

## **WRC STAFF ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**This summary highlights staff activity during the month of APRIL 2026**

The lead staff person is listed in parentheses by each programmatic area heading.

### **Brownfields Redevelopment** (*Susan Westa*)

- 81 Royal Rd., Brattleboro – Final updates and requirements for cooperative agreement complete and agreement signed.
- Bellows Falls Bike Project – Addressing questions as project moves forward.

### **Community Development** (*Susan Westa*)

- Wilmington Town Plan – Updated Natural Resources, Flood Resilience and Energy Chapters. Developed Historic Resources section and Land Use Chapter. Prepared Energy Policies and attended Energy Committee meeting. Attended Matt's Act 181 presentation to the Planning Commission. Attended second Planning Commission meeting to review policies and began preparing for the Midway Review Public Meeting.
- Bellows Falls Island Bridge – Attended preparation call and met with VTrans, town and DEW about impacts of delaying bridge replacement work.
- RPC Meetup – Participated in final check in call.
- Town Plan Coordination – Met with WRC staff.
- Southeastern VT Housing Coalition – Attended monthly Housing Development Subcommittee meeting. Participated in coalition meeting with presentation of housing targets by Matt.
- Flood Resilience Game – Participated in game training with UMASS students.
- Capital Planning Forum – Attended day long workshop in Burlington.
- CT Watershed Planning Forum – Attended meeting with other RPCs/COGs.
- Windham Aging – Attended monthly meeting.
- Downtown Brattleboro Alliance - Attended Annual Meeting to approve budget.
- VT Community Development Association – Attended workshop in Montpelier about housing.
- Met with the volunteer committee in Readsboro responsible for improvements to the Bullock Block building to discuss the transition to a new generation of leadership.

### **Emergency & Resiliency Planning** (*Alyssa Sabetto*)

- Met with a Weston Fire Department representative and assembled two applications for dry hydrant replacement/upgrades to be done in conjunction time-wise with the larger Weston CDBG-DR project in 2028. Applications were both submitted to Troy Dare of the Dry Hydrant Grant Program.
- Met with the Rockingham Planning Commission to continue discussion around the flood hazard bylaw update and their public outreach plan. I integrated new forest buffer language and finalized the draft for public release.
- Met with Townshend to talk all things floodplain, updating their bylaw, and the role of the Development Review Board in floodplain reviews.
- WRC staff tested out the RISE game. What fun!
- Attended quarterly check-in with other regional commissions and VT DEC about the flood bylaw update project.
- Sent Vermont Emergency Management back an updated 'unfunded project spreadsheet' for the region.

### **Energy** (Mike McConnell)

- *MERP: Received Halifax boiler replacement bids for town garage.*
- *Attended Halifax SB meeting to discuss bids and answer questions*
- *Posted MERP design and solar/battery/charger RFP to bid board and town websites*
- *Completed MERP reporting.*
- *Met on site with MERP contacts in Wilmington, Athens, Grafton and Windham to discuss project progress.*
- *Met on site for MERP Grafton window replacement bid walkthrough.*
- *Attended MERP Rockingham/BF project meeting with Buildings and General Services to discuss project questions and potential grant SOW changes.*
- *Attended monthly Energy Planners Meeting*
- *Attended Battery storage webinar outlining potential zoning changes.*

### **GIS/Mapping** (Jeff Nugent & Lisa Donnelly)

- Prepped for, and attended, meeting in Wilmington regarding parking inventory update.
- Met, along with Margo, with UMass staff to discuss aquatic organism passage study using Vermont data.
- Did a VT Culverts training for the Town of Windham over Zoom.
- Ordered two new pedestrian counters.
- Participated in quarterly RPC GIS Teams meet-up.
- Quick site visit, then meeting with Wilmington Trails Committee and Great River Hydro staff to discuss mapping and improvements to the Hoot, Toot, and Whistle Trail.
- Spoke with Newfane selectboard admin about legal status of Railroad Lane.
- NextGen Brattleboro: updated downtown Brattleboro trail connections map; attended meeting of waterfront and outdoor rec focus group.
- Downloaded and processed new Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory data.
- Finalized Guilford's 2025 culvert map and Municipal Roads General Permit status map.
- Windham Regional Plan update: completed draft future land use mapping for all towns; created public-facing online map of draft future land use areas; updates to web page; calculations/statistics of various land use area acreages; future land use updates for a number of towns; created several 2025 vs. proposed 2026 future land use comparison maps for several towns; reviewed LCPC LURB letter; created a map of environmental justice populations.
- Information to Wilmington on the status of town highway 59.
- Worked on creating an Instant App map of flower barrels in Wilmington for use by the highway crew when setting them out.
- Updates to Wilmington sidewalk data with construction dates; created maps of their sidewalk network and condition.
- Spoke with Municipal Roads Program coordinator about upcoming changes to the program; reviewed new DEC MRGP mobile map, and provided comments to ANR staff.
- Met with Chris Curtis from the Deerfield River Watershed Association on their mapping needs for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational designation.
- Wilmington town plan: created draft Future Land Use, Special Sites and Areas, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Community Facilities maps.
- Information to Halifax on upcoming summer transportation field work.
- Provided information to Windham County Trails Alliance on map printing.

