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**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 ECV website:

www.ecvermont.org

TRORC awarded Disaster Recovery Funding for Flood Resiliency Projects

In response to the pronounced and unmet need for thorough culvert inventories that will lessen towns's vulnerability to extreme rain events, TRORC has successfully applied for funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Fund to assist twelve Towns in the TRORC region. The scope of work will include updating GPS locations of culverts, updating culvert attributes (size, condition, and material based on Vermont Agency of Transportation standards), and creating new maps.

Not only will these culvert inventories help lessen vulnerability to extreme rain events, but towns will also use these inventories for budgeting purposes. Prioritized lists of culvert improvements address these vulnerabilities and improve water quality at the same time. These inventories will play an important role for Towns applying to future grants in transportation, hazard mitigation, water quality, and eligibility for FEMA reimbursements. For additional information on these CDBG-DR grants, please contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.



DHCD and TRORC Join Forces for Inaugural VERI Community Forum

TRORC and the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) invited Woodstock businesses, employees, and homeowners to attend an October 2nd community forum to learn about a project studying the Ottawaquechee River and also to gather community input on ways to protect businesses and the local economy from future floods. The community forum

was the first step in a project called the Vermont Economic Resilience Initiative (VERI). The VERI project is designed to help Woodstock evaluate the flood risk to business and infrastructure (roads, bridges, utilities, etc.), and identify the steps Woodstock and the state can take to minimize rebuilding and recovery costs and ensure businesses stay open -- saving jobs and protecting the economy. Pete Fellows presented at the forum, which was moderated by DHCD Commissioner Noelle MacKay. To learn more on this project, visit <http://tinyurl.com/opsfc5d>.



Kevin Geiger Awarded Emergency Manager of the Year Award

Congratulations goes to our Senior Planner, Kevin Geiger, who was awarded the Vermont Emergency Manager of the Year by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium! The award was presented by Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration, and Joe Flynn, Director of the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, at this year's Vermont Emergency Management Conference at the Lake Morey Inn.



Efficiency Vermont Assisting Towns in Improving Energy Efficiency in New Building Construction



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Pomfret

David Brandau
Vice Chairperson -
Royalton

Paul Haskell
Secretary - Sharon

Gerald Fredrickson
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Bradford

Earlier this year, Efficiency Vermont and Vermont's regional planning commissions hosted a series of workshops on "Municipal Requirements and Opportunities for Vermont Energy Code and Above-Code Programs." These workshops were part of a larger effort to encourage municipalities to share information on energy codes and above-code programs to individuals requesting building permits for either new construction or renovation projects, and also have towns encourage their residents and businesses to build more energy efficient buildings, as required under Act 89. Municipalities are asked to reach out to Kristin Dearborn at VEIC at kdearborn@veic.org if they are in need of additional copies of the municipal guide and any accompanying materials on the codes to help educate interested individuals.

First Round of Buy-out Reuse Grant Applications Approved

Congratulations to the following 10 Vermont towns that have been approved for planning and construction grant funding under the Buy-out Reuse Grant Program: Bethel, Braintree, Granville, Hartford, Northfield, Pittsfield, Rochester, Royalton, Rutland City, and Sharon. This competitive flood recovery funding will allow municipalities that have acquired buy-out sites in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene to reuse properties as sites for river access, park land, picnic spots, or some other interpretive site for the public benefit. A further round of grant application acceptance will be occur in late 2014 or early 2015. For additional information on this grant opportunity, please contact Kevin Geiger at kgeiger@trorc.org.



TRORC Continues to Assist Towns with Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation planning is a process that is strongly supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through which communities assess risks and identify actions to reduce vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. Without a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, a town is ineligible for specific FEMA grant funding opportunities. The most well-known example of the use of one of these grants is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which is currently being used to buy-out properties in our region and across the state that were damaged during Tropical Storm Irene.

