



Winter 2022

Winter has arrived in Lamoille County. Although fieldwork has slowed the Planners are still busy helping communities navigate the ARPA funds among other grants. We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful.

LCPCVT.ORG

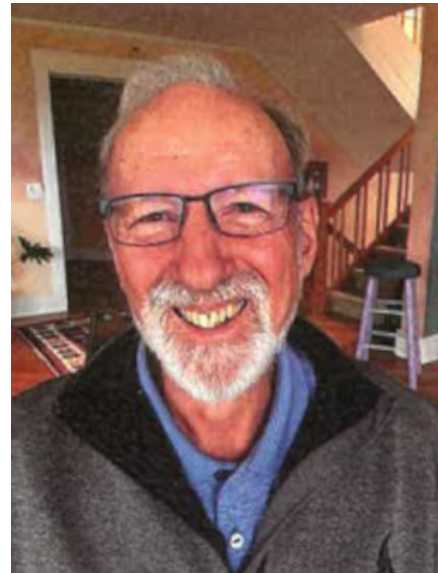
Introducing our Board Members

Greg Paus

Gregory A. Paus landed in Hyde Park 50 years ago, purchasing an old barn while an architectural school student in Boston. After completing renovations to the barn and calling it a home, Greg moved to Hyde Park in 1975. After a couple of years of enjoying the building trades with shovel and hammer, Greg decided to create a desk job for himself and start his own architectural firm, Silver Ridge Design, located in Hyde Park.

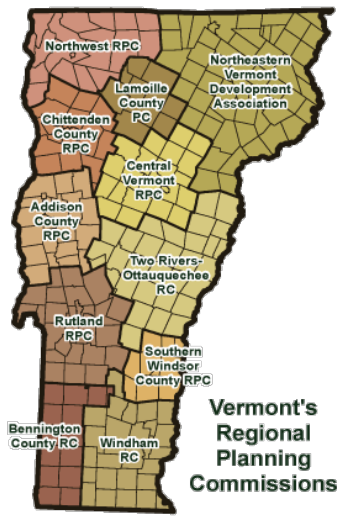
Greg is a firm believer in community involvement and exemplifies the term "public service" through his time and energy on numerous regional and local committees and boards including Hyde Park Justice of the Peace, Road Committee, Planning Commission, Town & Village Joint Economic Development Board, Vermont Arts Council Vice Chair and Hyde Park's representative on the Lamoille County Planning Commission, where he serves on the Executive and JEDI Committees.

Silver Ridge Design continues to donate many hours of professional services to projects like the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail trailhead, the pocket park on the Courthouse lawn, and the renovation of the Grange Hall in North Hyde Park. Greg and his wife Eileen, have raised three children in Hyde Park and are now enjoying three grandchildren.



VAPDA Annual Report and Story Map

The Lamoille County Regional Commission is one of eleven regional planning commissions (RPCs) in Vermont. The individual RPCs have many shared responsibilities, collaborate on numerous statewide initiatives, and are represented jointly as the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA).



You can get a sense of the work being done by RPCs around Vermont by reviewing [VAPDA's latest annual report](#) and by viewing this online storymap: [2021 Vermont Regional Planning Commissions at arcgis.com](https://arcgis.com) .

Regional Plan Update

2015 – 2023
LAMOILLE COUNTY
REGIONAL PLAN



A Policy and Reference Guide

Adopted: November 24, 2015 Effective: December 30, 2015
Amended: September 26, 2017
Amended: May 22, 2018

The Regional Plan Committee of the Lamoille County Planning Commission is gearing up to begin the update of the Lamoille County Regional Plan. The Regional Plan is a policy and reference guide developed by the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to address issues of common concern among the municipalities in the region. As a Regional Planning Commission, LCPC is required to prepare a regional plan every eight years by soliciting input from member municipalities, regional organizations, and the public. The current Regional Plan expires on November 24th, 2023 and can be viewed on LCPC's website at: [Regional Plan - Lamoille County Planning Commission \(lcpvcvt.org\)](https://lcpvcvt.org) .

The update process will begin on January 24th, 2022 and will continue on a monthly basis led by the Regional Plan Committee. LCPC staff will update data/information prior to each meeting and update each reviewed chapter based on the Committee's feedback. To better understand the evolving landscape of the county, LCPC staff will meet with the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity) Committee in the early process of the Regional Plan update to discuss demographics data and policies that address social justice and racial equity.

Community engagement is important to this process and to facilitate this, LCPC will hold three informational sessions for community comment. The informational sessions will coincide with a regularly scheduled LCPC Board of Directors Meeting. The informational sessions and all Regional Plan Committee meetings are open to the public, and are highlighted [here](#) on a timeline for the Regional Plan update.

