



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 14, 2023 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

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

Page **AGENDA**

6:30² Introductions

Adjustments to the Agenda

Public Comments

6:35 Committee Appointments (Action)³

2 6:45 Waitsfield Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process & Certificate of Energy Compliance (Action - enclosed)³

6 7:05 VAPDA Regional Future Land Use Initiative (Possible action - enclosed)³

7:25 Central Vermont Public Safety Communications Improvement Project

22 7:45 Minutes (Action - enclosed)³

25 7:50 Reports (Action - enclosed)³ - Staff and Committee Reports

8:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting: December 12, 2023

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 7, 2023
To: CVRPC Board of Commissioners
From: Bill Arrand, MPRC Chair
Re: *Waitsfield Town Plan*

☒ **ACTIONS REQUESTED: (consideration of the following actions following Committee update)**

- 1) Approve the *Waitsfield Town Plan*.**
- 2) Confirm the planning process of the Town of Waitsfield.**
- 3) Issue an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance for the *Waitsfield Town Plan*.**

On November 13, 2023 the Municipal Plan Review Committee (MPRC) will hold a hearing to consider approval the *Waitsfield Town Plan*, to consider confirmation of Waitsfield's planning process, and to affirm Waitsfield's Determination of Energy Compliance. The purpose of this update was to:

- 1) Comply with Act 171 (Natural Resources),
- 2) Comply with Act 174 (Energy),
- 3) Develop of a new Future Town Use Map, and
- 4) Complete minor edits to the housing chapter and implementation.

The Municipal Plan Review Committee will determine if the *Waitsfield Town Plan* was found to:

- be consistent with the State goals established in section §4302;
- be compatible with the Central Vermont Regional Plan;
- be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
- contain all the elements included in section § 4382.
- meet the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans

The Committee will provide an update to the Board regarding approval of the Plan and issuance of an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

The Committee will also consider the Town's planning efforts and provide an update to the Board regarding confirmation of the Town's planning process as noted in the draft resolution provided to the Board.



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 Waitsfield prepared a municipal plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A Chapter 117;

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission concluded that the *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* meets the requirements for approval; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

1. approves the *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* adopted October 9, 2023; and
2. consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Waitsfield.

Under 24 V.S.A. § 4350, when an adopted municipal plan expires, 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 14, 2023.

Gerry D'Amico, Chair



DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE

Determination of Energy Planning Compliance Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4352

2023 Waitsfield Town Plan, Waitsfield, VT

I. Procedural History

1. On October 18, 2023, the Town of Waitsfield submitted the *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission ("CVRPC") for a determination of compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352.
2. On October 19, 2023, notice of a public hearing scheduled for November 13, 2023 was posted on the website of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, the entity from which the determination was requested.
3. On October 25, 2023, notice of a public hearing scheduled for November 13, 2023 was published in the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus.
4. On October 19, 2023, notice of a public hearing scheduled for November 13, 2023 was emailed directly to the Town of Waitsfield and posted in three other locations within the region.
5. On November 13, 2023, CVRPC's Municipal Plan Review Committee convened a public hearing via Zoom software with no physical location per the standards set forth in Act 1 (H.42) of 2023. The Municipal Plan Review Committee recommended that the *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* receive a determination of energy compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352.
6. On November 14, 2023, CVRPC's Board of Commissioners reviewed the recommendation of the Municipal Plan Review Committee and voted to approve the determination of energy compliance pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4352.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Conclusions

1. The *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* includes an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3) for a regional plan and is confirmed under the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4350.
2. The *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* is consistent with following State goals:
 - A. Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals under 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);
 - B. Vermont's 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy under 10 V.S.A. § 580;
 - C. Vermont's building efficiency goals under 10 V.S.A. § 581;
 - D. State energy policy under 30 V.S.A. § 202a and the recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the State energy plans adopted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 202 and 202b (State energy plans); and
 - E. The distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004 and 8005.
3. The *2023 Waitsfield Town Plan* meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans as developed by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Dated this 14th day on November, 2023.

Gerry D'Amico, Chair
Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

DRAFT Regional Planning Report

Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies

November 2, 2023 - DRAFT

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Appendix 1 – Draft Future Land Use Areas

Appendix 2 Future Land Use Element Statutory Recommendations

Appendix 3 – Other Statutory Recommendations Related to Act 250, Designations, State Investments

1. Introduction and Background

The HOME Act (Act 47 of 2023, Section 15) required the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) to report on statutory recommendations to better integrate and implement municipal, regional, and State plans, policies, and investments by focusing on regional future land use maps and policies by December 15, 2023. The VAPDA is the statewide association of regional planning commissions.

The below sections describe the goals under which VAPDA proceeded with this study, findings, approach in carrying out this work, recommendations for consistent regional planning, recommendations related to integration with other State policy initiatives, recommendations for equitable engagement, and finally, how we addressed comments from stakeholders.

2. Legislative Charge

S.100 Sec. 15. REGIONAL PLANNING REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2023, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies shall report on statutory recommendations to better integrate and implement municipal, regional, and State plans, policies, and investments by focusing on regional future land use maps and policies. In the

process of creating the Regional Planning Report, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies shall consider possible new methods of public engagement that promote equity and expand opportunity for meaningful participation by impacted communities in the decisions affecting their physical and social environment.

(b) The recommendations shall address how to accomplish the following:

(1) Aligning policies and implementation between municipalities, regional planning commissions, and State entities to better address climate change, climate resiliency, natural resources, housing, transportation, economic development, other social determinants of health, and other place-based issues.

(2) Building upon municipal and regional enhanced energy plans and their implementation.

(3) Evaluating place-based policy and project decisions by the State, regional planning commissions, and municipalities related to implementing regional future land use maps and policies and recommending changes to which of those governmental levels those decisions should occur, if necessary.

(4) Ensuring that State agency investment and policy decisions that relate to land development are consistent with regional and local plans. The investments assessed should include, at a minimum:

(A) drinking water;

(B) wastewater;

(C) stormwater;

(D) transportation;

(E) community and economic development;

(F) housing;

(G) energy; and

(H) telecommunications.

(5) Achieving statewide consistency of future land use maps and policies to better support Act 250 and 30 V.S.A. § 248.

(6) How Act 250 and 30 V.S.A. § 248 could better support implementation of regional future land use maps and policies.

(7) Better support implementation of regional future land use maps and policies in the State designation program under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A.

(8) Improving the quality and effectiveness of future land use maps in regional and municipal plans through changes to 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 including:

(A) future land use map area delineations, definitions, statements, and policies;

(B) existing settlement definitions and their relationship to future land use maps;

(C) the role of regional plans in the review and approval of municipal plans and planning processes; and

(D) a review mechanism to ensure bylaws are consistent with municipal plans.

