

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Director's Report
December 2008**

Mad River Valley Path Association

- Joshua attended the most recent Board meeting and facilitated a discussion on easements.
- Director Carol Thompson resigned.
- Joshua is attending a Strategic Planning work session on 12/18.
- The Town of Warren, MRPA, and MRVPD's VTrans Transportation Enhancement Grant for the purchase of the 3 acre Whiteside parcel has been put on hold. The Downtown Committee has deferred its award meeting until mid-January, when it is hoped the State budgetary picture will be clearer, so no decision will be made until that time or after.

Housing

- Karen Winchell has made progress on the Mad River Valley Housing Coalition's (MRVHC) accessory apartment project.
- Members of MRVHC attended the 2008 VT Housing Conference in S. Burlington.
- MRVHC is developing a brochure on bargain sales/land bank donations.
- Joshua resigned as Secretary.

Mad River Byway

- State permit requests have been made for all Byway kiosk and interpretive sign locations.
- Joshua attended the 12/4 meeting of the Byway Committee.
- Joshua led the committee in a thematic exercise, resulting in a MR Byway theme in January.
- The January meeting will also include finalizing Byway maps/items of interest and identifying projects for the soon to be announced FY09 [National Scenic Byways grant program](#).
- The concrete pad for the Wait House kiosk will not be poured until the spring.

Valley Futures Network

- The Steering Group didn't meet in December. Various work groups have been meeting.
- VFN is holding a working group to discuss the group's overall structure and future viability on December 16th.

Transportation

- The Mad Bus brochure has been released and the bus has begun service.

Energy

- Joshua participated in the 12/11 meeting of the Valley Futures Network's Energy Committee, LocalVolts. Tara Hamilton was present to facilitate discussion about an upcoming wood biomass project, a collaborative grant-funded project between UVM and the Northern Forest Alliance. Ben Falk of Whole System Designs in Moretown was present to discuss the potential of creating projects that demonstrate the utilization of underutilized, in-between spaces for the growing of food and fuel. Galen Brown led a discussion about the potential of creating a MRV focused cooperative wind generation

group/project. The short term focus is on gauging support and determining viable locations.

Friends of the Mad River

- Joshua met with Caitrin Noel of FMR and Shayne Jaquith of DEC to determine objectives and a timeline for FMR's Project Implementation grant through the Center for Clean and Clear. This project will address priority projects identified in the upper Mad River Corridor Plan, including working with Waitsfield and Warren to further fluvial erosion hazard work.

Forests Wildlife Communities Project Steering Committee

- The FWCP Steering Committee is scheduling a meeting for January.

Data

- Joshua has re-established conversations with UVM's Center for Rural Studies regarding the creation of a data intern to tabulate and communicate data that is required in the MOU. A second phase of this project could be an evaluation on the validity of the data sets and future needs.
- Joshua met with Caitrin Noel and Terry Kellogg and discussed the creation of sustainability indicators for the valley. A future product may be an annual MRV Almanac. Caitrin and Terry are both very interested in working on the project.

Waitsfield

- Joshua attended the Waitsfield DRB's meeting on 12/9. The DRB requested assistance in developing energy efficiency language for the town as well as potential involvement in mediating between applicants and the DRB.