

ACRPC

update August 2015

Monkton Wildlife Crossings Construction Begins August 2015

Ground breaking for construction of the Monkton Road wildlife crossings is scheduled for the week of Aug 17. This unique project, allowing thousands of salamanders and other wildlife access to their critical habitat that is bisected by the Monkton Vergennes Road, has been made possible with both public and private funding. On Monday August 10, the Lewis Creek Association (LCA) will present the Monkton Select Board with a check for \$119,214.29 for the \$290,000 project.

These crossings consist of two large concrete culverts with a natural bottom. Concrete walls will guide and funnel the amphibians into the culverts during their spring and fall migrations. These wildlife culverts will be large enough to accommodate other wildlife known to cross here such as bobcat. As humans use the Monkton-Vergennes Road to commute between work, home and recreation; wildlife needing access between upland habitat and wetlands, severed by the road, also travel in this corridor. The rare blue-spotted salamander is among this regionally-significant group of amphibians that inhabit the rich natural area surrounding this increasingly busy road.

Commission Calendar

August 2015

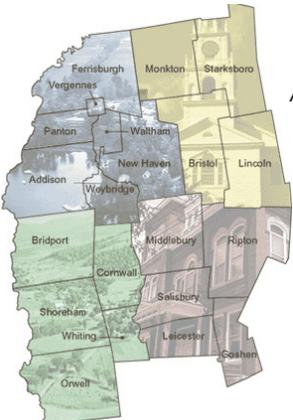
20	7:00pm	ACSWMD Mtg.
26	6:30pm	Executive Board Mtg.
		<u>NO AUGUST 2015 FULL COMMISSION MEETING</u>

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

The Monkton Conservation Commission (MCC) began this volunteer effort over ten years ago. As knowledgeable and dedicated citizens, they worked tirelessly to protect these vulnerable species. The MCC along with the dozens of area residents spent hundreds of hours on rainy spring nights monitoring the diversity of species and mortality rates in the Huizenga swamp area. In 2008 the Lewis Creek Association joined the effort to help raise the funds needed to match the Vermont Agency of Transportation Federal Highway Administration grant of \$150,000 and a Vermont Fish and Wildlife State Wildlife Action Grant of \$45,000. LCA is pleased to have worked with both the Monkton Conservation Commission and the Select Board on this important wildlife project. These small and mostly unseen animals attracted support from hundreds of donors with gifts ranging from \$5.00 to \$15,000.

The Town of Monkton has hired S. D. Ireland of Williston, VT as the contractor for this local project.

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Grants, Events & Workshops

ect that has enjoyed global attention. Construction is anticipated to begin the week of August 17, 2015; and will be fully complete by October, 2015. The engineering firm of Lamoureaux & Dickinson, of Essex Junction, VT, and herpetologist consultant Jim Andrews will remain involved with the project by working closely with S. D. Ireland throughout construction.

Contacts:

- Chris Slesar, Monkton Conservation Commission: chrisslesar@gmail.com
- Stephen Pilcher, Monkton Selectboard: spilcher@monktonvt.com
- Andrea Morgante, Lewis Creek Association: andreahinesburg@gmail.com
- Marty Illick, Lewis Creek Association: marty.illick@gmail.com

Bristol Route 116 Bridge 6 Construction Project—Bridge Closure Ends August 14th!

Project Location: Town of Bristol on VT 116 at Little Notch Creek, approximately 2.6 miles south of the intersection of VT 116 and VT 17.

This project is replacing the existing bridge with a new bridge that meets current design standards. The new bridge will be a Precast Prestressed Concrete Voids Slab Bridge, which has a relatively short construction period and comparatively low construction and maintenance costs. The bridge is being constructed with Accelerated Bridge Construction methods, which will expedite construction and reduce disturbance to the public.

Bridge Closure Period—The contractor has scheduled the bridge closure period to start on July 20th and end on August 14th, 2015. The bridge will be replaced during the closure.

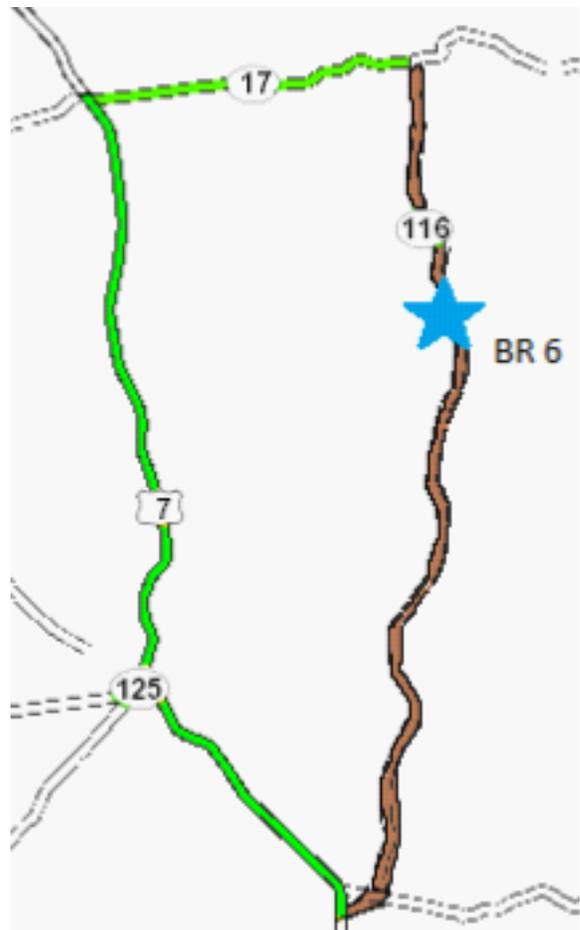
The week of August 3, 2015, crews formed and placed the curtain walls, backfilled and set approach slabs. The week of August 10, 2015, new

bridge and approach rails will be installed early week. Mid-week, the bridge is scheduled to be paved, asphalt bridge joints installed and then the entire bridge and approaches line striped. The bridge construction is on schedule.