(c) The report should also discuss how best to implement the recommendations, including the following:

(1) how best to phase in the recommendations;

(2) how to establish a mechanism for the independent review of regional plans to ensure

consistency with statutory requirements;

(3) what guidance and training will be needed to implement the recommendations; and

(4) what incentives and accountability mechanisms are necessary to accomplish these changes at all levels of government.

(d) The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies shall consult with the Agency of Transportation, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Department of Public Service, Vermont Emergency Management, the Natural Resources Board, the regional development corporations, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, statewide environmental organizations, and other interested parties in developing the report and shall summarize comments.

(e) On or before December 15, 2023, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies shall submit the report to the following committees: the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Government Operations, on Natural Resources and Energy, and on Transportation and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Environment and Energy, on General and Housing, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Transportation.

(f) The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies shall be funded in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 for this study through the regional planning grant established in 24 V.S.A. § 4306

3. VAPDA's Goals

VAPDA supports a consistent framework for regional land use planning that:

- More consistently defines areas planned for growth through collaborative coordination of municipal and regional plans;
- Supports shifting the mapping and delineation of areas for the purpose of achieving State Designations from the State to the RPCs while leaving the decision to approve a State Designation at the State level.;
- Strengthens the weight of regional plans in State capital investment decisions; and,
- Defines areas that should be exempt from Act 250 on the basis of established regional and municipal planning for compact development and provision of infrastructure.

Why is this important? There are a number of broader benefits to Vermont in having consistent land use plans supporting both municipal and state policy decisions including investments. These benefits include:

- Better implementing the first State planning goal: To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside. (24 V.S.A. § 4302).
- Providing clarity about the planned scale of development in different parts of the State to achieve the planning goal above.
- Advancing the State, regional, and municipal housing targets that will be developed as part of the State's Housing Needs Assessment in the spring of 2024.
- Addressing the housing shortage through policy change such as updating municipal and state regulations as we know that we can't publicly fund our way to a healthy housing market. The

lack of housing is exacerbating the mental health, substance misuse, and homelessness issues throughout the State.

- Achieving the State's climate goals including reducing greenhouse gas emissions through smart, planned growth that reduces the overall vehicle miles of travel.
- Reducing development pressure on our farms and forests by increasing opportunities for housing in our existing and planned growth areas.
- Improving public health by increasing physical activity and reducing social isolation with more walkable communities.
- Benefits our transit system by concentrating growth and having more riders closer to our transit routes.
- Supporting economic growth in all areas of the State consistent with municipal and regional plans.
- Maximizing the impact of State and Federal infrastructure investments.
- Other?

4. Findings

VAPDA find the following after review of the future land use elements of all eleven regional plans:

- There are several common elements (including land use categories) within regional plans and maps, but there is not always consistency in terms or how they are used.
 - While each region has areas clearly defined as having little to no development, there is less consistency in defining whether these areas are grouped together or further divided into rural residential, working lands (agriculture and forestry), or conservation areas.
 - Each region identifies development centers, but the terms used (or the scales of development) do not always translate among regions (and are not necessarily consistent with state planning area designations). Examples include Regional Center, Center, Town Center, Village Center, Service Center, and Hamlet.
 - All regional plans create distinctions between developed and undeveloped areas, often using a spectrum of urban to rural development patterns.
- There is variation in the level of detail future land use designations are addressed in regional plans.
 - Variation in how closely land use plan language is tied to maps
 - Specificity of desired future conditions
 - The degree to which regional plans contain regulatory provisions for use in Act 250
 - Mapping detail (ranging from simple point data, approximate areas, and specific geographic designations or districts)
- Several regions are using unique land use areas that showcase the variation in planning issues across the state. Examples include:
 - CCRPC's Transit-Oriented Development Overlay
 - LCPC's State Forest and Shoreland Regional Areas
 - TRORC's Interstate Interchange Areas
 - Resort Center Areas in CVRPC, MARC, and WRC

5. Approach to Developing Recommendations

The following describes the process undertaken by VAPDA to arrive at this report and its recommendations.

1. From July 1 to October 20, VAPDA developed and refined the following recommendations:

- a. Use polygon data to denote planning areas.
- b. Identify common features or elements of planning area descriptions.
- c. Identify criteria by which to define land use designations. VAPDA reviewed the criteria by which these land use areas might be defined based on review of current regional plans. This data helped VAPDA understand the different RPC FLU areas to make better recommendations about statewide consistency.
 - Intent for Future Land Use.
 - Residential density and/or e911 point density.
 - Scale & type of development.
 - Infrastructure available, or planned, to support development.
 - Natural and Historic/Cultural Resources.

VAPDA reviewed the results of this analysis in August, September, and October to reach a consensus on the common future land use areas.

2. From October 1 to December 15, VAPDA refined recommendations on the following:

How future land use areas interface with statewide policy. VAPDA discussed recommendations on how the new core regional land use areas and their associated criteria will be used in the following contexts:

- **State planning designations.**
- **Act 250.**
- **Updates to Chapter 117.**
- **State capital investment planning.**

3. From October – December VAPDA sought stakeholder feedback:

On November 3, 2023, VAPDA sent the draft FLU areas and criteria to the following organizations and offered meetings to review and discuss. One meeting for state agencies: Agency of Transportation, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Department of Public Service, Vermont Emergency Management, and the Natural Resources Board; one meeting for regional development corporations; one meeting for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Vermont Planners Association; and one meeting for Vermont Natural Resources Council. Comments were requested by December 1, 2023.

4. From October 1-December 1, 2023, RPC Boards and Committees reviewed and commented on the draft recommendations.

5. Final Report Submission: VAPDA completed edits and submitted this report by December 15 to the following committees: the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Government Operations, on Natural Resources and Energy, and on Transportation and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Environment and Energy, on General and Housing, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Transportation.

6. Recommendations for Consistent Future Land Use Plans

VAPDA has determined that all regional plans should use a core set of land use designations that represent a spectrum of development patterns and intensities. It is noted that regions should retain the ability to define special land use categories or overlays to address their unique circumstances, but which may not be treated equivalently at a statewide level. More details can be found in Appendix 1.

a. Proposed future land use planning area descriptions.

