



ACRPC

update

November 2013

Incorporating Flood Resilience Measures in Municipal and Regional Plans

Severe flooding can have devastating effects on Vermont communities, destroying homes and businesses and washing away roads and other critical infrastructure. While Tropical Storm Irene brought these issues into sharp focus, storms cause flood-related damage every year and, because of the atmospheric effects of a

warming climate, the frequency and severity of these events is bound to increase. It is, therefore, essential that towns, villages, and regions conduct the planning that is necessary to ensure that communities are resilient in the face of floods and other natural disasters.



Commission Calendar

Nov 2013

13	9:00 a	Pulp Mill Bridge Sidewalk Committee
13	7:00 p	Full Commission Meeting & Vermont Gas Presentation
20	6:00 p - 8:30 p	State Transportation Board Hearing (in lieu of TAC meeting)
21	6:00 p	Addison County Solid Waste District Meeting
25	7:00 p	Natural Resource Committee
27	6:30 p	Executive Board Meeting
28-29		Holiday - Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

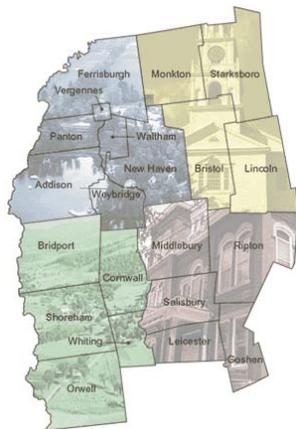
The Vermont Planning and Development Act was amended in 2013 to add certain requirements related to flood resilience for municipal and regional plans. This legislation includes the following provisions:

A new state planning goal has been added to 24 V.S.A. Section 4302. Regional plans are required to be consistent with these goals and if a town or village develops a municipal plan, it must be consistent with this goal (and the other 13 goals included in Section 4302) for that plan to be approved by their regional planning commission. The new goal states:

- (C) (14) To encourage flood resilient communities.
- (A) New development in identified flood hazard, fluvial erosion, and river corridor protection areas should be avoided. If new development is to be built in such areas, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion.
- (B) The protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be encouraged.
- (C) Flood emergency preparedness and response planning should be encouraged

A requirement that municipal plans include a section dealing specifically with flood resilience (24 V.S.A. Section 4382):

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

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News



(12) (A) A flood resilience plan that:

(i) Identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Section 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and

(ii) Recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (12)(A) (i) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.

(B) A flood resilience plan may reference an existing local hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. Section 201.6.

A requirement that regional plans include an element dealing specifically with flood resilience (24 V.S.A. Section 4348):

(11)(A) A flood resilience element that:

(i) Identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Section 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and

(ii) Recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (11)(A) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and public investments.

(B) A flood resilience element may reference an existing regional hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R.

Section 201.6.

These new plan sections, or elements, must include the appropriate maps to delineate areas subject to flooding or erosive damage from floods and areas that need to be protected to limit flood-related damage. Municipalities and regional planning commissions should work closely with the Agency of Natural Resources to obtain and refine these maps. The new plan maps, policies, and strategies may supplement existing references to flood resilience that many plans already include in other sections -such as those dealing with land use, transportation, and natural resources. The plans also may reference hazard mitigation plans, and a hazard mitigation plan may be explicitly incorporated in the municipal or regional plan to fulfill this requirement.

Several existing statutory goals and plan requirements already relate to flood resilience. For example, the planning goals are intended to “encourage the appropriate development of all lands...in a manner which will promote the public health, safety against fire, floods, explosions, and other dangers,...and to provide means and methods for the municipalities and regions of this State to plan for the prevention, minimization, and future elimination of such land development problems...” Municipal plans are directed to include a land use plan, “consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, indicating those areas proposed for...open spaces reserved for floodplain, wetland protection, or other conservation purposes.”

