



*Source: Tory Littlefield*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- **TRORC Announcements**
- **Brownfields Program Money Announcement**
- **LHMP's Near Completion**
- **MRGP Comment Period and Public Hearings**
- **TRORC Held Internal After Action Meeting in Response to July 1 Floods**
- **Emergency Permit Process**

## TRORC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On September 13, 2017, Staff Person Chris Damiani became a member of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition Steering Committee at their Annual Meeting. Chris was also recently appointed as the Coordinator for the Cornerstone Creative Community (3CVT) Zone of the Vermont Creative Network, congratulations on all the appointments!
- New Staff:
  - Kimberly Gilbert - Regional Planner
  - Jessica Richter - ECO AmeriCorps
  - Angela Kim - Planning Technician
- Congratulations to Executive Director Peter Gregory for his appointment by the Vermont Speaker of the House on the Commission on Act 250: The Next 50 Years.
- The TRORC Regional Plan and Energy Implementation Plan were adopted on July 26, 2017 and became effective on August 31, 2017. Both were awarded a Certificate of Energy Compliance on September 27, 2017 by the Public Service Department. You can find the certificate and determination here: <http://www.trorc.org/programs/energy/regional-energy-plan/>
- Mariah Whitcomb, Emergency Management Director (EMD) in Thetford, was recently awarded EMD of the Year at the Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference, congratulations for all your hard work!

## **BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM MONEY ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is not too late to get an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded assessment from TRORC! TRORC has funds for one more year to assess properties that may be contaminated. Virtually all commercial sites will be required by lenders to have a professional assessment done to limit the liability of buyers. As a buyer, it is always prudent to do your own assessment for commercial transfers. These assessments come at no cost to buyers.

**For more information, contact Kevin Geiger at [kgeiger@trorc.org](mailto:kgeiger@trorc.org) or Mike Storce at [mstorce@trorc.org](mailto:mstorce@trorc.org).**

## **LHMP'S NEAR COMPLETION**

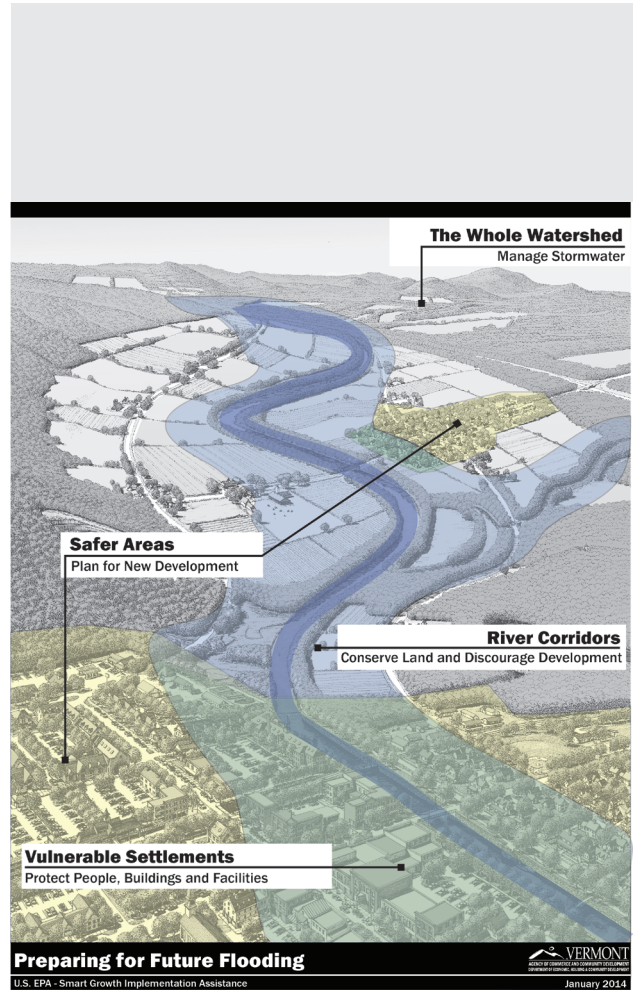
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan's (LHMP) are nearing completion in the TRO Region with a total of twenty-seven approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and four still in process. Corinth has been locally adopted and is waiting on final FEMA approval. Vershire and West Fairlee are still working on their draft plans. These plans have a 5-year life span and are part of Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). Towns that have a completed LHMP are eligible for additional state match in the event of a federally declared disaster. TRORC is currently working on Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications for LHMP renewals.

**For more information about the LHMP program and to apply, contact Mike Storce at [mstorce@trorc.org](mailto:mstorce@trorc.org).**

## **MRGP COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has announced the final Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) public hearings and comment period. The public is invited to provide written comments on the MRGP by October 27, 2017 to Jim Ryan at [jim.ryan@vermont.gov](mailto:jim.ryan@vermont.gov) or mailed to him at DEC Stormwater Program, 1 National Life Drive, Main 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3522. Public hearings will be held throughout October, dates and locations can be found on [www.trorc.org](http://www.trorc.org) or on the ANR website.

**To view a copy of the MRGP, go to <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/public-notice/mrgp-public-notice>.** Upon issuance of the final MRGP, municipalities are required to submit a Notice of Intent to ANR by July 31, 2018 to obtain coverage under the permit.



*Cox District Road in Bridgewater will be undergoing construction this fall to bring this section up to MRGP standards with new ditching.*  
Source | TRORC Staff



*FEMA looks at road erosion in Strafford with VTrans, VEM, and TRORC staff.  
Source | TRORC Staff*

## **TRORC HELD INTERNAL AFTER ACTION MEETING IN RESPONSE TO JULY 1 FLOODS**

There are always lessons to be learned after a disaster hits, no matter how prepared you think you are. Response to a disaster is never a smooth road, and staff at TRORC realized this after the July 1 floods hit the region. An internal after action debrief was held with the entire TRORC office to analyze how we performed in assisting our Towns and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) in the initial response. While there are several adjustments to be made, there were positives to this storm in how our Towns, VEM, and TRORC managed them, mostly due to response experiences from Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

Other after actions were held with VEM, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) #12, and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

**We welcome your thoughts on TRORC's response. Please send written comments to Kevin Geiger at [kgeiger@trorc.org](mailto:kgeiger@trorc.org).**

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## **EMERGENCY PERMIT PROCESS**

When roads and other infrastructure are damaged during storms, Towns still need to be mindful that permits are required for emergency repairs, just as they are for other repairs. This is especially important when work is needed to be done in a stream, which requires a Stream Alteration Permit. When the Municipal Roads General Permit goes into effect in July 2018, roads will need to be brought up to standards if damaged. In the initial response time, Towns have a 70-hour window where procurement policies do not have to be followed to make emergency repairs, after this time frame it is best to follow your Town's Procurement Policy or use the State of Vermont's Procurement Policy.

Information on permits can be found on our website on permits at <http://www.trorc.org/programs/transportation/transportation-resources/>.

You can also contact your local River Engineer for information, which you can find here: [http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/rivers/docs/RME\\_districts.pdf](http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/rivers/docs/RME_districts.pdf).



*Emergency construction takes place on Stony Brook Road in Stockbridge after Tropical Storm Irene  
Source | TRORC Staff*



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee

REGIONAL COMMISSION

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## October 2017 News & Notes



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## News & Notes