This initial list of land use areas were used for discussion purposes as the RPCs developed agreement on these definitions. Initial regional land use areas included:

- **Planned Growth Areas:** Includes the densest existing settlement and future growth areas with the highest concentrations of population, housing, and employment in each town. They include a mix of commercial, residential, and civic or cultural sites with active streetscapes, supported by land development regulations, public water and/or wastewater and multi-modal transportation systems. These areas typically surround historic or new commercial downtowns and village centers.
- **Village Areas:** Includes the traditional settlement area or a proposed new settlement area, typically comprised of a cohesive mix of residential, civic, religious, commercial, and mixed-use buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets that are within walking distance for residents who live within and surrounding the core. Village Areas may not have one of the following: water, sewer, or land development regulations. They provide some opportunity for infill development or new development areas where the village can grow and be flood resilient. These areas may typically include existing village center designations or plan to seek this designation (this area is not limited to the designation).
- **Transition/infill area (optional):** Includes areas of existing or planned commercial, office, mixed-use development, or residential uses either adjacent to a Planned Growth or Village Area or a new Transition Area and served by, or planned for, water and/or wastewater. The intent of this land use category is to transform these areas into higher-density, mixed use settlements, or residential neighborhoods through infill and redevelopment or new development. New commercial strip auto-oriented development is not allowed as to prevent negatively impacting the economic vitality of commercial areas in the adjacent or nearby Planned Growth or Village Area. This area could also include adjacent greenfields safer from flooding.
- **Resort-based Recreation Areas:** Includes large-scale resource-based, recreational facilities, often concentrated around ski resorts, lakeshores, or concentrated trail networks, which provide infrastructure, jobs, and housing to support recreational activities.
- **Enterprise:** Includes locations of high economic activity and employment which are not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas. These include industrial parks, areas of natural resource extraction, or

other commercial uses which involve larger land areas. Enterprise areas typically have ready access to water supply, sewage disposal, electricity, and freight transportation networks.

- **Hamlet:** Small historic clusters of homes and perhaps a school, church, store, or other public buildings not planned for significant growth; no public water supply or wastewater systems, and mostly focused along 1-2 roads. These may be depicted as points on the FLU map.
- **Rural - General:** Include areas that promote the preservation of Vermont's traditional working landscape and natural area features. They allow for low-density residential and sometimes limited commercial development that is compatible with productive lands and natural areas. This area could also include an area that a municipality is planning to make more rural than it is currently.
- **Rural - Agricultural and Forestry:** Include blocks of forest or farmland that sustain resource industries, provide critical wildlife habitat and movement, outdoor recreation, flood storage, aquifer recharge, and scenic beauty, and contribute to economic well-being and quality of life. Development in these areas should be carefully managed to promote the working landscape and rural economy, and address regional goals, while protecting the agricultural and forest resource value. Consistent with Act 171 requirements.
- **Rural - Conservation:** Include areas intended to be conserved often with regulations or property rights limiting development, fragmentation, and conversion in order to maintain ecological health and scenic beauty. These lands have significant economic value, and require special protection due to their uniqueness, fragility, or ecological importance. They may include protected lands, areas with specific features like steep slopes or endangered species, wetlands, flood hazard areas, and shoreline protection areas, and are intended to remain largely undeveloped for the benefit of future generations. Consistent with Act 171 requirements.

- b. Use polygon data to denote planning areas.** VAPDA agreed that the regions that use point data for land use designations will convert these to polygon areas to support clearer application of state-level policy. There may be exceptions, if necessary, potentially for small crossroads or hamlet settlement areas or site-specific industrial parks. Decisions on these delineations will be led by the municipalities and the regional planning commission, and should not be associated with specific zoning requirements, but rather an overall goal for development patterns.

7. Recommendations for Regional Plan Review and Approval Process

Below is a proposed process for reviewing and approving Regional Plans to maintain long term consistency:

1. **Draft Plan Development and Regional Approval** – The RPC will develop the Draft Regional Plan in consultation with their member municipalities and seek review by State agencies and other stakeholders. As part of the plan development process, the RPC should document efforts to engage marginalized communities. Equitable engagement best practices are included in Section 9 below.. The RPC will hold two public hearings consistent with current statute in their region to obtain any comments from their municipalities and other stakeholders. prior to approval of the draft regional plan by the RPC. State agencies will be asked to provide comments and a determination as to compliance with state statutory requirements in advance of the first public hearing. After consideration of the comments received, the RPC will adopt their regional plan.

2. State Approval – If the legislature determines that an additional process is needed for review and approval of a regional plan, VAPDA suggests that could be done by either a peer review by other RPCs, the Downtown Board, an enhanced NRB, or some other existing or new body. If this additional process is added, one major criterion in the review and approval should be how well the Regional Plan addresses fair housing and documents the ability to meet regional housing targets.
3. Accountability: There should be consequences of not following statute. If an RPC does not bring their plan into compliance, they should be provided a reasonable amount of time (up to 12 months depending upon what needs to be revised) to correct before any RPC member municipalities lose benefits related to Designations, Act 250, or State infrastructure investments.

8. Recommendations related to integration with other State policy initiatives

Describe how future land use areas interface with statewide policy. VAPDA provides the following recommendations on how the updated regional future land use areas and their associated criteria will be used in the following contexts:

- **State Designation Program.** VAPDA envisions the State requiring RPCs to delineate the areas *that will be used in an updated State Designation Program. [Placeholder: The State Designation Study is underway, and this section will be updated to consider those recommendations to the extent possible.]*
 - a. **Planned Growth Areas – In order to obtain a State Designation and benefits a recommendation letter** from RPC should be required. Designation should require identification in regional plan future land use element and regionally approved municipal plan. Benefits such as Act 250 exemptions and investment priority should apply to an area potentially as large as the entire Planned Growth Area while tax benefits, etc. would apply to properties in the mapped center and/or meeting certain criteria – historic preservation predominantly. Likely need State review for river corridors/floodplains and multi-modal transportation.
 - b. **Transition Areas-** Transition areas planned for increased development should be able to be included in a designation that encourages the redevelopment of auto-oriented strip development or the development into greenfields adjacent to a Planned Growth or Village Area. These areas may also be outside of any state designation.
 - c. **Village Areas** –Existing and any future Village Center designations (not included as Planned Growth Areas) will be included within the Village Areas. General benefits such as state grants and infrastructure investments should apply to the entire Village, while tax benefits should apply to properties meeting certain criteria – historic preservation predominantly.
 - d. **Resource-based Recreation Areas** – These are likely outside of any State designation.
 - e. **Enterprise Areas** – These are likely outside of any State designation.
 - f. **Hamlet** - Hamlets are outside of any State designation. Any currently designated village centers should be identified in a Village Area in regional plans' FLU element.
 - g. **Rural – General** – These are outside of any State designation.