In late July, Granville's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was formally approved by FEMA. Following this approval, the Town of Granville may now proceed with a Tropical Storm Irene buy-out for a property located on Handly Road. TRORC staff members Samantha Holcomb and Ellie Ray worked with a committee of town representatives to craft a comprehensive planning document that provides clear mitigation action items that the town will pursue over the five year lifespan of the Plan. Many congratulations go to the Town of Granville for all of the hard work over the seven months it took to complete the HMP process, from initial committee meeting to FEMA approval!



TRORC has begun working with, or is slated to begin working with, the following towns: Bethel, Bridgewater, Chelsea, Fairlee, Hancock, Hartland, Norwich, Pomfret, Royalton, Sharon, and Woodstock. If your town or organization would like to learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Plans, please contact Samantha (Sam) Holcomb at sholcomb@trorc.org.



East Central Vermont has Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which benefits all the communities in the 40-town region - not just the East Central Vermont: What We Want project. HUD awards 2 bonus points to applicants that are working within us to further the Livability Principles. Other federal entities; such as, EPA and DOT also recognize the PSS points when reviewing grant applications.

Please contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org for more information.

TRORC Approves Three New Town Plans

TRORC is pleased to recognize the towns of Chelsea, Fairlee, and Bethel for receiving town plan approval from our Board of Directors. During our Enhanced Consultation process, we identified a number of communities with plans that had some weaknesses or were inconsistent with state planning goals and policy. As a result, the TRORC region has had a number of municipal plans that were not approved. This has several unfortunate effects for our communities: First, communities without approved plans are unable to access several state grant programs. Second, municipalities are unable to join or remain in the Downtown or Village Designation program. Lastly, the state uses the number of approved plans in a region to determine the total amount of Municipal Planning Grant funds that will be available in this region, fewer approved plans means fewer dollars for our towns.



Since we completed our first Enhanced Consultation round, TRORC has been working hard with the communities that have unapproved plans to bring them into compliance with state planning goals and policy. In 2014, we have had five out of eight communities complete the plan revision process and receive plan approval from the TRORC Board. In a number of cases, major conflicts - particularly relating to land use patterns that encourage strip development and sprawl - have been resolved. Many accolades should go to the Planning Commissions and Selectboards who worked diligently with TRORC staff to find solutions to these conflict areas. In particular, the Town of Fairlee (who has not had an approved plan for over five years) made a strong effort to successfully achieve town plan approval. We appreciate the efforts of these volunteer boards and look forward to years of good planning to come!

2014 LEOPs Approved for all 30 TRORC Towns

We would like to thank each and every one of our 30 towns for updating and approving their Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) for 2014! This is an important document that is used for both planning for an incident and responding to/documenting an incident. Furthermore, these plans help the regional planning commission and Vermont Emergency Management know which key local officials to contact during an incident.



The LEOP is also one of the four basic mitigation measures that help municipalities qualify for a higher amount of state funding, as determined under Vermont's new ERAF Rule, which will take effect on October 23, 2014. If you have any questions about LEOPs or need to make a change to information included in your town's current LEOP, please contact Sam Holcomb at sholcomb@trorc.org for assistance.

Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team Attends LEPC #12 Meeting

Thanks to the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team for bringing one of their response trucks to a regional meeting in Bethel on hazardous materials response, aimed at improving the LEPC #12 response plan. Responders were given a glimpse of the team and its capacities. The state response team is available to assist towns with hazardous materials incidents of all levels. If local responders should find themselves in need of the state team, incident commanders may call 1-800-641-5005 to reach a specialist 24/7.



