared Memorandum of Agreement for project match commitment. Met with Co-op representatives and held kickoff meeting with Co-op Board to review scope of work and schedule. Drafted USDA memo regarding personnel changes and qualifications.
- Prepared request-for-bid drafts for the three consulting portions of the grant.
- Developed a revised budget for the grant.
- Prepared quarterly reports for the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG).

Partnerships for Progress:

CVFiber: Prepared minutes for two Planning & Development Committee, two Executive Committee, and for Governing Board meetings. Posted meeting agendas and minutes to website. Processed incoming mail.

THRIVE: No activity this month.

CVEDC: Participated in annual meeting. Began preparing for the 2022 regional project priorities process.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

Contact Keith Cubbon, cubbon@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Local/Regional Planning:

- Attended Vermont Emergency Management Conference 2-day event at Killington.
- Participated in FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis training.
- Attended Hands Mill Dam stakeholder meeting in support of Washington
- Participated in Vermont Emergency Management/RPC monthly meeting.
- Coordinated with Montpelier in yearly review of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan review.
- Posted Capital Fire Mutual Aid (CFMA) agenda to CFMA page on CVRPC website.
- Viewed Webinar on Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Tabulated doodle poll results for Regional Emergency Management Committee.
- Participated in online training in situational awareness for State Emergency Operations Center activation.
- Coordinated presentation by Hazmat for REMC November meeting.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans. Contact Sam Last at lash@cvregion.com.

- Reviewed maps and figures, outlined maps and elements for inclusion in CVRPC LHMPs incorporating municipal feedback to better serve communities including maps to support LHMP update process, maps that are dynamic and

products of collaboration and public engagement (products of process), and maps as reference while reading LHMPs.

Fayston- Continued integrating edits and completed worksheets into draft (including hazard profiles, historic data, planning process progress, community profile, etc.). Preparing handouts (physical and online) on top hazard identification, top hazard profiles, and activities to brainstorm mitigation actions for public outreach.

Orange- Coordinated and facilitated local core planning team meeting on hazard identification, and risk and vulnerability assessment. Began integrating edits and completed worksheets into draft (including hazard profiles, historic data, planning process progress, community profile, etc.). Preparing handouts (physical and online) on top hazard identification, top hazard profiles, and activities to brainstorm mitigation actions for public meeting and online public outreach.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Attended monthly meeting of RPCs/VLCT. Coordinated with Barre and helping with community outreach event that will be held in November.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Field Services:

Processed Woodbury traffic count data and provided data to the town. Reformatted count data for Orange. Processed Northfield Falls traffic count data. Met with Middlesex Road Supervisor to begin Bridge and Culvert inventory. Conducted Middlesex Bridge and Culvert Inventory (70% Complete).

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 the need to find a vendor with public transit experience to conduct the organization assessment, and the need to develop a scope of work for the assessment. Held an Executive Session to discuss personnel, no action taken. Recommended the Board approve a FY23 wage adjustment for the General Manager commensurate with that of other administrative staff.

Operations Committee – Staff is currently working on a rule book update and will work with union partners to negotiate the work rules. A review of the Washington County site election scores and criteria was completed. Staff will bring a recommendation to the full Board to move forward with the site on Paine Turnpike North.

- Participated on the General Manager Search Committee. Attended weekly meetings. Job advertisement has been released.

Municipal Assistance:

- Drafted letters of support for Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program funding for the towns of Washington and Middlesex to build salt sheds in their respective towns.
- Wrote letter of support for Cabot Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program funding for Whittier Road paving project.
- Created letter of support for Duxbury Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program funding for completion of their Scrabble Hill Road project.
- Participated in Plainfield Selectboard meeting to discussed funding opportunities for bridge work on Brook Road.

Regional Activities:

- Participated in multi-regional Stowe transportation working group conversation with LCPC, VTRANS, and local municipalities.
- Continued to meet with UVM intern who will help inventory regional pedestrian infrastructure.
- Attended "Walkinar II Walkability and Equity: Improving Ped infrastructure in Underserved Neighborhoods" with presentations and discussion by TPL, Disability Mobility Initiative Program, Place It!. Reviewed CVRPC region projects (Sam).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Brian Voigt, voigt@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Met with the Department of Environmental Conservation Basin Planner for the Winooski River Basin to discuss:
 - the development of an Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination table to document problem areas in the watershed;
 - data resources and summarizing and mapping information for inclusion in the Tactical Basin Plan; and
 - opportunities for collaboration during the Tactical Basin Plan update process.
- Met with Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski River to discuss stormwater projects in the Winooski River Basin.
- Queried the DEC Watershed Projects Database to identify water quality improvement projects in the Winooski River Basin. Corresponded with DEC Basin Planner to request additional information related to the identified projects.
- Attended Chittenden County RPC Clean Water Advisory Committee meeting.
- Attended Lamoille Basin regional coordination meeting.
- Attended meeting organized by The Nature Conservancy to discuss Winooski River Basin priorities. A list of high priority dams to consider for future removal was developed.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP):

- Attended Vermont State Archives and Records Administration meeting to discuss CWSP records retention requirements.
- Attended DEC CWSP check-in meetings to discuss program status and guidance.
- Attended DEC CWSP Guidance meeting to discuss project selection and prioritization.
- Met with other CWSP planners to discuss data management and project tracking strategies.
- Reviewed Chapter 6 guidance (from DEC) on project prioritization and selection.
- Attended DEC-organized meeting discussing the results of their Phase I study regarding VT's Clean Water Workforce.
- Organized and hosted a Basin Water Quality Council meeting.
- Formula Grant, which provides money for the next phase of the Clean Water Service Provider program, was signed by CVRPC and Department of Environmental Conservation.

