



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting with 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>

Page **AGENDA**

6:30² Introductions

Adjustments to the Agenda

Public Comments

2 6:35 Open Meeting Law Resolution (Action - enclosed)³

4 6:40 Nominations & Election for Nominating Committee (Action - enclosed)³

6 6:45 CVRPC Clean Water Service Provider Presentation (enclosed)

7:05 Project Review Committee Update

27 7:35 CVRPC Act 250 Position (enclosed)

29 7:55 Flood Recovery & Mitigation Priorities Update (enclosed)

36 8:10 Minutes (Action - enclosed)³

40 8:15 Reports (Action - enclosed)³ - Staff and Committee Reports

8:30 Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 13, 2024

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.

**Resolution 2024-01****Complying with Vermont Open Meeting Law (1 V.S.A. § 312)**

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is a public body created in 1967 with membership from the 20 municipalities in Washington County and the Towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown in Orange County and is, therefore, subject to Vermont Open Meeting Law; and

Whereas that Law requires that the time and place of all regular meetings subject to Vermont Open Meeting Law shall be clearly designated by statute, charter, regulation, ordinance, bylaw, resolution, or other determining authority of the public body; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC):

1. Adopts the time of the CVRPC Board of Commissioners regular meeting as the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, Vermont;
2. Adopts the following times for regular meeting of its committees:
 - a. Executive Committee: the Monday one week prior to the Board of Commissioners meeting, 4:00 pm.
 - b. Brownfields Advisory Committee: as needed, the third Monday of the month, 6:00 pm.
 - c. Clean Water Advisory Committee: as needed, the second Thursday of every other month, 4:00 pm.
 - d. Project Review Committee: as needed, the fourth Thursday of the month, 4:00 pm.
 - e. Transportation Advisory Committee: the fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm.
 - f. Regional Plan Committee: as needed, the first Tuesday of the month, 4:00 pm.
 - g. Winooski Basin Water Quality Council: the third Thursday of the month, 1:00 pm.

These Committees will meet at the CVRPC office, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, Vermont unless otherwise noticed on CVRPC's website: www.centralvtplanning.org.

3. Facilitates public access to its meetings by video and telephone. Zoom will be used as CVRPC's virtual meeting platform unless otherwise noted on a meeting agenda. All members of the Board and committees have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during meetings through this platform. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, to participate in meetings by using the meeting link or dial in information provided on each meeting's agenda.
4. Names the following locations for posting of meeting notices and agendas:
 - a. CVRPC website: www.centralvtplanning.org.
 - b. CVPRC office, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, Vermont.
 - c. Cabot Town Clerk's Office, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, Vermont.
 - d. Waitsfield Town Office, 4144 Main Street, Waitsfield, Vermont.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners: January 9, 2024.

Gerald D'Amico, Chair

CVRPC Board of Commissioners



MEMO

Date: January 5, 2024

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Christian Meyer, Executive Director

Re: Nomination and Election of FY25 Nominating Committee

⊗ ACTION REQUESTED: Open floor to nominations; elect 3 members to the FY25 Nominating Committee.

CVRPC's Bylaws charge the Executive Committee with nominating candidates for the Nominating Committee. Nominees are submitted at the January Board meeting. A recruitment email was sent by staff to all Commissioners and Alternates to determine interest in serving on the committee. No interested parties stepped forward leading the Executive Committee to decide to raise the question with the full Board, and take nominations from the floor.

The Nominating Committee consists of three (3) Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners. The duties of the Nominating Committee are to identify and recommend to the Board a slate of candidates for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and at-large members of the Executive Committee, and candidates for Standing and Special Committees and Board-appointed representatives to other organizations.

The nominating committee generally meets 2-3 times though the spring. Based on surveys of interest, the committee will meet to assign a chair and make initial recommendations for committees. If seats remain vacant, the nominating committee will work with staff to make recommendations for individual seats. Before the Month of May, the committee will vote to recommend a slate of appointments to all CVRPC committees.

CVRPC's practice has been to disallow a Board member from serving on the Nominating Committee for two consecutive years. The FY24 Nominating Committee consisted of Michael Gilbar, Peter Carbee and Lee Cattaneo. A full list of Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners is noted below.

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

An Overview of the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider

CVRPC Board Meeting

9 January 2024

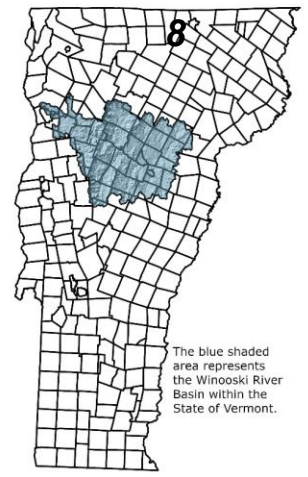
Background

- ◆ 2016: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - ◆ Pollution control plan for Lake Champlain → [Total Maximum Daily Load](#) (TMDL)
 - ◆ Established maximum amount of Phosphorus that Lake Champlain can receive before exceeding [Vermont Water Quality Standards](#)
- ◆ 2019: [Act 76, The Clean Water Service Delivery Act](#)
 - ◆ Provides long-term funding (> \$20 million annually) to support water quality restoration
 - ◆ Establishes a network of decentralized Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) and Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQCs)
- ◆ 2021: [Environmental Protection Rule – Chapter 39 – Clean Water Service Provider Rule](#)
 - ◆ Assigns a Clean Water Service Provider to each basin “ ... for the purpose of achieving pollutant reduction values established by the Secretary” (§ 39-101)

01/09/24

Board of Commis

Sub-Watersheds of the Winooski River Basin



The blue shaded area represents the Winooski River Basin within the State of Vermont.

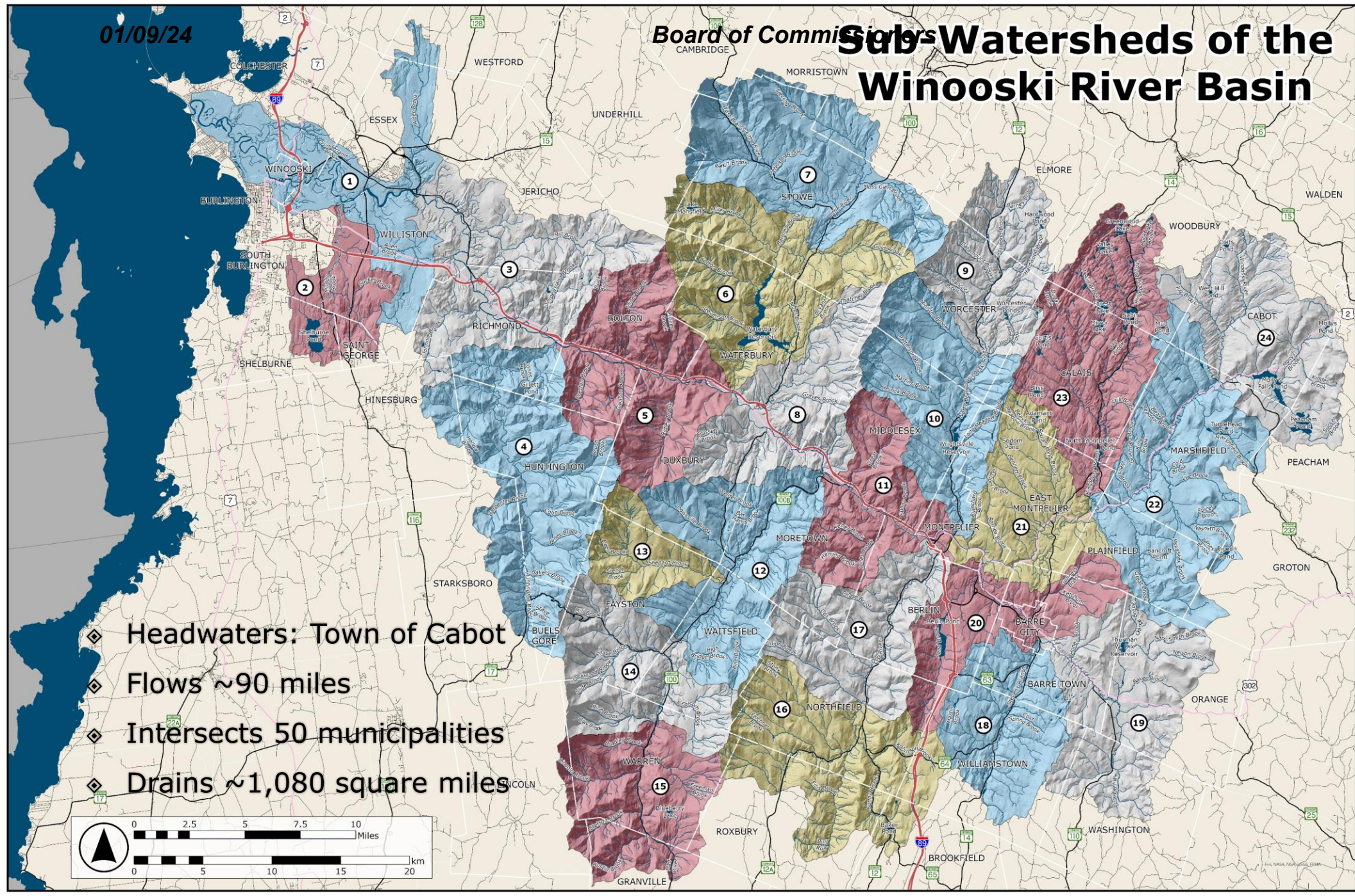
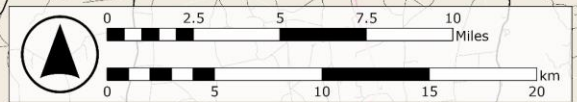
- 1 Lower Winooski River
- 2 Muddy Brook
- 3 Snipe Island Brook - Winooski River
- 4 Huntington River
- 5 Joiner Brook - Winooski River
- 6 Little River
- 7 Headwaters Little River
- 8 Graves Brook - Winooski River
- 9 Headwaters - North Branch Winooski River
- 10 North Branch Winooski River
- 11 Great Brook - Winooski River
- 12 Mad River
- 13 Shephard Brook
- 14 Mill Brook - Mad River
- 15 Headwaters - Mad River
- 16 Headwaters - Dog River
- 17 Dog River
- 18 Headwaters - Stevens Branch
- 19 Jail Branch
- 20 Stevens Branch
- 21 Sodom Pond Brook - Winooski River
- 22 Nasmith Brook - Winooski River
- 23 Kingsbury Branch
- 24 Headwaters - Winooski River