- Met with Hank Ainley from DEC on water and wastewater mapping; provided info to UVM on data update opportunities.
- Reviewed VT Culverts data guide created by consultant; RPCs to do final updates.
- Spoke with the Stratton road foreman about traffic studies and speed limits.
- Grafton septic ordinance: created a list of landowners in ordinance districts.
- Updated Brattleboro downtown trail connections maps.
- Grants in Aid: outreach to towns about FY26 technical assistance from WRC; created tracking spreadsheet; reached out to towns that had not yet submitted a letter of intent for FY27 Grants in Aid funding.
- Minor updates to Londonderry's proposed zoning districts, and generated new maps.
- Began planning work for the May road foremen's meeting.
- Vermont Trails and Greenways Council: membership committee meeting: work on annual meeting prep, and session on regional collaboration; monthly board meeting; discussion of next steps for Recreational Trails Program grant they've received (and we are a part of) for networking/training in the Windham Region.
- Met with Wilmington Trails Committee chair and co-chair: HT&W trail update and map needs; ideas for map of mowing work; info on Catamount and Velomont Trails and town plan policies; drafted email describing opportunities for town plan addressing trail goals and actions.
- Printed out and delivered E911 and road maps of Guilford to fire department, school, town garage, and town office.
- Spoke with the Brookline road foreman to confirm GIS data road surface coding, MRGP, other topics.
- Met with colleagues from MARC and TRORC to discuss GIS and transportation work.
- Continued work on surface water edits in Wilmington.
- Participated in the Census Bureau's small geographies webinar.
- Compiled traffic count data for Halifax.
- Created an updated Brookline culvert atlas and spreadsheet.
- Set up pedestrian counters on the Crosstown Trail in Dover and the Putney Mountain Ridgeline Trail.
- Collected bike parking data in downtown Brattleboro for April.
- Worked on Whitingham Town Plan Proposed Land Use map.
- Created a location map for the Windham Bank Stabilization project
- Took updated photos of several town short structures in Dover and Guilford, processed and uploaded to VTCulverts.
- Updated Whitingham housing data and chart showing seasonal units and other vacant units.
- Started work on an updated MRGP status map for Halifax.

#### **Municipal Planning Assistance** (*Matt Bachler & Mike McConnell*)

- Weston Zoning Bylaw Amendments: Met with Planning Commission to go over general project schedule. Began reviewing current zoning bylaws for consistency with statute. Drafted community survey questions.
- Dover Zoning Bylaw Amendments: Met with Planning Commission to review draft revisions to Planned Unit Development, affordable housing, and general standards in zoning bylaws.
- Completed staff review of request for WRC review of Brookline Town Plan and confirmation of municipal planning process.
- Provided Halifax Planning Commission with information about telecommunication regulations in Vermont.

- Provided comments to Dummerston Planning Commission on draft Town Plan.
- Held public hearing for request from Athens for WRC review of Town Plan and confirmation of municipal planning process. The Town Plan was approved by the Executive Board on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Planned for upcoming essentials of land use planning trainings for municipalities.

#### **Natural Resources & Water Quality** (*Margo Ghia*)

- Advanced multiple stormwater projects, including Gates Pond Road Stormwater Scoping Study, Imtec Lane Stormwater/Gully Restoration, and outreach for Londonderry, and Londonderry Transfer Station projects.
- Participated in the Gates Pond Road Stormwater Scoping Study Public Meeting in Whitingham.
- Received the Imtec Lane Stormwater Operational Permit and initiated next steps for ACT 250 review.
- Organized upcoming EDA site visit to Imtec Lane Stormwater site, with associated business tours. Responded to Sonnax concerns regarding continued erosion.
- Continued collaboration with UVM intern on regulatory options for forest block and wildlife corridor protections; reviewed and finalized internship deliverables and completed a 3-year internship MOU with UVM.
- Participated in the Berkshire Wildlife Linkage municipal working group and Southeast VT Invasive Management Association meetings.
- Met with UMass Extension regarding Vermont Aquatic Organism Passage data compatibility with culvert modeling tool.
- Coordinated the spring Southeast Vermont Conservation Commission gathering in collaboration with the Association of VT Conservation Commissions.
- Provided a letter of support for Green Mountain Conservancy for a water quality enhancement grant.
- Participated in a CRJC Executive Committee meeting
- Attended the Center for Watershed Protection National Watershed and Stormwater Conference.
- Met with Deerfield River Watershed Alliance representatives to begin Vermont Wild & Scenic data gathering and advisory committee process.
- Participated in a Rock River Flooding Public Meeting

#### **Project Review** (*Alyssa Sabetto*)

- Committee meeting was cancelled for this month due to lack of need.

