



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 12, 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

6:35 Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation – Melissa Bounty

2 6:55 Winooski Basin Tactical Basin Plan Conformance (Action - enclosed)³

7:15 Regional Plan Update - Christian Meyer

3 8:00 Enhanced Energy Plans Update – Sam Lash

10 8:10 Legislative Update – Christian Meyer

13 8:25 Minutes (Action - enclosed)³

16 8:20 Reports (Action - enclosed)³ - Staff and Committee Reports

8:30 Adjourn

Special Act 250 Presentation Meeting: March 21, 2024

Next Regular Meeting: April 9, 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.



MEMO

Date: March 12, 2024
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Brian Voigt, Program Manager & Lincoln Frasca, Planner
Re: Final 2024 Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan conformance with the 2020 Central Vermont Regional Plan

✉ ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the finding of conformance between the [2024 Winooski River Watershed Tactical Basin Plan](#) and the 2020 Central Vermont Regional Plan, and authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter confirming the conformance finding to be sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

At the Board of Commissioners 12 December 2023 meeting, a motion to table the vote until such time as the plan is in its final draft form incorporating all changes relative to the public comments received by ANR.

The final draft version of the 2024 Winooski River Watershed Tactical Basin Plan was released for public comment in October 2023. The public comment period closed on 10 November 2023. Following the close of the public comment period, the Basin Planner incorporated feedback where appropriate. The Agency of Natural Resources approved the [2024 Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan](#) in January 2024. Feedback received during the public comment period were addressed in [Appendix C. Responsiveness Summary](#) of the adopted plan. Please see Comments 6 – 11 and their responses regarding the incorporation of PFAS concerns in the Tactical Basin Plan, including the recently-released [Vermont 2023 PFAS Roadmap](#).



MEMO

Date: March 5th, 2026
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Sam Lash, Climate & Energy Planner
Re: Enhanced Energy Plan Updates

☒ **ACTION REQUESTED: check the lists below/talk with your municipal leadership and verify (please!)**

Reminder: Regional and municipal plans are required by statute to have an energy element, Act 174 established the optional Enhanced Energy Plan (see slides attached for quick reminder- anyone who would like an introduction to these plans please don't hesitate to let me know)

As part of the Regional Plan Update, we have been updating the Regional Enhanced Energy plan. We will be providing municipal "breakouts" including targets analysis, draft maps, and additional data starting this month which serve as the basis of municipal enhanced energy planning and updates if you choose to use them. This will support those currently going through the process, those who would like to update their previous draft, and for those entering their first updates of their approved plans.

We have 7 towns with approved Enhanced Energy Plans including

- Barre Town
- Northfield
- Waterbury
- Waitsfield
- Middlesex
- Plainfield
- Woodbury

We know the following towns are actively developing plans or expressed interest with the new municipal breakouts:

- East Montpelier
- Worcester
- Marshfield
- Duxbury?
- Williamstown?

We know quite a few towns drafted plans previously that were interrupted by the pandemic and thus your town plans may include some of these elements (e.g. maps and preferred siting language) or a cognate plan was developed but not (yet) submitted with appendices (e.g. Montpelier Net Zero Action Plan) to the RPC.

We recognize that these planning processes have seen increased and evolving interest from towns given their participation in programs like Municipal Energy Resilience Grant Program, the new incentives available through the IRA, etc. as more towns see a role for themselves in project development. We are planning 3 trainings for the spring/summer focused on various parts of the plan and hope to bring towns together to share insights and strategies- thus we ask you to please review your town status/interest.

Note: RPCs provide the technical assistance to the towns (currently as part of municipal planning)- they are not required to request assistance or work with the RPC but in our region often do. We sincerely thank, especially East Montpelier, Worcester, and Duxbury among others, for their patience this year as we've supported the Public Service Department to update their resources which were required for us to do the update analyses.

Act 174 Enhanced Energy Plan landing page:

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/about-us/publications-and-resources/energy-resources/act-174-recommendations-and-determination> (includes updated guidance and some tools)

Updated Municipal Enhanced Energy Plan Standards:

https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Pubs_Plans_Reports/Act_174/Final%20Update%20Municipal%20Determination%20Standards_Form%20Fillable.docx

Enhanced Energy Plan Act 174

Act 174 establishes a set of **optional** municipal and regional energy planning standards towards the State's Global Warming Solution Act Emissions Reductions Requirements

Standards developed by PSD in November 2016; updated in 2022 to be in line with State Energy Policy including the Comprehensive Energy Plan

Communities that meet the standards will receive a determination of energy compliance (DOEC)

- "Substantial deference" under Section 248
-

Basic Requirements

[Landing Page](#)
[Guidance](#)

- Locally adopted and regionally approved Plan
 - Energy Plan as defined in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3)
 - Analysis and Targets
 - Mapping
 - Pathways (Implementation Actions)
-

03/12/24

Board of Commissioners

7

Why now?

