



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023, 7:00 PM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 224 634 587 902, Pass: dBEdSy | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 641 278 173#

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

MEETING AGENDA

- 7:00 CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS
- 7:05 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17TH AGENDA
- 7:06 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19TH MINUTES
- 7:08 OPEN TO PUBLIC
- 7:10 TREASURERS REPORT
 - REVIEW June and July 2023 Financials
- 7:15 EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
 - Regional Plan Committee Update
 - APPROVE updated FY24 Budget
 - APPROVE updated RRPC Bylaws
- 7:45 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT
 - Future Land Use Mapping Project
 - APPROVE Vermont State University at Castleton Letter
- 8:15 REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
- 8:20 TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT
- 8:22 AREA WIDE CITIZENS
- 8:24 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
- 8:25 COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE
- 8:40 ADJOURN

Questions? Need special accommodations?
Contact: Devon Neary at devon@rutlandrpc.org or (802) 775-0871.



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Berner called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Introductions were made.

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19TH AGENDA

Motion by Spencer to approve the agenda with moving the first approval under Community Committee Report and amending the meeting date to read September 19, 2023. Second by Gibbs. Approved by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20TH MINUTES

Motion by Doenges to approve the minutes. Second by Courcelle. Approved by voice vote.

5. OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public Comments

6. RRPC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Logan Solomon presented the S. 100 Home Act. A presentation and S.100 zoning checklist was distributed to the board following the meeting. Solomon is available to assist planning commissions with zoning updates.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

Mary Kay Skaza reviewed the June, and July 2023 Financials. Report for informational purposes only. Mary Kay is currently preparing documentation for the November 15 audit submission.

8. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Regional Committee members: Michelle Bushee, Andy Salamon, Erika Berner, Bob Lloyd, Laura Black, John Sabotka, Jack Schneider, and David Mills and officers: Chair – Fred Nicholson and Vice Chair – Sarah Pelkey. Motion by Spencer to approve the FY24 slate of officers for the Regional Committee. Second by Schneider. Approved by voice vote.

Community Committee members: Michael Doenges, Larry Courcelle, Cheryl Murray, Bob Kirbach, and Andrea Stoddard and officers: Chair – Robert Gibbs and Vice Chair – Larry Courcelle (elected in-committee).

Executive Finance Committee members: Erika Berner (Chair), Andy Solomon (Vice-Chair), Larry Courcelle (Treasurer), Robert Gibbs (Community), Fred Nicholson (Regional), and Laura Black (At-Large).

9. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion by Bob Gibbs to approve the West Central Vermont Economic Development District MOU. Second by Doenges. Spencer requested that the board table the vote to approve the WCVEDD MOU until the board had time to review the wording in the MOU as he considered it a bit too loose. Approved by voice vote with one opposition and two abstentions.



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Motion by Doenges to approve the updated Signature Authority Policy. Second by Nicholson.
Approved by voice vote.

The Annual Meeting Schedule reflects the addition of a December meeting.
This meeting is being held to approve the FY23 audit results and will be followed by a holiday social.

10. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Berner provided a committee report from the September 19th, Regional Committee Meeting.
No action was taken.

11. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Motion by Spencer to approve the Killington Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process.
Second by Nicholson. Approved by voice vote. The committee voted Robert Gibbs chair and Larry Courcelle as vice-chair.

12. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Next meeting on Thursday, September 28th at 5:30 PM.

13. AREA WIDE CITIZENS

None present.

14. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

None present.

15. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioners presented activity highlights from their individual towns.

