

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
December 2, 2011**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Chuck Martel, Planning Commissioner
Waitsfield: Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner
Sugarbush: Win Smith, Hardy Merrill
Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce: Jim Halavonich
Mad River Glen- Jamie Wimble
MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

The minutes of the October 19, 2011 Steering Committee were accepted as written.

Sugarbush Lincoln Peak Base Area Development Phase II – Initial Overview

Win and Hardy presented their plans for expansion at the resort. These plans will be presented to the Warren DRB on 12/19/11, and at an Act 250 hearing on 12/16/11 (they will seek full approval for the initial phase, the road, parking, and 3 buildings; contingent approval on the rest). The time is right because Phase I is 85% sold, the real estate market is going up slightly, and demand is going back up. They have learned that buyers don't want "fractions", are looking for larger units (more bedrooms), and desire ski-in-ski-out ability, which guided the design of this phase. There will be a phased development within Phase II, which will eventually total 80-90 units. The initial phase comprises 3 buildings with 15 town house style units. Parking will be underground for these units, and the buildings won't be higher than 3 stories. Care was given to provide connectivity to Sugarbush Village, and to accommodate public parking for the area. Sugarbush has spent \$93M to date on mountain improvements. They will come back to the MRVPD Steering Committee with more details at our 12/15/11 meeting.

CVRPC/CVEDC co-location and consolidation

This effort came out of Challenges for Change. It requires the approval of the Towns involved, but it does not appear that all Towns are aware of what is happening. Some of the concerns that were discussed are: 1) Does this eliminate the checks & balances between these 2 agencies?, 2) Are they moving too fast? 3) Will the focus on planning be diluted?, 4) Should more research be done on the potential impacts...more data collected? After some discussion, the Steering Committee agreed that Joshua should send a letter, on behalf of the Towns, addressing the concerns that were discussed, and to copy the Town Planning Commissions, to ensure that they are aware of the planned changes.

Directors Report

Joshua provided details on the following sections of his report:

The Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership (MRVPD, FMR, & VLT) hosted *It's a Mad River* on 11/10 - an evening looking at flooding in the MRV and exploring the evolution of river management. Joshua presented in collaboration with Caitrin Noel, Mary Gow, Liza Walker & Gretchen Alexander from VT ANR. More than 140 people were in attendance. The presentations are available for download at <http://mrvpd.org/DocumentsLibrary.php>.

The MRV, including Moretown, served as the first community in the State of VT's Community Recovery Partnership program. These are community listening sessions identifying short and long term needs focusing on developing a framework to help communities emerge from this disaster stronger and more resilient. The 11/17 visit included a cross-agency team from the Agencies of Commerce & Community Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources, as well as representatives from the

Regional Planning Commissions and Regional Development Corporations. An afternoon stakeholder meeting preceded an evening community discussion. MRVPD coordinated the event locally.

MRVPD submitted a 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 January.

The MRV Energy Series is still gaining speed. The first four events have been successful, Local Energy History & The Foundation for our Energy Future, Residential & Community Solar Projects, Financing & the State Energy Plan, and MRV Biomass. The final event is scheduled for 12/13 and will focus on Conservation, Weatherization & Efficiency. This event will include Summaries of each event and all of the presentations are available at <http://mrvpd.org/DocumentsLibrary.php>.

The 12/13 event will include a weatherization trailer set up for the day for residents to learn methods for buttoning up their homes. This will be followed by a weatherization skillshop for Waitsfield residents on 12/14.

Mad River Path- Clay Brook Bridge ramps completed. MRPA is undertaking a review of its Strategic Plan. Mad River Path cleanup has commenced along the West Greenway and other sections. MRPA is in the process of revamping their website, focusing on completion in December. MRPA will be meeting with the Waitsfield SB in Dec to discuss tax stabilization and town easements. Autumn will attend our next meeting.

Transportation- Joshua is working on behalf of MRV Transportation Advisory Committee to finalize contributions and funding for upcoming Mad Bus season. Contributions from lodging establishments are up significantly from the previous few years. MRVTAC met on 10/24 and focused on finalizing the route for the upcoming season. The first day of service for the Mad Bus is December 3rd.

Joshua is attended a meeting on 12/1 to provide comment on the VTrans RT.100 preliminary paving design plans. The current plans only show a 3' shoulder. 4' shoulders were expected along the length of the project. The project "may" start by late summer 2012. The town of Warren was complimented by the Steering Committee for the work they did on the Access Road.

Municipal- MRVPD hosted the 6th annual Tri-Town Selectboard Meeting on 11/3, which served its purpose of increasing communication between the municipal entities and minimize the number of presentations required of local organizations. Eight organizations updated the selectboards on their status and submitted financial requests for the upcoming year.

The second phase of the Waitsfield's Decentralized Wastewater Management Project Study is underway. Consultants Stone Environmental and TetraTech are running four days of meetings during the second week of December in an attempt to develop the scope of a wastewater management district for decentralized wastewater systems in Waitsfield. Part of the project is 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 to fund the larger scale Wastewater Plan defeated by voters in 2008. Results of the intensive weeklong project will be brought to the Waitsfield SB at it's 12/12 meeting. Continuing to dialogue with Wastewater Education to explore additional avenues for decentralized wastewater support.

Recreation- 20 people attended the 11/15 MRV Trail Summit held at Sugarbush. The evening focused on inventorying MRV trails, creating an updated trail map, and developing a list of potential projects for a summer 2012 VYCC crew. Joshua and Autumn are hard at work on moving these projects forward. The plan is to have the map completed by next summer. The MRV Trails Collaborative received an award for technical planning assistance through the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). This is the second year that this support has been received.

Economic Development- Joshua submitted a \$15k consortia grant application to the Housing & Community Development's Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program 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. Joshua met with economic consultants, planning commissions, and selectboards before submitting the grant. 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.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting of the Steering Committee: December 15, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Martel