

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION



News

December 2013



To receive this newsletter by e-mail instead of hardcopy, please write to:

news@trorc.org

In This Issue

News

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Grants



Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

TRORC is working with the East Central Vermont consortium to develop a vision and plan for a sustainable future.

We want to hear from you!

Share your vision of the future by visiting the website:

www.ecvermont.org

TRORC Attends the 2013 HUD Grantee Convening

TRORC's Kevin Geiger and Lorelee Morrow recently attended the 2013 HUD Grantee Convening in Washington, DC. Hundreds of representatives from HUD's Sustainable Communities gathered to discuss their best practices, exchange ideas and learn from each others experiences so that they may build stronger local and regional partnerships.

To learn more about the conference head to, <http://blog.hud.gov/index.php/2013/12/06/four-years-later-sustainable-communities-job-creation-and-shared-knowledge/>

TRORC continues to work hard on the HUD funded opportunity to create a Sustainable Communities Regional Plan that is focused on economic competitiveness, housing, transportation, climate resilience, energy, habitat, health and society in the East Central Vermont 40-town region.

If you wish to learn more, please visit ecvermont.org or contact Lorelee Morrow at 802-457-3188



Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development speaks to the national gathering of grantees, including TRORC staff at US-DOT headquarters.

Hancock Town Plan Successfully Adopted!

We are pleased to announce that TRORC has completed its work with the Town of Hancock's Planning

Commission to update and adopt the Hancock Town Plan for 2013! TRORC was requested by the Town of Hancock to act as a temporary Planning Commission for the Town, with the goal of drafting an approvable plan which preserved access to critical economic development resources.

The Hancock Selectboard adopted their newly updated Town Plan on November 19, 2013. Staff member Sam Holcomb assisted the Planning Commission throughout the update process and helped Hancock develop and incorporate in their Town Plan the new Flood Resilience chapter that will be a requirement for all Town Plans adopted after July 1, 2014.





Staff

Bob Ennis
Grant Administrator

Pete Fellows, CFM
GIS Manager

Kevin Geiger, AICP,
CFM Senior Planner

Dee Gish
Finance Manager

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director

Brian Hamlin
Planner

Samantha Holcomb
CFM Planner

Loralee Morrow, LEED
AP Regional Planner

Chris Sargent, AICP
Senior Planner

Rita Seto, AICP
Senior Planner

Ellie Ray,
Planner

Executive Committee

William B. Emmons, III
Chairperson -
Pomfret

David Brandau
Vice Chairperson -
Royalton

Paul Haskell
Secretary - Sharon

Gerald Fredrickson
Treasurer - Barnard

Frank Roderick -
Corinth

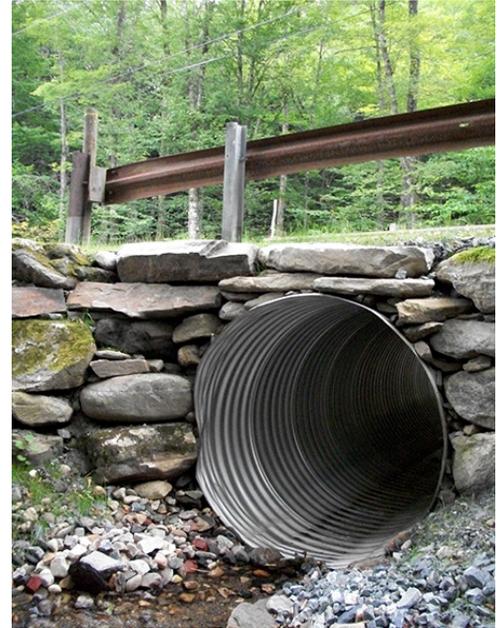
Nancy Jones -
Bradford

Did Someone Say Culverts?

TRORC staff were busy this field season as they tackled updating culvert inventories for the towns of Randolph, Plymouth, Strafford, and Pomfret. Randolph (1047), Plymouth (502) and Pomfret (668) inventories were possible through this year's Better Back Roads grants and resulted in a total of 2832 culvert conditions being updated.

Keeping your culvert inventory updated is important as it ties in with the 2013 Town Road and Bridge Standards from VTrans, which allows towns to apply for grants (Better Back Roads, Hazard Mitigation, Town Structures), compliance with the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) town match during FEMA events and allows for better budgeting for town maintenance. Check out the updated state online bridge and culvert database: www.vtculverts.org. Each town has a username/password (contact us to access your records).

If you're interested in sending us culvert updates or work with your road foreman on an inventory, please call Rita at 802-457-3188.



Municipal Planning Grants Awarded in the TRORC Region

TRORC is proud to announce, that the region has been awarded over \$51,000 in municipal planning grants. This money will go towards a wide variety of projects ranging from municipal plan updates, village master planning, capital budgeting and infrastructure planning. These projects will certainly provide a positive impact in these communities. The full list of projects can be found on trorc.org

Many of the Town Plan update projects seek to eliminate conflicts with the state planning goals or the TRORC Regional Plan based on the Enhanced Consultation Process conducted by TRORC last year.

If you have any questions regarding the MPG's in your town, please contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org



Generous Hearts Create a Conserved Forest in Bradford

Good news from Bradford. The Upper Valley Land Trust in coordination with the Bradford Conservation Commission recently acquired a 76 acre woodland parcel from Lora Chatfield. This deal will ensure that the now conserved land continues its careful stewardship for years to come.