16. ADJOURN

Motion by Doenges to adjourn. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.
The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectively submitted by Karen Hill

Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2024
August 2023

	August 2023 Actual	July 2023- August 2023 Actual	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Income				
402 Local Income		1,000.00	27,000.00	3.70%
403 State Income		164,160.59	424,647.00	38.66%
403.5 VT Dept. of Environmental Cons.	13,474.55	13,474.55	975,484.00	1.38%
403A State Income (Non-Permanent)		0.00	110,231.00	0.00%
404 Vt. Department of Public Safety	10,935.96	15,682.89	58,840.00	26.65%
404B VT Dept. of Buildings and Gen. Services	6,748.13	6,748.13	91,625.00	7.36%
405 VTrans	21,190.59	42,549.18	273,327.00	15.57%
408 Environmental Protection Agency		0.00	65,050.00	0.00%
419 Local Planning Assistance	657.88	7,926.88	81,055.00	9.78%
420 Special Projects	5,179.12	5,859.75	323,239.00	1.81%
421 Miscellaneous Income	13.71	13.71	0.00	
430 Interest Income	414.82	741.73	800.00	92.72%
Total Income	\$ 58,614.76	\$ 258,157.41	\$ 2,431,298.00	10.62%
Gross Profit	\$ 58,614.76	\$ 258,157.41	\$ 2,431,298.00	10.62%
Expenses				
500 Salary	54,587.74	98,412.79	703,483.00	13.99%
Total 501 Fringe	\$ 14,865.88	\$ 41,187.93	\$ 296,389.00	13.90%
522 Contracted Services	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,074,312.00	0.47%
523 Audit/Accounting		0.00	21,400.00	0.00%
524.2 Conferences & Trainings-All Exp.	1,622.62	1,622.62	26,027.00	6.23%
524.3 Trav/Reg/Mileage (Reg Bus)	548.64	578.44	13,040.00	4.44%
525 Meeting Expense		0.00	11,260.00	0.00%
530 Postage/Shipping	121.30	121.30	3,475.00	3.49%
531 Printing/Copying/Ads	592.10	739.52	12,542.00	5.90%
535 Marketing and Sponsorship	250.00	250.00	8,700.00	2.87%
537 Town and Organizational Support		0.00	2,500.00	0.00%
540 Supplies	34.21	34.21	10,974.00	0.31%
541 Service Contracts		0.00	8,000.00	0.00%
545 Subscriptions-Publicat-Software	774.57	8,474.57	25,827.00	32.81%
546 Legal Fees		0.00	7,250.00	0.00%
547 Memberships	99.00	1,194.00	9,912.00	12.05%
550 Rent & Office Improvements	3,742.70	11,557.12	72,000.00	16.05%
550.1 Office Cleaning		0.00	4,680.00	0.00%
551 Telephone/Communication Serv.	770.24	1,529.10	9,520.00	16.06%
552 Electricity	244.27	244.27	3,800.00	6.43%
553A Grant Disbursements		0.00	81,810.00	0.00%
560 Insurance		0.00	9,300.00	0.00%
565 Equipment Purchase	2,573.85	2,573.85	13,100.00	19.65%
Total Expenses	\$ 85,827.12	\$ 173,519.72	\$ 2,429,301.00	7.14%
Net Operating Income	-\$ 27,212.36	\$ 84,637.69	\$ 1,997.00	
Net Income	-\$ 27,212.36	\$ 84,637.69	\$ 1,997.00	

Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2023

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
101 HFCU Checking	324,549.30
101-1 Key Bank Checking	323,785.39
101-1.1 Key Bank Checking - CWSP - F	351,267.38
101-2 Bank of Bennington	74,970.00
101-3 Credit Union of Vermont	184,951.01
101-3.5 Credit Union of VT Savings	25.07
104 Savings - HFCU	89.28
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1,259,637.43
Accounts Receivable	
120 Accounts Receivable	239,244.62
121 Due from CWSP to Operating	23,327.32
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 262,571.94
Other Current Assets	
130 Prepaid Insurance	3,516.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 3,516.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,525,725.37
Fixed Assets	
150 Maps & Equipment	57,279.90
151 Accum. Depr. Maps & Equip.	-51,281.43
160 Leasehold Improvements	28,261.80
161 Accum. Depr. - Lease Imp.	-8,054.52
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 26,205.75
Other Assets	
142 Deferred Pension Outflow	88,692.77
Total Other Assets	\$ 88,692.77
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,640,623.89
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
200 Accounts Payable	9,038.09
201 Due to Operating from CWSP	23,327.32
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 32,365.41
Other Current Liabilities	
202 Payroll Liabilities	13.98
214 Health Insurance	-36.72
219 Deferred Grant Income	605,113.64
220 Vision Plan	-13.36
220.5 Dental	99.70
222 Retirement DB	6,006.77
225 Net Pension Liability	148,261.00
230 Acc. Annual Leave	24,197.25
240 Accrued Comp Leave	3,057.23
241 Deferred Pension Inflow	92,012.00
260 Note Payable - Creek Path	10,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 888,711.49
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 921,076.90
Total Liabilities	\$ 921,076.90
Equity	
3900 Fund Balance	428,452.75
392 Res. Fd. Bl. - Creek Path	206,456.55
Net Income	84,637.69
Total Equity	\$ 719,546.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,640,623.89



