



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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Flood Recovery: What Communities and Individuals Should be Doing Now

A number of communities have suffered significant damage from recent flooding. Recovery efforts have begun and could eventually include monetary help from the federal government. The process of obtaining funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun, and the state of Vermont is working to get through the process as quickly as possible. Local communities should not delay in making repairs or cleaning up; if Vermont qualifies for FEMA assistance, those funds serve to reimburse communities for at least 75% of those costs.



Fisk Point, Isle La Motte
Photo credit: Lake Champlain Basin Program.

The process of getting FEMA assistance and what communities should be doing now:

1. Cities and towns should keep close track of all recovery costs, to include:
 - All materials (including fuel for vehicles and rental equipment) to repair roads, bridges, or other public infrastructure and town buildings.
 - Pay for municipal employees who are taking part in the recovery, including overtime costs. This can include office staff working to support those efforts.
 - Cost of contractors used in the recovery.
 - Extra costs incurred by the storm. For instance, if there is a cost associated with closing school above and beyond normal expenses, those may be included.
 - Costs incurred preparing for the storm; that could include overtime paid to staff acting as spotters along rivers, for example.
2. Communities should compile all costs and report them to Vermont Emergency Management.

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3. VEM will work with the Agency of Transportation to verify some of the costs.
4. VEM and AOT will then do a joint local/state/FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

If Vermont shows at least \$1-million in verified statewide damages, individual counties would then have to meet a pre-established threshold to qualify for a FEMA declaration. That level is total qualified public damages of \$3.27 per capita in that county. These are not the only factors involved in receiving a Public Assistance disaster declaration, but the monetary levels are the biggest indicator.

Aid to individuals, private homeowners, business owners, renters, and others is more difficult to come by and Vermont has not qualified for so-called "Individual Assistance" since 1998. However, several state agencies and the office of Governor Peter Shumlin are exploring all avenues to provide relief.

The most likely avenue could be Small Business Administration loans (<http://www.sba.gov/taxonomy/term/99>). These funds are advertised as below-market interest rate loans used to help individuals recover. They would be made available to homeowners, business owners, some non-profits, and renters to recoup uninsured flood losses.

What homeowners and individuals should be doing now:

1. Ensure your home is safe to return to by having your electrical and heating systems inspected by qualified professionals.
2. Begin cleanup right away. Delay in cleaning up can cause things like mildew and make cleanup more difficult.
3. Contact your insurance company.
4. Keep close records of how much it costs to clean your home and how much of your property has been lost.
5. REPORT ALL DAMAGES/LOSSES AND RECOVERY COSTS TO YOUR CITY OR TOWN. Your community representative will work with the state to see if your recovery costs qualify for assistance.

For more information contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or at scoleman@nrpcvt.com.

NRPC New Staff

Katelin Brewer-Colie joined NRPC in March 2011 as a regional planner. Katelin recently returned to Vermont, where she grew up, from Portland, Oregon where she had been living since 1998. A desire to have her kids see their grandparents and other extended family more regularly brought Katelin and her family back to Vermont.

A graduate of the University of Vermont, Katelin also received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University focusing on Community Development. In her seven years of experience, Katelin worked for the City of Portland both in long range planning and in the design review section of development services. She also worked for a boutique planning firm, Angelo Planning Group that specialized in land use and transportation policy and implementation.

Katelin's professional interests include smart development, bicycle and pedestrian access, historic preservation, developing design guidelines, low impact development, green building technology, growth management and improving the usability of zoning ordinances and other planning tools.

Personally, Katelin enjoys singing, having sung in a chorus for over seven years, backcountry skiing, taking long walks through cities, learning about the history of Vermont towns, and spending time with her husband and children, and now, the rest of her extended family. Katelin can be reached at kbrewercolie@nrpcvt.com.



Way To Go Week - May 16-20, 2011

Vermonters are putting a dent in carbon pollution during the week long 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, carpoled 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 years 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.

How EPA's Lead Rule Affects Renovations, Repairs and Painting

In April 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a rule that will have a significant impact on the renovation and remodeling industry. The Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) will change how contractors go about working on certain buildings constructed before 1978. **If you work on a house or child occupied facility built before 1978 the rule may apply regardless of who owns the facility or who is paying for the work.**

The Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board is sponsoring a training in St. Albans on Thursday, June 23, 2011. EverGreen Environmental Health and Safety, Inc. (EverGreen EHS), an EPA accredited training provider for the RRP Initial Refresher Class will provide the training.

Where: Northwest Technical Center
71 South Main Street
St. Albans, Vermont

To Register: Marilyn Savoy at 802-527-6513
Or email: Msavoy@bfast.net
Fee: Course is Grant funded call for details.

Essentials in Land Use Planning & Development Review

A Training Brought to You Annually from NRPC

Primarily for planning commissioners, zoning board of adjustment members, and development review board members

A training focusing on the basics of local development review and land use planning, including roles and responsibilities of municipal boards and officials, the purpose of different types of development review, and conducting effective meetings and development review hearings. Appropriate for new board members and experienced board members who would like a refresher.

Thursday, June 2nd, 7:00pm to 9:00pm in Grand Isle County at the Fish Hatchery Conference Room in Grand Isle

It is located on Vermont Route 314 across from the Lake Champlain Transportation Co. ferry to Plattsburgh, NY. The conference room is the first left past the Visitor Center, after the bathrooms.

and

Thursday, June 9th, 7:00pm to 9:00pm in Franklin County at the Historical Society in St. Albans

The Historical Society is located on Church Street in St. Albans City.

Please RSVP by May 26 to Greta at 524-5958 or gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com.

The training will cover:

1. What is your role and where does your authority come from?
2. How does town planning work in Vermont?
3. How does local regulation work in Vermont?
4. Ins and outs of meetings and hearings
5. Communicating with the public
6. Avoiding conflicts of interest
7. Non-regulatory implementation (it's not just about regulation)

NRPC Staff

Executive Director
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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 Gelinas 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 MAY CALENDAR

May 11th, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

May 12th, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

May 19th, 3:00pm, Brownfields Steering Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

May 25th, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Training Facility, Precision Lane, Swanton

Champlain Housing Loan Fund

The Champlain Housing Loan Fund (CHLF), administered by Champlain Housing Trust, is a non-profit community based revolving loan fund that provides low-cost financing options to help eligible households pay for the cost of essential home repairs and energy improvements. The program serves households in Franklin, Grand Isle, and Chittenden Counties (except for the City of Burlington) whose incomes are below 80% of HUD's Area Median Income, which is currently \$59,050 for a household of four. Past customers have used loan funds to replace wells, septic systems, roofs, furnaces, electrical systems, and many other essential repairs. Air sealing, insulation, and other energy saving measures can also be financed with a loan through the CHLF.



In addition to low cost loans, the program also provides free project coordination services to eligible borrowers. CHLF staff performs a home inspection to identify health and safety issues that may be present in addition to the home owner's initial request, creates a scope of work and cost estimate, creates construction specifications, assists with the contractor bidding and selection process, and verifies that all contractors are fully insured. Interested home owners should contact the CHLF office at 13 Lake Street, St. Albans at 527-2361 or www.getahome.org/loans for an application or additional information.



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