These new plan elements and related maps will be important tools to help ensure community resilience in the future. The plans should include specific recommendations for action that will lead to implementation of regulations, development of communication links and organizational relationships, and public and private investments that will promote resilience. Failure to plan, and failure to act on those plans, would prove costly and could lead to unnecessary and potentially tragic personal and economic losses.

For further information on this topic, contact Tim Boutin at 802.388.3141 or via email at tbouton@acrpc.org.

Public Meetings

Transportation Board in Middlebury, 20 November 2013

The Vermont Transportation Board will be in Middlebury to hold a public hearing on November 20 at 6



p.m. at the Addison Country Regional Planning Commission, 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury.

There is a strong nexus between transportation, quality of life and economic development. The purpose of the hearing is to ensure that state officials understand what is important to Addison County residents.

While the Board has identified six transportation topics for discussion at the hearing, it also wants to talk about whatever transportation issues are most important to you and your community. The six pre-identified topics are:

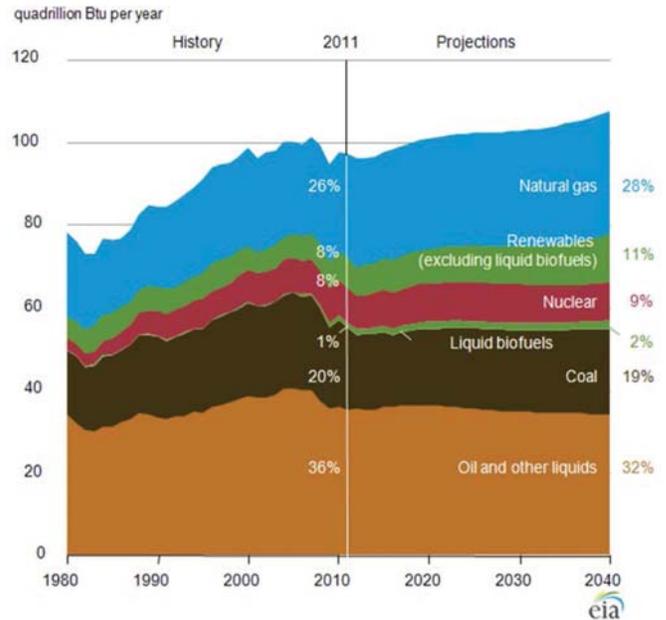
- * Transportation Revenues and Energy, including how to tax electric and alternate-fuel vehicles
- * Bike & Pedestrian Issues
- * The Future of Both Freight and Passenger Rail Services
- * Park & Ride Expansion
- * Roadway Safety
- * Public Transit - Intercity Service and Service for the Elderly

At the hearing, the Board will present background information regarding each of these topics to set the stage for discussion and comment. Following this hearing, and others like it being held around the state, the Board will submit a written report of its findings to the Vermont Legislature. Anyone who cannot make the hearing can still participate by submitting written comments via the Board's website at: <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>.

For more information, please visit the website or contact John Zicconi at john.zicconi@state.vt.us or by calling 802.828.2942.

Total Energy Study Public Meeting

The Public Service Department (PSD) is moving forward in our work on the Total Energy Study. The PSD is on pace to deliver a report to the Legislature in mid-December and to continue our analysis through



US Primary Energy Consumption by Fuel : 1980-2040

next spring. The PSD invites the public and their constituents to attend a public meeting on 14 November from 6:30-8:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the PSD's progress on the Total Energy Study and to promote feedback to guide their work. The particular focus will be the pros and cons of policy and determines what the Department has selected for further analysis.

The meeting will be held at the State House Room 11 (115 State Street, Montpelier). To connect via Webinar, preregister at : <http://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/276236743>

Persons requiring special accommodations at the meeting may e-mail PSD.TotalEnergy@state.vt.us or call 802.828.2811.

