



Regional Plan Committee

May 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm

To join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815276521?pwd=Mmw5U080SGpCTUFNVHZFSEERQUlI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 878 1527 6521, Passcode: 783374

One tap mobile 1(929)436-2866 or 1(301)715-8592

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.

AGENDA

- 4:00 pm² Adjustments to the Agenda**
Public Comment
- 4:05 Approval of Minutes (Action - enclosed)³**
- 4:10 pm Introduction to outline, timeline and roles for 2025 Regional Plan**
- 5:30 pm Adjourn**

Next meeting: June 4, 2024

¹ Dial-in telephone numbers are "Toll" numbers. Fees may be charged to the person calling in dependent on their phone service.

² All times are approximate unless otherwise advertised

³ Anticipated action item.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Regional Plan Committee

Draft Minutes

April 2, 2024 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom

Committee Members:

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

- 1
- 1 Staff: Christian Meyer, Sam Lash, Will Pitkin, Eli Toohey, Niki Sabado (in person)
- 2
- 3 **Adjustment to the Agenda**
- 4 No adjustments.
- 5
- 6 **Public Comment**
- 7 D. Greason moved to accept March 2024 meeting minutes, M. Miller seconded. Accepted unanimously.
- 8
- 9 **Discussion – Regional Plan Re-adoption Assessment Report**
- 10
- 11 Commissioners provided broad feedback on draft assessment report, overall positive.
- 12
- 13 M. Miller asked for clarification on how much of the material in the meeting packet was previously
- 14 written vs. new material.
- 15
- 16 S. Lash stated that much of the energy chapter was new and provided further details on how the
- 17 chapter was developed and what requirements it sought to meet.
- 18
- 19 Discussed what would remain the same or nearly the same in the readopted interim regional plan vs. in
- 20 the new regional plan to be written: goals and policies will remain the same (other than those required
- 21 to be modified to remain in compliance with state law) for the readoption and then be modified in the
- 22 next version of the plan.
- 23
- 24 C. Meyer led discussion to the housing needs assessment and provided background on how CVRPC
- 25 constructed the estimate, including factors and analysis, then presented the estimates of housing units
- 26 needed by census tract within the CVRPC region.
- 27
- 28 D. Greason suggested that the interim readopted plan should emphasize that the housing needs
- 29 estimate is interim and that the State will provide official estimates shortly, A. Peal agreed.
- 30
- 31 The group provided further direction on how the assessment could be improved for the development of
- 32 a new plan.
- 33

1 S. Lash began discussion on draft energy chapter and noted state requirements that energy section
2 provide targets on electric, thermal, and transportation sectors and referenced limitations of data for
3 those sectors. S. Lash stated that, although the energy chapter was more up-to-date than many of the
4 other chapters, it is intended to be a placeholder and the upcoming new plan will feature more data and
5 even more in-depth analysis.

6
7 S. Lash provided a big-picture summary of trends in the region’s energy sector, including the region’s
8 progress toward meeting state energy goals, followed by a breakdown of individual municipalities’
9 progress toward the state goals and how those estimates were produced.

10
11 S. Lash asked committee to consider if state goals that reduce wood consumption for residential thermal
12 energy were appropriate for the region. The Committee discussed the role of wood heat in a residential
13 heating mix.

14
15 M. Miller requested that Montpelier’s district heating facility be included in the energy chapter, at least
16 as a discussion point, and noted that the district heating had gotten more use since the July 2023 flood
17 because many residents whose basement furnaces were flooded were interested.

18
19 S. Lash detailed the current composition of the region’s renewable energy generation portfolio and
20 compared that to targets for future generation. Committee discussed implementation barriers to
21 different sources and how to overcome those barriers and find ways to make those sources more
22 environmentally friendly and appealing to the region’s residents.

23
24 S. Lash spoke about the resilience benefits of distributed smaller renewable energy projects that may be
25 able to provide electricity to places that are likely to experience extended and/or frequent outages and
26 noted the amount of supporting infrastructure necessary to realize those possible resilience benefits.

27
28 M. Miller noted the distinction between “green” and “renewable” energy.

29
30 M. Miller moved to recommend CVRPC staff commence the public hearing process for the Proposed
31 Regional Plan Assessment Report, D. Greason seconded the motion, the motion carried.

32
33 *D. Greason moved to adjourn, M. Miller seconded, all in favor, motion carried.*

34



MEMO

Date: May 3, 2024
To: Regional Plan Committee
From: Will Pitkin, Planner
Re: 2025 Regional Plan Rewrite Strategy

For the Tuesday, May 7 Regional Plan Committee meeting, there are no action items on the agenda aside from accepting the April meeting minutes. We will discuss the strategy for writing the 2025 regional plan and would appreciate your feedback.