Siting Renewable Energy Generation

- PUC process
- Preferred sites

Identify municipal cost savings potential and support development of projects and grants

- Baseline and Tracking Municipal Energy Use
- Incentives: Direct payments replacing tax incentives
- Programs: Municipal Energy Resilience Program, Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, USDA Rural Development Grants

Community Priorities

- Reduce Energy Burden
- Increase Energy Independence, Resilience, and Reliability
- Connect Residents to opportunities and funding



- Analysis & Targets
 - Estimates Current Energy use: Transportation, Thermal, Electric sectors
 - Targets for Transportation, Thermal, & Electric sectors (March!)
 - Mapping (requires input)
 - Resources Available:
 - Base & Prime Solar
 - Rooftop Solar Potential
 - Base & Prime Wind
 - Existing & Potential Hydroelectric
 - Biomass (thermal sector)
 - Preferred Siting (types)
 - Data
 - Electricity Demand (EffVT)
 - Measures Implemented (across Town)(EffVT&Capstone)
 - Energy Burden
 - EVs registered
 - Existing Generation
 - Outages (in progress)
 - Duration
 - Frequency
- Review existing town plan against Energy standards (iterative)
 - Identify key priorities and projects (long standing/existing)
 - Evaluate needs:
 - Conversion of heating sources
 - Transportation/land use changes
 - Electric-sector conservation and efficiency
 - Mapping feedback
 - Preferred Siting
 - Local Constraints
 - Municipal Buildings & Facilities Energy Use (optional)
 - Review Analyses & Targets
 - Identify Pathways (what actions are you going to take?)

Regional

Draft complete March; internal review, board and stakeholder review beginning

Key Issues & Outline
Regional Constraints and Preferred Sites
Resilience & Reliability
(Municipal Scale, Partnerships, Energy Burden & Equity)

Municipal

Municipal Analyses & Targets (in progress)

Request maps

Cohort Meeting on A&T drafts, draft maps, additional constraints and preferred siting

Cohort meeting: Pathways

Review against Standards and seek determination of energy compliance



MEMO

Date: March 7, 2024
To: Board of Commissioner
From: Christian Meyer, Executive Director
Re: Legislative Update - H. 687

✉ **ACTION REQUESTED:** Discussion. Would the Board of Commissioners like any additional information? Or like to comment on the proposed legislation?

H. 687 Draft 6.1

Link to legislation:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Environment/Bills/H.687/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20Legal%20Documents/H.687~Ellen%20Czajkowski~%20Draft%206.1,%203-1-2024~3-1-2024.pdf>

The House Committee on Environment and Energy is in the process drafting Bill 687. If passed, this bill will have substantial impacts Regional Planning, Act 250, and the state designation programs. This legislation incorporates many of the recommendations of the three studies completed in December 2023, including the VAPDA Regional Planning Study, the Natural Resource Board Necessary Updates to Act 250, and Designation 2050. Staff reviewed Draft 6.1 of the bill and would encourage commissioners to take a look for themselves and consider how it aligns with your local planning goals and the planning goals of the RPC.

This is a substantial piece of legislation – 125 pages – so I have tried to call out some of the sections that represent the largest changes to current practices. This summary is meant to highlight those areas of the Bill that will most directly affect the RPC. It is not meant to be a synopsis of the full Bill in its current form. There is much I have left out including substantial discussion on the Natural Resources Board in issuing Act 250 permits and handling appeals.

Act 250:

This Bill would change the name of the Natural Resource Board to the Environmental Review Board (ERB) and create a full-time professional chair and part time paid board members for the ERB to be included for FY 25 budget (More on ERB below).

Per the Natural Resource Board Necessary Updates to Act 250 report, the Bill adopts tiers of jurisdiction where certain elements of the Act 250 permit process are waved.

Tier 1A would be exempted from Act 250 permitting

Tier 1B would waive permitting requirements for residential development up to a certain scale (50 units/10 acres) (Page 56, line 8).

Tier 1B will be as designated based on RPC future land use maps. RPC maps will need to meet designation requirements in their mapping process to receive ERB approval. (Page 47, line 7)

Tier 1B will be as requested by a Municipality and restricted to those areas with an established planning process, zoning, flood regulations, and staffing and where Water and waste water are present. (Page 47, line 8)

In **Tier 2**, Act 250 jurisdiction would remain largely unchanged.

