



Lamoille County Planning Commission

Lamoille County
Planning Commission

Summer 2009

Basic Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Replaces Rapid Response Plan (RRP) Format

There is a new look to the old RRP's. This past year, a team composed of local emergency management directors from throughout the state and members of the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) staff reviewed the purpose and format of the Plan. Dave Severance, Town of Cambridge Emergency Management Director, participated on the review team. The result is a redefined plan that serves multiple purposes.

The new plan can be used as an on-the-scene response guide, as a planning and notification tool for local emergencies and disasters, and as a reference guide for VEM. Because the new document is multi-use and more comprehensive, it has essentially evolved into a "Basic Emergency Operations Plan" which provides a National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance tool for the local municipalities that use it.

Features of the Basic EOP include:

- "Emergency steps" that serve as a reminder for responders, which is combined with a log form to record incident events.

- A Local Jurisdiction Request for Emergency Declaration form, which can be filled out when needed and faxed to VEM.
- Five planning tasks which provide guidelines for collecting information during the preparedness and mitigation phases prior to an incident response.
- A front page that gives VEM a quick snapshot of the priority contacts in your town during an emergency situation.

Lamoille County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #11) reviewed the new format at its spring meeting. Several emergency service providers commented that the new format looked like a good improvement and would be useful to them during response calls. VEM would like each municipality to begin using the new format as soon as possible. LCPC staff will begin assisting municipalities with the transition from RRP's to the new form later this summer.

Green Mountain Byway Officially Designated

Municipal partners from Waterbury and Stowe, as well as RPC representatives from LCPC and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, were recently awarded for their planning efforts to see Vermont Route 100 designated as the sixth official Vermont "Scenic Byway". After the better part of a year and a half of work with the assistance of landscape architecture firm LandWorks of Middlebury, and upon the Scenery Preservation Council's recommendation, the State Transportation Board voted favorably to designate the segment of VT100 stretching the length of the corridor within the towns of Waterbury and Stowe.

This segment of highway is rich in its historic, natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. The designation of this portion of VT100 provides the opportunity for enhancement of the corridor and the preservation of important scenic and natural resources, while at the same time improving highway conditions for all modes of travel.

Work has already begun on development of an official logo for the corridor, and ideas for

projects and promotion of the corridor is underway. This corridor joins the family of Vermont's five other Scenic Byways which include the Lake Champlain, Mad River, Molly Stark, Stone Valley, and Connecticut River Byways. For more information, contact Dave at LCPC.



VT100 South towards the Town of Stowe

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Upcoming meetings:

- September 8, 2009 LVRT Advisory Committee, 3pm at TEGU Building in Morrisville
- September 23, 2009 Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee, 12pm at TEGU Building in Morrisville
- September 28, 2009 LCPC Board of Directors, 7pm at TEGU Building in Morrisville



FEMA Begins National Flood Insurance Program Compliance Visits in Lamoille County

Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to protect themselves financially. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. Given the growing cost of flood damages and policy payouts, FEMA has begun to conduct compliance visits to monitor communities enrolled in the NFIP. These visits are aimed at ensuring that communities have adopted an ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP floodplain management criteria and verifies that they are effectively enforcing their ordinance. *Some Lamoille County communities will receive visits beginning in late summer or early fall 2009.*

FEMA's compliance visits generally result in recommendations for areas in which the community's flood hazard regulations need to be strengthened to meet minimum NFIP criteria and a list of areas in which the community may not be properly enforcing its regulations. If a community is not enforcing its regulations at all or has committed repeated or egregious violations of its regulations, the community can be "sanctioned", which means it is placed on pro-

bation and can potentially be suspended from the flood insurance program. All policyholders in a sanctioned community pay a surcharge fee in addition to their regular annual premiums until the community acts to correct the deficiencies and returns to good standing with the NFIP. Should the community fail to be reinstated, policies are canceled, leaving residents and businesses without flood insurance. While instances of sanctions and suspensions by FEMA have been rare in the past, the growing rate of flood insurance claims and increasing damage costs are causing FEMA to take a closer look at NFIP compliance.

The NFIP requirements are updated regularly to improve public safety and reflect what FEMA has learned from various events that have caused flooding around the nation. Municipal regulations adopted or updated as recently as 5-6 years ago may no longer meet the minimum NFIP requirements. Those adopted in the 1990s, when many Vermont communities joined the NFIP, and never updated are definitely out of date. If your community would like to conduct a review to determine if your flood hazard regulations are current or if you would like assistance with updates, LCPC staff can assist your municipality free of charge. Please contact Bonnie at 888-4548 or bonnie@lcpvvt.org for assistance.

Fair Housing Workshop Set for October

On October 1 at 6:00-9:00 pm in Waterbury, LCPC and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission are co-sponsoring a workshop on Fair Housing law designed to educate realtors, lenders, affordable housing developers, property managers, and municipal officials on the topic. The workshop will provide and introduction to Vermont and federal fair housing laws, identify specific land use regulations and other municipal barriers that encourage affordable housing or discriminate against certain housing types, and introduce strategies that can help municipalities remove barriers to Fair Housing. Representatives on any municipal board (Selectboard, Planning Commission, etc.) are encouraged to attend. Those communities planning to seek funds through the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) are highly encouraged to attend. As a condition of receiving VCDP grants, municipal applicants are required to attend an approved Fair Housing training.

