

# ACRPC

update

April 2015

## Local Emergency Operations Plans

An important annual deadline is approaching for Vermont cities, towns and villages: updated Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) are due to your Regional Planning Commission by May 1st. Vermont law requires every city and town to have an emergency operations plan on file at the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and it is a requirement for communities that wish to receive full disaster funding or apply for grants. Cities, towns, and villages must submit their LEOP to their regional planning commission each year, after Town Meeting Day and before May 1st. This deadline ensures

that any changes to infrastructure or personnel in the previous 12 months are reflected in the updated plan. Any member of the selectboard, town/ city/village manager, or mayor may certify adoption of the plan as long as they have taken either ICS 100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System) or ICS 402 (Incident Command System Overview for Executives/Senior Officials).

Classroom offerings for ICS 100 and ICS 402 are posted at <http://www.vtemergencytraining.org>; ICS 100 is also available as an online course at <http://www.training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>.

## Commission Calendar

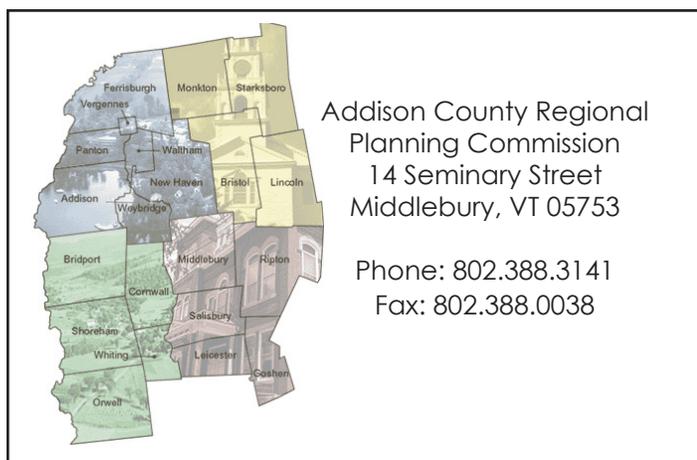
April 2015

8	7:30pm	Full Commission Mtg.
9	7:00pm	Addison County MSWD Annual Mtg.
15	7:00pm	TAC Mtg.
22	6:30pm	Executive Board Mtg.

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

For those jurisdictions that submitted a 2014 LEOP, you can now review and update the information you submitted for 2014, readopt the plan, and submit your 2015 LEOP to your regional planning commission.

If you did not submit a 2014 LEOP, you can find the LEOP template and template guidance at [http://vem.vermont.gov/local\\_state\\_plans/local](http://vem.vermont.gov/local_state_plans/local). This webpage also includes optional appendices for your LEOP, such as disaster forms, a communications plan, a Mutual Aid List, the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund Rule, and the Vermont Stream Alteration Rule and Guidance. Your regional planning commission stands ready to assist you in meeting this requirement.



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

Phone: 802.388.3141  
Fax: 802.388.0038

## Acorn Energy Co-op Seeks New Part-time Coordinator

The Acorn Energy Co-op has begun their search for a new, part-time coordinator, as their current coordinator has informed the board that she needs to step down from her position at the end of May. The coordinator is the “face” and “voice” of the co-op. This part-time

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position (approximately 34 hours per month) will involve handling all incoming phone calls, mail, and emails as well as sales transactions, answering questions, maintaining member records, the co-op Website, and assisting with publicity and marketing materials. In addition, the coordinator will work with the mill that produces wood pellets for (and the trucking firm that delivers them to) our members, as well as our solar PV installation and cold climate heat pump partners, and other duties assigned by the board.

They are looking for a dedicated, self-motivated individual with strong communication skills who is proficient with email, Excel, Word, and able to learn new computer software quickly and thoroughly. Website and social networking savvy is essential and familiarity with energy efficiency and renewable energy is a plus. Opportunities for growth of responsibilities as well as pay. For more details or a full job description contact Acorn at (802)385-1911 or [info@acornenergy-coop.com](mailto:info@acornenergy-coop.com). Submission deadline is Monday, April 13.

## **Instream Emergency Protective Measures**

In March the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) announced details of how a municipality can authorize Emergency Protective Measures for work in streams and rivers immediately following a disaster. Immediately following Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, ANR's river engineers were overwhelmed with the requests to get in the river and "fix" problems. Because there was no guidance in place, and no oversight, some rivers were unnecessarily dredged, bermed, and channelized in ways that damaged the long term health of the river and the surrounding infrastructure.

