

**Mad River Valley Planning District  
Director's Report  
December 19, 2011**

Flood Recovery

- Joshua attended the Governors' Institute on Community Design Workshop on Flood Recovery & Building on 12/13 in Burlington along with two members of the MRV Long Term Recovery Committee. The workshop consisted of a summary of recovery efforts, a panel of experts from around the country speaking to best practices, and a broad discussion of additional opportunities for coordination.
- Awaiting to hear on MRVDP's request for technical assistance in partnership with VT Dept of Economic, Housing & Community Affairs, Agency of Transportation, and Agency of Natural Resources to EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program. The project focuses on community resilience to disasters in the MRV. The intent is to utilize EPA's technical assistance to further develop the relationships, skills and institutional structures in order to provide inter-agency assistance to the broader state. The project also sets the stage for greater integration of hazard mitigation with sound land use planning. Award announcement is expected in early January.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant funding has been released for communities effected by the flood. This is 75% funding for projects of less than \$250k. Typical hazard mitigation projects would include: home acquisitions (buy-out), structural elevations or relocations, repair and mitigation of local roads and bridges, replacement of undersized culverts, remediation of stream bank erosion, etc. More info below. An approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is required for eligibility. Warren & Fayston currently have expired PDM plans. CVRPC is in the process of helping towns update their PDM plans. Application deadline of 1/20/12. More info at [www.verm.vermont.gov](http://www.verm.vermont.gov).

Energy

- The final MRV Renewable Energy Series event took place on 12/13, entitled Conservation, Weatherization & Efficiency. Approximately 25 people attended. Summaries of each event and all of the presentations are available at <http://mrvpd.org/DocumentsLibrary.php>.
- The 12/13 event also included a weatherization trailer available for residents to learn methods for buttoning up their homes. This was followed by a weatherization skillshop for Waitsfield residents on 12/14.

Mad River Valley Path Association

- MRPA is undertaking a review of its Strategic Plan.
- MRPA is in the process of revamping its website, focusing on completion this month.
- MRPA will be meeting with the Waitsfield SB in Dec to discuss tax stabilization and town easements.

Transportation

- Mad Bus Transit Guide & Map has been distributed in the Valley.
- The first day of service for the Mad Bus was December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Communication is ongoing with VTrans in regards to the RT.100 preliminary paving design plans. The current plans only show a 3' shoulder. 4' shoulders were expected along the

length of the project. Waitsfield submitted a letter requesting broader shoulders. It has been proposed that VTrans attend the 1/19 meeting of the MRVPD SC to discuss the current plans and any opportunities for widening shoulder widths to accommodate bikes. Another option is a van tour.

- Mad River Byway Committee met on 12/2 (sans Joshua) and decided to apply for funding for a MR Byway website. The committee failed to submit an application by the deadline.

#### Forests, Wildlife, Communities Project

- The FWC met on 12/8 and reviewed curriculum for realtor and engineer trainings and debriefed on the rollout of conservation maps.
- Joshua is overseeing development of the FWC web presence, which will be hosted on the [mrvpd.org](http://mrvpd.org) site.

#### Waitsfield Infrastructure

- Joshua attended a suite of meetings over the past two weeks as part of the second phase of Waitsfield's Decentralized Wastewater Management Project Study. The focus has been on developing the scope of a wastewater management district for decentralized wastewater systems in Waitsfield. The Wastewater Committee and consultants from Stone Environmental and TetraTech met with ANR in Winooski to determine the funding options for decentralized systems and address the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan and \$1,000,000S TAG funding that were originally developed for the "big pipe" system.
- Results of the intensive weeklong project were brought to the Waitsfield SB at its 12/12 meeting, where by the SB unanimously approved moving forward with the next stage of the project: develop draft agreements among ANR, Town & property owners and develop a more detailed outline and mechanics of the loan program.

#### Recreation

- The MRV Trails Collaborative met on 12/8 to work on updating the MRV Recreation Trail Map based on input from the 11/15 MRV Trail Summit. Joshua is working with numerous entities to make sure the map is accurate. Draft trail layers are due to the mapper by February.
- Joshua is working with Autumn on the potential projects for a summer 2012 VYCC crew.

#### UVM

- Final presentations on the four projects that Local Community Initiatives students had been engaged in through the fall took place at the Big Picture Theater on 12/7. The four projects for 2011 are Compost Power, Waitsfield Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, Mad Rive Valley Health Center, and MRV Solar Farm.
- It looks likely that this project will continue in 2012.

#### Economic Development

- Awaiting to hear on the \$15k consortia grant application to the Housing & Community Development's Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program MRVPD submitted on behalf of Warren and Fayston. If funded, the grant will fund a consultant to help the MRV undertake a baseline economic analysis of the MRV that will identify data sources, develop a set of indicators, and create a replicable methodology. Selection is anticipated by mid-Dec.

### Rural Resource Commission

- Mad River Glen's CLG funded historic designation application is currently under review by DHP. Ellen Strauss and Joshua are administering this grant.
- Warren Dam CLG funded historic designation amendment is currently under review by DHP. Ellen Strauss is administering this grant.