Tier 3 would be for high priority environmental conservation and would trigger an Act 250 review for most activities (logging and farming are generally exempted). ANR, through rule making, will determine how Tier 3 blocks are defined (Page 38, Sec 21).

“Avoided, minimized, or mitigated” Page 38 Lines 1-5

Subdivisions in protected areas will require “effects be avoided, minimized, or mitigated.” ANR will be charged with rulemaking on how impacts can be mitigated and minimized. Including compensation (conservation), and mitigation.

Roads that exceed 800 feet or driveway construction that aggregates to 2000 feet or greater (or any combination of the two that exceeds 2000 feet) would require an act 250 permit.

Responsibilities of the ERB

In addition to the work of the NRB, the ERB would review RPC Regional Plans and Future Land Use Maps, Tier 1A applications, Tiers 1B and 3 mapping, among other things.

Page 10, lines 12-16 (k) – The Board shall review applications for Tier 1A areas, Tier 1B, and Tier 3 areas and approve or disapprove based on whether the application demonstrates compliance with the requirements of section 6033 of this title. The Board shall produce guidelines for municipalities seeking to obtain the Tier 1A status

Regional Planning Commissions

The Bill Incorporates the recommended land uses from the VAPDA Regional Planning Study.

The Board (ERB) shall review for compliance regional plans and the future land use maps developed by the regional planning commissions pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4348a (Page 10, lines 7-11 “By January 1, 2027 each RPC will be required to have a confirmed Future Land Use Map with rural conservation areas.” There is broadened opportunity for outside parties to object to the adoption of the regional plan and future land use map. (Page 71, line 14) Currently an RPC board of commissioners adopts a regional plan for its planning area with no external review. State statute states the required content of the plan and ACCD and other funders through their work programs outline work tasks that the RPC must address to advance state planning goals, but municipalities ultimately have final say on the direction of the regional plan.

This bill would broaden funding to include specific funding allocations to support resilience work at the RPC level (Page 89, Sec. 40)

VAPDA would be required to complete an RPC Governance Study by 12/31/2024.

Designations

Many of the state's designations will be achieved through the Regional Plan and Future Land Use Map. Existing designations will be carried forward with the RPC future land use maps. The Vermont Community Investment Board (*new?*) will be in charge of state designations (Page 100).

Designations should be connected to existing centers (Page 86, line 1)

VAPDA will need to produce another report on how mapping will be conceived (Page 86)

Funding sources that will be made available to designated areas are outlined on pages 110-116.

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
January 9, 2024**

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 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown | Richard Turner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex | Ron Krauth | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jacqueline Higgins, Alt. |
| <input 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, Will Pitkin

Guest: Renee (East Montpelier resident)

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

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: None

Open Meeting Law Resolution: *Robert Wernecke moved to adopt the open meeting law resolution, seconded by Don La Haye. Chair D'Amico read the resolution. Vote was called and motion passed unanimously.*

Nominations and Election for Nominating Committee: Christian reviewed the memorandum that was included in the meeting packet, outlining the role of the nominating committee. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee to nominate officers and committee members for FY25. The Chair asked for volunteers from the floor. Robert Wernecke, Jerry D'Amico and Michael Gray volunteered. Hearing no more, the floor was closed.

1 John Brabant moved the slate of volunteers (Robert Wernecke, Jerry D'Amico, and Michael Gray) as nominees,
2 seconded by David Stapleton. Motion carried.
3

4 **CVRPC Clean Water Service Provider Presentation:** Brian Voigt, Senior Natural Resources Planner, shared a
5 presentation (available on the website and video) outlining the Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider
6 (CWSP) Program, which is focused on reducing phosphorus in the Winooski Basin. He shared its background, the
7 role of the CWSP and the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC), results of the original start up grant, and current
8 engagement of the formula grants and status of pre-qualifying subcontractors, as well as engineers and
9 construction firms. He outlined project types and the need for projects to be cost effective to meet the annual
10 reduction target. Highlighted was a recently approved project for berm removal on John Fowler Road in
11 Marshfield which is a low-cost high reduction project. There was discussion related to CVRPC's ability to
12 propose projects, which Brian confirmed we are able to do. Also discussed was whether or not there are
13 incentives for landowners to participate in the program. It was confirmed participation is not incentivized, nor is
14 it state mandated.
15

