



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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## Inside This Issue



NRPC to Kick Off  
"Healthy Vital &  
Strong Communities  
in Northwest Vermont"

1



Vermont EMD of the  
Year: Shaun Coleman

2



Hazard Mitigation  
Grant Programs

2



Shoreline  
Stabilization Grants  
Available in 2012

3



Rail Trail Council  
Seeks Members

3



List of Commissioners

4



NRPC Staff

4



## NRPC to Kick Off "Healthy, Vital & Strong Communities in Northwest Vermont"

NRPC is thrilled to have received a \$480,000 award from the 2012 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grants program. "Healthy, Vital and Strong Communities in Northwest Vermont" will take up a variety of issues between 2012 and 2014 to build a more sustainable region. The grant was one of 60 that were funded out of over 500 applications submitted nationally.

The grant's main focus will be to improve economic opportunity and community health. These areas need specific attention because the Northwest region has a lower median household income than the rest of Vermont, includes the fastest aging county in Vermont (Grand Isle Co.), and has a high rate of chronic health problems. It is important for the region to think about these typically segregated areas together, as a person's socioeconomic status is one of the strongest predictors of his or her health (Vermont Department of Health).

As the leader of a regional consortium, NRPC will work directly with community-based organizations and other regional partners such as local governments to develop strategies for healthy economic, physical and social communities. Small grants will be available to local organizations and municipalities for program implementation.

Public participation is essential to this community-based project. Steering committee meetings will be held on a regular basis and will be open to the public. Open houses will take place throughout the region and local public libraries will help to reach out to the entire community in person and using digital technology. Look for meeting announcements starting in January 2012.

The end result will be a healthier, more sustainable northwest Vermont region. Strategies and projects will put health and economic development on the same footing as transportation and land use, and strengthen the physical health, economic health and social connections of our communities.

Questions may be addressed to Catherine Dimitruk at (802) 524-5958, [cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com](mailto:cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com).

# Vermont EMD of the Year: Shaun Coleman

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium has recognized Shaun Coleman, NRPC's former Assistant Director, as Vermont's Emergency Manager of the Year. Shaun was presented with his award during the Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference.

The Emergency Manager of the Year Award program is committed to recognizing individuals who have exhibited the highest standard of excellence, dedication, and accomplishment in the field of emergency management.

Shaun was recognized for his outstanding work in a number of different roles. At Northwest Regional Planning Commission he served as a direct connection to all Emergency Management Directors in Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Shaun has acted as the secretary for both LEPC 4 and LEPC 13 – setting agendas and distributing information for both. He has also served in the operations section of the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center for drills and disasters over the years. NRPC congratulates Shaun on this award.



*Shaun Coleman (right) and Vermont Emergency Management Director Mike O'Neil*



## Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

*Letter of Intent Due December 30<sup>th</sup>*

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is available when authorized under a disaster declaration. The funds are available to towns that have a FEMA approved and adopted local mitigation plan and that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Some eligible activities include: mitigation projects, structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, dry floodproofing of non-residential structures, minor localized flood reduction projects, infrastructure retrofit, soil stabilization, 5% initiative projects and hazard mitigation planning.

Federal funds are available to cover up to 75% of project costs with a 25% local match required. Applicants are also required to complete a benefit cost-analysis (BCA). Deadline for HMGP Letter of Intent (LOI): December 30, 2011. The LOI should include a brief description of your proposal and the total estimated cost of your project.

For assistance with submitting your LOI and HMGP application, please contact: Allison Stori at [astori@nrpcvt.com](mailto:astori@nrpcvt.com) or 524-5958

HMGP application can be found at: <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/mitigation/forms>. Sample LOI can be found at: [http://vem.vermont.gov/mitigation/grants\\_4022](http://vem.vermont.gov/mitigation/grants_4022)

NRPC encourages towns to apply early. Applications due in March are in connection with the spring flooding events known as DR 4001 and DR 1995.