FRIENDS OF THE
Winooski



Map Date: 24 May 2023
Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

- ◆ Headwaters: Town of Cabot
- ◆ Flows ~90 miles
- ◆ Intersects 50 municipalities
- ◆ Drains ~1,080 square miles



Role of the Clean Water Service Provider

- ◆ Adhere to management requirements
- ◆ Engage the public
- ◆ Follow Vermont Open Meetings & Records Retention Laws
- ◆ Support Basin Water Quality Councils
- ◆ Identify & implement **non-regulatory** water quality restoration projects to meet P-reduction targets
- ◆ Establish partnerships & administer sub-awards / contracts
- ◆ Verify & inspect projects over time
- ◆ Ensure consistency with the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan
- ◆ Help Basin Water Quality Council consider pollution reduction & co-benefits

Winooski River Basin

Clean Water Service Provider: Start-up

- ◆ Department of Environmental Conservation issued Start-up grant in October 2021
- ◆ Award has been amended four times
- ◆ Total award amount: \$187,197
- ◆ Responsibilities:
 - ◆ Phase 1: develop website, establish sub-award tracking process, implement accounting protocols, develop policies, assist with development of guidance
 - ◆ Phase 2: establish & empanel Basin Water Quality Council, capacity development / training, meeting rules / policies / bylaws, host meetings, prepare for procurement
 - ◆ Phase 3: project management & data tools, prepare for procurement, develop scoring matrix for project evaluation, attend trainings, host Basin Water Quality Council meetings
 - ◆ Phase 4: attend state operations & maintenance trainings, collaborate with State to develop adaptive management plan for operations & maintenance and methodology for adopting projects, partner support for operations & maintenance trainings

Basin Water Quality Councils: Act 76

- ◆ Provide local water quality knowledge
- ◆ Establish policy guiding Clean Water Service Provider
- ◆ Make decisions regarding “most significant water quality impairments in the basin”
- ◆ Prioritize projects that address impairments and are consistent with the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan
- ◆ Participate in the basin planning process
- ◆ Meet 4+ times / year
- ◆ Membership: Natural Resources Conservation Districts, Regional Planning Commissions, Watershed Organizations, Municipalities, Conservation Organizations

Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council

◆ Membership

- ◆ Land Conservation Organization (1 seat): Vermont River Conservancy
- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation District (2 seats): Lamoille & Winooski NRCDs
- ◆ Watershed Protection Organization (2 seats): Friends of the Mad River & Friends of the Winooski River
- ◆ Municipalities (2 seats): Town of Essex & Northfield
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission (2 seats): Chittenden County & Central Vermont RPCs

◆ Meetings

- ◆ First meeting: 21 April 2022
- ◆ Meeting schedule: 3rd Thursday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- ◆ Accomplishments
 - ◆ Adopted Council Bylaws & Public Engagement Policy
 - ◆ Adopted project scoring methodology, including consideration of co-benefits

Prepare for Procurement

- ◆ Request for Qualifications for Project Implementors (sub-grantees) issued March 2023
 - ◆ Who is eligible? Municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions & (non-profit) Organizations
 - ◆ Benefits: Simplifies project proposal and sub-award processes, 3-year Master Agreement



Prepare for Procurement

- ◆ Request for Qualifications for Sub-contractors issued October 2023
 - ◆ Engineering & Construction services
 - ◆ Review of Statements of Qualification ongoing
 - ◆ Benefits: Simplifies procurement, 3-year Master Agreement



Winooski River Basin

Clean Water Service Provider: Formula Grant

- ◆ FY23 Formula Grant: October 2022
- ◆ FY24 Formula Grant: September 2023

Annual Funding Based on Formula					
	Design, Engineering & Construction	Project Identification & Development	Total Project Funding	Maximum Administrative Costs	Total Project Funding + Max Admin
FY23	\$827,068	\$57,737	\$884,805	\$156,142	\$1,040,947
FY24	\$871,791	\$60,859	\$932,650	\$164,585	\$1,097,235

Phosphorous Reduction Targets (kg)					
Farm Fields	Developed Lands	Forest	Streams	Total	
9.2	23.9	0	36.4	69.6	

Project Phase Terminology

Identification → Development → Design → Implementation

- ◆ Identification: sector-specific and multi-sector assessments follow established protocols to identify areas with the highest contributions of pollutants and recommend potential best management practices
- ◆ Development: scoping work on any identified project to determine feasibility, constraints, and overall suitability for implementing the project
- ◆ Design: general term that captures all the work needed to ready a scoped / developed project for implementation; preliminary design (30%) and final design (100%)
- ◆ Implementation: mobilization of effort to implement the clean water project

Project Types

- ◆ Agriculture pollution prevention
- ◆ Roads & Stormwater Gully
- ◆ Stormwater (including Master Planning)
- ◆ Forestry (e.g. Strategic Wood Addition)
- ◆ Lake Shoreland, Lake Wise Assessments, & Lake Watershed Action Plans
- ◆ Dam Removal
- ◆ Stream Geomorphic Assessment
- ◆ Floodplain / Stream Restoration
- ◆ River Corridor / Wetland Easement
- ◆ Riparian Buffer Planting
- ◆ Wetland Restoration
- ◆ Project Development
- ◆ Operations & Maintenance

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Project Solicitation

- ◆ CVRPC, in its role as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Winooski River Basin, issues Request(s) for Proposals to identify potential projects
 - ◆ Vermont Bid Systems, CVRPC CWSP website, direct email to all municipalities (Town Administrator, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission), Regional Planning Commissions, Natural Resources Conservation Districts and conservation & watershed organizations
- ◆ Projects must ...
 - ◆ be entered into the Watershed Projects Database
 - ◆ be non-regulatory with a primary goal of phosphorous reduction
 - ◆ align with the vision set forth by Act 76, the Clean Water Service Delivery Act and Department of Environmental Conservation guidance
- ◆ Project Completion Funding
 - ◆ FY23: \$884,805
 - ◆ FY24: \$932,650
 - ◆ Funds allocated to date: \$44,604