604b:

- Reviewed all stormwater master plans and stormwater infrastructure maps for member municipalities and communicated findings to the Department of Environmental Conservation Basin Planner for the Winooski River Basin.
- Developed tracking system to monitor project progress and simplify updates to the Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Projects Database.

Stormwater Projects:

Barre City Auditorium Final Designs – Completed quarterly report.

Calais / Woodbury Stormwater Implementation – Draft contract remains under review. Responded to Woodbury Selectboard request for information.

Moretown School Stormwater Implementation – Completed quarterly report and submitted project deliverable (project kick-off meeting notes) to the funding agency.

Plainfield Gully Stormwater Implementation – Created posters for posting on job site. Reviewed and filed gully observation reports.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Contact Sam Lash, lash@cvregion.com unless otherwise noted.

Municipal Planning and Implementation

- Continued to support Central VT [WindowDressers](#) campaign efforts: advertising volunteer sign-ups and community builds, arranging regional partner materials for builds to better support lowest income residents; worked with Montpelier, Warren, Middlesex, Moretown, Fayston, and Waitsfield Energy Committee members and Coordinators ahead of community window builds. Continued to facilitate next steps in multi-town effort to integrate and expand existing municipal WindowDressers efforts into a partnered regional program.
- Outreach and announcements regionally and began municipal outreach on upcoming opportunities including: Enhanced Energy Planning updates (East Montpelier, Fayston, Barre City, Marshfield), Middlebury student projects and deliverables (municipal baseline and tracking templates), partner programs (e.g. VCRD Climate Economy Resilience Communities Program), Act 172 Municipal Energy Resilience Grant Program, WindowDressers community builds, etc. Prepared October e-digest and established weekly office hours.
- Prepared memo to support Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee efforts with school district outlining available incentives, programs, and approaches to fuel switching and fleet electrification for high and middle schools including custom quotes. Other activities included outreach to new Montpelier Sustainability Coordinator, and attended MEAC meeting to provide updates on opportunities and provide feedback on proposals including community energy programs, equipment acquisition, etc.

Regional Planning and Implementation

- Met with neighboring regional planners regarding potential RPC role and approach to utility rate increases, variety in incentives and approach across DUs, state policy changes, and implications for electrification and siting renewable energy generation facilities.
- Prepared for and participated in Renewable Programs Review discussion (Public Service Department and RPC Energy Planners).
- Continued work with Middlebury College Capstone student projects by reviewing progress reports, through weekly office hours, and guiding workplans. The two projects are 1) development of a municipal energy use baseline and tracking template to support Enhanced Energy Planning and project development, and 2) adapting the resilience hub model to rural communities via a need assessment and a template for upgrades.
- Reached out to Do Good Fest regarding setting up mobile solar generation at next year's event and integration with demo for municipalities.
- Met with pitch collaborators to guide next steps of [Re]Imagining Community Resilience Hubs in Vermont: Shifting Power to Communities and decide deliverables, met with Energy Action Network for feedback.
- Preparing resources for upcoming roundtable and website- aggregating current landscape of incentives, programs, and strategies for municipal fuel switching and fleet electrification including consultation with state partners including ACCD, DriveElectric, VTrans, REV, ANR, and more.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- The Executive Committee created a subcommittee to initiate the Executive Director search process.
- The Board of Commissioners appointed Senior Transportation Planner Christian Meyer as Acting Director.
- Facilitated necessary bank signatory changes with all CVRPC accounts related to Executive Director transition.
- Reviewed CY22 Health Plan information and provided memorandum to Executive Committee for consideration.
- Hosted an open house for staff, commissioners and partners to recognize Bonnie Waninger's leadership.
- Updated CVRPC's Personnel Policy to include necessary components related to NY based remote employee.

Professional Development:

- Keith and Sam attended Local Hazard Mitigation Training (FEMA Region 1).
- Sam attended "How to Avoid Damage from Flooding" featuring Ned Swanberg, part of the environmental hazard resilience webinar series (Lake Champlain Sea Grant).
- Sam attended the Better Places Webinar focused on case studies of successful campaigns across the state. Connect with her to apply!

Upcoming Meetings:

Beginning in September 2022, all CVRPC meetings will host a physical location and offer remote access unless otherwise noted. Meeting access information is provided on agendas at www.centralvtplanning.org.

