



ACRPC

update April 2011

Planning Commission Performance and Effectiveness

It is important for the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, and all regional planning commissions in Vermont, to step back periodically and review the level of performance we exhibit as well as the effectiveness of what we do to further state,

regional and local goals. Vermont's regional planning commissions have embarked on a new wave of review, and last year's Challenges for Change discussions gave it a boost.

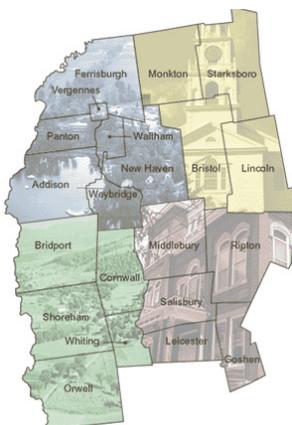
One aspect of this review is to survey each regional planning commission staff, members and Commissioners to determine their perceptions and knowledge about the mission of the RPC, how it organizes itself to carry out the mission and then how well we accomplish that mission. The survey will be tabulated and results will be available to a wide audience this spring.

This effort, as well as a number of other tasks related to determining effectiveness and performance, is being guided by the work of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). In addition to the survey, the regional planning commissions are using teams from NADO to interview in person, approximately two dozen key Legislative, State Agency and Non-Profit leaders to obtain candid feedback on how we function individually as well as a network of regional planning commissions. The entire body of work will be published and reported back to each RPC Board, key Legislative Committees, State Agencies and our communities during this May-June period. Comments or questions on this effort are welcome by phone (388-3141) or by email (alougee@acrpc.org).

Commission Calendar

April 2011	13	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
	8	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	14	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	15	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	18	4:00pm	Energy Committee Meeting
	20	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee
	25	5:00-6:30pm	ACORN Network
	25	11:00-4:00	RPC Emergency Planners Meeting
	27	7:00pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting
	27	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
	27	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barracks

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
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Note: this article was reprinted by permission from the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission newsletter (February 2011).

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.

Update on Energy Legislation

Two energy bills are nearing a vote in the Vermont legislature. H.155 — A Fix for the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program — is designed to make strategic fixes to Vermont's existing PACE-enabling legislation to overcome the hurdles federal mortgage backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have created for the program and to create safety nets for towns that want to make this program available for interested residents. Read more about PACE and check out the draft bill here: <http://www.vnrc.org/about-vnrc/pace-2-0-strategic-fixes-needed-to-important-energy-financing-program/>

H.56 — The Clean Energy Act of 2011 — advances renewable energy projects in Vermont in several ways:

- Strengthens Vermont's net-metering program: The bill would raise the current cap on net-metering projects so that Vermonters interested in installing or potentially tapping into homegrown renewable energy projects could do so. The bill would raise the system-wide cap from 2 to 4 percent and raise the cap on project size from 250 to 500 kW.
- Catalyzes more solar projects: H.56 would encourage more small-scale solar projects by requiring your utility to pay you a little extra for the solar power you produce. This incentive is win-win for utilities and Vermonters, as solar power puts more power on the grid when electricity demand is highest and utilities are paying extra for that peak power (during hot summer days).
- H. 56 establishes a temporary Clean Energy Support Charge to bridge the gap until a permanent new source of funding can be decided. The proposed monthly charge of 55 cents per utility customer would raise about \$2.3 annually for three years.

Delegates and Alternates Wanted!

Town meeting has just ended. Within the next month, your Selectboard will be making decisions on who they might appoint to various positions in the municipality. ACRPC thanks its existing Delegates and Alternates for serving as your communities' representative to the Commission. We hope you will speak with your Selectboard and sign up for another year of service for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. To anyone else interested in regional issues, we would love to have you join the Regional Planning Commission! Please speak with your Selectboard and ask whether your town has delegate or alternate positions available. ACRPC holds our full Commission meetings at our offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Typical meetings last about 2 hours with a short intermission. Generally we devote the first part of the meeting to a programmed speaker discussing a topic of local interest. Topics change every month, but can range from bicycle and pedestrian planning, to agricultural planning to discussions with local legislators.