Several of the remaining construction events are contingent upon favorable weather conditions. Construction on the project will continue after the bridge closure period ends and the bridge is re-opened. Completion is scheduled for September 2015.

Contact Francine Perkins, Project Outreach Coordinator, FRP Enterprises, LLC with any questions or concerns with regards to the project at 802-479-6994 or for recent updates visit www.roadworkupdates.com.

Please see map of construction location below.



Grants, Events & Workshops

FY16 Municipal Planning Grant Announced

Communities all around Vermont are using Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) through the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to make villages more vibrant, solve infrastructure challenges and engage citizens in addressing common concerns. This year, thanks to the accomplishments of the towns and cities receiving grants and despite the difficult state budget, the legislature kept MPG funding constant, making \$457,482 available for MPGs statewide.

Up to \$20,000 will be awarded to eligible municipalities chosen through a competitive selection process. See the FY16 MPG Program Description for details on eligibility, funding and the competitive criteria (<http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strong-communities/cd/mpg/ProgramDescriptionpdf>). Grant applications are due September 30, 2015.

A wide range of municipal planning activities are eligible for funding but projects that fit into one of the following priorities will have a higher likelihood of receiving grant funds.

1. Municipal Plan updates for the purpose of:
 - Addressing inconsistencies with statewide planning goals or the Regional Plan
2. Bylaw updates for the purpose of:
 - Correcting clear conflicts with the Municipal Plan
 - Implementing the flood resilience recommendations of the Municipal Plan
3. Special Projects for Designated Areas (Downtowns, Village Centers, New Town Centers, Neighborhood Development Areas or Growth Centers)

All applications must be submitted through the online grants management system that will be available for use by August 1st. You are strongly urged to develop the application off-line first. Please use the Sample Application located on the MPG webpage (http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants/mpgfy16) to work out

the details of your project and the narratives for your application. As of this year, any person in a Grant Administrator role may now submit an online application.

The format of the online application system has been updated. Training on using the system and preparing a good MPG application will be offered through GoTo-Meeting on Thursday, August 6th from Noon – 12:45. Contact Annina Seiler for more information and to register. Space is limited.

If you have questions or need assistance with your MPG application, please contact Claire Tebbs at ACRPC at ctebbs@acrpc.org or 802-388-3141.

When Governments Cooperate: State Government Municipal Day

A Day of Workshops for Vermont's Local Government Officials

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), invites you to participate in “When Governments Cooperate - State Government Municipal Day” at the National Life Building in Montpelier on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 8 am – 4:15 pm.

This is a day-long event that will include poster presentations and workshops, and the opportunity to engage with Agency staff members and municipal colleagues from across the state. Space is limited and on-line pre-registration is required.

The day begins with coffee, networking opportunities and poster presentations by a wide variety of State programs. The kick-off plenary session will feature a panel discussion focusing on Vermont's new Clean Water Law. This overview of the recently passed law will cover impacts on local communities around the State and the status of the law's implementation. There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes both morning coffee and a buffet-style lunch by the New England

Grants, Events & Workshops

Culinary Institute at the National Life cafeteria.

Agenda, workshop descriptions and general information: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/mtdc.htm>

On-line registration: <http://state-government-municipal-day-2015-registration.eventbrite.com>

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance

Supporting local food production can improve economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses and give residents better access to healthy, fresh food. It can also spur revitalization of a main street, downtown, or neighborhood by bringing new activity. Communities interested in these benefits are invited to apply for technical assistance from the Local Foods, Local Places Program. The application deadline is September 15, 2015 at midnight.

Local Foods, Local Places will provide direct technical support to selected communities. A team of experts will help community members develop action plans that use local foods to support healthy families and communities and to drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. The assistance process features a community workshop that brings people together to develop shared goals and steps to achieve them.

Representatives of communities (including neighborhoods or main street districts) anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply. We encourage applications from communities that are economically challenged and in the early phases of their efforts to promote local foods and community revitalization. Special consideration will be given to communities in federally designated Promise Zones or USDA StrikeForce counties.

Local Foods, Local Places is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the

Delta Regional Authority, and the White House Rural Council.

For more information and a link to the application, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places>.

Global Green Technical Assistance

Global Green is accepting applications for no-cost technical assistance that can help communities create greener, more equitable, and more vibrant neighborhoods. The assistance uses Global Green's sustainable neighborhood assessment tool, which is based on the LEED for Neighborhood Development standard, a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resource-efficient, and equitable. This free assistance is being provided under a grant to Global Green from EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities' Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program.

Eligible applicants are local and tribal governments. The application deadline is July 17, 2015 at midnight.

For more information and the application form, visit <http://www.globalgreen.org/press/gxocudahx8g29no-qxp3knsalyr3hlc>.