

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Director's Report
April 2009**

Mad River Valley Path Association

- MRPA Board is working on a new strategic plan, a membership drive, and has recently created a display in the lobby of the Chittenden Bank.
- The next MRPA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 4/16 at 6 PM.

Energy

- The Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Pilot Project is continuing with great success. Over the last eight weekends community volunteers have performed more than 60 home visits. Hundreds of CFL light bulbs have been installed, in addition to other low-cost energy saving measures. The program will continue for one more weekend

Mad River Byway

- Participated in the 3/27 meeting of the Byway Committee. The meeting consisted of finalizing Byway maps, furthering kiosk and signage content & design, and developing the 3rd annual Byway Event.
- Joshua submitted a nearly finalized list of '12 Things to Do on the Byway' list for the signage.
- Joshua is coordinating with the Warren Historical Society to develop signage for the Village sign.

Valley Futures Network

- The 4/10 meeting included a presentation on edible landscapes by Ben Faulk of Whole Systems Design in Moretown and an update on the upcoming Walk 'n Roll Festival.

Housing

- Will be participating in the 4/14 meeting of the MRVHC, which will focus on the accessory apartment and land bank projects.

Transportation

- The released date for the State's online carpooling program, GoVT, has been postponed again until May.
- The Valley Walk 'n Roll Festival will consist of events for May 9-17 that encourage walking, biking, and carpooling. Events will include a bike swap, bike safety training course, a bicycling commuter workshop, a Byway event, and the release of the Mad Bikes of Waitsfield. The festival coincides with the State's Way to Go events (May 4-8).

Data

- Staff has been working with the Data Intern and the Center for Rural Studies to collect and tabulate existing data reports and analyses.

Forests Wildlife Communities Project Steering Committee

- Joshua attended a 3/20 workshop with Miron from Warren on the recent Jam Golf, Inc. court case.
- The FWCP Steering Committee will be meeting on 4/17 to discuss next steps for the project, which include public outreach and coordination between Conservation Commissions and VNRC regarding zoning regulation updates required by the recent Jam Golf, Inc. court case.

Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership

- The Two Farm Fundraising Campaign successfully met its fundraising goal for the Kingsbury Community Farm and Bruce Farm.

Sugarbush

- Sugarbush withdrew Phase 1C from their Act 250 permit application.

Municipal Support

- Submitted a consortium municipal education grant application to fund a series of DRB/PC trainings through the spring. The topics will be: Water Quality Issues through Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Process, Public Deliberations, and the DRB Review Process.
- Joshua attended a workshop on 3/20 regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The workshop provided an overview of how federal economic recovery dollars are being distributed, how they may be accessed by local governments, and where assistance is available.
- The Earth Day celebration with U.S.D.A. Rural Development in Waitsfield will center on the water project, which involves numerous activities including Senator Leahy presenting a Rural Development check to the town, booths of local organizations, and other activities.