Please submit LOI to:  
Ray Doherty, SHMO  
VT Emergency Management  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671  
802-241-5258  
[rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us)  
cc: [astori@nrpcvt.com](mailto:astori@nrpcvt.com)

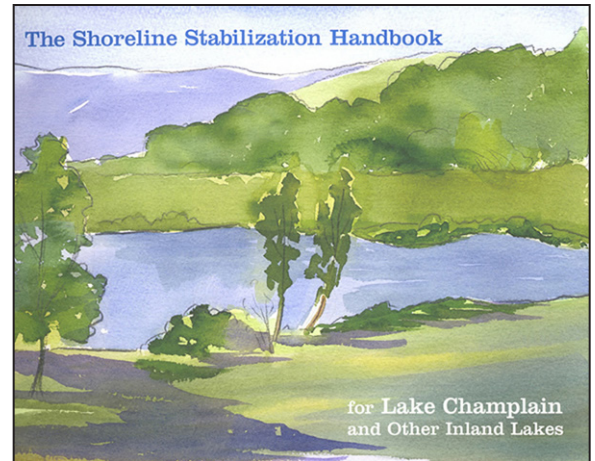
# Shoreline Stabilization Grants Available in 2012

With funding from VT Department of Environmental Conservation's Ecosystem Restoration Program (formerly Clean and Clear) NRPC will be rolling out a small grants program in early 2012 for Lake Champlain Property Owners in Franklin and Grand Isle counties who experienced shoreline erosion due to Spring 2011 flooding. The program's intent is to highlight lower impact, vegetated methods of shoreline stabilization as laid out in the Shoreline Stabilization Handbook (<http://www.nrpcvt.com/Reports/ShorelineHandbook.pdf>).

The program will take place in two phases. In Phase 1, Technical Assistance, technical experts such as engineers, arborists and landscape architects will provide direct on-site assistance in the form of technical site analysis, advice and design plans for a stabilization project. To show their commitment, property owners will be required to provide 10 percent of project cost toward this phase. In Phase 2, Project Implementation Assistance, funds will be available to property owners to implement projects. Funds may cover engineering services based on the designs developed in Phase 1, as well as plantings for and construction of the selected option.

NRPC is in the process of collecting Consultant Qualifications. Grant applications will be available to property owners in January 2012 and will be competitively reviewed by NRPC and funding partners. The program will fund up to a combined total of 50 projects including both Phase 1 and 2 projects. The maximum grant size per phase will be \$5,000.

For more information, contact Katelin Brewer-Colie, Regional Planner [kbrewercolie@nrpcvt.com](mailto:kbrewercolie@nrpcvt.com) or 802-524-5958.



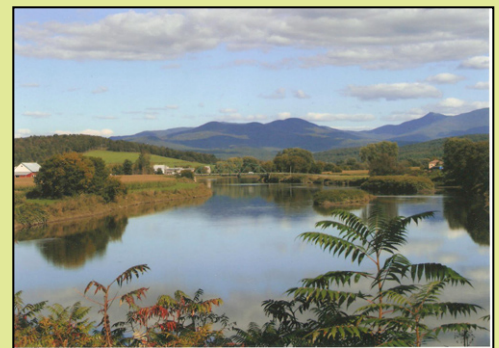
## Rail Trail Council Seeks Members

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold its annual election of members-at-large at 6 pm. on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Sheldon Elementary School, Sheldon Springs, VT. If you would like to be a candidate, contact Cynthia (802) 933-8851 or [cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net) prior to January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, we presently have openings on the Council for a representative from St. Albans Town and one from Sheldon. We would welcome input from those Towns on matters relating to the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail.

The Council is a non-profit organization that works for the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. The Council advises the State on trail issues, assists trail users, and helps make trail improvements. Recent activities include a photo contest and kayak, bicycling and hiking outings. The Council also raises funds for amenities to benefit Trail users. Council members are encouraged to attend Council business meetings which are held six times a year.

## 2011 MVRT Photo Contest Winner



*"Looking East" by B. Morgan*

## 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

Enosburg: 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 Gelinias  
David Borthwick-Leslie

Highgate: Pete Paquette  
Tom Racine

Isle La Motte: Sylvia Jensen  
Paul Hinman

Montgomery: Barry Kade  
Darlene Marrier

North Hero: One Vacant Seat  
One Vacant Seat

Richford: Melissa Wells  
Harold Foote

St Albans City: Jeff Young  
Lazarus Scangas

St Albans Town: John Gray  
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 Staff

Executive Director  
Catherine Dimitruk

Assistant Director  
Bethany Remmers

Office Administrator  
Amy Adams

Regional Planner  
Katelin Brewer-Colie

Senior Planner  
Greta Brunswick

Emergency Planner  
Allison Stori

GIS Technician  
Emily Hubbard



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