#### **Regional Plan Update** (*Matt Bachler & Alyssa Sabetto*)

- Attended the monthly project meeting with other regional planning commissions.
- Continued work on draft regional land use mapping based on Act 181 standards.
- Continued with outreach to towns to provide draft regional land use maps and set up times to meet with towns about Act 181.
- Public meetings held with the following towns: Londonderry, Winhall, Wilmington, Westminster, Jamaica, Marlboro, Townshend, Rockingham.
- Completed draft revisions to Regional Plan chapters based on Act 181 requirements and posted draft chapters on WRC's regional plan update website page.
- Presented an update on the Regional Plan Update process and proposed project schedule at WRC Full Commission meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Presented on regional and municipal housing targets at Southeast VT Housing Coalition meeting.

- Planned for and promoted two public informational meetings in May.
- Continued to work on draft pre-application forms for the Land Use Review Board submission.
- Responded to general inquiries from towns and members of the public about Act 181 and Act 250 jurisdiction changes.
- Maintained Regional Plan Update page on WRC's website with up-to-date information on draft chapters and maps, and upcoming meetings with towns.
- Updated the Housing and Land Use chapters of the Whitingham Town Plan, and coordinated the Town Plan Maps revisions.
- Completed the Regional Plan equity, environmental justice, and natural resource checklist updates.
- Alyssa:
  - Met with the Putney Planning Commission.
  - Met with the Rockingham Planning Commission.
  - Coordinated with staff on getting Regional Plan changes finalized.
  - Met with Putney to review changes to their Future Land Use (FLU) map; Jeff made those changes and the town Planning Commission likes the new draft.
  - Act 181 maps and plan text was posted to the website.
  - Met with the Westminster Planning Commission.
  - Met with the Vernon Planning Commission.
  - Presented to Executive Board.
  - Met with the Marlboro Planning Commission.
  - Participated in monthly Act 181 roundtable with fellow regional commissions.

#### **Transportation (Colin Bratton)**

- Matt continued to provide project management support for Spring Hill Road culvert replacement project in Londonderry. Project was awarded to Hunter Excavating in March and construction will begin this summer. A pre-construction meeting with the town, construction contractor, design engineer, and construction inspection contractor was held in April.
- Margo continued to provide project management support for the Stratton Grout Pond Road Improvement project. The NEPA review process is complete. The project will be finalizing 60% designs before the Right of Way review.
- Margo advanced the Newfane Salt Shed project through engineering consultation and follow-up with town staff.
- Continued project management support for the Guilford Slate Rock Road Box culvert project.
- Continued project management support for the Athens Brookline Road Box Culvert project.
- Continued project management support for the Newfane Village sidewalks project.
- Finalized contract with Town of Rockingham for Windham Regional to serve as Municipal Project Manager on the School Street extension intersection improvement project.
- Attended meeting with Town of Rockingham Staff, Windham Region Legislative Delegation and Vermont Secretary of Transportation to discuss continued delays to the Depot Street Bridge project in Rockingham.
- Staff met with VTrans Planning Coordinator to discuss ongoing statewide transportation planning and attended meeting Transportation Planning Initiative Meeting with staff from VTrans and Vermont RPCs.
- Met with staff from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to discuss Capital Planning for Town Highway Infrastructure.
- The Southeast Vermont Older Adults & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee met.

- Provided information to Searsburg on the VTrans Structures grant program.
- Met with Rockingham Town Staff to discuss application to the Safe Streets for All program for safety improvements on Route 121.
- Provided information to Townshend on next steps for awarded VTrans grant.

#### **Other**

- Matt is working with other RPC staff to update the Essentials of Land Use Planning training.
- VT Planners Association – Participated in Professional Development Committee meeting to plan for May workshop Brattleboro. Attended Executive Committee meeting.
- Northern New England Chapter of APA - Participated in a conference planning meeting and social committee meeting
- Sue, Margo and Chris attended the Regional Planning Commission Meet-Up in White River Junction.
- Alyssa attended monthly meeting for the Bond Bank project.
- Chris spoke to a UVM graduate sustainable economic development class, attended the end of semester presentations of UVM class projects focused on the development of flood buyout reuse guides for municipalities and research on councils of government to support intermunicipal cooperation, and received the final flood adaptation reuse guide developed by students of the Conway School of Landscape Design.