



# ACRPC

*update* October 2011

## Post Disaster Checklist for Towns

by Tim Bouton, Emergency Management Planner

Now that Irene and Lee are still on our minds but the immediate danger has passed is a good time to re-group and evaluate the events of the last month and how you and your town have managed.

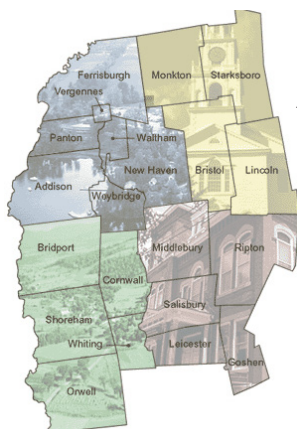
Fortunately for the Addison region, our damages were minor compared to what happened on the other side of the mountains but that leaves us with an incredible opportunity to revisit some of our actions. Just a few of the things I come up with are:

- How did your emergency plans work? Did you use them? How about personal plans?
- Did you take any actions in advance? Are there other things you wish you had done prior to the rains?
- How organized was your town emergency planning group? Were they in constant touch with each other?
- How well were volunteers and donations coordinated? What could be done better next time?
- How did evacuations and sheltering operations work? Who conducted evacuations and where did the evacuees stay?
- Who was in charge? And... were they in charge of the town's entire response, or just their department?
- How complete and useful were your resource lists? Should additional resources be added?
- Does your town have up to date codes and standards that cover town road construction? Are they following them? Have they worked?
- Does your town have driveway access standards for private drives? Would they have helped?
- How effective were your floodplain standards in protecting residents? How about erosion and/or conservation regulations? Should these be updated?
- How well did your town cooperate with surrounding towns? Would you consider joining a mutual aid agreement for the entire Addison Region?
- How are your FEMA visits doing? What information would you have liked before they showed up?
- How well have you been able to track town expenses? Manpower, equipment, volunteers, materials?
- Have you been able to document areas repeatedly subject to damages for possible improvements?
- Do you have before disaster and after disaster

## Commission Calendar

Oct. 2011	12	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
	13	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
	20	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste District
	25	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
	26	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
	31	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network

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.*

documentation to show damages?

- How well were your select board members integrated into incident operations?
- How well were you able to track events in your town? Roads closed, culverts damaged, other?

As we think through the events of the past few weeks, ask yourself these and other questions from the point of view of a municipality, a neighborhood and as a resident. Now is a great time to make needed changes while memories are still clear. Later is too late. Be prepared and remember ACRPC staff is available to help with many of these items if you feel the need.

### Congrats to Land Use Planner Claire Tebbs!

On Sept. 11th Claire welcome Innis Lea Swift Hohen-schau into the world. He weighed in at 5.12 lbs and was 18.5 inches long. Both mom and baby are healthy and doing well at home.



Claire will be on maternity leave until early January. In the meantime, please direct land use planning questions and concerns to Adam Lougee or Kevin Behm (388-3141, [alougee@acrpc.org](mailto:alougee@acrpc.org) or [kbehm@acrpc.org](mailto:kbehm@acrpc.org)).

### Vermonters May Appeal FEMA Decisions

“We understand that for people coping with loss, stress and upheaval, a letter saying they are ‘ineligible’ for FEMA assistance can be a blow,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer Craig Gilbert. “But regardless of the reason for an ineligibility letter, you can appeal our finding. When you appeal, you are asking us to review your case and we will gladly do that.”

If you believe you should be eligible for assistance or are dissatisfied with the amount you receive, you may call FEMA’s Helpline for information on how to file an appeal. Specialists are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Instructions for filing an appeal are also in the “Help After a Disaster” guide that FEMA sends to all who register for assistance.

Before appealing, be sure you have gathered any information needed, such as insurance documents or proof of home ownership. An appeal letter must be submitted within 60 days of the date on an ineligibility letter.

In many cases, an ineligibility determination occurs because certain information is missing. This information may be any one of the following:

- Incomplete or missing description of damages
- No proof of residence
- No proof of ownership
- No signature on file
- No inspection report
- Lack of a phone number to contact applicant

Other reasons for ineligibility may include:

- Damage and claims covered by insurance
- Secondary homes not being eligible for grants
- More than one application from same address
- Damage from the disaster did not cause the home to be “unsafe to live in”

“Please follow up with FEMA if you get a letter saying you are ineligible,” said Vermont Emergency

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Management Director Mike O'Neil. "It could be that once you send an appeal letter that supplies missing information or corrects wrong information, you'll be found eligible."

Anyone with questions about a letter may talk in person with a FEMA representative at a disaster recovery center. To locate a center, call the Helpline or go online to [www.fema.gov/drclocator](http://www.fema.gov/drclocator). However, it is NOT necessary to visit a center to get help. Applicants may always use the Helpline.

## **New Videos on the Vermont Byways Program**

Byways are special roads that often take you "off the beaten path" and provide access to sights and experiences you might otherwise miss. They may be rural, suburban, or urban. Vermont byways offer travelers an alternative route to enjoy beautiful scenery, cultural and historic resources, and recreational activities and more. They may be spectacular destinations or local routes long admired by a community.

