



Lamoille County Planning Commission

Summer 2013

Managing Roadside Erosion

Melinda Scott

Accelerated erosion from roadside swales and culverts is a major contributor to water quality pollution in the Lamoille River watershed. Development on steep terrain with highly erodible soils makes the road network especially vulnerable to erosion. If you tour the county's roadways during a rainstorm, you can see muddy runoff as it flows into fishing streams and rivers.

LCPC is currently engaged in two projects that target road erosion; both projects are funded by Vermont Watershed Grants. The first focused on outreach to road foremen. LCPC coordinated two workshops on a different technique related to ditch management and erosion control of roadsides.



A basic function of roadside ditches is to collect and disperse stormwater runoff received from the road as well as the surrounding environment. Several ditch management techniques can help highway staff slow runoff velocity, decrease volume, remove pollutants, and reduce sediment transport and erosion potential, prior to runoff entering surface waters. The workshops presented basic principles of stormwater runoff and water quality and provided

a hands-on opportunity to implement best management practices. Participating municipalities received materials to support the integration of the practice in their town. The goal of the project was to encourage municipal adoption of practices and improve capacity to implement measures on local projects, as well as to increase municipal official knowledge of stormwater runoff impacts on local roads and stream water quality.

This summer, LCPC, working with the Towns of Cambridge, Elmore and Wolcott, will assess and map road erosion on Class 3 and 4 roads so that the towns can prioritize and systematically upgrade them, ultimately reducing sedimentation. The Towns hope to better understand the scope of the erosion problems along their Class 3 and 4 roads. The project will serve several purposes:

- It will help the towns track erosion problem areas and repair simple sites.
- For more complex sites, the towns can prioritize if and when to hire engineering assistance.
- Information gathered can be incorporated into each town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and tracked in case the town wants to pursue mitigation grants to fix the more complex sites.

If your municipality is interested in erosion inventories, please contact Melinda.

Inside This Issue

<i>Community Webinar Series</i>	2
<i>NBRC Grant Funds Available</i>	2
<i>Innovative Toilets at Barnes Camp</i>	3
<i>Flood Resiliency Requirements</i>	3
<i>Free Data Resources Available</i>	4
<i>Grant Writing Tips</i>	4
<i>Grant Funding Opportunities</i>	4
<i>Solar Power Option</i>	5
<i>Staff Certifications</i>	5
<i>Energy Siting Recommendations</i>	6
<i>Dry Hydrant Grants</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	7
<i>LCPC Staff</i>	8
<i>Home Share Now</i>	8

LCPC
PO Box 1637
52 Portland Street
Morrisville, VT 05661

(802) 888-4548
www.lcpcvt.org



FREE Community Preparedness Webinar Series

UVM Extension is offering a free statewide webinar series focused on community emergency preparedness. Held each Tuesday in June from 12:15-12:45 pm, the webinars will focus on the agricultural landscape and relevant emergency management issues. The agricultural infrastructure supporting economic activity on farms and beyond is vulnerable to numerous emergencies and disasters. How well is your community addressing the emergency management needs of this vital infrastructure?

The webinars will be available to individuals at their own computers as well as in a facilitated group format at LCPC's office. A toll free phone connection will be provided for the audio portion. The URL link and toll-free number to connect to each session will be posted at: <http://blog.uvm.edu/jmsmith/community-preparedness-webinars/>. Each episode in the series will be archived for later reference.

You can join LCPC for this lunchtime webinar series! Bring your lunch and participate in the webinar. Afterwards, we'll have a brief discussion about what you can do in your communities. Tuesdays in June, Noon—1 pm, 52 Portland Street, 2nd floor, Morrisville. Call Taylor with any questions. For more information about the webinar series, contact Louis Bedor, III, UVM Extension, (802) 497-0033

Northern Border Regional Commission Announces Grant Funds Availability

Bonnie Waninger

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is accepting applications. The NBRC was created by the Congress to target resources to promote economic growth strategies and projects throughout the most severely distressed portions of the Northeastern United States, including Lamoille County. These efforts focus on leveraging the public, private and philanthropic resources needed to develop and sustain the community building blocks for economic competitiveness and development in this highly distressed region.

The NBRC plans to award approximately \$1.2 million by late summer, 2013, with a maximum grant of \$200,000. Applications are due to NBRC for screening on July 15, 2013. Projects in our region will require a 50% match.

