



## Winter 2019

There have been changes at LCPC since the spring and a lot has been going on. Read on to learn what (and who) has changed.

[LCPCVT.ORG](http://LCPCVT.ORG)

### Digester Feasibility Study



As you may have heard, the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) and Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) have teamed with PurposeEnergy, Inc. to study the viability of building a food waste to energy anaerobic digester in Lamoille County. This is a meaningful step toward reducing the high cost of trucking these materials for disposal, or sending them to the local wastewater treatment plant. Our goal is to reduce the cost of producing quality, local products, while producing a useful amount of renewable energy.

This feasibility study - generously funded through a USDA grant and a contribution from LEDC - will determine the optimal organic feedstocks, digester location relative to feedstocks and wastewater treatment plants. It will also determine the financial viability of treating the byproducts from breweries, distilleries, sugar shacks, farms, and other food businesses in Lamoille County and neighboring towns.

### Route 15 Bypass Culvert Replacement Jeffersonville Flood Mitigation Project

In the Fall of 2018, project partners geared up for the replacement of a small drainage culvert under Route 15 in Jeffersonville. The 18" culvert was replaced in November with a 20' long by 4' deep concrete box culvert. Construction also included improving the downstream drainage path. The new culvert has the capacity to carry flood water out of the Village area. The goal of the project was to reduce flooding in Jeffersonville. A community that previously experienced frequent flooding. A recent modeling study conducted by Milone and MacBroom on the Lamoille Main Stem identified that the Route 15 embankment was blocking water from crossing the highway to the River. This barrier increased flooding and established uncontrolled flood paths across Route 15 and nearby residential and commercial properties in the Village. The culvert replacement project allows passage of more water out of the Village mitigating flood damage in the Village proper.



The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) assisted the Town of Cambridge and Village of Jeffersonville in acquiring funding and acted as Project Manager. This project would not have been possible without its numerous dedicated partners and generous funders. Project funding and

partners included the following:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funded through the Vermont Department of Emergency Management
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program funded through the Agency of Commerce & Community Development
- Village of Jeffersonville
- Town of Cambridge
- Vermont Agency of Transportation
- State of Vermont Department of Public Safety
- Lamoille County Planning Commission - *Project Manager*
- Milone & MacBroom, Inc. - *Project Engineer*
- Desroches Construction Services, Inc. - *General Contractor*

This project represents one of the many efforts the Town of Cambridge and Village of Jeffersonville have taken to build a flood resilient community.

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## Municipal Planning Grants Awarded



This year, 67 communities requested nearly \$1 million in Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) funds. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development awarded about \$460,000 in available funding to 29 communities. Our region submitted five applications of which two were funded, including:

- **Jeffersonville's** proposal to develop a management plan for the former Bell Gates lumber mill property that was purchased by the community for use as a flood control area and a gateway park to the historic village. (\$7,950).
- A joint proposal from **Hyde Park, Wolcott and Stowe** to obtain assistance and determine if the communities can participate in and reduce flood insurance rates through FEMA's Community Rating System. Wolcott will also work to update its flood hazard regulations (\$16,740).

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## Wolcott's Ecosystem Restoration Grant

In 2017, the Town of Wolcott was awarded a \$15,888 Ecosystem Restoration Grant by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, to implement stormwater mitigation practices at the Wolcott Town Garage and Fire Station. The Town contributed \$12,274 in-kind match, dedicating staff time and materials to complete the project.

The installation of stormwater mitigation practices began in October 2017. Stormwater improvements at the Wolcott Town facility included the installation of roof gutters and settling pools to allow for infiltration of rain water and to capture sediment. The project also included the construction of a retaining wall near the winter sand pile to minimize loss of material, as well as installing a stone header at a nearby culvert on School Street. Additional road work to mitigate stormwater runoff included installing a stone-line ditch, crowning the road, and installing water bars on School Street. Project construction was completed in May 2018.



This project represents the Town of Wolcott's dedication to improving water quality and protecting local assets such as the Lamoille River. Linda Martin, Wolcott Town Clerk, stated that "Wolcott supports the State goals to improve water quality, and we are committed to making a positive impact at the local level." Grant programs such as the Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Program make projects like the Wolcott Garage stormwater improvements possible!

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## Regionally Significant Ridgelines

The Lamoille County Planning Commission invites you to participate in a discussion about *regionally significant ridgelines*.

The Lamoille County Regional Plan, adopted in 2015, recognizes Mount Elmore and the Worcester Range, Mount Mansfield and the Sterling Range, Butternut Mountain, and Belvidere Mountain as regionally significant ridgelines.