Following Irene, the legislature tasked ANR to come up with an easily followed process that would allow "Emergency Protective Measures" to be conducted in rivers with authorization of the municipality rather than ANR river engineers. Work in rivers can now be authorized by a municipality as long as the work meets certain guidelines, including that the work cannot possibly wait, that only the minimum will be done to protect homes and other infrastructure, and/or it is

necessary to preserve life.

Once an approval is granted by the municipality, they must report to ANR within 24 hours indicating the location, a description of the imminent threat to life or property and a description of what has been approved. If the work is then also authorized by ANR a more complete report will be due to ANR within 30 days. If not, the work will need to be shut down. If a request is denied by either the municipality or ANR, an appeal can then be lodged requesting further review.

A complete guide to municipal authorization and the process can be found at: [http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/MunicipalGuidance\\_EPMS.pdf](http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/MunicipalGuidance_EPMS.pdf). ACRPC will also be requesting presentations by ANR river managers to further explain the new process in the coming months.

## **Planning for Passenger Rail in Vermont**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation plans to release a comprehensive State Rail Plan that will guide future investments into the state's rail system. The Plan is set for release by mid-2015, and public meetings will be held in both White River Junction and Essex Junction to present findings and new statewide passenger rail service goals.

Assuming continued annual ridership increases in line with the 3% spikes in passenger rail ridership on the Vermonter and Ethan Allen Amtrak rail lines seen in recent years, attaining the 2011 Comprehensive Energy Plan goals of 400,000 passengers per year will be achievable. To reach this goal, the State is mulling whether to open more stations, establish new rail routes, and potentially extend the Vermont line to Montreal for the first time in twenty years. Further background information on the proposed Plan is available here: [http://www.trorc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/VTRailPlan\\_Bulletin2\\_031215.pdf](http://www.trorc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/VTRailPlan_Bulletin2_031215.pdf).

# Events/Grants

## **2015 Vermont Better Backroads Grant Applications**

The Vermont Better Backroads Program is pleased to announce the 18th year of funding to support projects on town or private roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by VTrans and ANR. The Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, which are subject to availability, will be distributed as small grants to municipalities and local organizations to address town or private road erosion problems.

All applications are due by 5:00pm on Friday, May 15th. Grant applications can be downloaded here: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/better-back-roads>. To have an application mailed to you, contact Alan May at (802) 828-4585.

## **Rural Fire Protection Grant Program**

The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is pleased to announce the 17th year of funding (pending Vermont Legislative approval) to enable towns to improve fire suppression capabilities. The goals of the program are to: (1) save lives by reducing response time and improving both public and firefighter safety; (2) enable fire fighters to have quicker, easier, and safer year-round drafting capability; (3) reduce risks to property and natural resources, both public and private; and (4) lower insurance premiums, both public and private.

Grant Info: Vermont towns and fire departments are eligible for grant funding. The maximum grant award is \$4,000 per project/system, with a 25% local match required. The installation of new dry hydrants and other types of rural water supplies is still the priority of the program, but eligible projects also include repair/upgrade, replacement, and relocation of existing rural water supplies, whether previously grant funded or not. Application deadlines are June 1st and August 1st. Download the application packet here: <http://www.vacd.org/rfp>.

To have an application packet mailed to you, contact Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Program Manager, at (802) 828-4582 or [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com).

NOTE: Because they are towns that have not yet completed a grant funded Rural Fire Protection system, applications from Panton, Ripton & Vergennes will be given top priority for grant funding.

## **2015 Sustainable Living Expo**

The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and the Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op will present the 2015 Sustainable Living Expo on Saturday, April 11th at Middlebury Union High School, from 9:00am-4:00pm. The snow date is April 18th.

The Expo will feature over 50 exhibits and 24 workshops, as well as continuous music, children's programs, and local foods. The attendance fee is \$5 for adults, students, and children over 12, and \$2 for children under 12. There will be a variety of workshops in each of six areas: Local Food, Renewable Energy, Green Housing, Integrative Health, Empowered Communities, and Healthy Ecosystems.

### *Children's Renewable Energy Activities*

Children's Renewable Energy Activities will be offered throughout the day by the Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP), including hands-on generation stations where children can test solar panels, ride the energy bike to generate light; make pinwheels, and make circuits. There will be sailboat sail designing and wind racing, as well as building and testing "pet" solar cars. Children's programs are included in the attendance fee, courtesy of SunCommon.