Eligible projects must:

- develop the transportation, water, sewer, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure of the region (these projects will receive additional credit in scoring preferences);
- assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and,
- promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

For more information or to obtain an application package, contact Bonnie at bonnie@lpcvt.org or 888-4548.

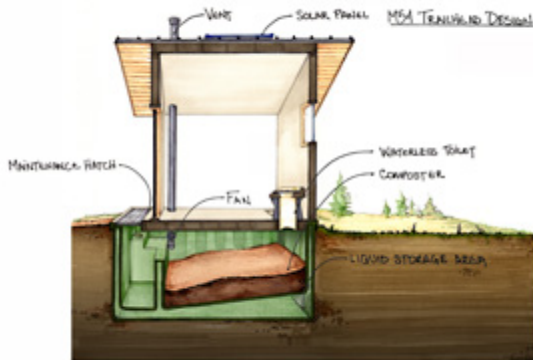


Innovative Toilets at Barnes Camp

Seth Jensen

With construction of the Smugglers Notch Barnes Camp Visitor Center due to begin this summer, LCPC has received permits to install two Clivus M32 toilets. The system is ventilated to eliminate odor and nearly maintenance free.

Clivus New England's composting waste treatment systems are a sustainable alternative to septic, sewer, or package treatment; they are complete systems and not simply composting "toilets". Through a natural aerobic process, human waste is reduced to a humus byproduct that can be returned to the earth. There is no need for



further treatment once the compost is finished. Clivus produces no methane, but instead vents off carbon-dioxide and water vapor. The ventilation system keeps restrooms odor-free.

Clivus systems use 95% to 100% less water than traditional flushing toilets, resulting in drastically less wastewater. The liquid end-product of the composting system can be sent out with a building's greywater to either a reduced size soil absorption system or a sewer system. At Barnes Camp, an environmentally sensitive area, the nitrogen-rich liquid end product will be collected in a separate storage tank and removed from the site.

New Flood Resiliency Requirements

Bonnie Waninger

Act 16 of the 2013 Legislature establishes a new flood resilience planning requirement for municipal and regional plans. The new requirement becomes effective July 1, 2014.

Municipal plans must include a flood resilience plan identifying flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Agency of Natural Resources and designating those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property. The flood resilience plan must also recommend policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and public investments.

For regional plans, a new planning element requires regions to address the same information described under the municipal resilience plan.

In both cases, the Legislature specified that the requirement can be met by referencing an existing local or regional hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6. LCPC has an approved regional hazard mitigation plan which includes local annexes for each town in Lamoille County.

The plan and annexes must be updated every five years to remain valid. LCPC will be working with Cambridge, Johnson, Hyde Park, Wolcott, and Stowe on plan updates in 2013-2014. LCPC is currently working with the Village of Jeffersonville to create a new, stand alone local mitigation plan.

Plan updates can be funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; applications are currently being accepted. Contact Taylor Foster for more information.



Free Data Resources Available

Taylor Foster

With so much information available today, how do you know which resources to use? Beginning with this newsletter, LCPC will highlight data sources you might find useful. First up, the U.S. Census Bureau. Census data can be used in myriad ways: municipal plan updates, grant applications, planning for the future, curiosity, or to compare how your community has changed over time.

Every ten years, the U.S. government conducts a census of Americans. Due to budget cuts, the decennial census has been scaled back and supplemented with the American Community Survey (ACS). ACS data is collected annually but is available in 1, 2, 3, and 5 year intervals. Between the Census and ACS, data can be sorted by zip code, village or town, county, and state and covers the following topics:

- People, including population, age, gender, race, ethnicity;
- Economics, including workforce, incomes, wages, poverty rates, number of establishments;
- Housing, including household size, age of structure, housing value, rent payments, occupancy;
- Education, including educational attainment

While the Census counts every resident and responses not received by mail are collected by door-to-door workers, ACS data are estimates based on selected sample sizes from phone calls. For small, rural communities, sample sizes are often too small to be accurate or cannot be released for confidentiality reasons. Data compiled through the Census Bureau remain one of the best indicators for quantifying characteristics of geographic areas.

The meat of statistical information is available at www.factfinder2.census.gov. It allows users to search for data by a number of categories: dataset (e.g. Census 2000, Census 2010, ACS years), geog-

raphy, topic, industry, etc. If you visit the Census Bureau homepage, www.census.gov, you can find a wealth of maps, studies, reports, and definitions. When using data from the Census Bureau, double check which year's data you're using. Remember that villages are included in the town census.