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023, 5:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), Call in: 1-802-440-1368, Meeting ID: 382 346 158#

In-Person: The Opera House, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Erika Berner, Andy Solomon, Robert Gibbs, and Larry Courcelle

Other: Devon Neary, Steffanie Bourque, Mary Kay Skaza

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Berner at 5:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10TH AGENDA

Motion by Gibbs to approve the September 11th agenda. Second by Courcelle. Approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11TH MINUTES

Motion by Courcelle to approve the September 11th minutes. Second by Gibbs. Approved by voice vote.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA

- A. Regional Plan Committee: Steffanie Bourque, regional plan update project manager, presented information on the regional plan update and potential committee structure. Bourque provided information on the development process, table of contents, chapter length and authors, drafting process, and more. The committee then discussed the make-up of the committee including the structure, roles and responsibilities, and timeline. The committee agreed to provide chapter edits/comments through Microsoft SharePoint with routine meetings to discuss the draft chapters. The committee also agreed to help with public engagement. Chair Berner amended her original ad hoc committee to include members of the Executive Finance Committee. Other full board members who are interested in participating will have an opportunity to review/comment on the full chapter drafts and assist with public engagement. The next step will be a kick-off meeting to be held after the retreat sometime in November.
- B. Updated FY24 Budget: Mary Kay Skaza provided an updated FY24 budget following the base funding increase of \$150,000. The original budget did not include the increase due to state budget veto during the June annual meeting. Skaza provided a comparison



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budget and highlighted the differences in each line. Overall, the increase in base funded went to support additional staff, equipment, training, and regional plan support.

Motion to present to the full board for approval by Gibbs. Second by Solomon. Approved by voice vote.

- C. RRPC Bylaws: Director Neary provided an overview of the RRPC bylaws, and a contradiction discovered during the September board meeting. The issue is around committees, committee chairs, and timing. Section 1201: Composition states that the board “Chair shall appoint members of standing committees subject to confirmation by the Board at the first regular meeting following the June annual meeting.” This conflicts with a following provision, Section 1203: Committee Chairs states, “annually each committee, in June, shall elect a chair and vice chair who will serve the following fiscal year until replaced or resigned.” The committee agreed that the language needed to be updated and committees and chairs should be selected during the annual meeting in June. After discussion and review of other RPC bylaws, the committee agreed on updated language under Section 802: Proposed Nomination, “In April of each year, the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee made up of three (3) Commissioners. The Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for all officers, standing committee chairs and vice-chairs, and the at-large member of the Executive Finance Committee. This slate of nominations will be presented at the annual meeting in June.” Section 803: Nominations and Elections will be updated to read, “The officers of the Commission and standing committee chairs and vice-chairs shall be officially elected at the June meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The elected shall be by the affirmative vote of a quorum. In the case where a candidate for a position does not receive a majority of the votes cast, a run-off vote shall be taken, between the individual receiving the first and second highest number of votes. Section 1201: Composition will then be updated to read, “Annually, the Chair shall appoint members of standing committees subject to confirmation by the Board at the June annual meeting.” Section 1203: Committee Chairs is also updated to read, “The Chair of the Commission shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee. Community and Regional committee chairs and vice-chairs, elected at the June annual meeting, will continue to serve the following fiscal year until replaced or resigned.” **Motion by Courcelle to recommend to the full board the updates to the bylaws as presented. Second by Solomon. Approved by voice vote.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Mary Kay Skaza provided the treasurers report for August 2023. For informational purposes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- A. Future Land Use Mapping Project: Section 15 of S.100 (HOME Act) requires the RPCs (Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies – VAPDA) to produce a report on statutory recommendations to better integrate future land use (FLU) maps.