Training / News

Working Lands Enterprise Board Announces Grant Programs for 2013-2014

The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) announces the availability of over \$1 million in grant funds for investment into farm, food systems, forestry, and forest products enterprises. Applicants may apply for Working Lands funds, which are available in three investment areas:



1. Agriculture, Forestry & Forest Products: Enterprise Investments - \$3,000 - \$20,000

APPLICATION DUE: 12/11/2013
Applicant Information Sessions: November 5th and 6th, 4:30pm-6pm

2. Agriculture, Forestry & Forest Products: Working Lands Service Provider Grants - \$10,000 - \$150,000

LETTER OF INTENT DUE: 11/26/2013
FULL APPLICATION DUE: 2/28/2014

3. Agriculture, Forestry & Forest Products: Capital and Infrastructure Investments - \$15,000 - \$75,000

LETTER OF INTENT DUE: 11/26/2013
FULL APPLICATION DUE: 3/07/2014

Although the informational webinars have already taken place on 4 and 5 November, you may view/download their accompanying PowerPoint presentations at the following link:

<http://workinglands.vermont.gov/webinar>

To access the Working Lands Applicant Guides, scroll to the bottom of the following link:

<http://workinglands.vermont.gov/apply/rfp>

To view the timeline of the grant cycle, please visit the following site:

<http://workinglands.vermont.gov/node/639>

Local Implementation Grants: Request for Proposals



The Lake Champlain Basin Program is pleased to announce the 2013 Local Implementation Grant programs, including:

1. Pollution Prevention Grants (up to \$15,000 per grant),
2. Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Grants (up to \$15,000 per grant),
3. Education and Outreach Grants (up to \$7,500 per grant), and
4. Organizational Support Grants (up to \$3,000 per grant).

The LCBP anticipates awarding more than 30 grants, reflecting nearly \$315,000 in the program budget, to support local community involvement toward the implementation of the comprehensive management plan Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin plan.lcbp.org. Grant funds are anticipated through existing or imminent agreements with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the U S Environmental Protection Agency.

Grant Guidelines are available on the LCBP website:

<http://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/available-grants/>

More information about how the grant program works is available there to help you prepare a competitive application. Application Forms also are provided in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats, for your convenience. Please review all of the materials provided within the Grant Guidelines carefully before beginning

Grants Information

your application. Organizations with existing LCBP-funded projects are eligible to apply for new funding only if all project deliverables and obligations under the existing and past awards are fully up-to-date and the projects are in good standing. All grant proposals that have a fieldwork component must provide some assurance that appropriate invasive species spread prevention measures will be included in the project design. Please refer carefully to the grant application instructions for guidance.

Feel free to contact the LCBP office for assistance as you begin to develop your project. Because LCBP staff do not make award decisions, we can help you interpret the application instructions and guidelines. Completed applications must be received at the LCBP office in Grand Isle by 4:30 PM on Thursday, November 14, 2013. We hope to announce award decisions in early January 2014.

If you would like to receive a printed or email version of this grant, or if you would prefer not to receive these notices from the LCBP, please contact us at 802.372.3213 or at grants@lcbp.org.

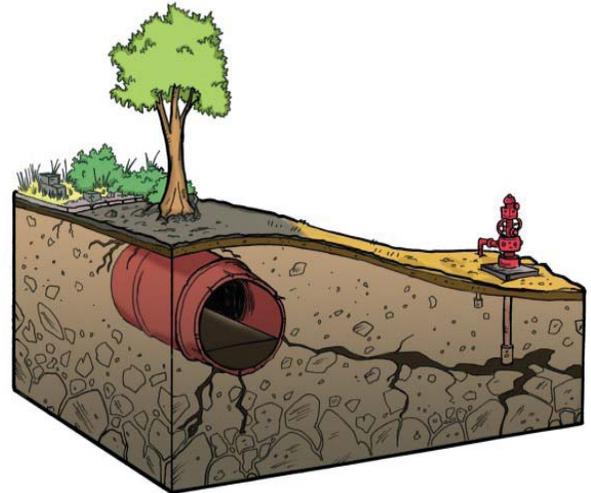
Brownfield Grants Available

The Vermont DEC Brownfields Program is accepting applications to conduct Phase I, Phase II, Corrective Action Planning and Implementation on Brownfield sites today. If you are developing a brownfield that could use some financial or technical assistance please contact Trish Coppolino, ANR Brownfields Program Manager to discuss the project at 802.249.5822 or via email Patricia.Coppolino@state.vt.us, or fill out the application at the following link:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/SMS/RCP/Loans_Grants.htm

[ANR will be reviewing and selecting sites to fund on November 4, 2013 for our first round of work.](#)

A Brownfield is: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the release or threatened release of a hazardous material.