If you're really excited about the numbers, tune in via TV or online to C-Span's "America by the Numbers" program every Friday to learn more about key official statistics on relevant topics. And if you get stuck in the web of data, call LCPC to help pull you out!

Grant Writing Tips

Funding can be tight for small and rural communities. When you apply for a grant, select a project that fills a real, identifiable need and demonstrate project "fit" with applicant mission, goals, and activities.

Grant Funding Opportunities

- *USDA Rural Development:*
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html
- *Vermont Community Foundation:*
www.vermontcf.org Pay particular attention to the "Green Mountain Fund", which funds projects in Lamoille County.
- *Vermont Strong Community Resources Guide:*
<http://vtstrong.vermont.gov/Home/CommunityRecovery/CommunityResources.aspx>
- *Funding Directory for Historic Preservation Projects in Vermont* (and so much more!)
http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/preservation/grants/funding_directory
- *VT Department of Conservation Grants and Loans Program:*
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/grants.htm>
- *VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program:*
http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/bike_ped



An Affordable, No Down Payment Solar Power Option Comes to Vermont

Meghan Rodier

Energize Vermont recently entered into a partnership with American Clean Energy Supply (ACES) to promote the newly established “Power up Program (PUP).” This unique partnership is designed to increase the affordability of residential solar installations for residents across Vermont. The Power up Program requires no initial upfront cost and allows home owners to pay off solar installation fees by making monthly installments equal to or less than a household’s existing utility bills. This new approach will open the door to households of all income levels interested in saving money long-term through the ownership of a residential solar powered electric and hot water heating system. While solar leasing and rental options have been available for the past decade, the PUP initiative allows Vermonters, for the first time, to install residential solar systems with a “no money down” financing option. For more information, visit www.powerupvt.com or call (802) 778-0660.



Staff Certifications

Taylor Foster recently attained Certified Floodplain Manager’s status. Administered by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, this national program is a professional certification to enhance the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers.

In her work as Regional Planner, Taylor focuses on land use planning and emergency management. LCPC is committed to providing technical assistance to our communities when it comes to floodplain management. In the past, LCPC and Lamoille County communities have worked together to develop flood hazard regulations and flood mitigation and disaster plans, and conducted research towards restoring natural and beneficial systems of rivers and streams. LCPC can now provide greater technical assistance to communities seeking information about flood insurance, flood hazard mitigation, floodplain management, and National Flood Insurance Program regulatory standards.

During extensive discussion about flood resiliency in the 2012 Legislative Session, Regional Planning Commissions volunteered to train at least one staff member at each commission as a Certified Floodplain Manager and provide technical assistance to local communities upon request. This commitment helped communities retain local control of floodplain management.

For more information on becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager, visit the Association of State Floodplain Managers at www.floods.org.





Governor's Energy Siting Policy Commission Recommendations

Bonnie Waninger

The recently released final report of the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission offers recommendations to adjust how and where energy generation projects are sited to ensure that Vermont adequately avoids the degradation of critical resources while significantly increasing our reliance on clean energy. The recommendations, as well as other information, are available at <http://sitingcommission.vermont.gov>.

With the aim of providing greater community and regional participation in energy planning, the five core recommendations of the Energy Siting Commission are to:

- Increase emphasis on planning at state, regional, and municipal levels;
- Adopt a tiered approach to siting to achieve a quicker, more efficient review of a greater number of small/less controversial projects;
- Increase the opportunity for public participation;
- Increase transparency, efficiency, and predictability in the siting process through procedural changes;
- Update environmental, health, and other protection guidelines.

The Commission's recommendations, developed with broad public and stakeholder input, focus on bolstering the local and regional energy planning processes and ensuring that local and regional plans receive more consideration in the Section 248 process.

The report recommends an expansion of the role of regional planning, with the goal of identifying areas in each region that are more or less suitable for energy development. While the details are yet to be worked out, if properly structured, these strategies could help to address many of the concerns that have surrounded past energy projects.

The recommendations lay out a path for regional plans to receive "substantial consideration" before the Public Service Board (PSB). When a regional plan has been approved by the PSB as being consistent with state statutory energy targets and the goals of the

Comprehensive Energy Plan, the regional plan's elements would be viewed as dispositive by the PSB.

