



# ACRPC

*update*

April 2008

## commission calendar

April	4	12:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	9	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	16	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	22	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	23	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
May	2	12:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	8	6:30pm	Water and Wastewater Supply Rules Informational Meeting American Legion Hall 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury
	14	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	21	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	27	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	28	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury

Meetings are open to the public.  
Minutes are available on-line at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).  
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

## Capital Budget Planning for Select Board Members and Road Foremen

Addison County Regional Planning Commission will be hosting a workshop on Capital Budgeting as it relates to town roadway infrastructure. The workshop will take place from 5-9 pm on Tuesday May 20, 2008 at the VFW in Middlebury. The workshop is free and dinner will be provided.

The workshop is designed to introduce and discuss capital budgeting strategies to best preserve the local road system while saving time, money, and resources. The workshop is targeted to select board members and local road foremen. Since space is limited, we ask that interested towns send one or two select board members and their local road foreman. Workshop topics include a brief overview of roadway design and construction, the information and data necessary to prioritize replacement and repair, and steps for creating a capital budget plan. Additional goals of the workshop are to:

- ◆ Increase understanding of economic returns of timely roadway infrastructure investments
- ◆ Increase understanding, utilization, and maintenance of roadway data to enhance local planning and budgeting
- ◆ Help strengthen and support collaborative, strategic planning and budgeting between select boards and road foremen.
- ◆ Increase understanding of the professional role of Road Foremen

Space is limited. Please RSVP to Amy at ACRPC by May 9 at [adiller@sover.net](mailto:adiller@sover.net) or 388-3141.

## Vermont Western Corridor Transportation Plan

The Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and five Regional Planning Commissions in western Vermont are partnering in an effort to develop a Transportation Management Plan for western Vermont, from the Massachusetts state line to the Canadian border. Read more inside this issue of the newsletter.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### **Create Affordable Housing in Your Community**

Central Vermont Community Land Trust is hosting a workshop on creating affordable housing. The free workshop will be held in several locations from 5:30-8pm and will focus on affordable housing strategies. Homeowners, renters, employers, business leaders, municipal staff, selectboard members, and local planners are encouraged to attend. FREE Food. Childcare, transportation and reasonable accommodations provided upon request. Register online at <http://www.cvclt.org/> or call 802-476-4493 ext. 200 to receive a registration form by mail.

Thursday, April 3 – Bradford Town Hall

Thursday, April 10 – Twinfield High School

Thursday, April 17 – Granview Drive Building, off Richardson St., Barre

Thursday, May 1 – Harwood Union High School

FREE Food. Childcare, transportation and reasonable accommodations provided upon request.

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### **Next Communities Initiative Workshop April 12 and 26, 2008, Chester, VT**

This workshop is designed to advance the understanding and practice of smart growth by building local capacity to develop and apply techniques that go beyond compliance with government regulations. Planning commissioners, community stakeholders, professional planners, selectboards and town managers will benefit from this workshop; all those interested in developing the skills necessary to make constructive change happen in their towns are welcome to attend. Please go to <http://www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/> to register. This event will take place on two Saturdays, April 12 & April 26. Please note that by registering for April 12, you will automatically be registered for April 26. Please register early, as space is limited to 30 participants. Sponsored by Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, Vermont Planners Association, Smart Growth Vermont, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

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### **Northern New England Low Impact Development (LID) Conference, Monday April 21st**

Are you interested in protecting your town infrastructure from flood hazard erosion, reducing stormwater and non-point source pollution impact on your local waterways, cleaning up Lake Champlain, or reducing the stress on your combined sewers systems? Planners, Zoning Administrators, Select Boards, Road Foreman, Planning, Zoning and Conservation Commission Boards are invited to come and learn about Low Impact Development. Topics include:

- ~How Low Impact Development Strategies reduce stormwater runoff, protect local waterways and reduce the risk of flooding
- ~How your community can encourage good site design and reduce the environmental impact of development
- ~What engineers and architects experienced in low impact design are currently working on
- ~Local resources available to help your community
- ~Projects that have reduced their environmental impact through Low Impact Development

The afternoon includes a tour of local sites to see examples of Low Impact Development in action. For detailed workshop agenda, fee (\$25), and registration information go to: <http://www.fbenvironmental.com/> or call FB Environmental at 207-221-6699. The conference will be held at the Hilton Conference Center, 60 Battery Street, Burlington (Formerly the Windham) from 8:30-4:15pm on April 21, 2008

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### **Green Spaces ~ Balancing the Natural & Built Environments, April 24, 2008**

The Vermont Chapter of CSI will host its 2008 Green and Sustainable Conference & Trade Fair on April 24. Key-note speaker Meg Walker of Project for Public Spaces [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org) will present on the elements of sustainable place-making. PPS specializes in bringing designers, owners, government and community members into the project planning process for new and revitalized public and semi-public space projects. Don Schmitt, a founding partner of Diamond+Schmitt Architects of Toronto, Canada [www.dsai.ca](http://www.dsai.ca) will present on Living Walls. Don has developed a specialty in the design of large atrium spaces that feature plant walls as large as 30' wide x 55' high. The plant walls work as bio-filters to improve indoor air quality and reduce mechanical system loading. Nancy Somerville, CEO, American Society of Landscape Architects [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org) will present on the design and technical innovations in the ASLA headquarters green roof project. April 24, 8:30-4:30, Hilton Conference Center, Burlington. For more information on the conference agenda and fees and to register visit <http://www.csivermont.org>.