Project Solicitation Schedule

- ◆ FY23 – Round 1
 - ◆ 2 proposals received
 - ◆ 1 proposal funded; 1 proposal deemed ineligible for funding
- ◆ FY24 – Round 1
 - ◆ 0 proposals received
- ◆ FY24 – Round 2
 - ◆ 5 proposals received
 - ◆ Funding decision date: 18 January 2024
- ◆ Project solicitation (general) schedule
 - ◆ Request for Proposals open for 2 months
 - ◆ Proposal review completed over the course of 2 Basin Water Quality Council Meetings
 - ◆ Issue at least four opportunities per year

Project Scoring Methodology

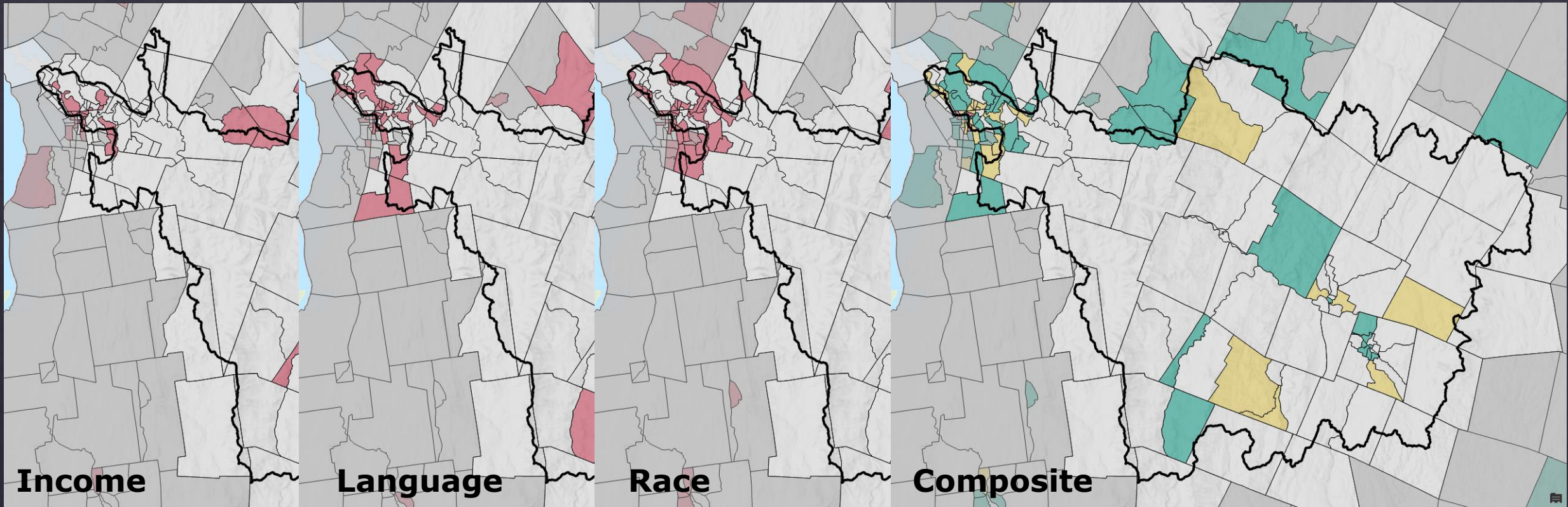
Factor	Points	Description
P-reduction efficiency	75	Sliding scale: Ratio of proposed cost to overall phosphorous reduction
Project risk	10	2.5 points each: landowner relations, organizational capacity, O & M, permitting
Design life	5	For projects with design life > 15 years
Co-benefits	10	According to adopted methodology

P-reduction Efficiency + Project Risk + Design Life + Co-benefits = Total Project Score

Co-benefit Type	Weight
Ecology	17.78%
Ecosystem Service	30.44%
Environmental Justice	23.78%
Community Building	15.78%
Education	12.22%

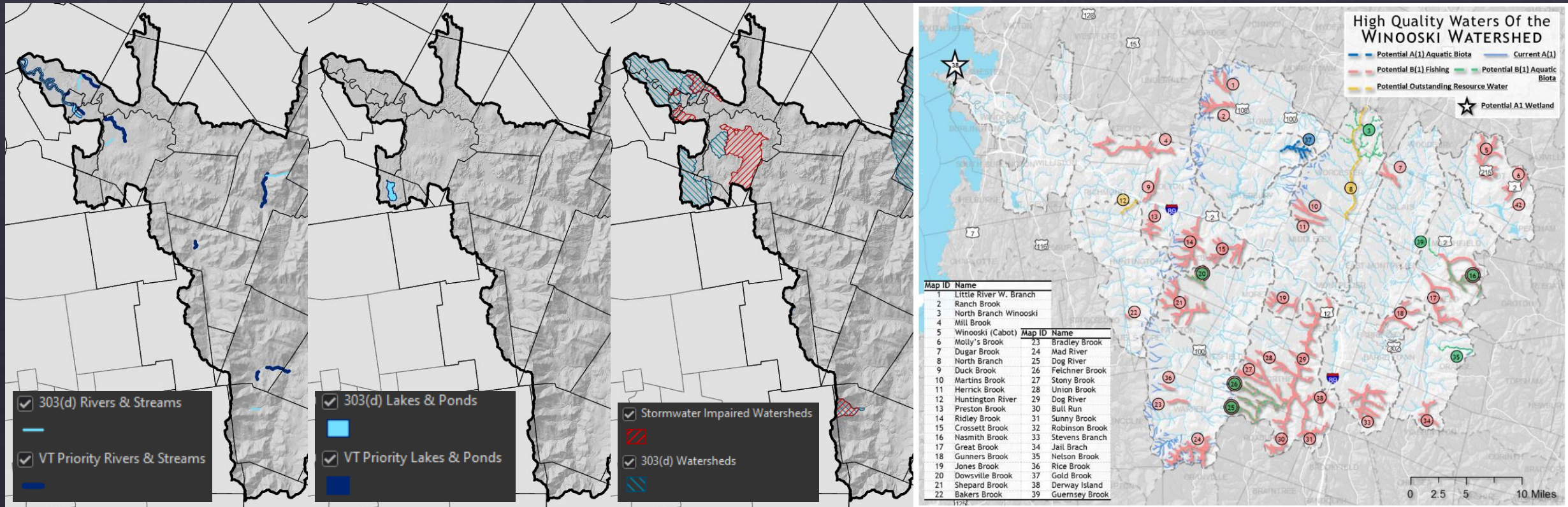
Project Scoring Methodology: Co-Benefits

Environmental Justice: realized when a project is situated in a Census Block Group where one or more demographic conditions exist to warrant the identification of that area as an Environmental Justice Focus Population ([S.148 \(Act 154\)](#))



Project Scoring Methodology: Co-Benefits

- ◆ Ecology: realized when a project reduces sediment and / or non-P nutrient loads to stressed, altered, impaired or priority waterways



