



# ACRPC

*update*

may 2005

## commission calendar

MAY	2	7:00 p.m. Natural Resources Committee Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	9	1:00 p.m. Otter Creek Advisory Committee Meeting  Otter Creek Basin Planning Location: Farm Service Agency Service Center, Catamount Park, Middlebury Info: Ethan Swift, ethan.swift@anr.state.vt.us
	11	ACRPC Annual Meeting Location: Dog Team Tavern, New Haven
	18	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	25	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
JUNE	8	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	9	7:00 p.m. VLCT Planning & Zoning Workshop Location: VIT, Hannaford Ctr., Middlebury  Topic: Attracting Development Downtown
	29	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting

## New Transportation Planner On Board at ACRPC

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has hired Richard Kehne as its new Transportation Planner. Richard was born and raised in western Maryland and studied electrical engineering and architecture at the University of Maryland. Most recently, Richard has worked for the Vermont Agency of Transportation where he spent roughly four years doing roadway design work.

His last year and a half at VTrans was spent working as a Transportation Planning Coordinator for the Policy and Planning Division. As a coordinator, his primary responsibility was to act as a liaison between VTrans, two regional planning commissions (Southern Windsor and Two Rivers Ottauquechee), and the local municipalities in those regions. It was also to ensure that local needs and concerns were being represented in the agency, and in a reciprocal way, that the regions and municipalities were kept informed of VTrans' decisions and activities.

In Richard's time at VTrans, he came to appreciate the importance and complexity of the transportation system. It is an extensive and vastly expensive piece of infrastructure that requires constant and diligent attention to make it best serve our needs. This responsibility is often borne by various state and federal agencies, but a great deal also lies on the shoulders of the local municipalities.

As your transportation planner here at the Regional Planning Commission, Richard will do his best to help municipalities identify their local and regional transportation needs and goals. He will work to coordinate ACRPC's efforts with other transportation related entities, and to ensure that our voice is heard in higher level planning.

Richard looks forward to working with ACRPC's municipalities in the near future, and he will be contacting each community in the near future. In the meantime, if he can be of any assistance, please contact him at the ACRPC office at (802) 388-3141 or rkehne@sover.net.

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.

## Funds for Forest Management

There is limited funding available this year for cost-share programs through the federal Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).

FLEP funds can be used by landowners to develop management plans for woodlands, make timber stand improvements, control invasive plants, work on forest health issues, or similar activities.

Interested property owners should contact the county forester to apply. For more information contact ANR's Forestry Division at 802-241-3677.

Landowners interested in separate funding for forest practices related to wildlife such as restoration of riparian corridors or early successional habitat, or other improvements for sensitive species habitats should contact the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service to inquire about funds through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Contact NRCS at (802) 951-6795 for more information.

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## Buildout Software

The Community Build-Out Analysis software developed by ACRPC and C.L. Davis Consulting Associates is nearing completion of a significant upgrade to version 2.0. The new version allows for several additional features, including:

- Use of Overlay Districts
- Road Frontage based build-outs
- Support for building polygons in Commercial/Industrial districts

A new manual is also in the works describing the added features. Upon completion, probably next month, the software will be available from the Center for Rural Studies website at UVM. ([crs.uvm.edu/cpdp/buildout](http://crs.uvm.edu/cpdp/buildout)). We thank the Center for Rural Studies for their continued funding of this project. Contact Kevin Behm, 388-3141 or [kbehm@sover.net](mailto:kbehm@sover.net) for more information.

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## Disaster Headed our Way

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee is poised to host the largest disaster drill this area has seen in recent memory. The drill is being developed with the assistance of FEMA and the EPA as part of their Cher Cap program. The Cher Cap program is a federally supported nationwide program designed to test the capabilities of local first responders and the effectiveness of their emergency plans.

The drill scenario for May 21 has been designed to test the abilities of Orwell, Porter Medical Center and surrounding communities in the event of a catastrophic chemical spill. Five local fire departments, five rescue organizations, the State Haz-mat team, Local police agencies, the Counseling Service of Ad-

dison County (CSAC), the new mobile command post and dozens of volunteer "victims" will be involved. With as many as 150 participants, every detail must be ironed out right down to meals and porta-potties for the volunteers.

If the drill is deemed a success, ACEPC members plan to take the scenario on the road to Starksboro later in the summer and eventually to other areas of the region. As with any regional exercise of this sort, the more the merrier. Volunteers will be appreciated whether as observers or as players and all are welcome. However, volunteers will need to be pre-registered so we can plan for them. To volunteer, contact Tim Bouton 388-3141 or [tbouton@sover.net](mailto:tbouton@sover.net).

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## Riparian Plantings

We all know that spring is the time to plant. In recent years, landowners around the Addison Region have been planting trees and shrubs along streams and other water bodies (both large and small).

This natural vegetation (as opposed to mowed lawn, hay field or agricultural crops) along a stream helps to stabilize soil, prevent erosion, shade the water and reduce water temperatures, and provide food and habitat for wildlife.

For more information about programs that fund riparian plantings, native tree and shrub species that will thrive along shorelines, or how to use plants for shoreline stabilization contact Nell Fraser, [nfraser@sover.net](mailto:nfraser@sover.net) or 388-3141. For lakeshore property owners, look for a copy of the *Shoreline Stabilization Handbook for Lake Champlain and Other Inland Lakes* at your town office or from ACRPC.

## Get Your Hands Dirty

Volunteers are needed for the riparian plantings on the Middlebury River (May 5, 6 and 7) and the Lemon Fair River at Richville Pond on May 14. Contact Nell Fraser, [nfraser@sover.net](mailto:nfraser@sover.net) or 388-3141, for more details.

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## Chapter 117 Update

More information and sample materials for local boards and officials related to Chapter 117 changes are being added to the VPIC website ([www.vpic.org](http://www.vpic.org)). Recent postings include:

Sample bylaw language and definitions that address the sections of statute (4412, 4413, 4462, 4464 and 4471 of 24 V.S.A Chapter 117) that take effect September 1, 2005.

The Manual of Procedures for Administration and Enforcement of Vermont Zoning Bylaws, which provides sample language and commentary for updating the procedural sections of municipal zoning bylaws to meet the new requirements of Chapter 117.

The "Big P" Permit Notice Poster, an 11"x17" notice meant to be posted at any project for which a permit has been issued. It has spaces for information on the type of permit, the appeal deadline and public hearing information.

ACRPC also has materials related to the requirement that all "Appropriate Municipal Panels" (Selectboards, Planning Commissions, Zoning or Development Review Boards) adopt Rules of Procedure and a Conflict of Interest policy by September 1.