The Commission recommended that local plans be given "substantial consideration" by the PSB in the siting process if a plan was approved as compatible with the Regional Plan. If a municipality chooses not to participate, or if its plan is not approved by the RPC, the plan will retain "due consideration" as currently accorded to municipal planning recommendations.

Public participation would be encouraged in new ways. If a project reached a trigger point, a public notification would be placed on the PSB siting website. Under a new tiered approach to applications, earlier notification would be provided in Tier 3 and 4 applications (>2.2 MW)

Act 30 of the 2013-2014 Legislative Session directs the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy to jointly review the report and recommendations. They may also consider any issue related to electric generation plants, including their development, siting, and operation; and may recommend legislation concerning electric generation plants.

LCPC will continue to monitor activity related to this effort. Should the Siting Commission's recommendations be translated into policy by the Legislature, the LCPC Board will consider how a Lamoille County regional discussion would be framed. It is expected that municipal plans would play a central role.

Dry Hydrant Grants Available

Dry hydrants improve fire response times in non-hydrant areas. The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force has grant funding for dry hydrants. Visit www.nvtrcd.org/vtrfptf.html for a complete application package. Applications must be received by June 28, 2013. Mail to: Northern VT RC&D, 617 Comstock Rd, Suite 2, Berlin, VT 05602. Contact Troy Dare with questions, (802) 828-4582.



Upcoming Events

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Deadline

Letters of Intent due June 7

Applications due July 12

Contact the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security www.vem.vermont.gov, or call Taylor at 888.4548 for more information

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) #11 Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 5:30–6:30 pm

LCPC office, 52 Portland Street, 2nd Floor,

Help re-start CERT! Contact Taylor at 888.4548 or Taylor@lpcvt.org for more information

Lamoille Region Chamber of Commerce HR Roundtable Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 9:00 am

Stowe Area Association, 51 South Main Street, Stowe, VT 05672

The Lamoille Region Chamber of Commerce and the Lamoille County Planning Commission will be co-hosting guest speaker Deb Sachs from Go Vermont. Deb's presentation will highlight Go Vermont resources available to Lamoille County employers, the benefits of promoting alternative transportation, implementing workplace incentives, and encouraging the use of alternative transportation for little or no cost. An increasing number of local businesses are working to address the affordability gap in Lamoille County's transportation sector. Find out how your business can save money and benefit from the wealth of resources that Go Vermont has to offer.

This meeting is open to Lamoille County Human Resource representatives. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to DJ Masi at dj.masi@ahs.state.vt.us by 5pm on June 14th.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, Noon-1:30 pm

Lamoille County Planning Commission Office, 52 Portland Street, 2nd Floor

2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection *free to district residents*

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 am-Noon

Tatro's, Route 15 & 108, Jeffersonville

Bring your oil-based paint, pesticides, household cleaners, aerosols, automotive products, etc. For more information and a list of what to bring, visit www.lrswmd.org.

Lamoille County Planning Commission
PO Box 1637
Morrisville, VT 05661-1637

LCPC Staff

Bonnie Waninger, *Executive Director*
Bonnie@lcpcvt.org

Seth Jensen, *Senior Planner*
Seth@lcpcvt.org

Melinda Scott, *GIS Planner*
Melinda@lcpcvt.org

Taylor Foster, *Regional Planner*
Taylor@lcpcvt.org

Meghan Rodier, *Assistant Planner*
Meghan@lcpcvt.org

Georgeana Little, *Bookkeeper/Office Manager*
Georgeana@lcpcvt.org

**For more information on any of the subjects in
this newsletter, please contact the writer.**

Home Share Now

Home Share Now serves Central Vermont, including Lamoille County. The non-profit helps people “get what they need in exchange for what they have to offer.” A homeowner with room to spare agrees to share their home in exchange for services and/or a small stipend.

The organization has been successful in allowing seniors to stay in their homes while also providing affordable, local housing to lower income people. Today, Home Share Now is reaching out to single parent families, those seeking to lower their carbon footprint, and non-traditional households in order to create housing options with positive community and environmental impact. For more information visit their website at www.homesharenow.org, or call the office at (802) 479-8544.

*Did you know that state law requires towns with zoning to allow any owner of a single family home to construct an accessory apartment? An accessory apartment is a 1 bedroom or efficiency no larger than 30% of the floor area of the home. State law also allows towns to be **MORE** flexible permitting a 2 or 3 bedroom apartment, comprising 40% or even more of the floor area of the home.*