



ACRPC

update June 2011

Flood Recovery: What Communities & Individuals Should be Doing Now

A number of communities have suffered significant damage from recent flooding. Recovery efforts have

Commission Calendar

June 2011

6	4:00pm	Energy Committee
7	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
7	8:30-10:30am	Forest Stewardship Project Meeting
8	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
9	7:00pm	Community Emergency Response Teams, Middlebury Police Dept.
10	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board
15	7:00pm	Transportation Advisory Committee
16	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District
24	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board
22	7:00pm	ACRPC Executive Board
22	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee
20	6:00-8:30pm	Brownfields Committee
28	1:00-3:30pm	Western Rail Meeting
28	7:00-9:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
29	4:30-7:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
30	5:00-6:30pm	ACORN Network

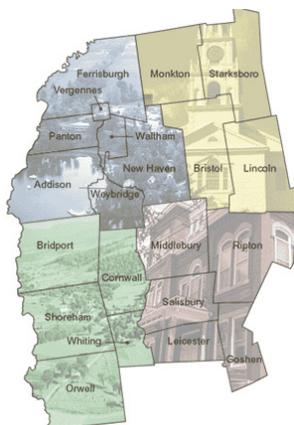
begun and could eventually include monetary help from the federal government. The process of obtaining funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun, and the state of Vermont is working to get through the process as quickly as possible. Local communities should not delay in making repairs or cleaning up; if Vermont qualifies for FEMA assistance, those funds serve to reimburse communities for at least 75% of those costs. The process of getting FEMA assistance and what communities should be doing now:

1. Cities and towns should keep close track of all recovery costs.
2. Communities should compile all costs and report them to Vermont Emergency Management.
3. VEM will work with the Agency of Transportation to verify some of the costs.
4. VEM and AOT will then do a joint local/state/FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

If Vermont shows at least \$1-million in verified state-wide damages, individual counties would then have to meet a pre-established threshold to qualify for a FEMA declaration. That level is total qualified public damages of \$3.27 per capita in that county. These are not the only factors involved in receiving a Public Assistance disaster declaration, but the monetary levels are the biggest indicator.

Aid to individuals, private homeowners, business owners, renters, and others is more difficult to come by and Vermont has not qualified for so-called "Individual Assistance" since 1998. However, several state agencies and the office of Governor Peter Shumlin are exploring all avenues to provide relief.

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
Fax: 802.388.0038

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.

News / Events

The most likely avenue could be Small Business Administration loans (<http://www.sba.gov/taxonomy/term/99>). These funds are advertised as below-market interest rate loans used to help individuals recover. They would be made available to homeowners, business owners, some non-profits, and renters to recoup uninsured flood losses.

What homeowners and individuals should be doing now:

1. Ensure your home is safe to return to by having your electrical and heating systems inspected by qualified professionals.
2. Begin cleanup right away. Delay in cleaning up can cause things like mildew and make cleanup more difficult.
3. Contact your insurance company.
4. Keep close records of how much it costs to clean your home and how much of your property has been lost.
5. REPORT ALL DAMAGES/LOSSES AND RECOVERY COSTS TO YOUR CITY OR TOWN.

Your community representative will work with the state to see if your recovery costs qualify for assistance. For more information contact Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or at tbouton@acrpc.org.

Your Chance To Weigh in on State's Comprehensive Energy Plan

*Leahy Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center
Thurs., June 16th, 6:00-9:00pm*

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced a series of public forums to guide the state in making complex and strategic choices on how Vermont will meet its energy needs far into the future.

The input is part of the Department of Public Service's much-needed update to Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan, last officially adopted in 1998. The new plan is due for completion on Oct. 15.

“Without a current, comprehensive and coordinated approach to meeting our energy needs, Vermont will

face significant challenges,” Gov. Shumlin said.

To hear from Vermonters on this important topic, the DPS recently held two initial public stakeholder meetings on the plan. Now, prior to a more aggressive public outreach, public hearings, and official public comment period in August, the DPS is hosting a series of gatherings in a handful of regions across Vermont to hear from energy-interested Vermonters.

In cooperation with regional planning commissions, the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the DPS is coordinating four focused forums to hear from Vermonters, including the network of 100 community energy committees, about the policies, programs and practices that would help Vermont meet its energy goals.

The DPS is also coordinating closely with other state agencies that have important roles to play in the conversation, including the agencies of natural resources, transportation, commerce and community development and agriculture, among others. The DPS hopes to get specific feedback on strategies for Vermont to address energy issues — and opportunities — associated with how we develop and use our land, how we move people, how we use and conserve energy and how we generate new supplies. The DPS wants to hear about plans already in place at the regional and town level and about practices that have started to make a difference for Vermont's energy future.

Please plan to join the conversation on Thursday, June 16th, 6:00pm- 9:00pm, at the Leahy Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center. For more information please, contact Kevin Lehman at kevinl@acrpc.org or 388-4458.

For more information about the Comprehensive Energy Plan update process, visit <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/pub/state-plans-compenergy.html>.