Project Scoring Methodology: Co-Benefits

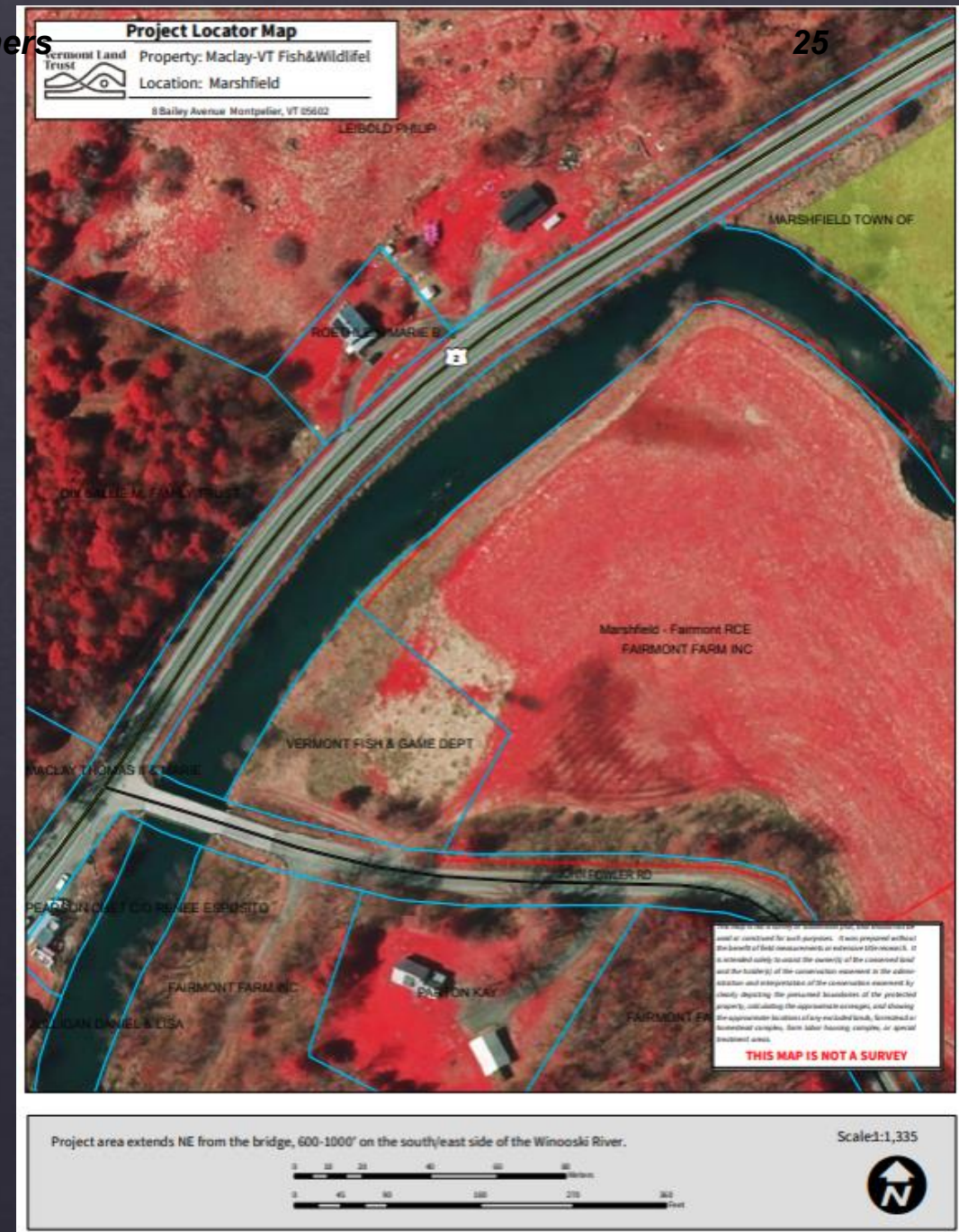
- ◆ Ecosystem Services:
 - ◆ Any positive benefit that wildlife or ecosystems provide to people ([National Wildlife Federation](#)) and / or benefits people obtain from ecosystems ([Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#))
 - ◆ Our focus: regulating services that moderate natural phenomena (carbon sequestration & flood resilience)
- ◆ Community Building: realized when a project involves the community in data collection and decision-making, enhances the working landscape or provides recreational benefits
- ◆ Education: realized when a project includes aspects of public outreach designed to educate community members about the importance of phosphorus reduction and watershed health

01/09/24

Board of Commissioners

John Fowler Road Berm Removal

- ◇ Proposal submitted: 12 June 2023
- ◇ Project site: Marshfield – private landowner + Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
- ◇ Funding request: \$44,604
- ◇ Funding decision: 20 July 2023
- ◇ Project implementor: Vermont Land Trust
- ◇ Project engineer: Fitzgerald Environmental Associates
- ◇ Estimated annual total phosphorus reduction: 118.95 kilograms / year



References & Resources

- ◇ [Act 76 Background on the Law, Rule, and Guidance](#)
- ◇ [Act 76 Factsheet](#)
- ◇ [Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy – SFY 2023](#)
- ◇ [CVRPC Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider](#)
- ◇ [The Clean Water Service Provider Network](#)
- ◇ Staff contacts:
 - ◇ Brian Voigt
 - ◇ Senior Planner / Program Manager
 - ◇ phone: 802.262.1029
 - ◇ e-mail: voigt@cvregion.com
 - ◇ Lincoln Frasca
 - ◇ Planner
 - ◇ phone: 802.229.4164
 - ◇ e-mail: frasca@cvregion.com



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

MEMO

Date: January 04, 2024
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Christian Meyer, Executive Director
Re: CVRPC Act 250 Position

✉ ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion on CVRPC's priorities with regard to ongoing reports to reform the so called Act 250.

The housing shortage in Vermont continues to be a legislative priority. During the 2023 legislative session a number of studies were requested by the legislature to consider how reforms to Act 250 might benefit housing policy in designated areas.

In light of this policy environment, staff is requesting commission members consider the following three reports (and linked at the end of the memo):

- Necessary Updates to Act 250 – By the Natural Resource Board, as directed by Act 47 of 2023
- Municipal Delegation Framework Report – By VAPDA, as requested by Legislative Act 47 of 2023
- Regional Planning Report – By VAPDA, as required by Legislative Act 47 of 2023

For board consideration:

- Based on the findings of these documents, does CVRPC support any of the identified actions?
- Are there opportunities for Act 250 to better support the goals of the regional plan?

Reports:

Necessary Updates to Act 250 – By the Natural Resource Board, as directed by Act 47 of 2023

https://nrb.vermont.gov/sites/nrb/files/documents/NRB_Necessary_Updates_to_Act_250_Study_Report_FINAL.pdf

Municipal Delegation Framework Report – By VAPDA, as requested by Legislative Act 47 of 2023

https://nrb.vermont.gov/sites/nrb/files/documents/Municipal%20Delegation%20Framework%20Report_20231221_FINAL.pdf

Regional Planning Report – By VAPDA, as required by Legislative Act 47 of 2023

https://www.vapda.org/uploads/1/3/1/8/131894470/regionalplanningreport_vapda_final_20231215.pdf



MEMO

Date: January 04, 2024
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Christian Meyer, Executive Director
Re: CVRPC Flood Recovery Activities

☒ **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve the attached list of flood planning and mitigation priorities as recommended by the Regional Plan Committee.

The Regional Plan Committee is providing the Board of Commissioners with the attached list of priorities for regional endorsement. By approving a list of planning priorities, the Board of Commissioners will be giving the executive director clear direction on a program of projects and initiatives needed to strengthen Vermont's response to future events and improve resilience.

Background:

Members of the local legislative delegation approached CVRPC staff in October to provide them strategic initiatives that they might be able to promote during the forthcoming legislative session to promote flood resilience. Staff relayed municipal needs but also recognized that the CVRPC did not have a clear message that it could bring forward for legislative consideration at the regional level. After a draft list was discussed at the November meeting, the Board of Commissioners tasked the Regional Plan Committee with providing feedback and review of the draft list, and ultimately provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for flood planning and mitigation priorities. Staff worked with the members of the Regional Plan Committee throughout November and December and at their January 3, 2024 meeting the Regional Plan Committee endorsed a draft list of recommendations to bring to the full Commission for consideration.

DRAFT CVRPC Flood Planning and Mitigation Priorities

01/04/24

High Priority

Dams:

- Funding to expedite the removal of dams throughout the watershed. Publicly owned or orphaned/abandoned dams may provide the best opportunity for removal due to public ownership and potential funding.

Dam removal has been hindered due to a lack of funding. This is primarily due to how the disposal of the sediment that is trapped behind dams is funded. Removing dams is critical to lowering base flood elevation of the river corridor and allows enhanced passage of aquatic organisms.

In addition to removing defunct dams, a review of the current dam inspection regime may be necessary. Residents in the Central Vermont region were both negatively affected by the failure of minor dams during the July event (Cabot - Saw Mill Road Dam on the Winooski, Washington - Hands Mill Dam on the Jail Branch) as well as deeply concerned about the safety of larger hydro-electric dams. CVRPC supports and analysis of the current inspection system and how it could be improved to address failing dams in a timely manner and restore public faith in the system.