Part of that discussion will be how the new plan will incorporate the work that has already been done prior to changing course and beginning the readoption process. Many of the regional plan chapters were in advanced draft stages and we do not want to throw those drafts out and start from scratch. Instead, we propose the following to bring 2024 draft chapters into the 2025 regional plan:

- Make a consistent format.
- Incorporate equity.
- Incorporate stakeholder input.
- Focus on readability.
 - Highlight critical info in callout boxes.
 - Separate forward-looking goals and implementation actions (“plan elements”) from data and inventory (“report elements”). Plan elements and essential report elements go in the body of the regional plan; additional report elements go in the appendix.

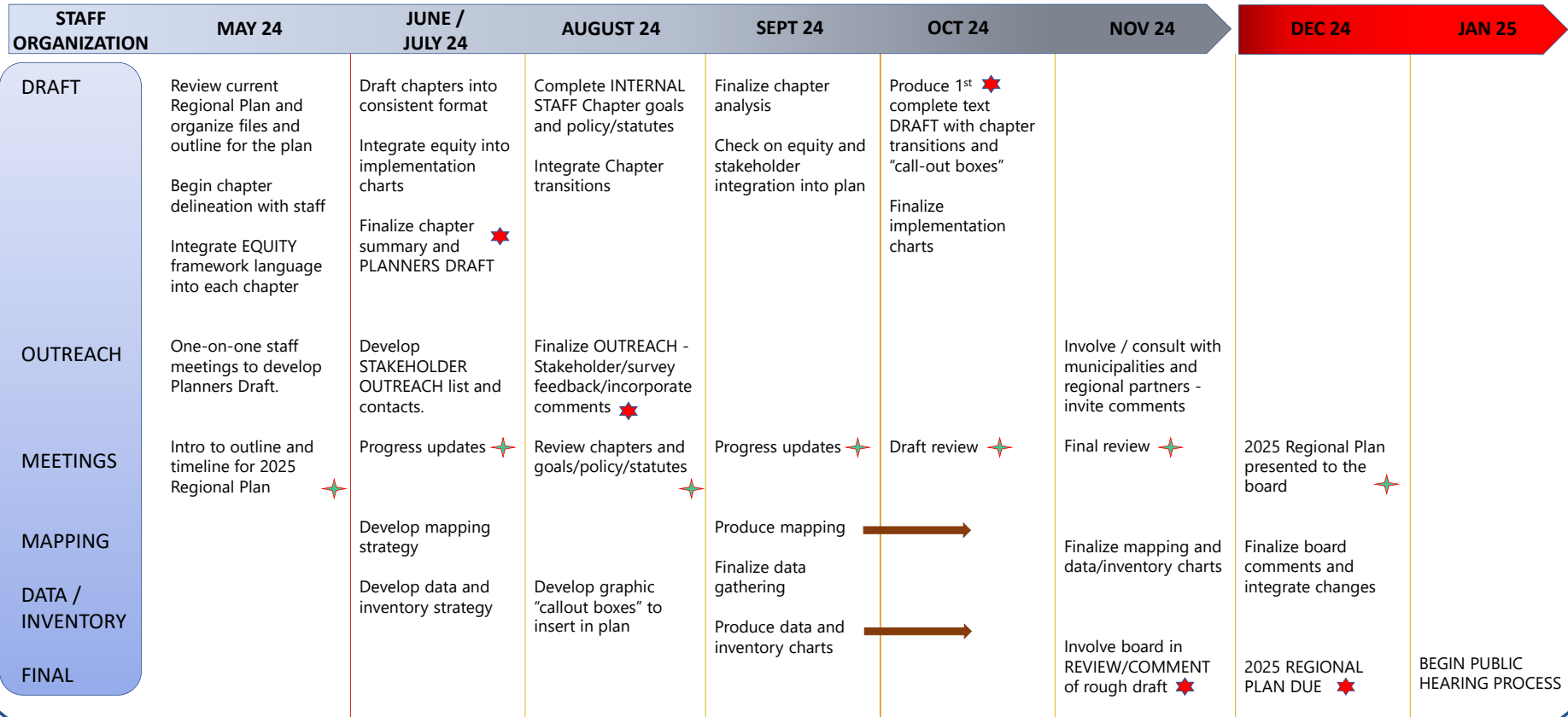
Staff are also proposing slight changes to the subjects of several chapters. For example, in the 2016 regional plan, infrastructure was one gigantic chapter with several sections that were not closely related to each other. We propose that one section of the former infrastructure chapter be separated into a standalone chapter (social services and inclusion) and another section be combined with a related chapter (emergency management into climate and flooding).

Please find attached a timeline; an outline (both of the entire regional plan and of individual chapters); and a chart that shows the roles of staff, the Regional Plan Committee, and the Board of Commissioners. We welcome any feedback you might have and look forward to discussing on Tuesday.