“East Central Vermont: What We Want” Consortium Meeting and Updates

Join TRORC and other ECV Sustainability Consortium members at the Hotel Coolidge on October 21st for a meeting to discuss our economic development action plan and what lies ahead with the sustainability grant program. Discussions will take place around the draft economic development plan, which will be available at www.ecvermont.org on October 17th in advance of the meeting. The meeting will kick off at 9:30 AM, and all members of the public are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org by Friday, October 17th if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

**The plan and meeting implement the HUD Sustainability Plan-Task 5-2f Planning for Economic Development Opportunities.*



Free Stormwater Master Planning Webinar Series

The VT Department of Environmental Conservation's Ecosystem Restoration Program has been offering a series of five free webinars on subjects related to stormwater management master planning. Each webinar covers a different model templates that may be utilized to assist in stormwater master planning, methodologies, and funding resources. Three webinars remain in the series: Hybrid Site/Community Retrofit with LID Focus (October 16th, 2 PM - 3:30 PM); Community/Watershed Approach with Build-Out and Traditional Stormwater Focus (October 30th, 2 PM - 3:30 PM); and Regional or Multi-Town Approach with Rural Road Focus (November 14th, 2 PM - 3:30 PM). Space is limited so register today! For more information and registration for this webinar series, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ne9kp5q>. For more information on Vermont Stormwater Master Planning Guidelines, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pwpfhtb>.



Vermont's Universal Recycling Law at a Glance

The Vermont Universal Recycling Law, passed in 2012, was created to increase the amount of materials that can be recycled or otherwise diverted from the state's landfills, including organic waste (i.e., food scraps and yard waste). In June of this year, ANR adopted a Material Management Plan (MMP), setting broad goals and specific action to address recyclables, organics, construction and demolition materials, and household hazardous wastes. The MMP takes a phased approach to addressing waste. As of July 1, 2014, transfer stations and drop-off centers are required to accept residential recycling. In the coming years, additional requirements will take effect, including the eventual ban on leaf/yard debris and food scraps from landfills, fee-free recycling collection from haulers, recycling containers being provided at public buildings, and haulers offering yard debris and food scrap collection. For further information on the MMP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mlbwtf6>.



Source: www.anr.state.vt.us

Loon to Lynx Symposium on the Endangered Species Act

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, ANR and a host of co-sponsors are presenting a symposium on a range of species protection and conservation issues and the legal challenges faced in protecting rare and endangered species. The all-day event will be held on October 23, 2014 at the ECHO Aquarium & Science Center in Burlington. The \$15 registration fee includes a catered lunch. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/kzqu4bd>.



Announcements

The 2014 Vermont Renewable Energy Conference and Expo

On October 16th-17th, Renewable Energy Vermont will be hosting a two-day convention on clean energy, with topics covering Vermont's current energy challenges, the state's position within the energy industry, and implementation of an integrated energy infrastructure. Join industry leaders and experts from the region to learn about the challenges and opportunities Vermont faces. Please visit <http://www.revconference.org/> for agenda and registration information.



Source: www.revermont.org

Fall Planning & Zoning Forum

Vermont League of Cities & Towns will be hosting a day-long forum to discuss pressing issues facing local officials involved in municipal planning and zoning. Discussions will cover a range of topics from legal to policy matters and all functional solutions that exist in between. The event will be held at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier on October 29, 2014. Registration is open until end of day on the 22nd. For further information on this event, visit <http://tinyurl.com/njakdy4>.



Source: www.vlct.org

Upcoming Events

October 13-19 - Vermont's New Economy Week

Various Times and Events

Join the Donella Meadows Institute for a week of events highlighting the creative approaches that are emerging across the state to build a more local, equitable, value-driven economy. For a full schedule of events and descriptions, visit <http://www.donellameadows.org/new-economy-week-2014>.

October 14:

- 6:30 PM-8:30 PM: Public Bank for Vermont, Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock
- 6 PM: New Economy Community Potluck and The Wisdom to Survive Screening, Barnard Town Hall, Barnard
- 7 PM-8:30 PM: Solarize Upper Valley Launch, Randolph Union High School, Randolph

October 16:

- 6:30 PM: People's Forum on Human Rights and the Economy, Hartford High School, White River Junction
- 7 PM: Last Call Film Screening, 110 Oakes Hall, Vermont Law School, South Royalton
- Randolph Area Community Development Corporation Annual Meeting, time and location TBD, Randolph
- 7 PM-8 PM: Solarize Upper Valley Launch, Location TBD, Woodstock

October 16 - LEPC #12 Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Royalton Barracks, Royalton

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 457-3188.