Do not forget that the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (Kiersten Bourgeois: kiersten.bourgeois@state.vt.us), Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (Dan Potter: dpotter@swcrpc.org), Windham Regional Commission (Susan McMahon: susan@windhamregional.org) and Northwest Regional Planning Commission (Greta Brunswick: GBrunswick@nrpcvt.com) all have Revolving Loan Funds (Grants and Loans) that can assist with implementation of Corrective Action.

More information about our program can be found at the web link below:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/SMS/brownfields-home.htm>

VT Alert Launched by Emergency Management Officials



The VT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security recently announced the launch of VTAlert. This state-wide notification system

has the ability to notify you via cell phone, landline, text, e-mail and/or fax when a significant event is taking place in your neighborhood. Emergency notification of weather events, road closures, amber

Grants / Public Notices

alerts, and evacuations can be sent to certain geographic areas or contact lists using this system.

Already in use in New York State as NYAlert, the system there processes several million notifications per month. The web-based system is open to the public now for registering at <http://www.vtalert.gov>.

A second rollout is expected soon for those who will be able to send notifications. Once that system has been approved, local fire chiefs, police, road commissioners, emergency managers and others with appropriate clearances will be able to send notifications out to targeted areas as well as being able to call out special teams for deployment when applicable.

Round 6 of Hazard Mitigation funding announced



A lightning-fast round 6 has been approved for hazard mitigation funding. Up to \$4 million may be available as a result of recalculating Irene damages. Towns with current Hazard Mitigation plans and those who are working on these plans are eligible for this

75% funding. Projects can range from culvert replacement, to home buyouts, to elevating structures in the flood plain. In our region towns currently eligible are Lincoln, Ripton, Bristol, New Haven and Orwell with adopted plans as well as the towns of Ferrisburgh, Shoreham, Leicester, Cornwall, Middlebury, and Bridport.

If any other towns are interested in becoming eligible for mitigation funding there are limited funds available to support the development of plans. If your community has any interest in a mitigation planning effort, please contact Tim Bouton at ACRPC immediately. ACRPC is willing to submit another planning grant to assist as many towns as have an interest. Applications are due by 12 Nov 2013. For further information, please contact Tim Bouton at: tbouton@acrpc.org, or phone 388.3141.

Vermont Healthy Community Design Resource



The Vermont Department of Health has released the “Vermont Healthy Community Design Resource: Active Living & Healthy Eating”, now posted on their website.

In addition to the full document, each subsection is posted as stand-alone files. Click on the link to the full document :

http://healthvermont.gov/family/fit/documents/active_living_healthy_eating_community_design_resource.pdf

This resource may also be found by visiting the VDH website: <http://healthvermont.gov/>

1. Click on “Contents A-Z”
2. Click on “H”
3. Click on “Healthy Community Design”

Public Meetings for Lake Champlain Restoration

There will be a series of public meetings to discuss the restoration of Lake Champlain. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with the State of Vermont to develop a new restoration plan, referred to the Clean Water Act’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. The EPA, in partnership with the State, is hosting six meetings around the Lake Champlain Basin.

The meetings will be moderated by the Lake Champlain Basin Program staff and held around the Lake Champlain Basin. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions in an attempt to accommodate and encourage all interested persons to participate. No pre-registration is required.

Phosphorus runoff and discharges from numerous sources within the Lake Champlain Basin are causing

Public Notices

excessive growth of algae in the form of “blooms” in some areas of the lake that turn water murky shades of green, brown, or blue. Some of these algae blooms can be toxic to pets and people. Excessive phosphorus loading also increases the costs of drinking water and wastewater treatment, affects businesses that depend on clean water such as tourism and recreation, and depresses property values. Excessive phosphorus loading can also degrade the water quality of local streams and rivers that feed into Lake Champlain.