16 Alice Farrell joined the meeting at ~ 7:15
17

18 **Project Review Committee Update:** Christian Meyer advised the Project Review Committee met last week to
19 review a preferred siting request on Comstock Road in Berlin. The project was reviewed and found in
20 conformance with the regional plan. Both Berlin's Planning Commission and Selectboard have endorsed the
21 project and the Project Review Committee moved to assign regional approval of preferred siting for the project.
22

23 **CVRPC Act 250 Position:** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the memorandum in the packet and shared a
24 presentation (available on website and video). He noted he was trying to determine if there is a shared position
25 of the Commission on this topic; and how our regional plan and Act 250 can be complementary. First reviewed
26 was the Natural Resources Board Necessary Update to Act 250 report which presents options for different tiers
27 of Act 250 jurisdiction. Also shared was the VAPDA Regional Planning Report which recommends developing a
28 core set of statewide land use designations and use those to inform eligibility for the state designation program
29 and Act 250 review, as well as develop an approval process for regional plans where they will have authority in
30 determining allocation of benefits or determinations. In addition, the VT Designation 2050 report by ACCD was
31 shared, which recommends a shift from five designations to one core designation with optional add-ons such as
32 neighborhood area or development ready. The VAPDA Municipal Delegation Report was also mentioned. This
33 report was requested by the City of Burlington and explores the municipality being delegated the responsibilities
34 of overseeing Act 250 locally. It was confirmed the slides will be shared with Commissioners as well as posted
35 on our website.
36

37 Christian presented the following questions for discussion:

- 38 • Does Act 250 help advance the regional planning as defined in statute and in our regional plan?
- 39 • Could Act 250 better support regional planning?
- 40 • Does the Commission support the findings of any of these studies?
- 41 • Are there specific recommendations the Commission would like to make to improve how Act 250 is
- 42 applied?
43

Significant discussion ensued related to the proposed tiers with concerns raised specific to Tier 1 not allowing regional impact to be considered. There were also concerns raised related to forest preservation and fragmentation, increased allowance of housing units, fee structure, housing affordability and adjusting the affordability standard. There was comment on the importance of Act 250 in constraining development that could harm critical habitat as well as allowing municipalities, organizations and individuals a voice in the process. It was suggested that staff consider scheduling a full meeting for discussion of the Act 250 topic rather than a portion of a meeting.

A member of the public suggested that Commission members view the video of the public meeting held to review the NRB Necessary Update to Act 250 report which is available on their website.

Flood Recovery & Mitigation Priorities Update: Chair D’Amico commended staff and the Regional Plan Committee for working on this project. Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information as outlined in the packet. Alice Peal shared information was discussed by the Regional Plan Committee over two meetings and her desire that all the agencies come up with a cohesive plan to address the mitigation priorities suggested. It was noted that defining where we should not be building based on flood hazards should be part of the ongoing Act 250 discussion; and that FEMA will be coming out with new guidelines on flood hazard areas and that the Regional Plan will include this information.

Lee Cattaneo suggested the item on “Floodplain Recovery, Reconnection and Expansion” also include ‘regulation’.

John Brabant moved to approve the list of flood planning and mitigation priorities, including incorporating regulation as suggested by Lee Cattaneo; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. The vote was called and had one abstention. A roll call was conducted. Barre City – not present, Barre Town – yes, Berlin – abstain, Cabot – not present, Calais – yes, Duxbury – yes, East Montpelier – yes, Fayston – seat vacant, Marshfield – seat vacant, Middlesex – yes, Montpelier – not present, Moretown – yes, Northfield – yes, Orange – yes, Plainfield – yes, Roxbury – yes, Waitsfield – yes, Warren – yes, Washington – yes, Waterbury – yes, Williamstown – yes, Woodbury – yes, Worcester – yes. Motion carried with 17 ayes and one abstention.

Minutes – (12/12/23) : *Lee Cattaneo moved to accept the minutes of December 12, seconded by Lexi Leacock. Motion passed unanimously.*

Reports: New Community Planner Will Pitkin was introduced to the Board of Commissioners. Christian also highlighted the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) being handled by Eli Toohey who is working with municipalities pre-specified by the State and it is anticipated good projects will be facilitated for the 10 municipalities identified in our region by the State.