Byways utilize the roadway system to link communities together that share special qualities and a unique "sense of place." They encourage voluntary partnerships to address a locally defined, common vision for a region. Byway designations, through the Vermont Byways Program, offer an opportunity for communities to identify, promote, and protect their unique qualities through tourism, economic development, and resource conservation.

Learn more about byways by watching the videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/VermontTourism> (listed along right side).

## **Financing the Working Landscape Conference**

*American Legion in Middlebury  
Nov. 10, 830am – 4:30pm*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN), and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) are pleased to

announce the launch of a local money conference to bring together the regional capital community and Champlain Valley entrepreneurs with businesses involved in food, agriculture and forestry.

The networking event is designed to educate entrepreneurs and students about different types of capital and how to prepare their businesses for capitalization. It will also explore alternative strategies for financing and showcase entrepreneurs currently looking for capital.

Entrepreneurs interested in participating in the Entrepreneurs Showcase (a 3-minute pitch) are invited to submit a short application. Details are on the ACORN website. After the showcase, there will be an opportunity for entrepreneurs, investors and capital providers to network with each other.

Admission is \$25 for the conference (students: \$15) with advanced registration before October 31 (\$30/\$20 thereafter). Admission includes a local foods lunch.

Advanced registration and additional details about the conference are online at [www.acornvt.org](http://www.acornvt.org).

## **Natural Resource Section Hearing**

*ACRPC Offices, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury  
Oct. 12, 2011, 7:30pm*

The Commission will hold a 3rd (and possibly final) hearing on the Natural Resources Section which has been revised in its entirety. The Utilities, Facilities and Services Section was also amended, specifically the Historic, Cultural, Municipal and Recreation Chapter. There were no changes to the Vision Statement or Overall Goals of the Regional Plan.

The Future Land Use Section was amended with a revised Regionally Significant Resources Map consistent with the Natural Resource Section, a revised Future Land Use map, which is a generalized composite of the land use maps from all the municipalities in the region and also a revised Regionally Approved Municipal Plan Map, which tracks the status of Mu-

# Events

municipal Plan adoption and regional review. Copies of the revised sections are available at the ACRPC office or online at [http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/Reg\\_Plan/NR\\_TOC.htm](http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/Reg_Plan/NR_TOC.htm)

There has been two public hearings on these amendments to the Regional Plan and a 3rd hearing is scheduled for October 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Addison County Regional Planning Commission's offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury.

Pending the outcome of these hearings, a vote to amend and re-adopt the Regional Plan is tentatively scheduled for ACRPC's Meeting in October on the 12th. Plan amendment and re-adoption requires a 60 percent vote of the commissioners and a majority vote of the member municipalities. If it is so approved, the plan is then immediately submitted to the municipal legislative bodies of the region. The plan or amendment takes effect within 35 days of adoption unless a majority of the region's municipal legislative bodies veto it.

We would appreciate any general comments that any of you may have with respect to the compatibility of this plan with local, regional or state agency plans. We would also request any specific comments you may have with regard to the plan amendments' compliance with 24 V.S.A. § 4302. Lastly, ACRPC's staff would be happy to discuss the proposed amendments to the plan with any of you. Please feel free to call Kevin Behm or Adam Lougee at (802) 388-3141.

## **Mitigation Training for Emergency Managers**

*FEMA Field Office, 128 Lakeside Ave, Burlington, VT  
Wed., Oct. 19, 2011; 10:00am – 2:00pm*

This course is designed to enable the non-technical emergency worker to acquire skills in use of mitigation. The course provides training in how to perform mitigation activities that are fundamental to reducing and eliminating long-term risk from hazards. It addresses the roles of the emergency program manager or other local government representatives involved in mitigation.

The goals of the course are to motivate participants to create safer communities by addressing and mitigating hazards; explore the important roles of the emergency program manager in mitigation; and enable participants to carry out mitigation responsibilities in accordance with applicable regulations and standards.

To apply, please submit a FEMA Form 119-25-1 (formerly 75-5) to the JFO Training Officer ASAP: Linda.Dobson@fema.dhs.gov.

## **Complete Streets Workshop**

*Gateway Center, 84 Fyfe Dr., Newport, VT  
Friday, Oct. 28, 2011, 9:30am - 3:00pm*

This workshop will feature Dan Burden and Gary Toth, nationally recognized authorities on walkability, bicycle/pedestrian and community-enhancing transportation design. They will introduce the Complete Streets concept, address compliance with the new statute and discuss the details of streetscape design, construction and maintenance.

Event fee per person: \$20.00 for morning only or \$35.00 for the entire day. Visit [www.vermontplanners.org/vpapcmain.html](http://www.vermontplanners.org/vpapcmain.html) or contact Faith Ingulsrud at 828-5228 or [faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us](mailto:faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us) to find out more.

## **Smart Grid 101: What Does it Mean for Vermont?**

*Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury  
Wed., Oct. 12, 8:00am – 9:30am*

During the next two years, Vermont utilities will be implementing "smart grid" upgrades to modernize and automate the state's electric grid. What does this mean? What is the timeline?

The public is invited to attend this free presentation and discussion with Amanda Beraldi of CVPS and Brian Otley of GMP. You'll learn more about the benefits and possibilities offered by smart grid technology, and how it is connected to Vermont's environmental and economic future.

Please RSVP to Sue at the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, [sue@addisoncounty.com](mailto:sue@addisoncounty.com), 388-7951x2.