Lead Actor: VNRC VT Dam Task Force; FWR, VRC, CVRPC, CVRPC CWAC

Time frame: 4-6 years

Cost: ~\$10 million for removal of 4 dams in Montpelier and dams on the Stevens Branch

Benefits: Flood risk mitigation; River health, Phosphorous reduction, clean water

Housing:

- The July flooding has exacerbated the housing shortage in Central Vermont. The recovery in Central Vermont will benefit from funding to accelerate the development of all types of housing. Expansion of existing programs such as VHIP would directly encourage private developers and non-profits to build more housing.

Identify funding to elevate residential structures. Funding to elevate structures is very difficult to get from FEMA, and nearly impossible to get for older structures (like those damaged in Central Vermont during the summer flooding). However, FEMA funding or national flood insurance is available to repair a structure to the same state it was in prior to the flooding event, leaving residents vulnerable to future flooding. Other properties will simply be bought-out and converted to open space, reducing the housing stock in Central Vermont and exacerbating the demonstrated housing shortage. Elevating structures could present a savings over building new housing stock. CVRPC supports providing state funding elevating structures above the Base Flood Elevation.

Lead Actor: VEM as funder; Municipalities as recipients. Funding to support RPCs provide technical assistance will be needed in smaller municipalities.

Timeframe: Immediate. Improvements to existing housing stock can commence immediately. New housing may take 1-3 years to reach the market.

Cost: High (\$10,000,000+)

Benefits: A resilient housing stock. Improved housing market.

Floodplain Recovery, Reconnection, and Expansion

- Floodplains are natural infrastructure to store and slow flood waters during an acute event. The disconnection of floodplains through canalization and the development of roads and berms throughout the river basin has impeded this natural feature from functioning at its highest level and has increased the flood risk along the entire river corridor. Reconnecting floodplains is a discrete action with unique engineering concerns and plans associated with each location. CVRPC supports using available hydrologic and hydraulic models to identify and high impact locations for implementation project prioritization.

Lead Actor: VEM, ANR, Basin 8 CWSP Municipalities

Time frame: 2-5 years

Cost: High return on investment

Benefits: Demonstrated and effective measure to lower flood waters during future flooding events.

Develop Broad Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model

- Build a hydrologic and hydraulic (H & H) model of the Winooski River Basin to better understand flood risk. Such a model could assess an expanded array of weather scenarios, including rain on snow events, and nutrient transport potential under alternative flow scenarios. Use results to prioritize implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP). Ideally the model would be able to consider site-level BMP implementation. Both basin scale and local detailed models should be developed as time and funding permits.

Lead Actor: UVM (modeling) / CVRPC (planning response, scenario development) /New FEMA Hydrologic mapping (Note: ANR is pursuing possible funding avenues for a model that could achieve many of these goals.)

Time frame: 1.5 – 2 years

Cost: ~\$1 million

Benefits: Improved efficacy in project identification for flood hazard mitigation.

Map of high-risk location for slides

- Work with partners to develop map of susceptible locations for slides for municipal use. During the July flooding a significant number of slides took place both within river corridors and in areas further removed from the river corridors. Clear mapping of areas susceptible to slides will allow municipalities to consider regulate land use to mitigate loss of life or property.

Lead Actor: Vermont Geological Survey.

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: Low

Benefits: Hazard mitigation

Floodproof Wastewater Plants

- Funding for floodproofing wastewater plants. Wastewater treatment system buildings that are key to system operation must be protected from water entry before, during and after a flood. Flooding can damage the buildings and destroy process equipment, communications controls, field equipment, and important data records while blocking access to the plant. Improvements could include: elevating or relocating equipment, protecting infrastructure and diverting and storing wastewater during a flooding event, installing barriers and backflow prevention infrastructure.

Lead Actor: State and municipalities.

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: For larger plants like Montpelier and Barre City \$300,00-500,000. FEMA HMGP may be available for the next year.

Benefits: Flood hazard mitigation; Public health; reduced water contamination

Floodproofing

- For buildings that cannot be elevated (commercial) or areas where block style building exists, Best Management Practices are needed to floodproof existing development that cannot be moved from in the river corridor (downtown Barre and Montpelier). This document would touch on many of the concerns we are hearing about in the flood affected areas such as filling basements, use of impervious material, adding check valves on wastewater and stormwater lines, and incorporating Low Impact Design and Green Stormwater Infrastructure.

For residential buildings, programs to mitigate flood risk are needed. There are currently no programs that can help make residential structures more resistant to the damages caused by flooding. CVRPC supports expanding existing flood resilience programs to include smaller preventative projects such as elevating utilities or filling basements for qualifying households.

Lead Actor: VEM, RPC Project Management, UVM Service Learning Course, VT River Corridor Program, DEC (No Adverse Impact Model Bylaws), VPIC (Green Infrastructure Toolkit)

Time frame: 1-1.5 years

Cost: \$25K - 35K per location

Benefits: Flood hazard mitigation for individuals

Reverse E911

- Reverse E911 policy for use in extreme weather situations. Flooding is a slow-moving disaster and should be anticipated. However, hundreds of cars were flooded this last summer. This need not be the case. Other disasters can move much faster, such as wild fires, which Vermonters will probably confront in the coming years. VT Alert is a great tool for sending out updates and notifications of highway and weather risks. There is demand for a more powerful communication tool that could target all cell phones within a certain geography during life or death events, such as the July 23 flooding.

Further geographic tranches of risk could help calibrate public response and foster trust in the system.

Lead Actor: State VEM lead agency and funder; Local Emergency Managers

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: Staff time of planning and creating policies for usage + annual subscription costs

Benefits: Reduced property damage; Public Safety

Medium Priority

Full Time emergency Management Planner

- Full time regional Emergency Management Planners. Statewide, RPCs receive federal funding for about 0.5 FTE for an emergency management planner. Funding a full-time planner in this position will allow for regions to offer much needed capacity to municipalities, enabling more hazard mitigation projects to find funding and be completed. This would be an expansion on the work the EM planner is already doing to assist municipalities meet planning requirements, ensure hazard mitigation documents are up to date, write grants, and serve as a municipal project manager during design and implementation. Specific benefits would include a higher proportion of communities gaining greater access to the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund and a higher number of communities compliant with the Community Rating System.

Lead Actor: VEM (funder), RPC (technical assistance)

Time frame: ~1 year to implement and hire/train staff

Cost: ~ \$58,000 increase per RPC

Benefits: Highly leveraged investment through access to additional federal funding and grants.

Riparian Buffers & Easements

- Outside of existing settlements, establish a minimum of 50' riparian buffer along our rivers' banks. In addition to numerous ecological benefits, riparian buffers provide flood mitigation benefits. Namely, the vegetated stream banks slow water velocities and catch debris during a flood and allow for bank stabilization. CVRPC supports dedicated state funding for easements

with specific incentives for berm removal or the creation of flood benches. Co-benefits could include riverside parks and recreation opportunities.

Lead Actor: State ANR, DEC, Forest-Parks and Recreation, Conservation Districts, The Vermont River Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, CVRPC, Municipalities.

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: High

Benefits: Flood hazard mitigation; River health, wildlife connectivity and aquatic organism passage, riverside parks and recreation opportunities, increased and more equitable access to rivers.

Shelters

- Include identifying shelters based on population size and access during expected disasters in the VEM Best Management Practices for Local Emergency Management Plans. During the July event, rivers obstructed access to many shelters by the region's residents.

Lead Actor: VEM; FEMA

Time Frame: Immediate

Cost: \$0

Benefits: Public Safety

Gravel Roads

- Expand or create sub-category under Better Roads Program expressly for culvert upsizing to meet current recurring rain events.

Lead Actor: VTrans, municipalities.

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: The FY24 State portion of the Better Roads Program budget was \$1.7 million. We recommend a sustained commitment to increase this funding, recognizing that if we try to complete this work in a short time, towns will be competing for scarce labor and supplies.

Benefit: Flood hazard mitigation

Regional Dispatch Communications Funding

- Provide funding stream for upgrades to Capital Fire Mutual Aid communications plan. The Central Vermont Public Safety authority before dissolution had identified necessary upgrades to the CFMA communications system to not only maintain the current system but upgrade to the current national standards. The current system is near the end of its useful life and 4 of 5 radio towers failed during the summer flooding. This would increase the safety of both the fire and police officers in both their day to day work and in disaster response and greatly increase the resiliency of this system.

Lead Actor: Capital Fire Mutual Aid

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: \$2,300,000

Benefit: Increased disaster response capabilities.

