

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Regional Plan Committee

Draft Minutes

January 3, 2024 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom

Committee Members:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| X | Alice Peal, Waitsfield Alternate Rep |
| x | Rich Turner, Williamstown Rep |
| x | Doug Greason, Waterbury Rep |
| x | Mike Miller, Montpelier Alternate Rep |
| | John Brabant, Calais Rep |

Staff (in person): Christian Meyer and Will Pitkin

Adjustment to the Agenda

No adjustments

Public Comment

No public present

Flood Recovery and Mitigation Priorities

D. Greason noted that current draft only addresses responses to flooding, not preventing flooding and suggested moving floodplain expansion to high priority. Discussed 50' easements, A. Peal suggested combining floodplain recovery with green buffers, dam removals projects and other initiatives; questioned which should be highest priorities.

Discussed dam and berm removal and funding availability, effectiveness and feasibility of floodplain restoration and riparian buffers and easements.

C. Meyer discussed revising plan language to distinguish between rural and urban segments of rivers, changing green space vs. riparian buffer terminology.

M. Miller questioned what buffer requirements are for rivers vs. streams and for different stream sizes. State agencies may have defined these. Different agencies may want different definitions based on their priorities. Also, definitions may be evolving or in progress. A. Peal suggested calling for state agencies to develop consistent comprehensive flood mitigation plan and definitions.

Discussed responses and prevention for landslides, plus lack of reporting risk mapping. A. Peal suggested adding language about landslides, especially smaller ones. Possibly under hydraulic/hydrological models section.

C. Meyer suggested putting in landslides and massive failures as its own section, asking relevant state agency to put together risk map.

1 The group discussed the “relegated ideas” and suggested changing the name to “low priority.”
2
3 M. Miller suggested edit to FEMA elevating buildings language, stating FEMA will potentially fund
4 elevating buildings but very difficult for older buildings to get that funding.
5
6 The group discussed whether state has changed requirements on floodproofing sewage infrastructure.
7 A. Peal suggested adding clause about groundwater contamination.
8
9 Reviewed procedure for integrating committee suggestions into draft going forward.
10
11 M. Miller moved *to recommend the draft Flood Planning Priorities as amended to the Board of*
12 *Commissioners*, R. Turner seconded the motion, unanimously approved.
13
14 **Regional Plan Update**
15 Discussed review schedules: staff review then pass on to committee review. Discussed procedure for
16 tracking edits.
17
18 M. Miller moved *to adjourn, seconded by R Turner. All in favor, motion carried.*