Peter Carbee moved to accept the staff and committee reports, seconded by Paula Emery. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: *Don La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:26 pm; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, February 2024

cvrpc@cvregion.com

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Contacts: Eli Toohey, toohey@cvregion.com & Will Pitkin, pitkin@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:

- Assisted Barre Town staff with Village Center Designation application for four distinct village centers. Met with Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Barre Town staff to review the application materials. Each of the four state designations was approved by the Downtown Board.
- Discussed zoning district boundary changes with Barre Town (Brian).
- Assisted Barre City with a housing infill study
- Assisted Roxbury in the implementation of their Municipal Planning Grant for Roxbury Revitalization Plan.
- Staff assisted the Towns of Middlesex and Marshfield in drafting a Request for Proposals for engineering and construction oversight services to implement flood mitigation projects through the US Department of Agriculture Emergency Watershed Program.
- Assisted Town of Waitsfield in following new reporting requirements after updating its bylaws using Bylaw Modernization Grant.
- Discussed zoning updates to accommodate new housing with the Town of Northfield (Brian).

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Regional Plan Update:
 - Staff continued to draft the Regional Plan. For additional updates, see Regional Plan Committee.
- Reviewed incoming projects for project review committee (Act 250 & Section 248) and contacted ACCD staff to determine CVRPC's role (if any) in an appeal before the Environmental Division of the VT Superior Court of a rejected Act 250 permit application.
- Completed comparative analysis of 2024 Worcester Long Range Management Plan goals and strategies with the 2016 CVRPC Regional Plan (Lincoln).
- Attended VT Housing and Conservation Board "Conservation Categories Roundtable" regarding Act 59, the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Act (Lincoln).
- Conducted Stakeholder interviews to inform the Regional Plan update with the following partners: Washington and Orange County Foresters, Friends of the Mad River, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Food Markets, Good Samaritan Haven, CV Refugee Action Network, Downstreet Housing, Sugarbush Resort, Vermont Historic Society, and Vermont Works for Women (Lincoln & Eli).
- Assisted the Vermont River Conservancy in understanding Regional Goals for incorporation in a state grant application to help fund the Confluence Park project in Montpelier (Lincoln & Eli)

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

- "Planning for Health Equity"- Central VT workshop development – event scheduled for April 17th.

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.
- Staff consulted with the Economic Development Administration on the viability of accessing federal EDA funding to support dam repair on the Curtis Pond Dam.

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

- Staff met with Cabot officials to discuss potential BRELLA project opportunity in Cabot.

Partnerships for Progress:

THRIVE: Participated in monthly meetings: included coordination re cascading pandemic, flood, winter storm impacts/response/recovery especially regarding frontline communities; partner asks to participate in upcoming health equity training and projects; VDH hot weather planning, LHMP planning, and regional plan update (Sam).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HAZARD MITIGATION

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

Local/Regional Planning:

- Completed Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application for Stormwater Master Planning in Waterbury.
- Met with Cabot Planning Committee to review draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and held public meeting to discuss mitigation actions for the community's LHMP.
- Provided outreach for Assistance to Firefighters, Homeland Security Grant Program, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Met with and researched funding for Calais Curtis Pond Association for dam repair options.
- Discussed LHMP process with Worcester and provided documents and offer of support.
- Met with Dartmouth students for flood response report that university is compiling for Vermont Legislature.
- Planned and held Regional Emergency Management Committee meeting
- Contact State Homeland Security to follow up why Plainfield generator application was funded and if they should resubmit to the current round of funding.
- Participated in the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)/RPC meeting
- Participated in Hot Weather Preparedness training with Vermont Department of Health and Barre District Office to prepare staff to provide training for municipalities(Sam & Keith); reviewed deliverables and developed THRIVE and municipal approach (Sam).

TRANSPORTATION

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

Field Services:

- Conducted Park and Ride counts throughout the region.
- **Reminder:** CVRPC is currently recruiting for summer field staff. Pass it on! See [website](#) for more details.

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

Municipal Assistance:

- Reviewed Barre trestle #308 project engineering drawings and discussed with municipality. Participated in AOT project outreach meeting in Barre City.
- Met with Middlesex to discuss USDA stream bank stabilization projects to protect homes and roads
- Met with Cabot Road Supervisor to discuss needs of town and possible salt shed grant application.
- Shared bridge and culvert data with Waterbury Road Supervisor
- Met with AOT to discuss Moretown request for speed studies on state routes.
- Provided Wrightsville Beach and Montpelier info on EV vehicle funding opportunities (Sam)

Regional Activities:

- Completed and submitted Tasks 2.1.4 equity work, 3.2.1 resiliency planning work, 4.1.7 bridge and culvert, and 6.2.1 Municipal Roads General Permit work to VTrans.
- Facilitated monthly TAC meeting (details in Committee report).
- Provided outreach on VPSP2 and State Transportation Improvement Plan
- Attended kick off meeting for the Safe Streets and Roads 4 All grant
- Filed for and received 1111 permit for traffic counting in the state right of way.
- Updated EV registration data by town and confirmed methodology behind municipal scale breakdown (with Drive Electric; VEIC) (Sam).
- Conducted public outreach on Launch of [Level 3 DC Fast EV Charging at Public Attractions Incentive Program](#) (contact Lash@cvergon.com for support).
- Conducted municipal outreach regarding ANR's re-opening of [Diesel Emissions Reduction Assistance Program](#) in April, with next round scheduled for October/November 2024. (contact leigh.martin@vermont.gov) (Sam).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Brian Voigt voigt@cvregion.com and Lincoln Frasca frasca@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Attended the following coordination meetings and trainings:
 - Winooski River Basin Regional Coordination meeting
 - Department of Environmental Conservation Floodplain Manager Drop-In Meeting, "FEMA Flood Map Updates."
- Arranged panel to Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake Wise Program Coordinator and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, District Manager regarding their participation in the March meeting.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP):

- Executed Master Agreements with the following engineering firms: DuBois & King, Fitzgerald Engineering Associates, Redstart, SLR, Stone Environmental and Watershed Consulting.
- Hosted Basin Water Quality Council where staff: announced a new project solicitation round, promoted the Department of Environmental Conservation organized Clean Water Service Provider Summit, identified the list of pre-qualified Project Implementors, Engineers & Construction Contractors, discussed the administrative workflow for managing project proposals, and requested input for simplifying requests for Project Identification & Development funding.
- Met with Department of Environmental Conservation Technical Project Manager and Basin Planner to discuss:
 - development of a funding policy to establish a maximum price per kilogram of phosphorous removal for prioritizing Formula Grant funding.
 - CVRPC Executive Committee decision contradicting the prioritization of a project by the Basin Water Quality Council.
- Updated the Request for Qualification application to be accepted on a rolling basis.
- Prepared addendums (3) to the Friends of the Winooski River Master Agreement.
- Opened FY24 Funding Round 3: Project Proposals due 15 March 2024
- Corresponded with Project Implementors:
 - Friends of the Winooski River regarding terms of their Master Agreement and procurement procedures.
 - Friends of the Mad River regarding project development ideas on a newly-acquired town parcel.
- Corresponded with Engineering Firms to complete Master Agreement contracts.

- Discussed the pre-qualification process and the Rouleau Dam Removal project in Williamstown with Vermont Natural Resources staff.
- Attended the following coordination meetings and trainings:
 - “Refresher on CWSP eligible projects with Agency of Agriculture and Food Markets”
 - Met with Basin Planner to discuss potential Phosphorus credits for dam removals
 - Clean Water Service Provider check-in to discuss communicating with DEC, the Clean Water Service Provider Summit, and the establishment of a price threshold for evaluating the efficiency of p-reduction projects.

604b:

- The 604b grant administered by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission ended 15 December 2023. Additional funding is anticipated later in FY24.

FEMA Map & Flood Bylaw Updates:

- Attended FEMA map update session organized by Department of Environmental Conservation staff.
- Attended monthly check-in meeting to discuss best practices for updating flood hazard regulations.

Water Quality Project Development:

- No activity to report.

Stormwater Projects:

Barre City Auditorium Final Designs – Prepared quarterly report. Corresponded with project partners.

Moretown School Stormwater Implementation – Prepared quarterly report. Corresponded with project partners regarding contract amendments. Received signed Operations & Maintenance Agreement from Town of Moretown.

Upper Winooski Stormwater Implementation – Attended Calais Selectboard meeting to discuss the pending stormwater implementation projects. Met with Calais Town Administrator to discuss projects and expectations for staff cooperation.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

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

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

- **Mini Grants (still open until May 31st!).** Currently 18 of 23 municipalities have applied and been approved
 - Discussion with Barre Town regarding program and possibility to still apply to mini grant plus additional project funding options
 - Outreach to Woodbury, Barre City, Marshfield, and Waitsfield
- **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

 - Utility bill support: outreach to DUs regarding municipal data requests; Barre City fuel bill support
 - Outreach to schedule assessments with DuBois & King **for Middlesex (March 20&21), Duxbury (March 21), Plainfield WWTF (April 2), Montpelier (April 3), and Berlin (April 4):**
 - Documentation check, uploaded assessment justifications; customized assessment workflows
 - Followed-up on scheduling with NovaGroup for Williamstown, Washington, Roxbury, Marshfield, Orange, Waterbury, Warren, East Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, and Fayston; responded to town inquiries.
- Coordinated with RPCs, BGS, and other partners:
 - federal funding stacking best practices and workflow; began project roadmap resource for municipalities;
 - vendor meetings (next round of assessments; reports (comments, timeline, content);

- introduced program and complementary efforts upon request (Sanders Office rep; Rights & Democracy);
- provided recommendations for implementation phase rubric and prioritization metrics (provided regional summary on administrative capacity);
- worked with partners to understand how RES update may impact feasibility of projects being identified and developed via MERP (re end of virtual group net metering).