October 21 - ECV Consortium Meeting

9:30 AM

Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction

Comes join us for one of our final East Central Vermont: What We Want consortium meeting. This meeting will focus on the economic development plan for the ECV project. For more information contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org.

Upcoming Events

October 21 - TRORC Board Meeting

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock

For more information, contact Dee Gish at dgish@trorc.org.

October 23 - Loon to Lynx: Symposium in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

ECHO Lake Aquarium, Burlington

The Vermont ANR is sponsoring a symposium to mark the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. Keynote speakers and panels of experts will examine the future of conservation biology and discuss the legal challenges ahead for preserving Vermont's natural heritage. For more information on the event, visit <http://tinyurl.com/kzqu4bd>.

November 1 - Association of Vermont Conservation Commission's 2014 Annual Conservation Summit

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Montpelier High School, Montpelier

AVCC's 2014 Annual Summit will be held on Saturday, November 1. To register, visit <http://vtconservation.com/join-us>, and be sure to include a note that your payment is for conference registration. Alternatively, pay via post by sending cash/check to: AVCC, c/o VLCT, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05062. Day of registration also accepted (cash only).

November 7 - Woodstock Digital Media Festival

9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Location TBD, Woodstock

Now in its 4th year, the Woodstock Digital Media is established as a unique event where an extraordinary group of innovators from across the country, representing diverse fields backgrounds, come together to share their public interest work with each other and with the public. To learn more and register visit <http://www.woodstockdigital.com/2014>.

November 12 - TRORC Executive Committee Meeting

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

128 King Farm Rd, Woodstock VT

Meeting agenda forthcoming. For more information, please contact dgish@trorc.org.

November 13 - State Government Municipal Day

8:00 AM - 4:15 PM

National Life Building, Montpelier

State Government Municipal Day is an all-day event that will include poster presentations, workshops, technical assistance and the opportunity to engage with Agency staff members and municipal colleagues from across the state. To learn more about the day's agenda and to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/q5vjuwb>.

November 13 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

9:30 AM - 11 AM

Damon Hall, Hartland

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 457-3188.

Community Forest Program

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking applications for the Community Forest Program (CFP). This grant program provides local and tribal governments as well as qualified non-profit organizations an opportunity to create and maintain community forests. In order to apply, eligible applicants must outline the community benefits that will be derived by community forests, which may extend to areas of land conservation, stormwater management, improved energy efficiency in the built environment, drought resilience, or other areas. Funding for grant projects may be as much as \$400,000, and require a 50% non-federal match. If you are interested in pursuing or learning more about this grant opportunity, please visit the U.S. Forest Service website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>. Grant application deadline is January 16, 2015.



Working Lands Grant Opportunities

The Working Lands Enterprise Board has recently announced that that \$1 million in grant funding will be made available for investments into farm, food systems, forestry, and silvicultural products enterprises. Funding will be available in the form of three grant opportunities: Working Lands Enterprise Investments, Service Provider Grants, and Capital and Infrastructure Investments. For further information on grant stipulations and funding rules and limits, please visit the Working Lands website at <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/apply/rfp>.



Recreational Trails Program

The federally-funded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides grant funding to help develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities. The ANR Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) administers this program in Vermont, and anticipates approximately \$500,000 being available to municipalities and non-profit organizations for projects to be completed between July 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016. Grant applications are due February 1, 2015. If you would like to learn more about this grant opportunity, please visit <http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm> for further information.





Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee
REGIONAL COMMISSION

128 King Farm Rd. • Woodstock, VT 05091