In addition to the monthly meeting, ACRPC also asks each commissioner to serve on one of its six subcommittees (Natural Resources, Energy, Brownfields, Local Government, Act 250 and Transportation). Each committee generally meets once per month to do more in depth work on a specific topic. Lastly, we ask delegates and alternates to serve as our voices in their community and their communities' voices to us. Inform your Selectboard or Planning Commissions about opportunities available through ACRPC or report concerns from your community back to the Commission. ACRPC offers a great opportunity to understand and influence policies that affect our communities and the Addison Region. We invite anyone interested to speak with your Selectboard to see if you could represent your community on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Events

Keeping Forests for the Future: Planning a Legacy for Your Woodlands

Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT
Saturday, April 30, 9:00 - 5:00

This workshop will cover the very important topic of planning for the future of your forestland. If you own woodlands, what will happen to the forest when you pass away? Do you want to establish a legacy for forests so that they remain in our landscape? There are many options both within families and outside. The Landowner Summit will offer hands on workshops where participants can learn about various planning strategies from a range of experts. Specifically, the sessions will help landowners learn about options and determine their goals for the land, also addressed will be talking to children about long-term forest ownership, forming limited liability corporations, exploring easements and much more. There will be something for those landowners that don't have heirs and are wondering what to do as well as those that have children who are not interested in the property.

Resource professionals and other experts such as estate planning lawyers and financial planners will help lead various workshops. Listen to a panel of landowners talk about how they addressed this issue, determine the strategy that best meets your needs. Introductory speaker: Peter Forbes and Keynote Address by Catherine Mater. Planning now to pass your land can preserve family unity and possibly save on property and inheritance taxes. There are many benefits to tackling this issue!

To register visit www.vnrc.org/forest/landowner-summit or contact Lisa Sausville, lisa@vtcoverts.org or call (802) 388-3880. Cost is \$30 per person.

Way to Go! Commuter Challenge

Sign up at www.waytogovt.org
May 16 - 20

Leave your car at home and join the fun. Individuals, businesses, schools, organizations – everyone is welcome. Have a positive impact on our air, your wallet and your health. Reduce transportation pollution. Save money at the pump. Improve your physical health.

For more information and Ways to Go in Addison County go to www.actr-vt.org.

ACORN Annual Meeting

Lincoln Peak Winery, New Haven
April 14, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The 2011 ACORN ANNUAL MEETING will celebrate a successful year in style. Come for a wine tasting and an update on the exciting projects we have in store for the coming year, especially the ACORN Wholesale Collaborative. Special guest Ben Hewitt will give a talk related to his book, *The Town that Food Saved*, about Hardwick, Vermont and the state of local foods in Addison County. Wine and books will be offered for sale. Please RSVP to info@acornvt.org.

Farm-to-Plate Report: What it means for Addison County growers and food businesses

McCardell Bi Hall 216 at Middlebury College
April 28, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Ellen Kahler, Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, will present an overview of the report's findings and discuss specific resources and opportunities of interest to Addison County. Event is co-sponsored by the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, The Franklin Environmental Center at Middlebury College, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and the the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. Visit www.acornvt.org to learn more.

Events

Conference: Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass

Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH
Thurs and Fri, April 14 and 15

The third annual Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass Conference aims to put definitive action behind the goals of the “Bold Vision for 2025” which was released last year. This event is planned for all parties interested in reducing our region’s reliance on foreign fossil fuels. For info call (978) 669-5019 or visit www.heatne.com.

Free Geothermal Program

Ilsey Library Community Room, Middlebury
Wed, Apr 20, 7 - 9 pm

Learn how to navigate the maze of geothermal options, incentives, and installers for space heating and cooling. Hosted by Acorn Energy Co-op with support from Addison County Regional Planning Commission. For info, call 385-1911.