Municipal Planning and Implementation

- Conducted inventory of GHG emission reductions actions included in all municipal town plans, enhanced energy plans, local hazard mitigation, and climate plans and submitted to Northwest Regional Planning Commission for inclusion in State's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application (ANR Climate Action Office); developed supplement of example actions and regional counts (town energy positions, MERP participation, etc.).
- 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, Duxbury, Barre Town, Williamstown, etc.(see below; provided initial drafts by request). Met with Worcester Planning Commission Chair regarding next steps enhanced energy planning process.
- Prepared presentation **Planning for GHG Emissions Reductions- Opportunities & Programs** at request of Calais commissioner and selectboard; presented at 2/12 meeting and facilitated discussion.
- Fielded additional inquiries about Sustainable Energy for Schools and Municipalities programs on project and entity eligibility (Cabot); encouraged application and offered further support to potential municipal applicants.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerability Index Tool Launch.
- Worked with partners to understand and outline how DU constraints/moratorium as well as potential RES updates (end of virtual group net metering) will impact municipal renewable energy generation and storage project development (in progress and in future), siting, energy planning, and critically individual ability to draw down federal funding and implement energy goals at the residential, commercial, and municipal levels.

Regional Planning and Implementation

- Followed-up on data requests GMP WEC, Northfield, Hardwick, and Stowe Distribution Utilities (customers by town, outages, existing generation, and constraints) to support Regional and Municipal Enhanced Energy planning, municipal project development, MERP project implementation, federal funds drawdown, LHMP planning, etc.
 - DU Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process and RPC solar potential layers (GMP).
 - Data cleaning; updated Distributed Generation Survey; completed estimation of existing generation by town
- Coordinated with other RPCs and State partners:
 - EECBG best practices County application,
 - EAN Working Group: Thermal Energy Networks Municipal Toolkit Launch prep,
 - Vermont Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant formula grantees best practices meeting
 - met with GMP/ACCD on EVSE program progress and launch of [Level 3 Public Attractions application](#);
 - IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs (Energy Efficiency arm of Public Service Department launch as State Energy Office)
- Regional plan – energy elements and enhanced energy plan update:
 - Organized and met with RPC energy planners and Public Service Department regarding new Equity Standard (Enhanced Energy Plan) and municipal consumption, LEAP disaggregation, and target methodology.
 - Updated Municipal Consumption Estimation (current transportation and current heat use), integration with LEAP Results establishing regional targets and breaking out municipal targets.
 - Drafted text and actions by sector (electric, thermal, transportation).
 - Updated Infrastructure Chapter re Energy Infrastructure (existing infrastructure and generation; customer counts and outage data by DU and town); identified key elements for inclusion in Working Lands, Economy,

Housing, and Climate Chapters (e.g. dams balancing electric generation and flood control uses and with conservation/removal priorities). Updated Climate Chapter. Restructured Infrastructure Chapter.

GIS – Geographic Information System Mapping

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

- Barre City: developed voting district data for the city.
- Barre Town: created historic district boundaries dataset and updated zoning district boundaries.
- Berlin: prepared a map to support Agency of Natural Resources Recreational Trail Program grant application.
- Cabot: prepared maps to support Local Hazard Mitigation Planning.
- Northfield: prepared maps representing development constraints to support ongoing Planning Commission dialog regarding zoning bylaw updates.
- Attended Enterprise Geospatial Consortium monthly meeting to discuss updates to statewide datasets and opportunities for regional collaboration.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Provided staff support to the Nominating Committee and compiled results of Commissioner & Alternate Interest Surveys for FY25 Committee appointments.
- Provided administrative support to CVFiber, Cross Vermont Trail Association, and Wrightsville Beach Recreation District for incoming mail distribution.
- Interviews conducted and job offer made for a new Community Planner who will start on March 6th.
- Information Technology:
 - Met with Rural Solutions staff to discuss project updates and transition to Sharepoint.
 - Upgraded Internet service for the office.
 - Arranged presentation by Rural Solutions during CVRPC staff meeting to discuss available services, requesting help and learning opportunities.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