### *Volunteers Wanted*

Help make the Sustainable Living Expo an enriching experience for everyone - become a Volunteer! There are lots of opportunities for helping out at the Expo, from setting up Friday night, greeting people at the

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front table, assisting exhibitors, monitoring workshops, directing traffic, and posting lawn signs. There are lots of benefits to being a Volunteer, too. You can get first-hand experience at event planning, meet new people, and have fun. You will also receive FREE admission, FREE coffee, and a FREE Expo t-shirt! Register here to be an Expo Volunteer: <http://acornvt.org/sle2015>

## **VELCO's 2015 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan**

The Vermont Electric Power Company will be holding public meetings to discuss their 2015 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. The plan identifies transmission investments that may be needed to ensure the future reliability of the system.

Public outreach will occur in the months of April and May, including two public gatherings and a series of presentations to be held around the state as part of RPC meetings and other forums. If you should be unable to attend one of the public sessions and still wish to provide comments, VELCO will collect electronic comments via a specially-hosted website. A copy of the draft plan is available to view on the VELCO website here: [http://www.velco.com/assets/documents/2015Plan\\_PublicDraft-web.pdf](http://www.velco.com/assets/documents/2015Plan_PublicDraft-web.pdf).

The two public gatherings are as follows: (1) Wednesday, April 8th 6:00-8:00pm at the GMP Energy Innovation Center, 50 Merchants Row, Rutland and (2) Wednesday, April 15th 10:00am-1:00pm at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier.

## **SOUL Tree Stewards Program Registration**

The Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) Tree Steward Program trains stewards and advocates for the trees, forests, and green spaces in which we live, work, and play. Course topics include tree

biology, health, and identification, tools for assessing and understanding trees in your community, and the components of a vibrant urban/community forestry program. With 15 years of course offerings and more than 400 program participants, this educational and leadership training is a great opportunity for engaged Vermont citizens.

SOUL is offered by the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, a joint initiative of University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation. The program includes four Wednesday evening classes (three of which have passed) and one full-day Saturday class, all offered in-person at the Middlebury UVM Extension office. Participants are expected to attend all classes.

When: Wednesday April 8th, 5:30-8:00pm and Saturday, April 18th, 9:00am-4:00pm

Where: Middlebury UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury, VT

Cost: \$60

Registration details: Registration fee covers guest speakers, program materials, and lunch on the Saturday session. Registration limited to 25 participants.

For more information and to register visit:

<http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org/get-involved/tree-stewards/2015-soul-program-information>

Contact Elise Schadler with any questions at Elise.Schadler@uvm.edu or (802)656-2657.

# Events/Grants

## **WNRCD's Annual Tree and Trout Sales!**

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) announces that the 32nd Annual Tree and Shrub Sale will be held on April 25th, 2015!

See the Tree Sale Brochure to Order:

<http://winooskinrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-Tree-Sale-Brochure.pdf>

WNRCD is also hosting a Spring Trout Sale. Orders will be taken until April 10th. Smaller fish must be picked up on April 29th between 4:30 and 6:00 PM in Waterbury, Vermont. Larger fish will be delivered directly to ponds that same day.

WNRCD is committed to offering this sale as a way to promote the planting of trees and shrubs throughout Vermont's landscape. Furthermore, it is a fundraiser for the Winooski NRCD. Funds raised from the Tree and Trout Sales enable them to bring workshops, educational information, and high-quality conservation programs to the people in their District.

For more information about the Tree and Trout Sales, please contact Sophie Sauvé, WNRCD District Manager, [sophie@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:sophie@winooskinrcd.org) or visit their website: <http://winooskinrcd.org/tree-and-trout-sale-2015/>

## **Save the Date! 2015 VCDA Spring Conference**

The Vermont Community Development Association will be hosting its annual Spring Conference on Thursday, May 14th, 2015, from 9:00am-3:00pm at The Lyons Den in Randolph. The theme of this year's conference is "Age-Friendly Communities: Possibilities, Challenges, and Social & Economic Benefits." Workshops include: (1) Senior Developments-approaches and lessons learned: case studies from around Vermont, (2) Aging in Place-Enabling seniors to remain vital members of the existing community, and (3) Age-Friendly Development-"Complete Streets" and other design elements needed to create a physical environment accessible to all. Contact Theresa Bachand at VLCT for more information at (802) 229-9111 or [tbachand@vlct.org](mailto:tbachand@vlct.org).