Fair Housing is the right to equal opportunity in rental, sale, and financing of housing under federal, state, and local laws. Many of the impediments to Fair Housing Choice identified in the State's 2006 Analysis of Impediments involved a lack of affordable housing and exclusionary land use practices that have the effect of increasing land and development costs and prohibiting the development of affordable housing types such as multi-family units. Affordable housing plays a significant role in Federal Fair Housing Act. To meet this federal law, municipalities must ensure that their local land use regulations provide equal access to safe and affordable housing to individuals and families of varying income levels. **Space is limited!** To register call Dani Fuoco, CVOEO Fair Housing Project, 802-864-3334 x109 or email dfuoco@cvoeo.org

For additional information about the workshop or to find a carpool partner, contact Bonnie at LCPC.

Inter-Regional Transportation Planning Analysis

LCPC has collaborated with the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and neighboring RPCs to provide integrated Northwest Vermont data collection, analysis, and public outreach in support of CCMPO's 2060 long range transportation plan update. This effort will identify inter-regional transportation corridor network issues related to safety, mobility, and congestion, as well as identify growth trends within adjacent regions that may impact the utilization of the existing network within Chittenden County. The outcomes of the project will assist the MPO in prioritizing future transportation planning activities related to the adjacent regions such as transit needs, increased Vehicle Miles Traveled, and in the identification of potential opportunities for applications in Travel Demand Management.

To date, LCPC has completed an Existing Conditions Report that summarized current traffic flow volume, congestion, safety, public transportation, travel demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian issues along VT15 and VT100 corridors. LCPC also conducted analysis of existing conditions utilizing the Local Employment Household Dynamics data to analyze commuting trends within/to/from Lamoille County and utilized the American Community Survey data which includes commute mode and population migration data.

A Future Conditions Report forecasting county population, housing and employment levels will be completed this fall.

LCPC is Awarded \$400,000 in Brownfields Funds

LCPC is pleased to announce it has just been awarded \$400,000 in brownfields assessment funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Half of the funds will be used to continue the hazardous assessment work started by the region's Brownfields Reuse Program. The remaining \$200,000 will be used to begin new assessment work on sites that may have been contaminated by petroleum. Brownfields are properties for which expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated due to the presence, or *Continued on page 3...*



Welcome the newest addition to LCPC

Please welcome the newest member of our staff, Amanda Holland. As Assistant Planner, Amanda will be working on several projects including: transportation studies, emergency response plans, municipal plan updates, and natural resources programs.

Born in Columbus, Nebraska, Amanda stayed close to home to attend the University of Nebraska where she received a B.S. in Natural Resources. In 2003 she ventured out of the Midwest and landed in New York until moving to Vermont in 2005 to obtain a M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont.

Amanda has several years experience working on environmental research

projects involving urban ecology, carbon sequestration, disease ecology, and utilizing geospatial technologies.



Brownfields continued from Pg 2...

potential presence, of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

LCPC staffs the Lamoille County Brownfields Reuse Program and receives guidance from a regional steering committee, which is comprised of representatives from a number of various interest groups. The Committee solicits candidate sites and prioritizes them using their

established criteria for assessment work. To date, the Program has assessed four properties. Two of the properties were deemed to be safe for reuse, while the other two are in the process of completing their remediation and redevelopment plans. For more information about the Program or brownfields in general, contact LCPC's Special Projects Manager, Bill Rossmassler, at 888-4548.

Disaster Response & Recovery for Road Crews

LCPC staff recently participated in the design and delivery of four workshops covering the topic of disaster response and recovery for road crews. Vermont Local Roads took the lead on this effort, partnering with VTrans, Vermont Emergency Management, and RPC representatives, in an effort to provide the best information possible to those municipal employees that are most often the first on the scene of an emergency: the road crew. Most natural disasters in Vermont are water-related, often consisting of flooding, due to our extensive surface water networks, our natural spring runoff and our generally wet, rainy weather. Our road system is quite closely intertwined with the rivers and this can often lead to washouts, culvert failures, and numerous other issues requiring road crew response. Non-flood disasters such as ice and wind storms can topple

trees which block roads, knock down power-lines, and damage buildings.

This workshop covered material including identification of the key first contacts in an emergency situation, the hierarchy of authority in various disaster events, the process of documenting costs for eventual reimbursement from FEMA or other potential funding sources, and the process of planning to mitigate losses in future events or ideally avoid them altogether. Much of this information is available in an ongoing basis through LCPC's emergency planning and transportation planning programs. If you're Selectboard, Planning Commission, or road crew would like more information on these topics, contact us at LCPC to discuss how we might help prepare you for the inevitable disaster.

Funding Opportunities

FY2010 Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) will be available once again this year. The total funding for MPGs was reduced from around \$800,000 available in previous years, to \$408,700 for fiscal year 2010. Please note that all outreach about the MPGs will be by email, and all applications must be submitted on-line. Municipalities may apply for up to \$15,000 for single applications or up to \$25,000 for multi-town (consortia) applications. No local match is required, but only one application per municipality may be submitted.