Webinars from the Fish and Wildlife Dept.

The Fish & Wildlife Department is offering a summer webinar training series, to be broadcast at the ACRPC office. Please call 388-3141 for details.

Tuesday 6/21 from 10:30 - 11:30 Habitat Blocks & Connecting Lands; The Vermont Fish & wildlife Department with help from the Vermont Land Trust has created several new datasets that are of significant use in natural resource planning for both towns and regions. Habitat blocks show areas of natural cover separated by roads and development and serve as an important first step in figuring out which areas are most important for maintaining interior forest conditions and biological diversity. This webinar will begin with an in-depth description of how the habitat blocks and wildlife road crossings datasets were made, while the second half will focus on their uses in a planning context.

Tuesday 7/5 from 10:30 to 11:30 Deer Wintering Areas and the Vermont State Wetlands Inventory; New versions of old favorites. Fish & Wildlife Biologists have revised the older version of the deer wintering areas dataset. The first half of this session will focus on this new data release, how it was done, and how to use it appropriately in a planning context. The State Wetlands office has recently updated the Wetland Rules and made changes to the Vermont State Wetlands Inventory (VSWI) to include more wetlands than previous versions. Don't miss these important updates. (Everett Marshall VFWD, Shannon Morisson, DEC)

Tuesday 7/19 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Town Plan Review; Vermont Natural Resources Council has completed a review of all town plans and municipal bylaws in the state with respect to their treatment of fish & wildlife resources. The report is an update of a similar study done in 2000 and documents the progress and shortcomings in natural resource protection over the last ten years as well as the challenges and opportunities for future years. This session will highlight the major findings of the report and discuss implications for how municipalities can continue to strengthen planning for

fish and wildlife conservation. (Jamey Fidel & Brian Shupe, VNRC & Jens Hilke VFWD) (<http://www.vnrc.org/forest/hot-issues/report-release-wildlife-considerations-in-local-planning/>)

Wednesday 8/17 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Subdivision Trends; Vermont Natural Resources Council recently studied Grand List data from 2003 and 2009 to establish a database of parcels of land in the state, compiled by class size, to quantify the extent of subdivision over the last decade, and the degree to which subdivision is affecting the long-term viability of forestland in Vermont. The study highlights recent changes to parcel size and ownership patterns, implications for land use planning, forest management and conservation, and provides recommendations for future action to track and address subdivision patterns in Vermont. Additionally, eight towns were studied in detail to determine whether certain zoning or subdivision policies promote or discourage viable parcel sizes for resource management. Participants will be able to access an interactive webpage which provides statewide maps and subdivision and land classification trend information for every municipality in Vermont. (Jamey Fidel & Brian Shupe, VNRC) (<http://svr3.acornhost.com/~vnrcorg/report/>)

Broadband Adoption Planning

ACRPC has created a Regional Technology Team to develop a strategic plan that identifies needs and opportunities related to new technologies, provide strategies to drive adoption of broadband, identify key partnerships that will benefit from the coordinated use of information technology (such as government services, education, health care, business, etc.) and set targets for improvement among those key partnerships. We are doing this in concert with the other 10 Regional Planning Commissions and the project is coordinated by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA). Participants will also identify broadband technology gaps, set achievable goals for improving use, and convene local and regional events to inform the public about Regional and State Telecommunications Plans.

Grants

To find out more, contact Kevin Lehman at kevinl@acrpc.org or 388-3141.

For more information: Vermont has launched a new site <http://www.broadbandvt.org/> that not only helps explain all of the initiatives that are planned or underway, but also gives you the opportunity to help the state identify gaps in coverage and the current speed of service at your home or business (check out the “Speed Test”). You are also encouraged to visit the websites of the many service providers.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources SFY 2012 Ecosystem Restoration Grants

As part of the Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) on-going efforts to reduce surface water pollution from phosphorus and sediment, the fiscal year 2012 state budget includes capital funds to support ecosystem restoration projects. **DEC is currently seeking project pre-proposals due by July 15, 2011.** Typical project budgets range between \$10,000 and \$75,000.

DEC is specifically interested in proposals designed to improve water quality, including but not limited to projects that:

- improve stream stability
- incorporate the science of fluvial geomorphology in river corridor management decisions
- protect against flood hazards
- improve in-stream and riparian habitat
- mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff from developed land areas
- promote low impact development practices
- protect and restore riparian wetlands
- re-establish lake shoreline native vegetation and related shoreline erosion corrections
- directly address in-lake (internal) phosphorus loading conditions
- enhance the environmental sustainability of agricultural lands

The goal of the Ecosystem Restoration Grants program is to reduce the long-term nutrient and sediment loading from, and/or increase nutrient and sediment

storage in, Vermont watersheds.

Pre-proposals should be submitted in electronic format (PDF preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to Heather Bullett (heather.bullett@state.vt.us). The deadline for submission is 4:00 pm on Friday, July 15, 2011.

For additional information or questions regarding the pre-proposal process, please contact Eric Smeltzer at: 802-241-3792 or eric.smeltzer@state.vt.us.