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### **Robert Putnam to Speak at UVM Monday April 28, 2008**

Robert D. Putnam, Harvard Professor and author of *Bowling Alone* will speak on "Civic Engagement in a Diverse and Changing America" as part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays series at 7pm on Monday April 28. The talk, co-sponsored by UVM, will be held at the Silver Maple Ballroom in UVM's Davis Student Center. A reception will follow. Over the last half-century, by many measures, Americans have become steadily less connected with one another and with their communities. Professor Putnam asks why this has happened, whether it matters, and if so, what we can do about it. For further information, contact Vermont Humanities Council, 802-262-2626 or visit [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org)

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### **Recent Changes to the Water and Wastewater Supply Rules Informational Meeting May 8, 2008**

Do you have comments, questions or concerns regarding how State water supply or wastewater rules may impact your ability to develop your property?

Lang McLaughry Spera and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are sponsoring an informational meeting Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the American Legion Hall on 49 Wilson Road in Middlebury concerning the State's water supply and wastewater rules.

In Fall 2007 the State made a number of changes to its rules governing potable water supplies and wastewater systems. Roger Thompson and Anne Whiteley of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources will come to the American Legion Hall in Middlebury to speak about the current rules and recent (Fall 2007) changes to those rules. They will also be available to take comments and answer questions or concerns. The program is free and open to the general public. Anyone with questions concerning the meeting should contact Tom Heney at Lang McLaughry Spera, 388-1000.

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### **Wastewater Solutions for Small Communities**

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs' new publication, *Wastewater Solutions for Small Communities*, is now available online at <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/SewageSolutions/index.htm>. The publication provides an introduction to the new technological and funding options for wastewater, introduces decentralized approaches to treating and managing wastewater, and helps community leaders learn about the critical need to engage the public in the wastewater planning process. DHCA will be hosting a conference on the topic on June 4, 2008 at Vermont Technical College. Contact Faith Ingulsrud, Planning Coordinator Department of Housing & Community Affairs for more information. (802)828-5228 or [faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us](mailto:faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us).

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### May is American Wetlands Month

Spring is coming (we hope!), snow is melting, rivers and streams are flooding, and our wetlands are at work. Take a moment to notice the wetlands you walk or drive by each day. Wetlands are the interface between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. They often host considerable biodiversity and are essential in maintaining numerous ecologic and socio-economic functions. These include:

**Flood Control:** Wetlands associated with streams slow flood waters, provide flood storage, and reduce peak flood levels.

**Shoreline anchoring:** Wetlands provide erosion control by dissipating wave and current activity, binding substrates, and by trapping stream sediments.

**Water quality:** Wetlands process heavy metals, pesticides, and other toxic substances; and remove nutrients from runoff.

**Habitat:** Wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including a disproportionately high number of threatened or endangered species, compared to other ecosystem types.

**Socio-economic value:** Wetlands are utilized by humans for their recreational, scenic, historic, educational, and cultural values.

ACRPC's April Full Commission Meeting will include a presentation on Vermont's Wetland Protection and Restoration Program. Please join us on April 9 at 7:30pm.

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### Free Wildlife Programs for Landowners

Audubon Vermont & Vermont Coverts are offering free programs to landowners, community members, and conservation commission leaders in support of the state's Wildlife Action Plan.

#### **Wildlife Inventory & Monitoring, Evening Session 7 pm, Half Day Field Session 9 am to Noon**

- ◆ April 25th & 26th Richmond Free Library
- ◆ May 2nd & 3rd Harwood Union High School
- ◆ May 2nd & 3rd Justin Morrill Homestead, Strafford

This workshop will help participants become better observers of wildlife, learn how to keep records of wildlife sightings and how to use this information when making management decisions. The evening session will focus on the techniques while the field session the following day will put those practices to work. Sessions may be attended separately but participants are strongly encouraged to attend both.

#### **Invasives On Your Property, 9 am to Noon**

- ◆ July 19th Mad River Valley, Site TBA
- ◆ July 19th Green Mountain Audubon Center, Huntington
- ◆ August 2nd Site TBA, Thetford

This program will show landowners how to efficiently and effectively cut and chop woody plants like Japanese barberry, buckthorn and bush honeysuckle and smother and pull herbaceous plants like garlic mustard and goutweed as mechanisms to manage populations growing in woodlands. Landowners will also be able to discuss the benefits of safely utilizing herbicides during invasive plant removal and learn about the different types of herbicides on the market, how they work, and the safest and best techniques for application. Finally, proper disposal of invasive plants is a key in preventing their spread and landowners will learn the do's and don'ts of what to do with the plant once they are removed. Call Bridget Butler at 802-434-3068 or visit [www.vt.audubon.org](http://www.vt.audubon.org) for more information. Prior to each program, a reminder email will be sent to registered participants with more details and directions.

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