In 2018, during the development of an energy amendment to the Regional Plan, LCPC received questions from several Lamoille municipalities about the process to designate additional peaks and ridges as regionally significant.

In response, we wrote a draft proposal to provide an avenue to designate additional ridgelines as regionally significant. The proposal provides a definition of a regionally significant ridgeline, proposes criteria for designating additional ridgelines as regionally significant, and proposes policies to protect the regionally significant ridgelines and guide development on the ridgelines and their hill sides.

Early in January 2019 we sent the proposal to Selectboards, Trustee Boards, Planning Commissions, and Conservation Commissions to solicit feedback.

We would very much appreciate hearing from you. The end goal of our effort is to ascertain whether LCPC should amend the Regional Plan and include new ridgeline language. Once amended, the Regional Plan would provide an avenue for municipalities to request regional ridgeline designation. If you have questions, please contact Lea Kilvadyova via phone, email, or mail. Lea's phone is (802) 851-6348 and email is [lea@lcpcvt.org](mailto:lea@lcpcvt.org).

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## Completion of the Cambridge Stormwater Mitigation Project at Cambridge Elementary School

In the spring of 2019, project partners will gather at the Cambridge Elementary School to celebrate the completion of the Cambridge Stormwater Mitigation Project. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held to recognize project partners and funders for their generous contributions to the Cambridge Stormwater Project. The Ceremony will include an educational explanation and visuals of the new stormwater mitigation system, presented by Watershed Consulting Associates.

The new stormwater infiltration system included the installation of underground chambers, an infiltration basin, and overflow swale to capture additional runoff during flooding events. Incorporating the chambers allows the system to treat runoff from approximately 90% of impervious surfaces on the entire school campus (rooftops, sidewalks, and parking areas). The system was designed to prevent direct discharge of runoff from entering the Brewster River. "The Town of Cambridge took a proactive approach to mitigating stormwater runoff and improving water quality of the Brewster River," said Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner with the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC).

The Lamoille County Planning Commission served as a supplemental project manager for the Stormwater Mitigation Project. The LCPC provided direct assistance to the Town of Cambridge and the Cambridge Conservation Commission. The Lamoille County Planning Commission worked closely with the Cambridge Elementary School throughout the life of the project, integrating educational opportunities for students, including installing a rain barrel at the School. Funding for this project was provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Ecosystem Restoration Program, and the High Meadows Fund.

For more information contact: Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, with the Lamoille County Planning Commission at (802) 888-4548.



Installation Summer 2018



Post Construction



## Water Quality Grant Awarded for Lamoille County Updates to the Vermont Watershed Projects Database

The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) has received a 604B FY 2017 grant for \$3,636 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to conduct updates to the Vermont Watershed Projects Database regarding priority water quality projects in Lamoille County. 604B grants are funded through the Federal Clean Water Act. The Vermont Watershed Projects Database was established by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to support watershed planning efforts and track priority water quality projects in Vermont. Projects identified in Tactical Basin Plans (e.g. Lamoille and Winooski) and the Watershed Projects Database may receive priority funding under Vermont Clean Water Act grants.

“This work serves as an important step to bring resources to Lamoille County to implement priority water quality projects and maintain clean water resources for all residents and visitors,” said Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, with the Lamoille County Planning Commission.

The Lamoille County Planning Commission will coordinate with the Lamoille and Winooski Watershed Planners and applicable towns to identify priority projects that will be entered into the Watershed Projects Database. Relevant projects will include recent stormwater master plans, road erosion inventories, river corridor plans, and other municipal assessments (e.g. stormwater/green infrastructure, hazard mitigation).

To learn more about the Vermont Watershed Projects Database and view projects in your area please visit: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/ARK/ProjectSearch.aspx>.

For more information on this project, contact the LCPC at (802) 888-4548 or [meghan@lcpv.org](mailto:meghan@lcpv.org)

### Old Faces/New Faces

#### *Some people have moved on...*

Ryan Murphy, GIS Planner, left LCPC in October to take a new position. At the same time, Ellen McNulty, who has been running our office for 3 years, also departed. We will miss them both.

#### *While others have arrived...*

In October we welcomed **Alexa Repko**, our new Assistant Planner.

Alexa assists LCPC staff on many different ongoing projects including Town/Village Center Plans, Bike/Pedestrian Data, and Road Erosion Inventory. She is the primary contact for Emergency Management including the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Alexa also aids in creating/maintaining GIS maps.



In November, **Georgeana Little** took over as Office Manager. Georgeana is no stranger to LCPC. She worked as bookkeeper from 2012-2014. After leaving her position at the Commission, she joined the Board of Directors as representative from Cambridge Village for 4 years.