After the Regional Plan has been updated, thirty days prior to the first public hearing, the LCPC shall provide a copy of the proposed plan to the chair of the legislative body of each municipality in Lamoille County, the Executive Director of LCPC, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Agency of Natural Resources, Agency of Agriculture, and interested organizations that request notice in writing. The final revised Regional Plan will be adopted by the end of October 2023.

For questions regarding the Regional Plan update contact Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, at meghan@lcpvcvt.org.

ARPA Updates and Reminders

On November 15th, Treasury issued a revised version of their [Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#).

Make sure that your municipality's procurement policies are up to date. Treasury's Guidance (p.8) specifies that if a municipality is using ARPA funds for procurement transactions for property or services, those transactions must be conducted in a manner consistent with the standards set forth in the Uniform Guidance at

LAMOILLE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION | **ARPA Municipal Project Selection**

Eligible Uses

- RESPOND TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY: Local relief grants to households and businesses impacted by COVID-19. Support for testing, actions that improve efficiency of future disaster response, such as parcel mapping, digitization of records, open records, additional HR&C at facilities where the public congregate, and equipment to allow remote public meetings.
- PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR "ESSENTIAL WORKERS" who have the greatest health risks. Federal guidance outlines eligible sectors/sectors.
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Based on a uniform formula. Funds dedicated to "revenue replacement" can that be used for general government purposes. A calculator is available for communities that use NEMRC.
- WATER AND SEWER: State Revolving Fund. Borrower and co-borrower agreements, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation at treatment plants. Assistance to property owners with failing wastewater systems and wells.
- BROADBAND: Includes certain broadband for sewer and affordability.

Infrastructure Projects

Eligible Projects	Ineligible Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sewer • Broadband investments • If above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision are eligible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match to other federal programs • Highway • Infrastructure not directly addressed by ARPA • Heavy duty trucks, State financial resources

The Process

- Be Patient: Funds must be obligated by 2024, and expended by 2026
- Review municipal priorities and programs
- Conduct citizens use public process to prioritize project ideas. Funding can be distributed to non-profits performing eligible projects to benefit the community
- Make sure to include ineligible uses
- Leverage other funding sources; Federal or State programs may be able to provide funding for municipal projects
- LCPIC is here to support municipalities. For questions contact

For more resources on ARPA Project Selection Guidelines visit <https://www.dtl.org/economic/american-rescue-plan-information>

2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327. Non-competitive procurement is only permitted under certain circumstances.

VLCT has developed a calculator to help municipalities determine whether any of their ARPA awards can be allocated toward "revenue loss." Revenue replacement expenditures are much more flexible than other ARPA expenditure categories, so it's worth running the calculator to see how much of your award can be categorized as revenue loss. Even if your Town or Village did not lose money during the pandemic, you can still claim revenue loss if annual municipal revenue growth has been less than 4.1%. [NEMRC](#) can provide technical assistance in running the calculator, and you can use ARPA dollars to pay them for their services.

On December 14,
Treasury notified designated local ARPA contacts regarding availability of a new portal

The portal is to be used to confirm accounts, designate reporting roles, and submit the required agreements and supporting documentation to Treasury for reporting and compliance. To access Treasury's Portal for the first time and be designated for any reporting roles, new users must first register with Login.gov. New users should use the following link:

<https://portal.treasury.gov/compliance>. Users who have previously registered through ID.me may continue to access Treasury's Portal through that method. The following link should be used if you have already registered through ID.me <https://portal.treasury.gov/cares/s/slt>.

An excellent resource is available at VLCT's ARPA webpage (<https://www.vlct.org/resources/american-rescue-plan-information>). Click the "Treasury's Reporting Portal Is Now Open to NEUs" under "Latest News." You can direct questions to VLCT at ARPA@vlct.org.

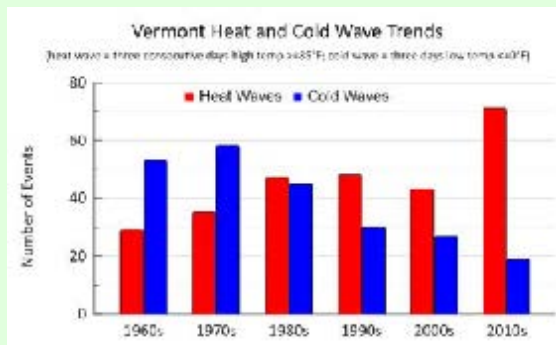
Seth Jensen, Deputy Director, is ready to speak to anyone needing guidance on the use of ARPA funds. General information can be found by clicking on the image above. You can also reach out to Seth via email at seth@lpcvt.org.