- h. **Rural - Agricultural and Forestry** - These are outside of any State designation.
 - i. **Rural- Conservation** - These are outside of any State designation.
- **Act 250.** All or portions of Planned Growth Areas may meet criteria and be reviewed by the State to achieve exemption from Act 250 review or specific criteria.
 - a. **Planned Growth Areas** - Planned Growth Areas should be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction when the municipality receives approval from the State through whatever process is adopted after the Act 250 and Designation studies' recommendations are implemented by the legislature. If exempt from future Act 250 jurisdiction, need a process for a property owner to transition any remaining Act 250 conditions to municipal jurisdiction when seeking a new permit. This process could include existing Act 250 permits in areas exempted to be superseded by, or relevant conditions get included in, a subsequent municipal permit. Need state review for river corridors/floodplains, historic preservation, and transportation – 60 days for review, include DEC permits before town issues final permit (could trails/paths be exempted?). Maybe different standards in the planned growth areas. (4449e)
 - b. **Transition** - Transition areas could be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction when the community demonstrates planning and regulation that requires all new development to adhere to Vermont's land use goals (similar to current NDA requirements?).
 - c. **Village Areas** – Villages could be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction or held to a different jurisdictional threshold than Rural areas. Planning and regulations that require new development to adhere to Vermont's land use goals should be required for reductions in, or exemptions from, Act 250 jurisdiction. Consider removing the 5-year, 5-mile jurisdictional trigger. Consider treating all Act 250 applications in these areas as minors. Consider reducing jurisdictional thresholds for commercial but not residential.
 - d. **Resource-based Recreation Areas** – These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction due to their potential impact on natural resources.
 - e. **Enterprise Areas** – These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction. Different Act 250 criteria could be considered. Nuisance type impacts should be reviewed at edge of area, rather than individual lots. Enable offsite ag soil mitigation.
 - f. **Hamlet** - These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction.
 - g. **Rural – General** – These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction.
 - h. **Rural - Agricultural and Forestry** - These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction. This area may be defined by constraint mapping done as part of Act 174 for Enhanced Energy Plans.
 - i. **Rural- Conservation** - These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction and may have a lower jurisdictional threshold and/or a higher standard of review. This area may be defined by constraint mapping done as part of Act 174 for Enhanced Energy Plans.
- **State capital investment planning.** For each FLU Area, we offer the following types of State investment that should be prioritized. These lists are not intended to be all inclusive.
 - a. **Planned Growth Areas** - Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, transit, EVSE, urban trees, state offices, schools, housing, historic preservation and adaptive re-use. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.

- b. **Transition Areas** - Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, transit, EVSE, urban trees, housing, historic preservation. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
 - c. **Village Areas** – Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, transit, EVSE, urban trees, state offices, schools, housing, historic preservation and adaptive re-use. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
 - d. **Resource-based Recreation Areas** – Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, transit, EVSE. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
 - e. **Enterprise Areas** – Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, transit, EVSE.
 - f. **Hamlet** - Sidewalks, paths, EVSE.
 - g. **Rural – General** – Clean water, working lands, conservation easements, recreational trails.
 - h. **Rural - Agricultural and Forestry** - Clean water, working lands, conservation easements, recreational trails.
 - i. **Rural- Conservation** - Clean water, working lands, conservation easements, recreational trails.
- **Updates to Chapter 117.** Specifically, the required elements of regional plans in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a and consistency of municipal plans with regional plans as required in 24 V.S.A. §4382(a). See Appendix 2 [not yet drafted] for detailed suggestions regarding statutory changes.
 - **Other State Policy.** See Appendix 3 [not yet drafted] for detailed suggestions regarding statutory changes.
 - a. **Speed Limits** - In Planned Growth and Village Areas, consider allowing municipalities with these areas to adopt speed limits less than 25 mph.

9. Recommendations related to equitable engagement

RPCs should consider methods of public engagement that promote equity and expand opportunity for meaningful participation by impacted communities in the decisions affecting their physical and social environment.

When drafting regional plans that guide land use, inclusive community participation is important to eliminate racism and discrimination and achieve better outcomes.ⁱ Effective public education on what land use policies is, and what land use planning has the potential to do for a community can be a crucial element in encouraging participation from broader and more representative groups of citizens. However, inviting underrepresented and marginalized groups to attend events and meetings is not enough, pro-active recruitment, education, relationship building, and empowerment is needed for effective engagement around critical decisions about land use.ⁱⁱ

Additionally, the following recommendations from the American Planners Association should apply to updating land use policies:

- Drafting should allow for multiple opportunities for review of potential impacts on marginalized communities.
- Overly complicated language and regulations should be avoided. Planners should speak to the community in the language(s) they understand and use clear and objective, equity-based standards and review criteria.ⁱⁱⁱ

Although there are nearly always capacity constraints, thoughtful selection of a community engagement process should not overburden the community members who already face barriers to engaging with decision-making, while also allowing those same community members to have a voice in how Future Land Use Maps are developed. Achieving this will require that any engagement effort or activity is made accessible through providing services such as transportation, translation, and childcare. Food should be provided, and stipends whenever possible. Venue locations should be carefully selected while considering what spaces may or may not be inviting depending on lived experiences or generational trauma.

10. Recommendations related to implementation

Here are initial recommendations for the sequencing and scheduling of activities needed to properly implement the proposed changes described above. These recommendations assume that Act 250 and the State Designation Program have been updated consistent with the recommendations included in this report and the statute generally becomes effective July 1, 2024.

Action – Responsible Party	Timeframe or deadline
Training and Education – The RPCs, NRB, and DHCD should collaborate on a training presentation for municipalities, RPCs, NRB, District Environmental Commissions, State agency staff, developers, and other interested parties.	7/24-6/25
Updated State Designation Guidance - DHCD	12/31/24
Updated Act 250 Rulemaking as required - NRB	12/31/25
<i>If Act 250 and/or Designation reforms are adopted by the Legislature:</i>	
RPCs refine future land use criteria guidance	7/25
RPCs update regional plan future land use elements including equitable engagement process.	to be completed within three years after guidance

11. Comments from State Agencies and other stakeholders with responses

To be added after they review in November...

Appendix 1 – Draft Future Land Use Areas

Appendix 2 Future Land Use Element Statutory Recommendations

Appendix 3 – Other Statutory Recommendations Related to Act 250, Designations, State Investments

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1 DRAFT FUTURE LAND USE AREAS

PLANNED GROWTH AREA	
Description	Includes the densest existing settlement and future growth areas with the highest concentrations of population, housing, and employment in each town. They include a mix of commercial, residential, and civic or cultural sites with active streetscapes, supported by land development regulations, public water and/or wastewater and multi-modal transportation systems. These areas typically surround historic or new commercial downtowns and village centers.
Key Criteria description	
Residential Density	Among highest in town or region; per Act 47 at least 5 du/ac net densities should be allowed in zoning. If zoning is not yet updated in compliance with Act 47, delineate the PGA anyway.
Housing Target	They are planned to accommodate most, if not all, of the municipal housing target through a diversity of residential building types when considered in combination with adjacent Transition Areas.
Types of Appropriate Development	Redevelopment, renovation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings, infill, adjacent greenfield development where needed to meet housing targets, serve civic and commercial needs and be flood resilient.
Zoning/Subdivision	land development regulations required
Community Water	Existing or planned water service area required (if needed to meet Act 47 minimum densities) (still PGA even if limited)
Community Sewer	Existing or planned sewer service area required (if needed to meet Act 47 minimum densities) (still PGA even if limited)
Transportation	Varied options emphasizing walking, biking, and transit.

