

WRC STAFF ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

This summary highlights staff activity during the month of JUNE 2026

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

We welcomed our new Planner, Liana Rice, and said farewell to Senior Planner, Alyssa Sabetto.

Brownfields Redevelopment *(Susan Westa)*

- Assessment and Cleanup - Addressed questions from property owners and consultants about work underway and potential new cleanup projects.
- Revolving Loan Fund – Began developing Final Report to close out old cleanup grant.

Community Development *(Susan Westa)*

- Athens - Call with Mike McConnell and Gretchen Havreluk about her VT Council on Rural Development work with Athens.
- Downtown Brattleboro Alliance – Attended monthly meeting.
- Rural Investment Grant – Attended webinar about new grant opportunity.
- VT Downtown Conference – Attended conference in St. Albans.
- WRC Town Plans – Attended coordination meeting.
- Chris attended a Growing Rural Economies Roundtable in Burlington, which included Congressperson Becca Balint.

Emergency & Resiliency Planning *(Alyssa Sabetto)*

- Chris participated in a regular meeting of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation group.
- Alyssa tied up loose ends before she departed the WRC to take on the Director of Planning for Washington County, Maryland. Her tasks have been assigned to other colleagues. Liana Rice, who begins July 1, will be our new Emergency Planner.

Energy *(Mike McConnell)*

- Attended Monthly Energy Planners Meeting.
- Attended Wardsboro Selectboard meeting to award solar and design contracts for MERP, Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Worked with Contractors to schedule MERP work.
- Met with VT Buildings and General Services (BGS) staff to go over MERP progress.
- Attended BGS bi weekly MERP informational meeting.
- Met with Saxtons River MERP representative to discuss a Scope of Work (SOW) Amendment.
- Met with Bellows Falls MERP rep to discuss SOW amendment. Attended site visit.
- Met with staff of Drive Electric to discuss Windham County project feasibility.

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

- Attended Bridging Communities rally at Retreat Farm (regional trail connections, etc.).
- Attended Brattleboro Amtrak station opening.
- Made final edits to Wilmington's updated town plan map series.
- Began working on updates to the Halifax town plan map series.

- Municipal Roads General Permit information to Searsburg and Halifax.
- Halifax: updated culvert and road erosion inventory status maps; reviewed maps with road foreman; field work for road erosion inventory with road foreman; updated culverts on all roads where GMP replaced culverts as part of its underground utility project; updated information on culvert install dates for new culverts installed by the town.
- Various IT tasks, including getting things set up for new WRC employee.
- Prep for meeting with Windham to discuss road centerline data, culvert inventory, road erosion inventory (meeting was cancelled).
- Site visit to accessible trail with staff from Vermont Natural History Museum to map trail and check grades.
- Guilford Hub zones: met with Chuck Collins to discuss edits, edited boundaries, created large map and series of smaller 11x17 maps.
- Updates to Grafton's Field Maps for culverts, road erosion inventory, and parcels.
- Grafton Outdoor Alliance work: created a work map for the team developing the Village Trail; met with Windham Foundation/Outdoor Alliance on next steps for visitor map and discussed updates to the Outdoor Center trails data; site visit to finalize Village Park trail map.
- Generated statistics for Wilmington town plan transportation section.
- Townshend road erosion inventory: prep work, inventory work on East Hill and Peaked Mountain Roads.
- Attended the Vermont GeoForum in Plainfield.
- Participated in Vermont Trails and Greenways Council monthly board meeting.
- Met with TRORC and MARC staff to discuss our ped counter equipment, and MRGP updates.
- Updated our on-line internal traffic count map for planning counts.
- Information to the Town of Windham on classification of Ingalls/Old Farm Rd.
- Regional Plan/Act 181: edits to Future Land Use areas in Stratton and comparison maps of old and new proposals; prep work for, and then submittal of, Future Land Use, Tier 1B, and Hamlets data to the Land Use Review Board; updates to WRC's regional plan website page.
- Outreach for, and attended, Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance's Elevating the Outdoor Economy in SE VT summit in Brattleboro.
- Status review and minor updates to Whitingham town plan maps.
- Grants in Aid: preconstruction site visits, maps, and reporting to Vtrans for Guilford, Halifax, Londonderry, Townshend, and Wilmington.
- Wilmington: continued to work with the highway superintendent on their road erosion inventory and culvert inventory; inventoried two roads re-built as part of GMP's underground power project, review of tablet use and how to use the Windows snip tool to do a quick map mark-up.
- Updates to Wilmington's flower barrel map so it can be taken off-line.
- West River Trail: compiled and analyzed pedestrian count data for the entirety of 2025.
- Assisted with hosting Vermont Local Road's MRGP Roundtable in Westminster, including catering.
- Pedestrian counts: processed Grafton Village Park data; processed Brattleboro Main St and Elliot St pedestrian counts, updated summary sheets and made new pdfs; picked up and processed pedestrian counters from the Crosstown Trail in Dover and the Ridgeline Trail in Putney, updated summary sheets and the master spreadsheet; picked up and processed pedestrian counters on the Winston Prouty trails in Brattleboro, created summary sheets; set up pedestrian counters in Brattleboro on Main St (west side) and Elliot St.