Climate Action Plan

The Vermont Climate Council adopted the initial Vermont Climate Action Plan on December 1, 2021. The plan will help Vermont meet the emissions reductions requirements outlined in the Global Warming Solutions Act and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

[The Global Warming Solutions Act](#), adopted by the General Assembly in September 2020, created the Vermont Climate Council, and required the Council to adopt a Climate Action Plan by December 1, 2021. This initial Climate Action Plan includes 26 pathways for action, including a dramatic increase in efforts to weatherize Vermont homes and spur the adoption of electric vehicles, recommendations for investments to help Vermont homeowners and businesses relocate from harms' way in the face of a changing climate, and steps to ensure the resilience and viability of Vermont's farms, forests and natural lands, among others. These pathways outline work needed to accomplish the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements established in the Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition, the plan lays out 64 strategies and more than 230 specific steps that spell out the framework needed to realize the transformative change required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Read a [short summary](#) or the [full version](#) of the plan and learn more at <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/>.



Grant Opportunity

Food Hub Infrastructure Support

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) has received funding from the [Northern Border Regional Commission](#) (NBRC) to expand capacity and market access for Vermont's nonprofit food hubs. Funding will support two to eight food hubs to help with critical infrastructure needs, enabling hubs to support more farm and food



businesses, expand their workforce, and advance their ongoing efforts to access larger metropolitan markets. Applications are due February 25, 2022 at 2:00pm EST.

Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 with available funding totaling \$300,000. Applicants are required to have a 25% match of requested award, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects will run from Spring 2022 - Spring 2024 and are subject to both state and federal program provisions.

Funding priorities include projects that demonstrate:

- Large infrastructure investments that will significantly increase the amount of Vermont products reaching new or expanded markets
- Increased capacity for food hubs to expand to large metropolitan markets outside of Vermont
- Increased sales to large-scale markets, measured in dollars and number of markets, both retail and wholesale, inside and outside of Vermont
- Increased purchasing from Vermont farm and food producers going to in state or out of state metropolitan markets
- Increased number of jobs and percentage of jobs at Vermont Livable Wage, which as of 2020 is \$13.39/hour

Applicants must have federal nonprofit status, be located in Vermont, and operate a food hub in Vermont. The organization must be able to demonstrate they have federal grant experience and organizational capacity related to economic development.

For information and application materials, visit [Food Hub Infrastructure Support | Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets \(vermont.gov\)](#). Program questions can be directed to Julia Scheier (she/her), Emerging Issues Specialist, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, at Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov.

The following are current grant opportunities available to communities.

- [Flood Resilient Communities Fund](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)
- [Downtown Transportation Fund Grant](#) (available for the first time to eligible Designated Villages!)
- [Clean Water Initiative Funding](#)

Agency of Natural Resources Healthy Homes Initiative

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) will distribute American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support water and wastewater infrastructure programs. ARPA funds will help disadvantaged communities address the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and help protect them from future crises. This funding program will be through the Healthy Homes Initiative.



Improving Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems in Manufactured Housing Communities (HH-MHCs).

Many manufactured housing communities (MHCs), also known as mobile home parks, in Vermont struggle to provide clean and adequate drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and drainage systems. This program will provide technical and financial assistance. Governor Scott has proposed a total of \$15 million towards this funding program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2024. The General Assembly has allocated \$3.25 million for this first year (FY22).

Eligibility

For-profit and non-profit organizations that represent manufactured housing communities can apply for funding through a competitive grant program for technical assistance, design, and permitting and construction. Eligible project types include drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Eligible projects

- Needs assessments of manufactured housing communities for future water/wastewater projects
- Technical assistance/engineering for supported water/wastewater construction projects
- Water source redevelopment/installations
- Connections to municipal water/sewer projects

- Installation/repair of on-site wastewater systems
- Stormwater retrofits, installations, and developments
- Improvements to site drainage including moving sites out of floodplains/river corridors
- Water supply distribution system installations/repairs
- Wastewater collection system installations/repairs

Funding Allocation

A portion of the allocated funding (up to 25% of the State Fiscal Year 2022 allocation) will be designated before the construction grant application is received.

This funding will provide MHCs with technical assistance grants and needs assessment services via a state-administered contract. The needs assessment and technical assistance work can be used to supplement a future grant proposal in a subsequent year for the individual manufactured housing community.

These grants and services will support an eventual construction grant application. Funding in subsequent years would focus on construction projects.

To learn more about this program, [Manufactured Housing Community Solutions | Agency of Natural Resources \(vermont.gov\)](#).

