



## **STAFF REPORT**

### **October to November 2008**

#### **Highlighted Events**

Grant season is upon us. Municipal Planning Grants, Rutland Area Farm and Food Link and Brownfields grants were prepared and submitted.

#### **Community Services/Regional Planning**

- Continued working with Chittenden, Pittsford, and Rutland Town on Town Plan Updates and Tinmouth on zoning regulation modifications.
- Continue to work on getting town based natural resource maps onto our web site.
- Created site specific flood maps for several towns.
- The Commission worked with the towns of Chittenden, Castleton, West Haven, and Proctor on the preparation of '09 Municipal Planning Grants. A total of \$110,610 was requested from our Region and \$79,204 is available.

#### **Public Information and Training**

##### *Workshops/Meetings/Conferences Attended by Staff*

- Quarterly meeting of Public Transportation for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.
- Road Commissioners monthly meeting on preparing and presenting a highway budget and budgeting for asphalt.
- Working with VCGI, taught a three hour training session on GPS and GIS at VT FEST ( a technology conference for educators). We worked with 15 teachers Geocaching and collecting data, eventually bringing it into GIS.
- VT FEST – gave a presentation on mapping, GPS and GIS and a review of the training session we did two nights before.
- Vermont Emergency Management conference
- Vermont Food Bank focus group meeting
- VT Housing Finance Agency's annual Housing conference

Upcoming VAPDA and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns sponsored Vermont Interactive Television workshop:

- December 17: Municipal Zoning Bylaws after September 1, 2011

#### **Emergency Management Planning**

- Coordinated and provided support to meetings of Local Emergency Planning Committee [LEPC] and its executive committee.
- Provided support to the local CERT team (Community Emergency Response Team which organizes and trains volunteers to support local communities during major events).

- Submitted a grant application on behalf of LEPC to do quality control on Tier II (reporting of hazardous materials) forms.
- Continued to update the Rutland Region Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.
- Met with Rutland County Sheriff's department to review available mapping options and capabilities and to go over different data sets and varied methods of viewing the data. They would like to add a mapping component to their dispatch.

### **Economic Development**

- Continue working with the Rutland Area Farm and Food Link to plan for long-term projects that will help boost agricultural viability in the region.
- Working with regional partners to plan for a regional food hub that would be located in the region. Awaiting decision on an application to VT Community Development Program for planning grant.
- Continued to work on a GIS based water/sewer infill analysis project for the region.

### **Brownfields**

- Continued assessment work at Woodstock Avenue site.
- Began clean-up planning for former Berwick Hotel site.
- Working with Rutland Redevelopment Authority on design plans for redevelopment of the former Hour Mart site on West St in Rutland.
- Submitted applications for additional community-wide assessment grant, two site-specific clean-up grants, and for a site-specific assessment grant.

### **Transportation**

- Work is continuing on the website update for the Rutland Region Transportation Council.
- A RFP was finalized after Committee review and was sent to over 40 firms for the Corridor Management Plan for the segment of Route 7 from Cold River Road to Route 103. A consultant will be selected after proposal review is complete.
- As part of 2008 Safe Routes to School program, traffic counts and analysis have been conducted at Northeast and Northwest Schools in Rutland City and Poultney.
- Prepared a Fall newsletter for Stone Valley Scenic Byway and distributed it, posters and brochures to sites along the Byway.
- Participated in the Board of Highway Commissioners meeting for the Route 4/7 roadway project.
- Met with Rutland Town Road Commissioner to go over culvert updates and the creation of several new databases for the towns roads; including sign inventory, street light database, underdrain database and some type of road surface management data.
- Completed work on a Google Maps mashup of the regions transportation project priority list.

### **Administration**

- Work continues on updating the website.