Project Timeline: May 2024 – January 2025 – 2025 CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLAN

★ = Project Milestone

✦ = Advisory Meetings



FOCUS AREAS for the REGIONAL PLAN:

Forward-looking plan, not report
 Prioritize what goes in callout boxes or body or appendix
 Stakeholder inclusion in all chapters
 Equity Matrix framework language and process
 Organization of Master files for internal staff coordination

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER LIST (ALPHABETICAL)

Climate, Flooding and Emergency Management
 Economy
 Energy
 Healthy Populations
 Housing
 Infrastructure and Utilities
 Land Use
 Natural Systems and Working Landscape
 Social Services and Inclusion
 Transportation

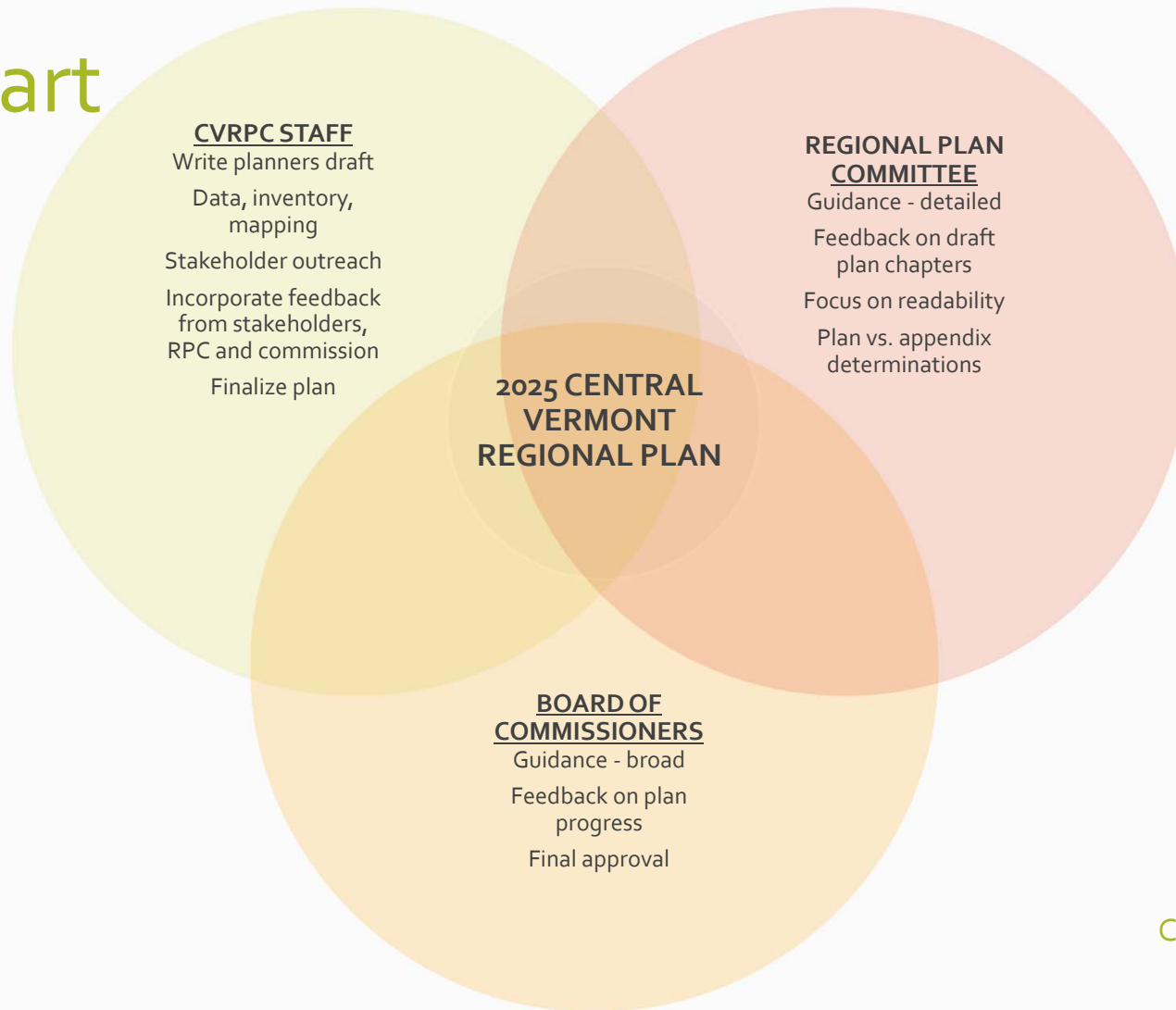
OUTLINE – REGIONAL PLAN

- Introduction:
 - Vision + Equity Statement + Culture of Cooperative Planning + Statute
 - Purpose and Use of Plan
 - Goals Summary (By Chapter)
 - Implementation Charts (By Chapter)
- Chapters
- Appendix
 - Statutes
 - Additional Data/Inventory + In-Depth Analysis

OUTLINE – INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS

- Aspiration
- Goals
- Strategies
- Background
- Data, Inventory

Roles Chart



Central Vermont Regional
Planning Commission