VILLAGE AREA	
Description	Includes the traditional settlement area or a proposed new settlement area, typically comprised of a cohesive mix of residential, civic, religious, commercial, and mixed-use buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets that are within walking distance for residents who live within and surrounding the core. Village Areas may not have one of the following: water, sewer, or land development regulations . They provide some opportunity for infill development or new development areas where the village can grow and be flood resilient. These areas may typically include existing village center designations or plan to seek this designation (this area is not limited to the designation).
Key Criteria description	
Residential Density	Relatively denser and more diverse housing types than surrounding rural areas in that town but does not achieve Act 47 required densities.
Housing Target	Demonstrate ability to accommodate some portion of municipal housing target within this area.
Types of Appropriate Development	Redevelopment, renovation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings, infill, adjacent greenfield development where needed to meet housing targets and be flood resilient.

Zoning/Subdivision	land development regulations optional
Community Water	Possible without having either sewer or zoning
Community Sewer	Possible without having either water or zoning
Transportation	Pedestrian-oriented including at least some existing or planned sidewalks or walking opportunities(?)

TRANSITION/INFILL AREA (OPTIONAL)	
Description	Includes areas of existing or planned commercial, office, mixed-use development, or residential uses either adjacent to a Planned Growth or Village Area or a new Transition Area and served by, or planned for, water and/or wastewater. The intent of this land use category is to transform these areas into higher-density, mixed use settlements, or residential neighborhoods through infill and redevelopment or new development. New commercial strip auto-oriented development is not allowed as to prevent negatively impacting the economic vitality of commercial areas in the adjacent or nearby Planned Growth or Village Area. This area could also include adjacent greenfields safer from flooding.
Key Criteria description	
Residential Density	Per Act 47, at least 5 du/ac net densities allowed in zoning. Intent to add housing to these strip commercial corridors or in adjacent greenfields safe from flooding.
Housing Target	Demonstrate ability to accommodate some significant portion of municipal housing target within this area.
Land Uses	Should be planned (and zoned) for a mix of uses
Zoning/Subdivision	land development regulations optional
Community Water	Existing or planned water service area required
Community Sewer	Existing or planned water service area required
Transportation	Varied options emphasizing walking, biking, and transit.

RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION AREA (OPTIONAL)	
Description	Includes large-scale resource-based, recreational facilities, often concentrated around ski resorts, lakeshores, or concentrated trail networks, which provide infrastructure, jobs, and housing to support recreational activities.
Key Criteria description	
Housing Density	High but less overall than Planned Growth Areas, often seasonal housing
Land Uses	Recreation, accessory and/or seasonal residential & commercial
Community Water	Often present but limited capacity
Community Sewer	Often present but limited capacity
Transportation	Road access and transit may be seasonal

ENTERPRISE (OPTIONAL)	
Description	Includes locations of high economic activity and employment which are not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas. These include industrial parks, areas of natural resource extraction, or other commercial uses which involve larger land areas. Enterprise areas typically have ready access to water supply, sewage disposal, electricity, and freight transportation networks.
Key Criteria description	
Housing Density	None or low (from existing homes)
Employment	High employment
Land Uses	Industrial, Office, Limited retail, resource extraction not adjacent to a Planned Growth Area
Community Water	May be present
Community Sewer	May be present
Transportation	Driven by freight transportation (large truck, rail, air, and/or boat)

HAMLET	
Description	Small historic clusters of homes and perhaps a school, church, store, or other public buildings not planned for significant growth; no public water supply or wastewater systems, and mostly focused along 1-2 roads. These may be depicted as points on the FLU map.
Key Criteria description	
Housing Density	low density residential
Land Uses	Hamlets may become Village Centers and/or Areas when they meet either the designation or future land use criteria.
Community Water	None required
Community Sewer	None required

RURAL AREAS	
Description	Rural – General: Include areas that promote the preservation of Vermont's traditional working landscape and natural area features. They allow for low-density residential and sometimes limited commercial development that is compatible with productive lands and natural areas. This area could also include an area that a municipality is planning to make more rural than it is currently.
	Rural - Agricultural and Forestry: Include blocks of forest or farmland that sustain resource industries, provide critical wildlife habitat and movement, outdoor recreation, flood storage, aquifer recharge, and scenic beauty, and contribute to economic well-being and quality of life. Development in these areas should be carefully managed to promote the working landscape and rural economy, and address regional goals, while protecting the agricultural and forest resource value. Consistent with Act 171 requirements.
	Rural – Conservation: Include areas intended to be conserved often with regulations or property rights limiting development, fragmentation, and conversion in order to maintain ecological health and scenic beauty. These lands have significant economic value, and require special protection due to their uniqueness, fragility, or ecological importance. They may include protected lands, areas with specific features like steep slopes or endangered species, wetlands, flood hazard areas, and shoreline protection areas, and are intended to remain largely undeveloped for the benefit of future generations. Consistent with Act 171 requirements.
Key Criteria description	
Housing Density	Very low
Employment	Resource-based employers and scattered sites
Land Uses	Predominantly farms, forests, and very low density residential

We should keep in mind that RPCs may call out special land use areas beyond this list and include some statutory language providing the ability and parameters.

ⁱ American Planners Association (2022). Equity in Zoning Policy Guide. [Equity in Zoning Policy Guide \(planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com)

ⁱⁱ American Planners Association (2022). Equity in Zoning Policy Guide. [Equity in Zoning Policy Guide \(planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com)

ⁱⁱⁱ American Planners Association (2022). Equity in Zoning Policy Guide. [Equity in Zoning Policy Guide \(planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com)

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
October 10, 2023

Commissioners:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	David Stapleton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	George Clain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Royal DeLegge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alice Farrell, Alt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Schulz, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Brittany Butler	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alice Peal, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Wendt, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren	Alexis Leacock
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenny Faillace, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee, Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Doug Greason
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Osiecki, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Lincoln Frasca, Brian Voigt, Eli Toohey

Guests: Keith Fritschie, Department of Environmental Conservation; Wendelyn Bolles (Berlin Conservation Commission); Gary Gulka, Cabot

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:32; roll call conducted and a quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: None

Winooski Basin Plan Hearing/Presentation with Department of Environmental Conservation: Chair D'Amico advised he would like to adjourn the meeting for the hearing and reconvene upon hearing/presentation conclusion.

Robert Wernecke moved to adjourn, seconded by Lee Cattaneo, motion carried.