- Set out three traffic counters on a state highway in Weston, and three counters on a town highway in Stratton.
- Worked with the Guilford road foreman to update the town's culvert inventory with new culverts installed in the past two years.
- Created a map of sidewalks in Williamsville for a grant application.
- Created a map for the Stratton road foreman of culverts to be replaced by GMP.
- Customer survey feedback for Eo-visio, our bike counter vendor detailing our experience with eco-visio, the company that manufactured our bike counter.
- Continued work on surface water edits.
- Continued work on refining town short/town long structure data in VTculverts.
- Reviewed Townshend flood hazard preliminary data with WRC's natural resources planner.
- Cleaned up duplicates and nulls in VTculverts for the region.
- Worked on ArcGIS Online status dashboard for town road erosion inventories.
- Collected bike parking data in downtown Brattleboro for May.

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

- Continued updates to the Whitingham Town Plan by meeting with the Planning Commission and integrating plan chapters into a single document.
- Finalized the draft Townshend Floodplain Bylaws for Planning Commission review.
- Weston Zoning Bylaw Amendments: Finalized community survey questions with Planning Commission. Met with Development Review Board to get feedback on issues with current bylaws.
- Dover Zoning Bylaw Amendments: Met with Planning Commission to review draft revisions to administrative and enforcement sections of bylaws. Began work on updating flood hazard regulations.
- Hosted Essentials of Land Use Planning training for municipal officials about the land use application review and decision-making process. The recording of the training is available on WRC's website.
- Matt and Sue hosted a workshop on tools and strategies for towns to support more housing in their communities. The recording of the workshop is available on WRC's website.
- Reviewed draft of Halifax Town Plan update and provided comments to Planning Commission.
- Provided information to Londonderry Planning Commission about enhanced energy plans.
- Wilmington Town Plan – Sue updated Transportation and Energy Chapters. Incorporated comments into plan. Updated all chapters and created final drafts. Reviewed implementation table and maps at June Planning Commission meeting.

Natural Resources & Water Quality (*Margo Ghia*)

- Continued work on the Imtec Lane Stormwater project, including a presentation to Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting, coordination with Chroma Technology, the Town of Rockingham, Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation, and Economic Development Authority (EDA), drafting Memorandums of Understanding for property transfers, preparing environmental narrative materials, and coordinating land transfer discussions.
- Held the Rockingham Transport Stormwater Study kick off meeting for landowners.
- Advanced the Weston dam removal/bridge replacement environmental assessment coordination between the contractor and Town.

- Communicated with VT ANR permitting departments for two Londonderry Stormwater projects (Transfer Station & Town Garage).
- Worked with the Connecticut River Conservancy and VT Fish & Wildlife on a potential Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) project at the Stella's Hole culvert in Putney. Worked on project development, coordination with Vermont Fish & Wildlife, presentation to the Putney Selectboard, and preparation for a Federal Highway grant application.
- Hosted two Draft Basin Plan (Basin 11: the West, Williams and Saxtons Rivers) public meetings in Newfane and Londonderry.
- Participated in a regional water quality partners site visits to view and discuss clean water projects that have been implemented.
- Participated in the Connecticut River Joint Commissions Annual Meeting,
- Attended a Bennington County FEMA mapping update meeting.

Project Review – nothing new to report.

Regional Plan Update (*Matt Bachler*)

- Met with Grafton and Stratton to review draft Regional Future Land Use maps.
- Attended monthly RPC meeting regarding Act 181 and regional plan update process.
- Submitted draft regional plan and pre-application with the Land Use Review Board. The LURB has 60 days to review and provide comments on the draft plan, after which time staff will complete additional updates.
- Coordinated with LURB on upcoming site visit and public meeting regarding draft plan on July 8th.
- Began working on notices for first public hearing on Regional Plan update on August 18th.

Transportation (*Colin Bratton*)

- The new Brattleboro train station opened! It is the first in the state to have a raised platform, meaning it's accessible to everyone. You can step/roll directly from the platform onto the train. The station is beautiful, too, with art work incorporated into its design.
- Continued administration of the Windham 121 Culvert Replacement Project, including construction scheduling, mobilization coordination, detour notices, invoice and payment review, and VTrans reimbursement activities.
- Advanced the Stratton Grout Pond Road Improvement Project by preparing grant funding worksheets, coordinating acceptance of additional new Federal Lands Access Program funding, reviewing consultant invoices, and submitting VTrans reimbursement requests.
- Finalized the Newfane Salt Shed At-the-Ready Request for Proposals.
- Matt continued to coordinate between the Town of Londonderry, GPI, HTA, and contractor for the Londonderry Spring Hill Road culvert replacement project. The new culvert will be installed later this summer.

Other

- Chris participated in a meeting of the Steering Committee of the VT Evaluation of Rural Technical Assistance, and the VT Climate Council.
- Participated the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Vermont Zoning & Planning Workshop.
- Completed Local Hazard Mitigation Plans were added to the Windham Regional Commission website.

- Chris is continuing to meet with other regional planning commissions and councils of government within the 4-state Connecticut River Watershed to discuss opportunities for collaboration. This is under the umbrella of the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership, of which Chris chairs the Executive Committee.
- Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference – Sue attended planning meeting.