November

Nov 2	5 pm	Project Review Committee
Nov 3	5:30 pm	Executive Director Search Committee
Nov 8	5 pm	Municipal Plan Review Committee
Nov 8	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Nov 9	5 pm	Regional Emergency Management Committee
Nov 10	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee
Nov 11		Office Closed - Holiday
Nov 17	1 pm	Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Nov 22	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
Nov 24 & 25		Office Closed - Holiday

December

Dec 5	4 pm	Executive Committee
Dec 13	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Dec 15	1 pm	Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
TBD	4 pm	Project Review Committee
Dec 26		Office Closed - Holiday

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](#).*

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

October 7th

- Don't Hibernate. Button Up!
- CVFiber Construction Update Webinar Available Online
- Working Lands Business Enhancement Grants
- VCRD Calls for Climate Economy Resilient Communities
- Learn About and Comment on ANR's Draft MRGP

October 21st

- CVRPC Seeks New Executive Director
- SFY 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Opportunity
- Update of Washington County Projects Included in the Agency of Natural
- Resources Watershed Projects Database
- CVRPC Bids Farewell to Bonnie Waninger

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports, October 2022

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm) [two meetings]

- Reviewed Executive Director job description, job advertisement, position profile, and exit interview process in joint meeting with Executive Director Search Committee.
- Authorized the Executive Director to sign Amendment 1 for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Plainfield Gully Stormwater Construction Contract, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation – CWSP SFY23 Formula Grant agreement, and Vermont Department of Public Safety – Emergency Management Performance Grant FY22 agreement.
- Accepted the July, August and September 2022 unaudited financial reports.
- Authorized the Executive Director, Board Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to sign the United Bank Resolution opening a new account for Clean Water Service Provider contract.
- Discussed including an informational presentation on the West Central Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the October Board meeting agenda.
- Authorized the Acting Executive Director to sign Amendment 1 for the Stone Environmental – Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Amendment, 18 Main Street, Barre City, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development - ACCD Local and Regional Planning FY23 agreement.
- Approved recommending to the Board an FY24 municipal dues assessment rate of \$1.33 per capita.
- Approved modifying the health care plan CVRPC uses to set its contribution level from MVP Gold 3 HDHP to BCBSVT Gold CDHP; setting the employer health insurance contribution as 100% of the cost of the BCBSVT Gold CDHP health plan for employees and family members; maintaining employee choice of available plans to include BCSVT and MVP health care plans; and maintaining 50% payment in lieu of benefit for employees who opt out of CVRPC coverage and provide proof of coverage from another provider.
- Adopted Personnel Policy amendment for Appendix B, Appendix C and Appendix E.
- Adopted Clean Water Service Provider Participation Policy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE (A sub-committee of the Executive Committee)

Reviewed Executive Director job description, job advertisement, position profile, and exit interview process in joint meeting with Executive Committee. Elected Steve Lotspeich as Chair and Dara Torre as Vice Chair. Finalized job description and position advertisement. Discussed search process.

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

Did not meet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February - April; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

Meet/will meet on October 27, 2022 to review the status of recent Act 250 and Section 248 projects and consider SRI for 4.999 MW Solar Project on the Barre Town/Orange town line.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

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

Met on October 11, 2022 and reviewed draft letter which will be provided to towns to help clarify the town plan approval and conformation process.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

The TAC met to elect officers and continue the discussion on implementing an equity framework in the context of selecting a transportation projects for funding.

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

Did not meet.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3rd Monday 6pm)

Did not meet.

WINOOSKI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL

- Discussed Chapter 6 Guidance related to project eligibility, screening, prioritization and advancement.
- Provided overview of the Watershed Projects Database with an emphasis on projects that could be funded with Formula Grant money.
- Described project scoring process and the roles of the Clean Water Service Provider and the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council.
- Demonstrated custom-developed online interactive map platform for facilitating project identification, prioritization and advancement.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)

The October meeting:

- Funding available for health equity
- Discussed the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Bylaw Modernization grant
- Legislative priorities preview: Housing, land value taxes, MGP Complete streets policy, small scale design programs, Better Connections and Better Places.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No Central Vermont activity.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- Announced the second community chosen for the microtransit feasibility study will be St. Albans.
- Accepted the FY23 budget adjustment.
- Accepted the conclusions outlined in the Washington County Site Selection study to select the Paine Turnpike site as the preferred location for the new Washington County Operations Facility.
- Held an Executive Session for personnel.

- Authorized Chair Austin Davis in consultation with GMT Leadership Committee to work expeditiously with General Manager Jon Moore to execute the hiring of an Assistant General Manager, complete an operational assessment to support staff and the organization so that staff can be successful and the organization can thrive, to implement a retention bonus strategy for administrative staff, implement a strategy of outreach to staff to ensure staff feel a part of the organization and a sense of agency in their work.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

The MRVPD hosted the MRV Housing Summit on October 12, 2022. Over 150 people attended. Speakers emphasized the need for communities to be more welcoming of new housing development in our Village and Towns to help overcoming the current housing crisis. Speakers from VHFA, Downstreet Housing, DHCD and a resident of a local affordable housing development share their perspectives and insight on how communities can help aid in the creation of more housing. CVRPC staff attended and help facilitate a Housing Summit break out group. The October Steering Committee was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Lastly the MRVPD will say goodbye to Community Planner Amy Tomasso. Amy has accepted a position at DHCD.