



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

April 2007

commission calendar

April	9	7:30 pm	New Septic Rules Meeting Location: American Legion, Middlebury See this page for more information
	10	6:30 pm	Groundwater Protection Planning Location: NRG cafeteria, Rte. 116 Hinesburg Information: Marty Illick, Lewis Creek Association, 425-2002
	11	5:30 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	11	7:00 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn
	18	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	25	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	26	8:30 am	Small Hydro Workshop Location: Vt. Technical College See page 2 for more information
	28	9 to 3:30	Conservation Congress Location: Mt. Abraham High School, Bristol See page 2 for more information
May	9	TBA	ACRPC Annual Meeting Guest Speaker: Frank Bryan Location: Basin Harbor Club
	16	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	30	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Meetings are open to the public.
Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

New Onsite Septic Rules Public Meeting

On Monday, April 9th at 7:30 PM at the American Legion Hall on 49 Wilson Road in Middlebury, the Addison County legislative delegation, Agency of Natural Resources and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce will hold an informational meeting concerning implementation of the existing onsite wastewater and water supply regulations and proposed changes to wastewater and water supply rules.

Commissioner, Jeff Wennberg of the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, and members of his legal and technical staff will present current regulations scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2007 and proposed new regulations. They will also be available to take comments and answer questions or concerns. Members of the legislative delegation will also be in attendance to listen to public comments and to discuss current or proposed legislation. Anyone with questions regarding the meeting should call the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Adam Lougee, Executive Director at 388-3141.

Topics of proposed changes include:

1. Overall Reorganization of the Rules Current Structure
2. "Clean Slate" exemption
3. Reduce Minimum Design Flow for Single Family Residence From 3 Bedrooms to 2 Bedrooms
4. Revision to Replacement Area Requirements
5. Composting Toilets
6. New Class of Designers
7. Seasonal Conversions
8. Subdividing a Developed Lot
9. Exterior Alterations to a Lot
10. Residences that have Outhouses or Outdoor Water Pumps

2007 Conservation Congress Rescheduled

9 AM, April 28 at Mt. Abe High School

Due to the blizzard, the March 17 Conservation Congress was postponed until April 28. Although the schedule may change slightly, the morning concurrent sessions should still focus on optimizing local energy efficiency, with session topics including transportation alternatives, improving wood burning efficiency, and optimizing the energy efficiency of your home. Afternoon concurrent sessions will focus on cultivating local energy sources, from agriculture-based sources (like methane digestion, grass pellets, and biodiesel) to small-scale hydropower, wind, and solar. During both morning and afternoon sessions, participants can tour the new Mount Abraham Union High School Wood Gasification heating system or watch a screening of "An Inconvenient Truth."

Small Hydro Site Assessment and Development

8:30 AM, April 26

Vermont Technical College, Randolph

The Agency of Natural Resources is pleased to announce a free one-day workshop on site evaluation, project planning, and development of small hydropower facilities. This workshop will provide useful information for town energy committees and other groups or individuals who are interested in evaluating potential small hydropower sites (<250kW), but may not have any particular technical expertise. Registration is free, but space is limited. For more information, contact Julie Moore at 241-3687.

Six ways to support emergency preparedness

Being prepared as best we can for emergencies — be they ice storms, floods, fires, or intentional acts — is something we all care about. With that in mind, here are six things you and other officials in your town can do to improve overall preparedness.

1. Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). The job of the EMC varies from town to town, but at its core, it's a planning job. The EMC is the one who brings people together to develop mitigation and response plans, coordinates local training opportunities, and supports the efforts of the local selectboard and emergency responders. Appoint a person who has the ability to bring people together, organize important files, and who has the time to effectively do the job. Too often, the job is given to a fire chief, who, though they may be well qualified for the job, does not have the time to dedicate to the position. [Note: in most towns, the title of "emergency management director" rests with the chair of the selectboard, as that person is responsible for the well-being of the town's residents. An effective EMC can relieve much of this work].

2. Make sure town officials are trained in "ICS". ICS is a nation-wide management system for emergency response. Local officials are key players in the management of any disaster but many have little or no training in this system which is used by 1st responders. Free, one-evening classes on the basics of ICS are available from the VT Police Academy. [Note: ICS training for local officials is now Federal law and is being tied to the receipt of future emergency preparedness and disaster recovery funds]

3. Develop and maintain a Rapid Response Plan and/or Emergency Operations Plan. The Rapid Response Plan (RRP) is a simple guide to emergency response. While every town in the Addison Region does have one, many are out of date and/or unused. A new format for the RRP was released last year that gives prompts for what a town can be looking at. Where are the shelters in town? Who is in charge of the town's response to a major ice storm, or flooding? The RRP also assigns planning tasks to people or groups in town. A good emergency plan would include a list of people/companies with important construction equipment, a 24-hour contact list for local radio stations, an agreement with the local bus company to provide services if needed, and methods for alerting the public to go to a shelter (or perhaps stay in their homes), among other things.

4. Prepare and implement a pre-disaster mitigation plan (PDM). A Mitigation Plan identifies

what actions can be taken in your community to prevent or lessen the effects of disaster. In 2003-04, a draft PDM plan was developed for every town in the Region. Each plan included a list of the key hazards that exist in town and set priorities for fixing them. In Addison County, many of these hazards are related to flooding. Selectboards, planning commissions, and road commissioners can use their plan to address these problems before the next major emergency event happens. Once adopted by the Select Board, the EMC and others, can also use this plan to apply for money to help with these improvements. [note: later this year, ACRPC staff will begin the process of working with towns to update their PDM plans.]

5. Put together Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) Plans. In the event of an emergency, there are two key things that will help make town operations go smoothly. 1) knowing what the critical functions of the town are [wastewater treatment and paying town bills, for example] and how they will be kept going (COOP) and 2) knowing who will step in to fill key jobs in town if the lead person [the road foreman, for example, or the town treasurer] is incapacitated or out of town (COG).

6. Update the town plan and town regulations. Make sure the plan, and town's land use regulations promote development that will minimize potential future dangers [limiting development in flood plains, for example] and ensure that emergency responders can do their jobs [minimum driveway widths for trucks, or ensuring there is access to ponds to refill tankers, for example].

Want some help with any of these six jobs? Contact staff at ACRPC. 388-3141.

This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.