Keith Fritschie of the Department of Environmental Conservation shared a high overview presentation of the draft basin plan. He noted that today was the beginning of the public comment period which goes until November 10. Comments can be submitted by mail (Keith Fritschie, Basin 8 Comments, 1 National Life Drive,

Montpelier, VT 05602) or email - keith.fritschie@vermont.gov. The core components of the plan will be shared today. A copy and video of the presentation will be available on CVRPC's website. The draft plan and story map are available on the DEC webpage: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin8>

John Brabant left the meeting prior to it reconvening.

Alan Quackenbush moved to reconvene the October 10th RPC meeting; seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion carried.

Municipal Dues: Christian Meyer noted the rate has held steady through FY23 and FY24 and now into FY25.

Robert Wernecke moved to adopt an FY25 municipal dues assessment rate of \$1.33 per capita, as recommended by the Executive Committee; seconded by Peter Carbee. It was confirmed this information will be sent to towns for March budgeting. Vote called and motion carried.

ACCD/VAPDA Regional Future Land Use Initiative: Christian provided an overview of the memorandum, draft VAPDA report, and CVRPC comments on the report that were included in the packet. He also advised, with regret, that Clare Rock will be leaving CVRPC later this month. It was noted that the Regional Plan Committee has reviewed also this future land use information at two of their meetings.

The legislature put a short timeline on this and a semi-final draft will be returned to the Board at the next meeting. Christian encouraged Board members to review the document and provide comment as soon as possible. Robert Wernecke advised he believed the comments on the draft included in the packet were good comments. Alice Peal advised the Regional Plan Committee had initial discussion on this project and are looking at what parts of this they could then bring into the updated Regional Plan and Regional Land Use map. She noted it fits into current discussions on state designations, FEMA mapping and clean water strategies. There was also brief discussion related to the intersection of this project with Act 250.

Minutes – (9/12/23)

Lee Cattaneo moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Peter Carbee. Vote called and motion carried.

Reports: Christian advised the Board of Green Mountain Transit's temporary service reductions due to a lack of drivers. This has had a significant impact on riders coming from Barre for commuting to work. They are working hard to solve the problem. In addition, Barre City is formally requesting reinstatement of an early morning route that was terminated in 2020.

Robert Wernecke moved to accept the reports as presented in the packet. Seconded by Don LaHaye. Motion carried.

1 **Adjournment**

2 *Don LaHaye moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. Motion carried.*

3

4

5 Respectfully submitted,

6 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

7

DRAFT

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, October 2023

cvrpc@cvregion.com

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Corresponded with Middlesex Planning Commission about prioritizing natural resource strategies this winter to prepare for a Municipal Planning Grant in FY25 (Lincoln and Brian)
- Prepared Municipal Planning Grant application for Moretown Planning Commission to review for Village Wastewater feasibility study, affordable housing opportunities, and flood resiliency work (Lincoln)
- Met with Woodbury Planning Commission and prepared rough draft of Bylaw Modernization Grant Application
- Provided guidance to Waitsfield regarding town plan adoption process and changes to zoning map.
- Prepared Roxbury Municipal Planning Grant for a Village Vitalization Study.
- Prepared updated zoning and neighborhood district boundaries for City of Montpelier. (Brian)
- Provided City of Montpelier's consultant with geospatial data. (Brian)

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Regional Plan Update:
 - The Regional Plan committee met to discuss VAPDA's Future Land Use Area Profiles proposal.
- Continued background research and editing of Natural Systems and Working Lands Chapter. (Lincoln)
- See below (Sam)

Health Equity: (Contact Eli Toohey, toohey@cvregion.com)

- Onboarded staff to regional project and health equity training; attended health equity THRIVE community event (Sam)
- Attended monthly RPC health equity meeting; submitted quarterly report (Sam)

Economic Development: (Contact Christian Meyer, meyer@cvregion.com)

- The working group met to discuss getting several member municipalities to provide letters of support for a Western Central Vermont Economic Development District application to EDA.

Brownfields: (Contact Eli Toohey, toohey@cvregion.com)

- Monitored progress of the Turning Point Phase I ESA and the Northfield Phase II ESA.

Partnerships for Progress:

CVFiber: Processed incoming mail

THRIVE: Participated in monthly meeting; coordinated flood response frontline communities including coordinating VGS/utilities assistance program and Efficiency Vermont recovery programs; attended community health equity event

CVEDC: Coordinated with CVEDC for distribution of project prioritization materials

WBRD: Provided support for mail processing

MRVPD: Worked with subcommittee to finalize draft organizational Bylaws and presented draft to Steering Committee.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

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

Local/Regional Planning:

- Supported towns in disaster response. Forwarded emails with FEMA and VEM guidance. Sharing appeals process for individual assistance information.
- Shared with staff and completed flood response survey from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)
- Met with regional State legislative representatives to discuss flood response programs
- Supported towns in discussion about RFP process for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and upcoming BRIC funding
- Read information about state Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative (VERI) report
- Supported Plainfield in sub-applicant management costs discussion with VEM
- Completed quarterly progress report
- Provided training resources to new Emergency Management Directors and updated state and Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) member lists
- Prepared information before Barre Up flood recovery forum meeting and participated in community forum
- Reviewed LHMP 2023 changes from trainings
- Met with Lisa Kolb about Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) progress reporting
- Held a discussion with Barre City deputy fire chief about possible grant funding for regional communications
- Shared Emergency Action Plan for Wrightsville and Marshfield with Montpelier
- Met with FEMA community assistance representatives to discuss communities within the region in need
- Met with VEM and Plainfield to discuss Sub applicant management costs draft paperwork
- Attended monthly VEM/RPC meeting
- Met with Montpelier on LHMP update process post disaster
- Communicated with Cabot about ERAF score and LHMP funding

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- No activity to report

TRANSPORTATION

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

Field Services:

- Completed eight speed studies and shared reports with municipalities
- Updated Barre City connected streets to get initial REI accepted
- Collected October Park and Ride counts

Public Transit: *CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Board of Commissioners.*

Municipal Assistance:

- Provided outreach to towns for Transportation Alternatives and Stormwater mitigation grants
- Participated in discussion and reviewing location data for salt shed applications for two towns
- Met with Sugarbush Access Path committee in support of Warren
- Participated in phone call with Plainfield to discuss Route 2/Main St. project
- Provided Orange, Waterbury, and Worcester with 1:1 EVSE funding, planning, and site selection support; submitted pre-application info for workplace chargers for Orange municipal complex

Regional Activities:

- Hosted Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

- Worked on Federal Urban Area boundary adjustment
- Facilitated fall road supervisor meeting included upcoming opportunities for fleet electrification/efficiency planning, EVSE, and collaboration on town garage project development (MERP updates)
- Completed Task 3.1.3 environmental planning report
- Contacted road supervisors about town road surface report task 4.1.5
- Recorded and inventoried new traffic and pedestrian counters
- Compiled and completed yearly traffic counting report for VTrans
- Met with Mad River Path to discuss multi town Transportation Alternatives grant for scoping study along route 100

