



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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Municipal Planning Accomplishments

Several towns in the region are undergoing or gearing up for municipal planning and implementation projects. The staff at the NRPC is assisting with multiple projects funded through several sources including: FY2010 and FY2011 Municipal Planning Grants (MPG) from the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development (DEHCD); Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the VT Department of Public Service; and NRPC's general technical assistance funds.

A thorough revision and update of the **St. Albans City Plan** is underway. The City is examining key issues facing the community, including economic development and diversification, downtown revitalization, and municipal infrastructure and services. The City will undergo an intensive Planning Week in May focusing on land use and development issues. The **Town of Alburgh** is also working on an update to their municipal plan.

A comprehensive re-organization and revision of the **North Hero Zoning and Subdivision Regulations** is underway. The Town is focusing on expanding and improving the effectiveness of development review and subdivision standards.

The towns of **Franklin, Montgomery, and Enosburgh** are just beginning zoning and subdivision bylaw update projects. While Franklin will spend some time focusing on shoreland development, the Montgomery and Enosburgh are looking at forestland and wildlife habitat conservation.

The NRPC is utilizing funding from its Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to work with several municipalities on energy conservation and efficiency through integrated land use, transportation, environmental, and energy planning, including municipal plan update projects in the **Towns of Georgia and Grand Isle**.

NRPC continues to provide quality assistance to municipalities in the Region. NRPC commends the municipal Planning Commissions for their hard work ensuring local planning and permitting is effective and communities are prepared for the future.



NRPC Brownfields Program Funding Available for Environmental Assessments and Cleanup

One of the legacies of the Northwest Region's rich economic past is an inventory of commercial and industrial properties whose redevelopment is challenged by real or perceived environmental contamination. The Northwest Region Brownfield Program (NRBP) is aimed at leveling the playing field for these properties, known as brownfields, by helping owners and prospective developers accomplish successful redevelopment projects. Do you know of a brownfield redevelopment opportunity?



Abandoned maple syrup manufacturing facility with contamination issues including lead in soil and petroleum in soil and groundwater.



Willard Mill – Innovative and attractive housing complex with 27 apartments near downtown St. Albans; 24 of which are affordable units.

NRBP services include:

- ☛ Conducting research and site interviews to flag areas of a property that would benefit from further investigation (Phase I environmental site assessment, All Appropriate Inquiry required prior to purchasing a property).
- ☛ Conducting soil, water, and/or air tests to confirm whether contamination exists, and if so, to what extent (Phase 2 assessment).
- ☛ Developing corrective action plans (including an investigation of alternative solutions and their costs) to protect construction workers, to develop clean up plans, and/or to help the site clear any regulatory hurdles. Redevelopment planning is part of this service.
- ☛ A revolving loan fund (RLF) providing low to zero interest loans and grants for the cleanup of brownfield sites.
- ☛ Providing technical assistance to address site specific issues, such as understanding liability laws and insurance and creating strategies for funding cleanup and redevelopment.

All assessment activities, testing and cleanup is completed by environmental professionals in accordance with the most recent federal standards. Our program helps you investigate both known and suspected environmental contamination, including hazardous materials, petroleum products, lead, asbestos, and environmental fungi (mold). Our cleanup RLF provides low to zero interest loans to any individual, developer, municipality, or non-profit to implement cleanup plans. Municipalities and non-profits are eligible for cleanup grants with a 20% in-kind match requirement.

Participation in the program is strictly voluntary and free of charge. Inquiries into the program are held confidential to the extent possible to protect property owners who are undecided about program benefits. Our goal is to help recycle properties back into use as industrial or commercial sites, as green space, or for housing, non-profit or municipal uses. For more information on the brownfields program, or to nominate a site, contact Greta Brunswick at gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com or 524-5958.

NRPC Hosts Road Workshop on Using Compost to Control Erosion

This March, the NRPC hosted a workshop on using compost products to control erosion. Fifteen staff members from five local highway and public works departments were in attendance. The workshop was taught by Brian Jerose, partner in WASTE NOT Resource Solutions in Fairfield. Topics included: soil properties and the effect of runoff on water quality, best management practices for using compost to control erosion and filter stormwater, and installation techniques for compost berms, blankets and socks. The workshop was the first in a series of five the NRPC has planned for this spring and summer. Future workshop topics will include maintaining roadside ditches, beaver management and new regulations for culvert installation. These trainings and free erosion control materials for workshop participants are funded through a Section 319 Non Point Source grant with the Vermont Department of Conservation.



Way To Go! May 16 - 20, 2011

Vermonters are putting a dent in carbon pollution during the weeklong Way To Go! Commuter Challenge. Last year Way To Go! week reduced over 240,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. So leave your car at home and join the fun. Individuals, businesses, schools, organizations - everyone is welcome. Last year we walked, biked, carpooled and rode the bus all the way to our goal. Join us for this year's commuter challenge and enjoy the benefits. It's healthy, fun and saves serious money and gas. Plus you'll be entered to win this year's great prizes. Win a Burton snowboard, an ipod or go all the way and win the prestigious CARBON CUP! So let's GO. Together we can make a big impact on carbon pollution.



For more information or to sign up go to www.waytogovt.org.



NRPC Staff

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Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Barbara Baker
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt One Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Nancy Hunt Dennis DeBevec
Berkshire:	Claude Charron Richard Ross
Enosburg Falls:	Richard Roberge Michael Manahan
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	Marilyn Savoy Jason Booth
Fletcher:	Bruce Douglas One Vacant Seat
Franklin:	Doug Clark Clark Hubbard
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinus David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Pete Paquette Tom Racine
Isle La Motte:	Sylvia Jensen Robin Gutierrez
Montgomery:	Barry Kade Darlene Marrier
North Hero:	John Lambert One Vacant Seat
Richford:	Melissa Wells Harold Foote
St Albans City:	Joseph Luneau Lazarus Scangas
St Albans Town:	Matthew Feske Paul Larner
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan Greg Stebbins
South Hero:	Michael Guernsey Bob Buermann
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

NRPC APRIL CALENDAR

Apr. 13th, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Apr. 14th, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Apr. 21st, 3:00pm, Brownfields Steering Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Apr. 27th, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Training Facility, Precision Lane, Swanton

2011 Town Officer Education Conferences

Conferences will be held on **April 6th** at the Hilton Hotel, 60 Battery Street, Burlington and on **April 7th** at Johnson State College, Stearns Student Center, Johnson. A new format includes workshops held all day and into the evening. Board members can choose to go for the day and have lunch or go for the evening and have dinner (or go for the entire conference). On-site registration begins at 9 a.m. with a special reception for new attendees at 9:30 a.m. Six workshop sessions run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with breaks for lunch and dinner.

The registration fee is \$60 (\$55 for on-line registrations) and covers unlimited sessions and one meal, either lunch or dinner. A second meal is available for an additional \$20. The registration form and details about the conference and registration options can be viewed at www.uvm.edu/extension/toec. Participants may register on-line at <http://2011toec.eventbrite.com>.

A two session workshop for new members of local Planning Commissions and Development Review/Zoning Boards will be offered from 5:45-8:00 p.m. on the Essentials of Land Use Planning and Regulation. Please encourage any new members to attend! (Not-so-new members are welcome too.) Dinner is provided at 4:45 p.m.

For registration assistance or to request an exhibit space, contact Sally Cleveland at (802) 775-4840 or e-mail sally.cleveland@uvm.edu.



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