2010 Grant Schedule:

August 2009	Application available online
September 1, 3-5 pm OR September 10, 12-2pm	Online application training date (<i>Sponsor must attend one training to be eligible</i>)
September 30, 2009	Applications due
November 2009	Award decision

We encourage you to start planning your project now. Program information and online application submission information is available at <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm>. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the MPG program administrator, Wendy Tudor, at 802-828-5249 or 800-622-4553 or email wendy.tudor@state.vt.us. For grant writing assistance, please contact Bonnie at LCPC.

FY2010 Transportation Enhancement Program

The Enhancements Program is an exciting and innovative program for non-traditional transportation-related projects managed by the VTrans. This program can be a funding source for activities such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation, and more. Its goal is to aid in the creation of a multi-modal and environmentally sustainable transportation system that encourages non-motorized use and enhances Vermont's historic landscapes and human scale of development. **All local authorities, not-for-profit organizations and federal/state agencies are eligible to apply.**

2010 Program Schedule:

August 10	Pre-application letter due with copy to your RPC
August 24, 6-9pm OR August 25, 2:15-4:15pm	Mandatory TE trainings via VT interactive Television (<i>Sponsor must attend one training to be eligible</i>)
October 13	Final applications due
March 2010	Awards announced

Application materials are available on-line at the VTrans website. Please note this is not a grant but a reimbursement program that must follow federal and state rules and regulations. For questions about the application process contact Curtis Johnson, VTrans Transportation Enhancement Program Coordinator at (802)828-0583. For application assistance, please contact Dave at LCPC.



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LCPC Presents Jim Marvin Awards

The LCPC presented the Jim Marvin Award for Community Service to Joanne Harrison, President of River Arts, on June 23 at the Commission's annual meeting. Blair Marvin, Jim's daughter, presented the award on behalf of LCPC and recognized Joanne's tireless advocacy for kids and families that might not be able to afford arts programs, her gracious skill with networking and fundraising, and her ability to listen to opposing viewpoints and develop ideas that are inclusive.

The Jim Marvin Award for Excellence in Project Design was presented to the Town of Wolcott for its renovation and rehabilitation of the former railroad station. With the need for a space in Wolcott to house pre-school, the idea of using the railroad building was born. This historical renovation was accomplished through the efforts of Wolcott citizens and the Wolcott Historical Society. The project moves the town closer to its plan for School Street to be a designated village center. The LCPC offers its congratulations to the awardees and to all the nominees.

The Greater Lamoille Valley Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Project

Elders, physically and mentally disabled people, especially those not already under the care of an agency, and single parents with young children often require help to evacuate their home in time of flood, fire or extended power outage, or any of the many other types of disasters that particularly isolate or threaten the vulnerable. Without an annually updated record of those in our towns with such needs, however, those with special needs and without close family or caring neighbors are left to hope that someone will remember them in time to help them out of harm's way.

The VT Department of Health, working through the Local Emergency Planning Committee with the United Way of Lamoille County and area human services agencies, has developed an on-going system to identify those people in our district who require special assistance in an emergency. An annual public information campaign will be run in September (National Emergency Preparedness Month). The campaign will include:

- Providing a Special Needs card in area weekly newspapers accompanied by articles telling the stories of people with special needs who have required assistance in an emergency. The articles will illustrate why anyone with such needs should fill out a card
- Running public service announcements on WLVB and giving on-air interviews
- Requesting that the public access TV station air similar announcements
- Posting the card on the United Way of Lamoille County website
- Asking our region's utility companies to insert the cards in an annual mailing
- Having all area human services agencies incorporate the card in their in-take interviews with new clients, and whenever the records of clients are updated

The cards can be mailed to the United Way of Lamoille County or dropped off at town offices. The United Way of Lamoille County will collect the cards and enter all information into a database. The fire departments for each town in the Morrisville District will then receive a list of those people in their coverage area who would require special assistance in an emergency. Vermont Emergency Management has agreed that this information can be appended, in a sealed envelope, to the town's Basic Emergency Operations Plan (formerly the Rapid Response Plan). The fire departments are the keepers of the Emergency Operations Plans.



Free Orthophotography from VCGI

Starting July 1st, you can download free, compressed (JPEG 2000) orthophotos from the VCGI website! http://www.vcgi.org/dataware/image_library

The data currently available includes the black and white statewide orthos (1:5000) produced through the VT Mapping Program (various ages, depending on location), and the 2003 NAIP color orthos (1:40000). Data are available via tiled data download or custom data download by zooming to area of interest, then clicking to clip and zip.

You can also purchase bundles of statewide imagery in compressed or uncompressed format. Pricing and order forms can be found on the VCGI Image Library web pages.

Remember that other options for accessing imagery include the Interactive Map Viewer where no special software is needed, just a web browser (<http://www.vcgi.org/mapcenter/>) and Web Map Services (http://www.vcgi.org/dataware/products/metadatasvc/gis_basemap.htm)!

Announcement from Leslie Pelch, Outreach Coordinator, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.