The TMDL will place a cap on the maximum amount of phosphorus that can be allowed to enter Lake Champlain and still meet Vermont’s water quality standards. It will allocate that maximum amount to each river basin draining to Lake Champlain and among the various phosphorus sources. Phosphorus sources include discharges from wastewater treatment facilities, runoff from developed lands, runoff from state and municipal road networks, runoff from agricultural lands and timber lands, and streambank erosion stemming from channel instability.

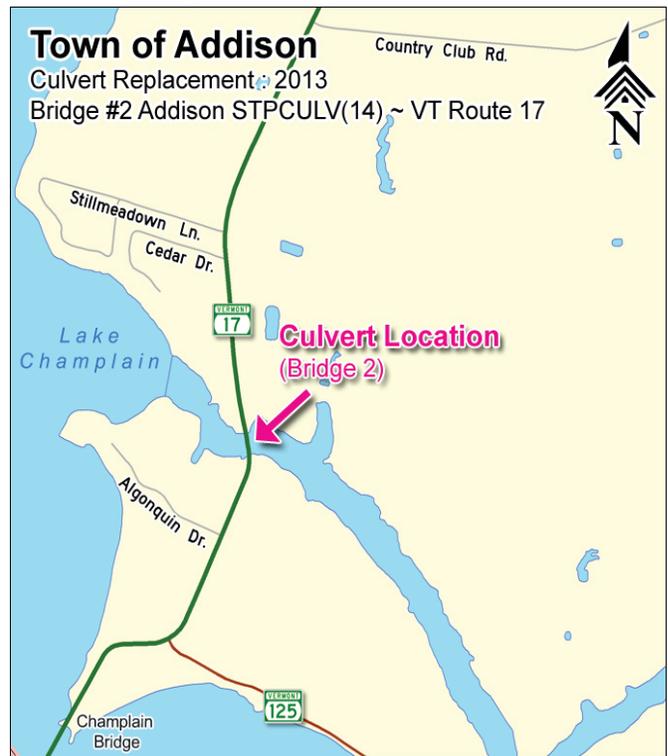
Lake Champlain Basin Phosphorus Clean Water Act TMDL Public Meetings, December, 2013

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
2 Dec 2013	2:00–4:00pm	Bliss Room, St Albans Historical Society 9 Church Street, St. Albans
2 Dec 2013	7:00–9:00pm	Swanton Municipal Building 120 First Street, Swanton
3 Dec 2013	9:30–11:30am	Auditorium at the Pavilion 109 State Street, Montpelier
10 Dec 2013	2:00–4:00pm	ECHO Lake Aquarium & Science Center 1 College Street, Burlington
10 Dec 2013	7:00–9:00pm	Middlebury Inn Founders Room 14 Court Square, Middlebury
11 Dec 2013	10:30am–12:30pm	Fox Room, Rutland Free Library 10 Court Street, Rutland

For further information, please contact Kari Dolan, Ecosystem Restoration Program Manager at 802.490.6113 or email: kari.dolan@state.vt.us, or visit: <http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov>

VT 17 in Addison is Scheduled for Closure due to Culvert Replacement

VT Route 17 in at the location 0.4 Miles north of VT Route 125, near the Champlain Bridge will be closed for an anticipated 3-days in order to accomplish a culvert installation from Hospital Creek to Lake Champlain. The road will be closed at 6:00 pm on Friday 15 Nov 2013, with a hopeful completion by Sunday evening 18 Nov 2013 (assuming the replacement goes smoothly). Message boards and signage should have been placed along VT 17 by the time this newsletter has been published.



To check on the road closure status closer to the scheduled construction period, please visit the Vermont 511 Online Map at:

<http://vtransmaps.vermont.gov/VTrans511/511live.htm>