March

| | | |
|----------|---------|--|
| March 4 | 4 pm | Executive Committee |
| March 5 | 4 pm | Regional Plan Committee |
| March 12 | 6:30 pm | Board of Commissioners |
| March 13 | 4:30 pm | Nominating Committee |
| March 14 | 4 pm | Clean Water Advisory Committee |
| TBD | 6 pm | Brownfields Committee |
| March 21 | 1 pm | Winooski Basin Water Quality Council |
| March 21 | 6 pm | Special Meeting – NRB Act 250 Presentation |
| March 26 | 6:30 pm | Transportation Advisory Committee |
| March 28 | 4 pm | Project Review Committee |

April

| | | |
|---------|------|-------------------------|
| April 1 | 4 pm | Executive Committee |
| April 2 | 4 pm | Regional Plan Committee |

| | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| April 9 | 6:30 pm | Board of Commissioners |
| TBD | | Nominating Committee |
| TBD | 6 pm | Brownfields Committee |
| April 18 | 1 pm | Winooski Basin Water Quality Council |
| April 23 | 6:30 pm | Transportation Advisory Committee |
| April 25 | 4 pm | Project Review 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.

February 9th

- Request for Proposals – Consulting Engineering Services for the Development of an Asset & Capital Improvement Plan Berlin, Vermont
- Fast Charging Funding
- Drive Electric Vermont Business & Municipal Assistance
- Reminder: Sustainable Energy for Schools and Municipalities proposals are due March 1st
- Help Shape the Future of Outdoor Recreation in Vermont

February 16th

- AIAVT Requests Project Proposals for Resilient Design Charette
- Move Forward Together Vermont Survey
- Funding Opportunity – Clean Water Projects
- Request for Proposals – Roxbury Village Revitalization Plan Project
- Grants to Protect Lands for Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems

February 23rd

- CVRPC to host "Getting to know Act 250"
- Town of Middlesex Emergency Watershed Program – Engineering Services RFP
- New Closing Date for Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Mini Grants
- Arts and Community Places: Coming Together After the Floods
- MERP Community Capacity Building Mini-Grants
- VECAN Winter Webinar: How to Develop a Thermal Energy Network

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports, February 2024

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm) [3/4/2024]

- Accepted the January 2024 unaudited financials.
- Approved mid-year budget adjustment.
- Received an update from staff regarding consolidation of bank accounts.
- Authorized the Executive Director to sign Master Agreement for Project Management with Vermont Natural Resources Council.
- Authorized the Executive Director to sign the contracts with CCRPC for Northwest Vermont Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and with Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission for Planning and Facilitation Services for the Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empower and Recovery (RIVER).
- Held and executive session to discuss personnel matters. No action taken.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February - April; scheduled by Committee)

- Reviewed results of Commissioner & Alternate surveys and the positions to be filled. Created a plan to conduct follow-ups to ensure all vacant seats can be filled.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 13th.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

- Did not meet. Monitored new and ongoing Act 250 and Section 248 permit applications for projects that will need CVRPC comment.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (1st Tuesday, 4pm) [3/5/2024]

- Reviewed and provided comment on the following chapters of the draft Regional Plan update: Cooperative Planning, Land Use, Economy, Housing.

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

- Did not meet

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

- Reviewed updated goals(modified as per TAC input at January meeting) for Transportation chapter of regional plan
- Opened discussion on town planning needs and allocation of effort in light of State suspension of new VPSP2 project selection
- Mike Hedges walked TAC through VTrans online resources
- Next meeting March 26th.

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

- Did not meet. Next meeting scheduled for 14 March 2024.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3rd Monday, 6pm)

- Did not meet. Next meeting TBD.

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

- Announced FY24 Round 3 Project Solicitation opportunity. Proposals for non-regulatory, phosphorous-reduction projects are due 15 March 2024.
- Promoted the Clean Water Service Provider Summit. This Department of Environmental Conservation organized event is scheduled for 5 April 2024 at St. Leo's Hall in Waterbury. [Pre-registration](#) is now open.
- Presented progress report on achieving the annual phosphorous-reduction target for the Winooski River Basin.
- Discussed Formula Grant Administration steps from Project Implementor pre-qualification through addendum(s) to a Master Agreement and the role of the CVRPC Executive Committee.
- Solicited input on Project Development funding priorities.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (VAPDA)

- No meeting was held

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No Central Vermont activity.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- GMT Board of commissioners met to review and accept the FY23 single audit, consider beginning the process of establishing a non-profit entity, and approve a 1-year extension with the urban operators.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

Staff were unable to participate in the February meeting.