



TEAM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

WHAT'S NEW AT THE RRPC:

We are excited to announce a new member to our planning team! Ethan Pepin was recently hired to take over for Devon as the new transportation planner and program lead. Please help us welcome Ethan!

Devon is working hard as the new executive director to add staff to the planning team, expand planning programs, procure new phone and internet systems, plan for office renovations this winter, and resurrect routine team meetings.

Steffanie hosted a FEMA-sponsored virtual tabletop exercise (VTTX) in August. The exercise explored how our communities may come together in the event of a school shooting with mass casualty. Thirty-five (35) participants attended including Rutland Region supervisory union superintendents and school principals/administrators, local EMDs, emergency responders, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Vermont Department of Health, Red Cross, and Rutland Mental Health.

Mary Kay is preparing for RRPC's FY 22 Audit which is scheduled for October 19th.

Ed is working on the Vermont Department of Health funded Healthy Community Design project, which will create a Health Equity Planning Toolkit for municipalities. Funding for project implementation will be available spring 2023.

Steve has worked on zoning updates for Shrewsbury, Poultney, Castleton, and West Rutland and has provided flood hazard and river corridor maps for Rutland Town and Mount Holly. He has recently completed the region's *RRPC at Work* map which is part of a VAPDA project done every year.

Steve and Van have been working with the State's new VTCulverts mapping application. Van has completed the structure and culvert inventory for West Haven, Castleton, Pittsford, and Middletown Springs, while Steve continues his work in Brandon. Steve also helped to lead in our July Road Foreman Meeting on VTCulverts and has also been travelling to individual towns to provide training on the new VTCulverts app and data collection.

Steffanie is serving as municipal project manager for a sidewalk scoping study and multi-use path construction project in West Rutland as well as a downtown pedestrian improvement construction project in Fair Haven.

ONGOING PROJECTS BY PROGRAM

Town and Regional Planning - Ed continues to work with the Planning Commissions in the Towns of Castleton, Killington, Poultney, Pawlet and Fair Haven on bylaw updates; and with Tinmouth, Killington, Chittenden and Hubbardton on Town Plans.

Steve and Ed are working on the Regional Future Land Use Map and Ed continues to review Act 250 and Section 248 applications in the Region.

Water Quality - Barbara is working with West Haven and the State on a petition to reclassify Ward Marsh as a Class 1 Wetland. The petition is now under review by ICAR and a decision from the State is expected later this year.

As the Clean Water Service Provider for the South Lake Champlain Basin, the RRPC and PMNRCD partnership continues to prepare for the Formula Grant coming from DEC that will fund non-regulatory water quality projects for Lake Champlain for the next 20 years. Work continues on new grant and project tracking systems, project selection criteria, project SOPs, Operation and Maintenance agreements, phosphorous reduction tools, selection of qualified subgrantees and subcontractors, organizing the Basin Water Quality Council, increased public participation, robust record retention, and more. Twenty-three communities are in the South Lake basin which extends from northern Bennington County, through the western Rutland Region and along western Addison County to Ferrisburgh.

Work concluded in Pittsford on a newly installed stormwater bioretention system that was fully funded by a DEC Block Grant.

Emergency Management – We did it; all Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) were updated and approved by VEM in 2022! Steffanie's LHMP work continues in Killington, Mendon, Brandon, and has resumed with Danby-Mount Tabor. Now is the time to take your LHMP off the shelf and check on the status of your proposed mitigation actions. Need help finding grant funding to complete a project – contact Steffanie for some ideas.

GIS & Mapping – Steve continues to work on online structure and culvert updates for several towns in the region and to support staff and municipalities with new maps, trainings, applications, and data.

Steve also completed the regional bus stop inventory for Marble Valley Regional Transit District and VTrans.

The newly formed Basin Water Quality Council for the South Lake Champlain Clean Water Service Provider met twice this summer. Later this year, the Council will begin deciding which water quality projects are funded in the South Lake Champlain Basin. The RRPC is partnering with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) to manage this significant program for reducing phosphorus entering Lake Champlain. Key staff members are Barbara and Hilary Solomon.

Steve and Van have been setting up traffic counters this summer. We have set a total of 19 traffic counts in the towns of: Chittenden (4), Killington (4), Wells (1), Hubbardton (5), Proctor (1), and Tinmouth (4), each count runs for one week.

Steffanie has been working with Wallingford and Middletown Springs to develop an incident action plan (or Annex) for responding to a hot weather event. The Annex serves as a framework for what actions to take before and during periods of hot weather, who is responsible for taking each action, and when each action should be taken. When complete, it will become an Annex to the Town's Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). This is a pilot project funded through the Vermont Department of Health.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – Sept. 29 – RRPC Conference Room/Microsoft Teams

VLCT Town Fair 2022 – October 6-7, Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT

Resilient Communities and Landscapes: Planning for a Climate-Changed Future - Oct. 15, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT

NNEAPA Planning Conference – October 17-19, Sunday River Resort, Newry, Maine

DEC public meeting on water quality petitions including Ward Marsh becoming a Class 1 Wetland – Oct. 25 – RRPC Conference Room

Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grants Due – October 7

Bylaw Modification Grants Due – November 1

Municipal Planning Grants Due – December 1

Transportation – Devon is working with Ethan to close out the FY22 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) work plan and prepare for the upcoming FY23 TPI work plan. The FY23 work plan has been redesigned and includes new tasks such as road surface inventories, EV charging infrastructure planning, and \$40,000 additional funding for bicycle and pedestrian planning.

Devon continues his work with MVRTD and RLS Consultants on the Rutland City Fixed-Route Analysis. The planning team is working on exploring ideas and establishing existing conditions by holding public meetings and surveying riders to determine what changes will be recommended to the transit system.

Municipal Project Management – The RRPC offers Municipal Project Management (MPM) services to towns throughout the region. The list of municipalities utilizing the RRPC's MPM program continues to grow with the recent addition of the Mendon US Route 4 Corridor scoping study. Give us a call to learn more about the RRPC's MPM services!

Economic Development - The Brownfields Program is funding assessment and redevelopment work at the Vermont Farmers Food Center; former Lynda Lee site; College of St. Joseph's property; former Rutland Plywood site on Ripley Road, in Rutland Town; Pittsford Village Farms; and a new site in West Rutland proposed for multi-family housing.

Energy - Barbara continues to work with Pawlet and Wallingford on adopting enhanced energy plans. She is also working with energy committee in Brandon on its energy goals and community surveys and with Rutland Town on implementing its energy goals. Barbara continues to work with the Public Service Department steering committee that's updating regional and municipal energy plans. She is working with area weatherization partners and with Efficiency Vermont on its fall Button Up campaign.

ARPA Municipal Assistance – The RRPC continues to provide assistance to municipalities interpreting the US Treasury Final Rule and how towns can spend their money. Reach out to the RRPC with any questions on ARPA and federal Infrastructure funding.