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan:
 - Distributed flyer advertising the Department of Environmental Conservation's presentation of the Draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan at the October CVRPC Board Meeting.
 - Provided a comment to be included in the Department of Environmental Conservation's press release announcing the opening of the public comment period on the Draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan.
 - Distributed the Draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan Executive Summary to the Clean Water Advisory Committee for review and comment.
 - Corresponded with Clean Water Advisory Committee members about Draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan content.
- Outreach to watershed partners about participation in upcoming Clean Water Advisory Committee Meetings:
 - Confirmed November panelists from Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Vermont River Conservancy, and Waitsfield Conservation Commission to discuss Riparian Buffers and Invasive Species.
 - Confirmed March presentation by the Department of Environmental Conservation's Lakeshore Manager about Lake Watershed Action Plans.
- Staff Attended the following meetings:
 - VT Floodplain Management Drop-In, Discussion on the new Elevation Certificates
 - VT Floodplain Management Drop-In, Post Flood Permitting and Substantial Damage Reporting
 - Lake Champlain Sea Grant's Research Webinar "Farmers' Attitudes Towards Government Agencies and Conservation Programs in Vermont's Lake Champlain Basin."

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP):

- Hosted Winooski Basin Water Quality Council meeting. Discussion topics included:
 - CVRPC Staff work to identify potential water quality improvement projects to shepherd through implementation and Staff intent to pursue Design Implementation Block Grant funding to support this effort.
 - Adopting a formal Outreach & Communications Policy to formalize our approach to advertise Project Solicitation and increase the number of project proposals submitted for funding consideration.
 - Council members discussed projects for which they may seek Formula Grant funding in a future Project Solicitation round.

- Completed Risk Assessment for Vermont Land Trust Master Agreement. Master Agreement signed by all parties. Master Agreement updated with Addendum 1 – funding for preliminary design of berm removal project along the mainstem of the Winooski River.
- Corresponded with Caledonia Natural Resource Conservation District and Redstart Consultant about the pre-qualification application and round three project solicitation timeline.
- Reviewed Draft Verification & Maintenance Reporting Form and met with the Department of Environmental Conservation and funding partners to review and comment on draft form.
- Updated Operation & Maintenance Contacts Database with organizations requesting reimbursement for August and September Department of Environmental Conservation trainings.

604b:

- CVRPC Staff met with the Department of Environmental Conservation's Winooski Basin Planner to review the award document and prioritize next steps in grant implementation.

FEMA Map & Flood Bylaw Updates:

- No activity to report. CVRPC is waiting to receive additional funding to support this program area.

Water Quality Projects:

- Prepared application for a Clean Water Project Development Block Grant through Addison County Regional Planning Commission.
 - Created list of top ten priority projects from approximately 50 projects identified through the Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Project Database, Storm Water Master Plans, Stream Geomorphic Assessments, and River Corridor Plans in the Upper Winooski Basin.
 - Met with Winooski Tactical Basin Planner to discuss prioritization of river planting and berm removal projects.
 - Prepared data for 100 projects for entry into the Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Project Database.

Stormwater Projects:

Barre City Auditorium Final Designs – No activity to report.

Calais / Woodbury Stormwater Implementation – No activity to report.

Moretown School Stormwater Implementation – Met project partners on site for four check-in meetings. Construction is 90% complete.

Plainfield Gully Stormwater Implementation – Construction phase complete. Administrative close out underway.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

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

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

- 1:1 town assistance (application support, utility bill and material technical assistance, attended town meetings, etc.)
 - Assessment application [reminders](#)
 - Mini Grants submitted this month: Orange & Waterbury
 - Assessment application support (*=submitted, **this month**): Barre City*, Cabot*, Plainfield*, Worcester*, Williamstown*, Washington*, Roxbury*, Berlin*, Marshfield*, Warren*, **Orange***, East Montpelier*, Calais*, Moretown*, Woodbury, Northfield*, Middlesex*, Montpelier*, Duxbury*, Fayston*, Waitsfield, **Waterbury***

- Assessments have now been approved in our region, Sam will reach out once vendors are ready to schedule (likely November/December); PLEASE ensure utility data is submitted- schedule with Sam for support or questions: https://calendly.com/slash_cvrpc/15min?month=2023-10
 - Coordinated with Building & General Services (BGS), Regional Planning Commissions, and assessment vendors (Nova Group, DuBois&King), regarding assessment scheduling, workflow, report template and components (TENs consideration, baseline, project development, labor and equipment cost estimates)
- Coordinated with RPCs and other partners: project prioritization and development (+community engagement); develop possible funding stacking (Rural Energy Improvements, MTAP, etc); provided update at monthly road crew roundtable, submitted quarterly report, etc.
- Participated in [Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory Clean Energy to Communities cohorts](#) Developing on-site clean energy procurement strategy (ownership and finance models; RFP templates)

Municipal Planning and Implementation

- Facilitated and hosted ***EmPOWERing Municipal Solar: Building connections between communities and industry experts*** at the 2023 Annual Conference (30+ attendees, 6 developers & bond bank, reps from towns and RPCs- included town leadership from Waterbury, Roxbury, Middlesex, Warren, and more)
- Met with Worcester Planning Commission Chair, provided recommendations on Municipal Planning Grant and supported Enhanced Energy Planning process (Sam)
- Provided introduction to Enhanced Energy Plan & Act 174 (components, workflow, responsibilities, and approval process) to Marshfield Energy Committee Chair and Washington Commissioner (Sam)
- Continued working on municipal breakout and explanation of targets and analyses, draft maps, and more for Enhanced Energy Planning underway in Worcester, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Williamstown, and potentially Duxbury, Warren, Moretown, and more (Sam)
- Supported municipal building and facilities planning projects in Roxbury, Orange, Moretown, Worcester, and Washington

Regional Planning and Implementation

- Conducted outreach (with flyers and [virtual](#)) and hosted central Vermont events, in coordination with RPCs and Public Service Department for **Renewable Energy Standard Update Community Engagement Campaign *Say Watt?*** (85+ participants across tabling discussions held at Aldrich Library (10/10) and Rabble Rousers (10/7), online survey (closed 10/31), and small virtual discussion 10/11); began aggregating results/feedback.
- Met with UVM Professor around Central Vermont Project for climate adaptation capstone course (regional flood high water mark mapping, remediation/mitigation action impact tracking, resilience hubs, etc)
- Attended State Treasury climate infrastructure funding public entities meeting, drafted comments for submission
- Participated in [Technical Analysis Stakeholder Advisory Group](#) meetings (Renewable Energy Standards Update), provided feedback on draft BCA results including tier and scenario benefit differences including type and scale.
- Continued analyses for regional plan update including customization of generations scenarios tool and regional energy infrastructure
- Coordinated with regional and state peers on climate resilience initiatives (flood recovery and more so long-term planning and program development efforts): VCRD, Efficiency VT, VNRC, Ridge to River, Climate Office, Public Service Department, utilities, etc.
- Participated in [Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory Clean Energy to Communities cohorts](#): Incorporating Community Voices in Clean Energy Planning and Deployment workshops.
- Participated in [Energy Equity Project](#) Community of Practice: energy equity metrics and tools
- Participated as core member [Thermal Networks working group](#) included finalizing draft for external review of municipal/community toolkit and session at the annual 2023 REV Conference on community thermal networks.
- Participated office hours on [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) on voucher and blueprint use in preparation of Washington County Allocation application;