For the full article, head over to:

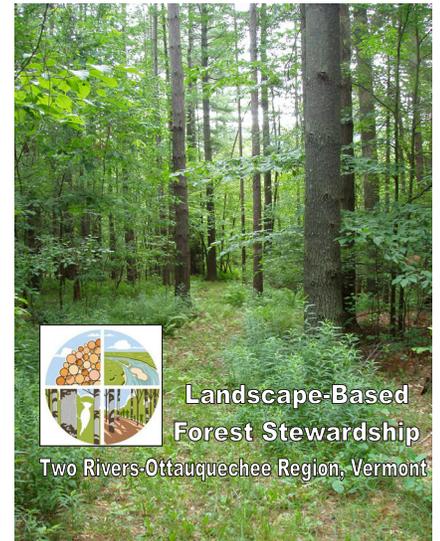
<http://www.uvlt.org/2013/11/generous-hearts-create-conserved-forest/>



Community-Based Forest Stewardship

TRORC is working with the towns of Strafford and Bradford to encourage community-based forest stewardship through a US Forest Service grant. Both Strafford and Bradford have unique forested areas in the Taylor Valley and the Wrights Mountain areas respectively. The Towns met with TRORC staff in November to compare notes about strategies that encourage wise use and conservation.

TRORC's regional forest stewardship plan is available for download at:
www.trorc.org/programs/environmental-planning



Hazard Mitigation Plans Update

After months of hard work, TRORC has submitted the first batch of its 28 Hazard Mitigation Plans to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their review and approval! Hazard Mitigation Plans for the Towns of Braintree and Rochester were submitted in late November.



FEMA

A FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan enables a town to be eligible for specific FEMA grants. The submittal of our first Hazard Mitigation Plans is an exciting milestone in TRORC's hazard mitigation planning program. The costs of preparing these plans for our communities is being borne solely by grants written by TRORC.

If you would like to know more about Hazard Mitigation Plans, or begin the process for your town, please contact Samantha (Sam) Holcomb at sholcomb@trorc.org

Transportation Chapter Approved by the Consortium. *HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Plan*



After HUD's review and approval to move forward, the Transportation Chapter was unanimously approved by voting East Central Vermont Sustainability Consortium members.

The Transportation Plan was presented at the July 24, 2013 consortium meeting. Since that time, it was opened for public comment for six weeks. Members of the consortium, transportation workgroup, other workgroups, TRORC and Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) staff provided input and comments. Those comments were incorporated into the plan.

We would like to thank the Transportation Workgroup. They worked hard to create a usable document of which we can be proud. Workgroup members include: Workgroup Chair, Aaron Brown (Vital Communities); Rita Seto (TRORC), Jason Rasmussen (SWCRPC), Van Chesnut (Advance Transit), and Anila Hood (Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont).

Announcements

Vermont's Watershed Management Division Launches New Blog

The Watershed Management Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation launched a new blog, Flow, which will highlight announcements about events, opportunities (including available grants and trainings), success stories, and science.



To see for yourself head to, <http://vtwatershedblog.com/>

New Mixed-Use Development in Downtown White River Junction

A new development by Kane Architecture in partnership with Bittinger Associates and Community Investments of South Strafford, is looking for people to take a survey regarding Co-Working in White River Junction.



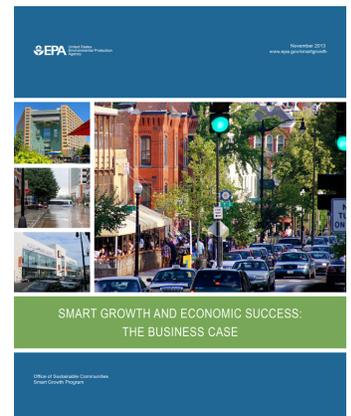
Please take a moment to fill out the survey and help out!

Survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/53WHBT3>

EPA Releases Smart Growth and Economic Success: The Business Case

A great read on the economic benefits of good planning.

The full document is available for download at: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/business_case.pdf



Karl Kemnitzer stops by for a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to show off his solar electric bike.

Upcoming Events

TRORC's mission is to advocate for the needs of our member towns, and to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life.

The Commission's staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's non-profits and businesses.

To learn more, visit our website: www.trorc.org.

December 17 - Summit on the Future of Vermont's Working Landscape

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT

For more information, please visit <http://vtrural.org/summit>

January 9- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Hartford Town Office, 171 Bridge St, White River Junction

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 802-457-3188 x13

February 11 - East Central Vermont Consortium Meeting

Free and open to the public

9:30 AM - 11:30 PM

Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction

For more information, contract Lorelee Morrow at 802-457-3188

February 20 - LEPC #12 Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location TBD, Check back with trorc.org for the latest meeting updates.

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 802-457-3188 x13

March - Orange/Windsor County Road Foreman Meeting

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Location TBD, Check back with trorc.org for the latest meeting updates.

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 802-457-3188 x13

Grants / Funding Opportunities

Food Security Infrastructure Through that Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program

The Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program serves non-profits and public bodies located in service areas of up to 20,000 in population. The funding is for capital needs of essential community facilities. In addition to food security projects, other eligible projects include those supporting child care, health care, public safety, municipal infrastructure, libraries, education and energy efficiency.

More information on the grant can be found at Common Good Vermont: <http://share.commongoodvt.org/entry/b288ffd944>

Or visit the USDA's Rural Development page at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html





Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
128 King Farm Rd
Woodstock, VT 05091