Helping Homeowners Replace Failed Water Wells and Septic Systems (HH-On-Site)

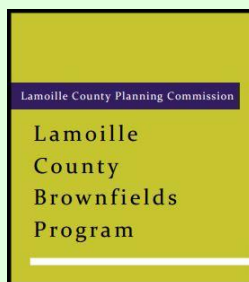
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many homeowners' on-site water and/or wastewater systems failed. To assist homeowners, Governor Scott has proposed a total of \$3 million towards this funding program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2024. The General Assembly has allocated \$1 million for this first year of FY22.

The program is designed to provide financial assistance to Vermonters for design/permitting costs and/or construction costs to replace water systems that meet the following **requirements**:

- Failed water (well) or wastewater (septic) system
- Residential property owners
- Single unit homes or owner-occupied multi-family homes, up to four units
- Income eligibility (Tier 1 - households earning less than \$65,000 per year OR Tier 2 - households earning between \$65,000 and 200% MHI per year)

Tiered awards are under consideration, with the maximum award being 50 percent of total project costs.

To learn more on this program and to view a recorded presentation on the topic, please visit <https://anr.vermont.gov/content/funding-install-or-replace-water-or-wastewater-systems>



Lamoille County Brownfields Revitalization Program Update

Throughout Lamoille County there are properties with a history of environmental contamination, due to the county's rich economic past. In past years, several of these sites have been redeveloped into businesses, housing, and recreational areas, thanks to local efforts, State and Federal funds, and community support.

There are still known and unknown properties that need to be assessed, cleaned up, and redeveloped. Over the past few months, the Brownfields Committee has been actively seeking new members and reaffirming interest with current members to oversee the LCPC Brownfields Program.

The Brownfields Committee meets bimonthly to provide guidance on program priorities, outreach, site selection, funding requests, and hiring consultants. LCPC has received \$100,000 in grant funds from the State to address Brownfields in Lamoille County. LCPC staff has also been actively seeking additional funding from the Environmental Protection Agency through their Brownfields Community Wide Assessment grant. Through the support and guidance of the Brownfields Committee, using current and future grant funds, we hope to continue our efforts in supporting the revitalization of contaminated properties.

Are you a property owner interested in enrolling your property in the program? Property owners who are not directly responsible for past contamination and who participate in the program receive protection from liability and may also be eligible for grant funding and low-interest loans for redevelopment. To find out more or to inquire about joining the Brownfields Committee, contact Assistant Planner Melanie Riddle at (802) 851-6342 or melanie@lpcvt.org.



The former regional Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) is being transitioned into a statewide body with responsibility being shifted from the regional groups to this new statewide LEPC. The old regional LEPCs are being replaced with new Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC). The REMC's role is to bring together as a group Emergency Management Directors, emergency service providers, the RPC, and Vermont Emergency Management to hold conversations and trainings based on regional needs. This group allows EMDs to connect with each other and with other local resources to better understand the needs of the region. LCPC is providing administrative support to this group and will be assisting them in completing their first regional plan, required by VEM in June 2022. The Lamoille REMC had its first meeting in October and is scheduling its next meeting in the coming months. For more information, please visit the LCPC website. [Regional Emergency Management Committee - Lamoille County Planning Commission \(lcpcvt.org\)](http://RegionalEmergencyManagementCommittee-LamoilleCountyPlanningCommission(lcpcvt.org))

Transportation Junction

Grant In Aid Program

This program was created to provide towns with funds to help them comply with the Municipal Road General Permit and is now in its fifth year. This past construction season LCPC helped all ten towns in Lamoille County participate and access a total of \$166,460. This coming construction season all ten towns have access to a total of \$143,100.



Public Transportation Study

In partnership with the Working Communities Challenge in Lamoille County, LCPC will be conducting a study of existing public transportation services and engaging community partners in exploring new options. Existing public transportation, while serving known needs, is funded by many sources; many of these financial resources are quite specific and therefore limited in terms of what is "eligible" or not. We now have an opportunity to engage municipalities, businesses, and community service partners in brainstorming creative ideas which may be useful in identifying new options. Although this study is not intended to be a comprehensive and exhaustive review of every detail, as a generalized study we will attempt to look at both revenue and logistics and identify concepts to explore for our region.

Winter Driving Conditions

Many of us know winter road conditions can be unpredictable and can change in a short time or a short distance of travel, so please be safe out there. It is also important to give our town and state road maintenance crews plenty of room to do their work; as VTrans says "don't crowd the plow!" Speaking of VTrans, you can find some great information and tools on their web page such as a real time map showing locations of state plow trucks on the road, links to highway webcams, and more: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations/winter>. On a lighter note, VTrans recently worked with schools to name snowplow trucks across the state. I might be biased, but I think the best names came from Lamoille County schools including my personal favorite "Snowbegone Kenobi". Check out the full list of plow names here: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/name-a-plow>

Any questions concerning transportation grants or programs should be directed to rob@lcpcvt.org.