Low Priority:

VEM GIS

- New GIS/mapping position at VEM or a liaison position housed at the Vermont Center for Geographic Information. This position would be responsible for serving information throughout the lifespan of an emergency event, including coordination with an early warning system (mentioned above). They would also create tools to help with event planning (e.g. information dashboards, evacuation routes, closest facility when factoring in real-time road closures)

Lead Actor: VCGI

Time Frame: Immediate

Cost: \$150,000

Benefit: Improved response and communication during an event Yes

Emergency Action Plans

- Review and update Emergency Action Plans and inundation maps for all high hazard potential dams every 10 years or after major flood event, whichever comes sooner. EAPs are the emergency action plan that is to be used during and unplanned release of water from the impoundment. FEMA's guidance is that these are updated yearly and exercised every 5 years and a new one completed when any large changes are made to the structure or impoundment.

Lead Actor: State – Dam Safety

Time frame: Immediate

Cost: Best model for implementation and costs are unknown.

Benefits: Public Safety

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
December 12, 2023**

Commissioners:

<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Alice Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Royal DeLegge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<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 type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input 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"/> Washington	Jenny Faillace, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Peter Carbee, Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Doug Greason
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	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"/> Worcester	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam		Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Lincoln Frasca, Brian Voigt, Sam Lash, Reuben MacMartin

Guests:

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:31, a roll call was conducted and introductions made. A quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: Christian Meyer reminded members that we welcome their in-person participation, however, noted our elevator is still awaiting repair from damages related to the flood.

Committee Appointments: Lee Cattaneo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, provided an overview of the recommendation of the committee to fill current open seats on the Brownfields Committee, Regional Plan Committee and Clean Water Advisory Committee. The floor was opened to further nominations for each seat, with none being heard.

Lee Cattaneo moved to appoint Alice Farrell (Barre Town) to the Brownfields Committee, seconded by Ron Krauth. Motion passed unanimously.

1
2 *Lee Cattaneo moved to appoint Alice Peal of Waitsfield as a municipal representative to the Clean Water*
3 *Advisory Committee, seconded by David Stapleton. Motion passed unanimously.*
4

5 *Lee Cattaneo moved to elect Doug Greason (Waterbury) to the Regional Plan Committee, seconded by David*
6 *Stapleton. Motion passed unanimously.*
7

8 **Winooski Basin Tactical Basin Plan Conformance Letter:** Brian Voigt, Senior Natural Resources Planner,
9 provided a brief overview of the 2023 draft Winooski Basin Tactical Basin Plan and the process it has gone
10 through at the Commission and before the Clean Water Advisory Committee, Regional Plan Committee, and
11 Board. John Brabant raised concerns related to land application of sewage sludges that contain PFAS/PFAOS
12 contaminants on farmlands. It was noted that he had previously raised these concerns in Committee and
13 provided email comment to DEC Basin Planner Keith Fritschie, which was also shared with all Board members.
14 Significant discussion ensued related to this topic and failing wastewater treatment infrastructure. It was
15 confirmed that Keith Fritschie is currently addressing any changes relative to the comments. This resulted in
16 question as to how can we vote on conformance if changes can be made subsequent to our approval and
17 suggested we wait until the public process is complete and vote at that point on conformance.
18

19 *John Brabant moved to table the vote until such time as the plan is in its final draft form incorporating all*
20 *changes relative to the public comments received by ANR, seconded by Royal DeLegge. Motion passed*
21 *unanimously.*
22

23 **Waitsfield Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process & Certificate of Energy Compliance:**
24 Bill Arrand, Chair of the Municipal Plan Review Committee, provided an overview of the hearing the committee
25 held on November 13, 2023 and their recommendations to approve the plan and planning process and issue a
26 determination of energy compliance for the Town of Waitsfield.
27

28 It was clarified that the Committee found that the Town provided compelling evidence that it had made
29 progress towards each of the state planning goals, including the childcare goals but had not documented that
30 progress in the Plan, and that in addition to recommending the Commission approve the Waitsfield Town Plan,
31 confirm the Town's planning process and issue an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance for the
32 *Waitsfield Town Plan*, it is also recommended the Commission direct staff to write a letter to the Town stating
33 that the Town will need to document progress on meeting childcare goals in the Town Plan for the Commission
34 to confirm the Town's planning process in 2027.
35

36 *Lee Cattaneo moved to adopt the resolution that approves the 2023 Waitsfield Town Plan and planning process*
37 *as outlined and instruct the Chair to sign the resolution, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion passed*
38 *unanimously.*
39

40 *John Brabant moved to issue an affirmative determination of energy compliance for the 2023 Waitsfield Town*
41 *Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the determination, seconded by David Stapleton. Motion carried*
42 *unanimously.*
43

VAPDA Regional Future Land Use Initiative: Christian provided an overview of this process as it has been presented to the Regional Plan Committee and the Board throughout the drafting of this report. We are not looking for a motion to confirm the plan, rather to collect comments to build into a document to be presented to Legislature. It was noted other organizations such as Agency of Transportation, Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Planners Association, and Vermont League of Cities & Towns have also submitted significant comments on the document in addition to Regional Planning Commissions throughout the state.

It was pointed out that the timeframe for any changes like this to take effect would be 5+ years, therefore it won't have any current impact on our Regional Plan Update. It was reiterated that it was an open document.

VAPDA Act 250 Local Delegation Report: Christian provided an overview of the report which was provided in the packet. Section 18a of Act 47 instructed the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies to develop a proposed framework for delegating administration of Act 250 permits to municipalities who would like that responsibility. The proposed framework is meant to streamline the Act 250 permitting process for municipalities that have modernized their planning and permitting capacity in the 50 years since Act 250 was created. The report shall be provided to the House committee on Environmental and Energy and the senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on or before December 31, 2023.

Significant discussion ensued regarding concerns of ceding this type of regulation to municipalities, rather than the State which has better resources to address than individual municipalities do. There was also comment made that there are redundancies in the processes that some municipalities and Act 250 have, and this may be a move in the right direction.

It was noted that individual comments are welcome which Christian will combine into one document and provide to CCRPC who is spearheading this process. In January the Commission can work to coalesce on one message after the comments are submitted and a draft presented to the Legislature.

Clarice Cutler noted a public meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday evening, hosted by the Natural Resources Board, and a link was shared in the chat and provided to Commissioners following the meeting.

Introduction to Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Sam Lash, Climate and Energy Planner, provided information on work the Regional Planning Commission will be doing related to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She is requesting that Commissioners assist in reaching out to towns to obtain information and provided an overview of the information in the packet. There was a request to brainstorm ideas for priorities to be addressed through this process and what projects would towns like to do that are important for community resilience that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions or be impactful with regard to sequestration.

It was reiterated that this was an introduction to the project and that Sam will be following up with municipal stakeholders to discuss unmet needs that may be potentially prioritized. We are preparing an initial list and will then be going back to municipalities for additional input. It is anticipated that this input may be needed prior to January 15th, please be on the lookout for emails from her.

Minutes – (10/10/23 & 11/14/23)

1 *Robert Wernecke moved to accept the minutes of October 10th, seconded by John Brabant. Motion passed*
2 *unanimously.*

3
4 *Lee Cattaneo moved to accept the minutes of November 14th, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion passed*
5 *unanimously.*

6
7 **Reports (October & November):** Christian noted that a discussion is being planned in January to reintroduce
8 the Clean Water Service Provider program. Christian also advised that in addition to our new senior
9 transportation planner Reuben MacMartin, that we have a new community planner starting on January 2nd.
10 Alice Peal advised she has been working on her assignment to review the list of flood priorities presented at the
11 last meeting and reviewed with the Regional Plan Committee. There will be a full report at the next Board of
12 Commissioners meeting.

13
14 *John Brabant moved to accept the reports as submitted in the packet, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion*
15 *carried unanimously.*

16
17 **Adjournment**

18 *Robert Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm; seconded by John Brabant. Motion carried unanimously.*
19
20

21 Respectfully submitted,
22 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager
23

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, December 2023

cvrpc@cvregion.com

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Followed up with 10 approved MTAP towns on eligible projects and process for participation. Moved existing projects forward with Worcester, Roxbury, Washington, Cabot and Plainfield. The MTAP provides additional funding opportunities for CVRPC Staff to offer capacity to municipalities access federal funding opportunities. (Eli)
- Towns that were assisted by CVRPC with Municipal Planning Grant Applications that were awarded funding are Roxbury, Orange. (Eli)
- Staff reviewed and commented on Waitsfield's 2023 Flood Recovery and Mitigation Priorities.
- Corresponded with Middlesex Planning Commission about recreation grant opportunities and progress prioritizing natural resource goals (Lincoln).