- Attended sessions on VT Utilities & Distributed Energy Grids, Clean Grid ISONE, In-State Hydropower Growth Opportunities, Regulatory Issues (Act 250, 248, 174), Res Updates, etc. at REV Conference.
- RPC Energy Planning Monthly Meeting: Thermal Energy Networks (role in regional & municipal thermal sector planning, mapping thermals sources, toolkit, wastewater opportunities, MERP); updated SOW Climate Pollution Reduction Grant sub-grants; implications of RES BCA results for regional energy infrastructure.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Initiated recruitment for a Land Use & Community Planner
- Issued a Request for Proposals to identify an Information Technology firm to assist with network upgrades and provide ongoing service and support. Met with eight prospective firms.
- Staff met with Representatives Casey, Williams, Anthony and Chapin to discuss the response to the July 2023 flood and how to better prepare and plan for future flooding events.
- Prepared health insurance recommendation for Executive Committee review.
- Completed FY23 audit with Sullivan Powers.

Professional Development:

- Brian attended the Northeast Arc Users Group Conference in New Haven, CT to learn about advances in geographic information systems technology and data, water resources monitoring and management, and addressing municipal governance concerns with GIS.
- Brian attended a training to learn about best practices for accessible data representation.
- Staff participated in a Wheels of Power and Privilege activity to explore issues of power and privilege in an intersectional way and highlight how different people might benefit from or be marginalized by systems in our society.

Upcoming Meetings:

CVRPC meetings currently offer remote access unless otherwise noted. Meeting access information is provided on agendas at www.centralvtplanning.org.

November

Nov 6	4 pm	Executive Committee
Nov 7	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee
Nov 8	TBD	Nominating Committee
Nov 8	5 pm	Regional Emergency Management Committee
Nov 9	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Council
Nov 10		Office Closed due to Holiday
Nov 13	4 pm	Municipal Plan Review Committee – Waitsfield Town Plan Hearing
Nov 14	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Nov 16	1 pm	Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Nov 20	4 pm	Brownfields Committee
Nov 23		Office Closed due to Holiday
Nov 24		Office Closed due to Holiday
Nov 28	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
TBD		Project Review Committee

December

Dec 4	4 pm	Executive Committee
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Dec 5	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee
Dec 11	10 am	CVEDC Economic Project Prioritization Committee
Dec 12	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
TBD		Brownfields Committee
Dec 21	1 pm	Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
TBD	4 pm	Project Review Committee
Dec 26	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee

RECENT CVRPC 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 6th

- Empowering Municipal Solar Event
- Join the CVRPC team as a Land Use and Community Planner
- New Unemployment Mandate for Small Nonprofits
- 2023 State and Local Government Municipal Day
- Vermont Community EV Charging Grant
- Network Upgrades & Information Technology Managed Service Provider Request for Proposals

November 3rd

- CVEDC Regional Project Priority List - Informational Meeting Registration & Application Instructions
- Central Vermont WindowDressers Community Builds - Warming Homes- Helping the Environment- Building Community
- Public Hearing on Waitsfield Town Plan
- FY 2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program (MHSMP) Grant Opportunity

November 10th

- Vermont Research Overview and Symposium Substitute Report
- 2023 VOREC Community Grant Program
- Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange Grant Open Now
- Public Hearing on Waitsfield Town Plan
- FY 2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program (MHSMP) Grant Opportunity

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports, October 2023

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm) [10/18/23 & 11/6/23]

Authorized the Executive Director to sign contracts for Town of Waterbury– Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, City of Barre – Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Town of Orange – Municipal Project Manager, Town of Waitsfield – Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Accepted the August and September 2023 unaudited financials.
- Approved the CY24 health insurance employer contribution and employee choice of health plans.
- Discussed appointment process for municipal representatives to committees

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February - April; scheduled by Committee)

- Did not meet

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

- Did not meet

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (1st Tuesday, 4pm)

Discussed VAPDA Future Land Use Profiles report.

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

- Scheduled to meet 11/13/23 to review Waitsfield Town Plan

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

- Held meeting but quorum not present discussed work plan for TAC moving forward and possible work if VPSP2 is not restarted

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

- No October meeting.
- Next meeting scheduled for 9 November 2023

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3rd Monday, 6pm)

- Scheduled to meet 11/20/23

WINOOSKI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (3rd Thursday, 1pm)

- Hosted a Winooski Basin Water Quality Council meeting on 19 October 2023.
 - CVRPC staff discussed ongoing work to identify water quality improvement projects to shepherd through implementation and Staff intent to pursue Design Implementation Block Grant funding to support this effort.

- Discussed the need for adopting a formal Outreach & Communications Policy to formalize our approach to advertise Project Solicitation and increase the number of project proposals submitted for funding consideration.
 - Basin Water Quality Council members discussed projects for which they may apply for Formula Grant funds in upcoming Project Solicitation rounds.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2023

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)

- Kevin Chu from VT Futures Project discussed recent VT Futures data collection work and regional listening sessions. He requested any feedback RPCs wish to provide.
- Charlie Baker reviewed the current draft of the Act 250 Delegation Study. CVRPC will hold a public hearing on this report in December.
- RPCs discussed strategic assessments for RPCs or reinstituting peer reviews to review regional planning process.
- Final group edits to Draft FLU report.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No Central Vermont activity.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- The Board heard public comment on service needs for the City Commuter between Barre and Montpelier.
- Barre City representatives, including the City Manager and Mayor, requested the restoration of the first and last trips of the City Commuter. GMT Staff spoke to the past performance of these trips and the expected costs of reinstating them. The GMT Board will consider the request at its November meeting.
- The Board Passed a budget adjustment
- The Board authorized staff to begin negotiating an update to the e Collective Bargaining Agreements to include union members retaining seniority for 90 days after changing to a non-CDL position in the event that they would like to rejoin the union workforce, and approval for staff to update the FGI non-CDL wage to \$22.00 per hour, and update maintenance fleet technician wages to \$23.50
- Several other issues were discussed that would affect services in Chittenden County

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

Presented draft Bylaws along with other subcommittee members, participated in discussion about defining organization priorities.