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Regional Plan Update:
 - The Regional Plan committee met to discuss a set of regional flood recovery priorities and review the calendar for completing the Regional Plan.
- Reviewed incoming projects for project review committee (Act 250 & Section 248 – meeting held for January 3, 2024)
- Staff met to discuss Regional Plan rough draft deadline, benchmark dates, and progress on all chapters. Chapters with overlapping themes were addressed and peer review began.
- Staff attended Act 59, Community Resilience and Biodiversity ("30 x 30") public information session. (Lincoln and Brian)
- Attended public hearing at Doty Elementary for the [Worcester Range Management Unit: Draft Long Range Management Plan](#) (Lincoln)

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

- Initial planning for upcoming Health Equity Conference in spring of 2024.

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

- The working group met to continue discussions on planning area wide application for Economic Development District recognition.

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

- Monitoring 11 North Main Street, Northfield project.

Partnerships for Progress:

CVFiber: Processed incoming mail

THRIVE: Participated in monthly meetings and health equity grant wrap up; included coordination re cascading pandemic, flood, winter storm impacts/response/recovery especially regarding frontline communities

WBRD: Provided support for mail processing

MRVPD: n/a

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

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

Local/Regional Planning:

- Held kick off meeting and first public meeting in Cabot for LHMP update
- Shared VTAlert training information with Washington for community outreach
- Provided outreach for red cross shelter training
- Monitoring emails about Marshfield Dam Emergency Action Plan and process and timeline for new plan
- Reviewing buyout information for towns within region
- Assisted Plainfield in SHS Grant application for EOC generator
- Completed budget for Local Project management for Plainfield Brook Rd bridge project
- Provided Local Liaison data collection calling for 12/18 flooding event and provided support to EMD's throughout the region.
- Attended monthly VEM/RPC meeting in St. Johnsbury
- Met with Montpelier about hazard mitigation grant opportunities
- Met with Pat Moulton state disaster recovery specialist
- Worked on regional mutual aid agreement
- Reviewed Vermont Department of Health Hot Weather Preparedness Planning templates and began to develop extreme temperature template and integration into existing LHMP and LEMP processes workflow; library outreach re warming/cooling shelter policies (Sam)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- Attended quarterly meeting

TRANSPORTATION

Contact Reuben MacMartin, macmartin@cvregion.com or Keith Cubbon, cubbon@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Field Services:

- None

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

Municipal Assistance:

- Discussion with Duxbury about Sand and Gravel pit closures and multitown discussion on where to source.
- Met with VTrans on Right of Way at Mad River Path request to understand process of using ROW for projects.
- Onboarded Reuben MacMartin new Senior Transportation Planner.
- Assisted Middlesex in Salt Shed grant application
- Provided letters of support for Middlesex and Moretown Salt shed grant applications
- Submitted Transportation Alternatives grant application in coordination with the Mad River Path on an application to scope a route 100/110B corridor path study. CVRPC will serve as fiscal agent on this study.
- Created map for Calais Recreation committee for off road trail extension to Wrightsville recreation area.
- Supported Northfield in sidewalk extension discussion to determine if a scoping study would be necessary

Regional Activities:

- Contact all towns for Task 4.1.4 yearly Town Highway Major Collector data collection
- Hosted quarterly Older Adults and Disabled Mobility meeting.
- Attended VTrans Big Data training webinar

- Attended [DriveElectric](#) Quarterly Stakeholder meeting (included updates on [VT Community Chargers Program](#) and [VTrans Electrify Your Fleet Program](#) (apply for up to 20 \$2500 incentives per town/organization; EVSE chargers) (contact Sam or Keith for support)
- Outreach to ConnectDER (Meter Socket Adapters) and new islander model which could be incorporated to improve energy reliability and resilience on top of enable EVSE distribution despite electric panel limits (Sam).

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Invited staff from Watersheds United Vermont, Vermont Natural Resources Council and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to participate in the January Clean Water Advisory Committee panel discussion regarding “Prioritizing Dam Removal and Culvert Replacement.”
- Presented Board with memo and draft letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation recommending conformance of the 2023 Draft Winooski Tactical Basin Plan with the 2016 CVRPC Regional Plan.
- Attended the following coordination meetings and trainings:
 - Lake Champlain Basin Sea Grant webinar, "Mapping Road Salt Storage Facilities in Vermont's Lake Champlain Basin: An analysis of potential drinking water impacts in vulnerable communities "
 - Vermont Natural Resources Council Dam Taskforce meeting
 - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee
- Provided stormwater master planning updates to the Williamstown Planning Commission (Lincoln).
- Met with Department of Environmental Conservation River Scientist and Basin Planner to discuss the development of Strategic Wood Addition projects in the basin and funding eligibility.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP):

- Prepared monthly Progress Report for the CWSP Start-up grant.
- Corresponded with Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District staff regarding the Project Implementor pre-qualification process. Received their pre-qualification materials and conducted staff review. Prepared Master Agreement,
- Staff met with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation staff for a review of FY23 grant administration.
- Reviewed CWSP Guidance – Chapter 7: Operation and Maintenance and provided comments to Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation staff.
- Corresponded with Friends of the Winooski regarding the seating of alternate members and the CWSP procurement requirements.
- The deadline for State Fiscal Year 24 Project Solicitation Round 2 closed on 13 December 2023. Five project proposals were received. Staff conducted preliminary project review, prepared summary materials for the Basin Water Quality Council and met with the Basin Planner to solicit feedback on the proposals.
- The deadline for submitting a Statement of Qualifications for Engineering & Construction services closed on 13 December 2023. Pre-qualification materials were received from eight engineering firms. Staff continues to actively recruit construction firms to the program.
- Reviewed the Vermont Land Trust sub-contract for their project engineer and provided feedback to ensure the contract meets the CWSP requirements. Discussed project advancement with Vermont Land Trust staff to ensure project continuity through implementation. (Note: The Vermont Land Trust is the first Project Implementor to receive Formula Grant funding from the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider.)
- Attended the following coordination meetings and trainings:

- Clean Water Service Provider check-in.

604b:

- The 604b grant administered by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission ended 15 December 2023. Staff reviewed two stream geomorphic assessments, a river corridor plan and a resiliency initiative and identified approximately 100 clean water projects that were not included in the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Project Database. A batch import file was prepared for the Winooski River Basin Planner.
- Friends of the Winooski River staff reviewed and provided updates for 14 existing projects. These updates were also documented and provided to the Basin Planner.
- Staff reviewed 13 town plans to assess municipal support for stormwater and water quality improvement projects. Staff also reviewed projects in the Watershed Projects Database to identify opportunities to partner with municipalities for project advancement. The remaining towns in the region will be addressed with future funding. Town goals, strategies, and actions that do not have associated proposed projects may offer opportunities for new projects to be championed by municipal and watershed partners.

FEMA Map & Flood Bylaw Updates:

- Prepared Contract Memo for the Executive Committee seeking authorization for the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Water Quality Project Development:

- Distributed list of approximately fifty projects to watershed partners for feedback and status updates to ensure that projects included in the proposal for a Clean Water Project Development Block Grant through Addison County Regional Planning Commission are not already being pursued by other organizations. Based on partner responses, the list of priority projects to be included in the proposal was updated (Lincoln).
- Integrated feedback from watershed partners on fifty projects that were identified and reprioritized the top 17 projects for inclusion in a Clean Water Project Development Block Grant through Addison County Regional Planning Commission (Lincoln).

Stormwater Projects:

Barre City Auditorium Final Designs – Corresponded with funder to coordinate a project extension.

Moretown School Stormwater Implementation – Met project partners on site for three check-in meetings. Discussed invoicing and change order. Corresponded with funder to coordinate a project extension and request additional funding.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

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

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

- Mini Grants (still open!) 18/23 municipalities have applied and been approved; provided support for use
 - Mobile solar generator community build proposal and approval for eligibility (prepared matching funds and community curriculum proposal Rural Partnerships)
- **Assessments have now been approved in our region, Sam will reach out once vendors are ready to schedule; PLEASE ensure utility data is submitted- schedule with Sam for support or questions:**

https://calendly.com/slash_cvrpc/15min?month=2023-10

 - Worcester Level II energy Assessments (12/6): Town Garage, Municipal Complex (Town Offices/Fire Dept), and Town Hall
 - Scheduling coordination: Barre City, Cabot, and Plainfield; supported rest of participating towns with next steps and preparation of documentation and utility data

- Coordinated with RPCs, BGS, and other partners: project prioritization, possible funding stacking in preparation of implementation funds phase (CPRG, federal funding webinar, coordination across MERP and MTAP, VCRD, rural partnerships, etc.); energy management software options; implementation funds project eligibility
- Participated in [Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory Clean Energy to Communities cohorts](#) municipal on-site clean energy procurement (RFPs, bid selection criteria, final negotiations)
- Developing cross-checking tool for municipalities re program eligibility (municipal building & facilities, overlay with floodplain, hazard materials, brownfields, historic preservation, etc.)

Municipal Planning and Implementation

- WindowDressers regional weatherization approach: planned January meetings and began outreach (Montpelier, Barre City, Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown, Middlesex, Duxbury, Roxbury, Marshfield, Northfield, Waterbury)
- 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; potentially Duxbury, Warren, Moretown, Washington; and review of Waitsfield compliance and approval.
 - Reviewed PSD deliverables municipalization update
 - Continued to develop pathways: attended planning for GHG emissions reductions
 - Outreach to DUs and other stakeholders regarding DG survey unspecified allocation of existing generation; request for existing generation, usage, outages (by town, duration/frequency/buildings), and infrastructure condition and capacity.
- Supported municipal building and facilities planning projects and implementation goals:
 - Discussion with GMP: emergency response and recovery back-up power (nomad batteries, potential siting, no outages program, micro-grid development, municipal and community hubs)
 - Attended Climate Action Office GHG Emissions Reduction project identification stakeholder meeting; prepared board memo and introduced staff on Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and upcoming opportunities
- Consulted EAN on application to rural partnerships regarding tool for residents, municipalities, and small businesses to look at long term cost effectiveness and available rebates/incentives/programs; provided feedback on much-requested update of Energy Atlas and Dashboard

Regional Planning and Implementation

- Participated in [Technical Analysis Stakeholder Advisory Group](#) meetings (Renewable Energy Standards Update), provided feedback on PSD report.
- Participated in last [Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory Clean Energy to Communities cohorts](#): Incorporating Community Voices in Clean Energy Planning and Deployment workshops.
- Participated as core member [Thermal Networks working group](#) included finalizing draft for external review of municipal/community toolkit
- Regional plan update:
 - Developed geoprocessing tools to facilitate energy generation scenarios for municipalities and the regional plan.
 - Updated regional and local constraints sections and map layers (inputs for target analyses and map outputs); preferred siting and incremental goal setting
 - Attended relevant workshops and update plan including: climate resilience for an aging nation; planning for GHG emissions reductions;
 - Updated from default to custom generations scenarios tool inputs for regional targets (land available by technology type; multiplier sensitivities, etc.)
 - Updated potential hydroelectric and wind potential (including cross-referencing existing)
- Reviewed incoming projects for project review committee (Act 248) and CVRPC process.

- Hosted Central Vermont Regional Energy Roundtable with attendance from Calais, Washington, Waitsfield, Moretown, Cabot, Warren, Montpelier, Waterbury, East Montpelier, Roxbury, Duxbury, Northfield, Middlesex (recording and slides here)

GIS – Geographic Information System Mapping

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

- Barre Town: created dataset depicting four proposed Village Center Designation areas.
- Cabot: completed revisions of map layout depicting zoning district boundaries.
- Montpelier: provided vernal pools data to the Conservation Commission.
- Northfield: began updates of zoning district boundaries.
- Orange: completed draft maps of the proposed town forest trail network.
- Waitsfield: completed revisions of map layout depicting proposed zoning district boundaries.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Prepared draft contract for IT services for internal review.
- Orientation of new team member Reuben MacMartin as our Senior Transportation Planner.
- Initiated recruitment of a Senior Land Use Planner.
- Completed benefits enrollment for CY 24.
- Distributed annual FY23 audit to funders.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

January

Jan 2	4 pm	Executive Committee (Tuesday due to holiday)
Jan 3	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee (Wednesday due to holiday)
Jan 4	4 pm	Project Review Committee
Jan 9	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Jan 11	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee
Jan 15	6 pm	Brownfields Committee
Jan 18	1 pm	Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Jan 23	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee

February

Feb 5	4 pm	Executive Committee
Feb 6	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee
Feb 13	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners
Feb 27	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](http://www.centralvtplanning.org).*
Visit CVRPC's web site at www.centralvtplanning.org to view our blog and for the latest publications and news.

December 1st

- VECAN 2023 Annual Conference
- Recreational Trails Program now accepting pre-applications!
- FEMA trainings for new FEMA forms - Elevation Certificate & Floodproofing Certificate
- Apply for a Better Roads Grant by 12/20
- Public Information Officer Training Opportunities
- Worcester Range Management Plan Public Meetings
- Flood Recovery: Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP)
- Duxbury Part-Time Zoning Administrator

December 8th

- Public Meeting on Act 250 Legislative Study
- Natural Shoreland Erosion Control Certification Trainings in 2024
- Leahy Institute for Rural Partnership Grants
- VCRD Accepting Applications for Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program
- Central Vermont Youth Opportunity Initiative Regional Forum
- After the Flood - Stories of Resilience by Sarah Noyes (Lake Champlain Sea Grant)

December 15th

- CVRPC seeks Senior Land Use Planner
- Cross Vermont Trail - 2023 Wrap Up
- Vermont Community Geothermal Alliance & Thermal Energy Networks
- Water Quality Project Updates

December 22nd

- Flood Damage Assessments
- Public Meeting on Act 250 Legislative Study - Video Available
- Check out VLCT's Legislative Preview
- News from Vermont Clean Cities Coalition
- Small Grants for Smart Growth
- VCRD Accepting Applications for Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Committee & Appointed Representative Reports, December 2023

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm) [1/2/2024]

- Authorized the Executive Director to sign contracts for Mount Ascutney Regional Commission - Moretown Elementary School & Town office Stormwater Implementation Amendment #2, Department of Environmental Conservation– Upper Winooski Stormwater Mitigation Projects Amendment #1, Vermont Land Trust – John Fowler Road Berm Removal Preliminary Design Addendum, Master Agreement for Clean Water Partners – Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District, Network Upgrades and Information Technology Managed Service Provider, Moretown Elementary School & Town office Stormwater Implementation – Watershed Consulting Amendment#1, and Moretown Elementary School & Town office Stormwater Implementation – Poulin Construction Amendment #1.
- Accepted the November 2023 unaudited financials.
- Discussed Nominating Committee recruitment.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February - April; scheduled by Committee)

- Did not meet

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

- Approved preferred site status request for Green Lantern Solar for its 500 kW solar installation located at Comstock Road in Berlin, and determined the project was in conformance with the Regional Plan.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (1st Tuesday, 4pm)

- Reviewed and discussed draft of flood planning priorities for presentation to Board.
- Discussed timeline and process for tracking changes going forward.

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

- Did not meet

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

- Did not meet. Scheduled to meet January 23, 2024.

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

- Did not meet. Next meeting scheduled 11 January 2024.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3rd Monday, 6pm)

- Did not meet. Scheduled to meet January 15, 2024.

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

- Recognized Alternate Representatives for Friends of the Winooski River (Watershed Organization).

- Conducted initial review of the five proposals requesting Formula Grant funds.
- Proposed ideas for accelerating the distribution of funds for project identification and development.
- Continued discussion of Outreach & Communications policy.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)

- VAPDA met with state agencies and partners
- Final comments on the two legislatively requested reports were discussed.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No Central Vermont activity.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- The executive director participated the December mini retreat and meeting.
- The executive director will serve on the Governance Committee.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

Staff participated in the December meeting where the work plan and budget were discussed.