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The RPCs worked to collate and compare the current maps and have drafted new FLU area profiles.

- B. Municipal Planning & Bylaw Modernization Grants: now available and due on November 1st. The RPC has already confirmed planning processes for all towns in the region. Please reach out to Logan Solomon for assistance.
- C. Transportation Alternatives & Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grants: TA and MHSMP grants are now available with an informational workshop on October 19th from 10-11AM. Applications are due December 8th.
- D. CU Letter for Graphic Design Program: After Optimization 2.0 was released we would like to ask the board to consider drafting a letter in opposition to the consolidation. RRPC, along with many other organizations, utilize the graphic design program interns for critical communications work as well as worked closely with the arts program especially on the recent RRPC Bank Gallery Exhibit. **Motion by Chair Berner to prepare a letter to present to the full board opposing Optimization 2.0 and retain art and graphic design at Castleton University. Second by Gibbs. Approved by voice vote.**
- E. Housing Finance Forum – October 18th: Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), along with Mike Pieciak will be in Rutland on October 18th to host a housing finance forum on the recently announced \$55 million in housing funding.
- F. Housing Resource Navigator: The RRPC completed the work plan for the HRN position and will be reaching out to towns soon to set up meetings with interested towns. The RPC plans to identify housing sites through mapping and municipal meetings, coordinate with towns and developers, and build a coalition for a long-term regional housing committee.
- G. New Planner: Advertisements are out for the new planner position. We hope to fill it ASAP so please share widely.

MEMBER UPDATES

No updates. Members discussed removing member updates from the full board agenda. Chair Berner authorized Director Neary to refresh the member updates section with something new.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectively submitted by Devon Neary

		APPROVED	UPDATED	
		BUDGET	BUDGET	
		FY 2024	FY 2024	DIFFERENCE
REVENUES:				
Local Income		27,000	27,000	0
VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development (Property Transfer Tax)		424,647	576,373	151,726
VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development (Non-Permanent State Funds)		110,231	103,853	(6,378)
VT Department of Public Safety		58,840	58,840	(0)
VT Agency of Transportation		273,327	261,957	(11,370)
VT Department of Environmental Conservation		975,484	975,484	0
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		65,050	65,050	0
VT Department of Buildings and General Services		91,625	70,774	(20,851)
Local Planning Assistance		81,055	81,055	0
Special Projects		323,239	302,739	(20,500)
Interest Income		800	800	0
TOTAL REVENUES		2,431,298	2,523,925	92,627
EXPENSES:				
Salaries		703,483	731,698	28,215
Fringe		296,389	317,603	21,214
Contracted Services		1,074,312	1,071,812	(2,500)
Audit/Accounting		21,400	22,400	1,000
Conferences and Trainings (All Expenses)		26,027	28,027	2,000
Mileage (Regular Business)		13,040	13,415	375
Meeting Expense (Regular Business)		11,260	13,973	2,713
Postage/Shipping		3,475	3,475	0
Printing		12,542	12,810	268
Marketing and Sponsorship		8,700	11,200	2,500
Town and Organizational Support		2,500	2,500	0
Supplies		10,974	10,974	0
Service Contracts		8,000	9,000	1,000
Subscription/Publication/Software		25,827	32,392	6,565
Legal Fees		7,250	7,250	0
Memberships		9,912	10,512	600
Rent & Office Improvements		72,000	72,000	0
Office Cleaning		4,680	4,680	0
Telephone/Communication Services		9,520	9,520	0
Electricity		3,800	3,800	0
Grant Disbursements		81,810	74,061	(7,749)
Insurance		9,300	9,800	500
Equipment-Purchase		13,100	23,500	10,400
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,429,301	2,496,402	67,101
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		1,997	27,523	25,526



BYLAWS

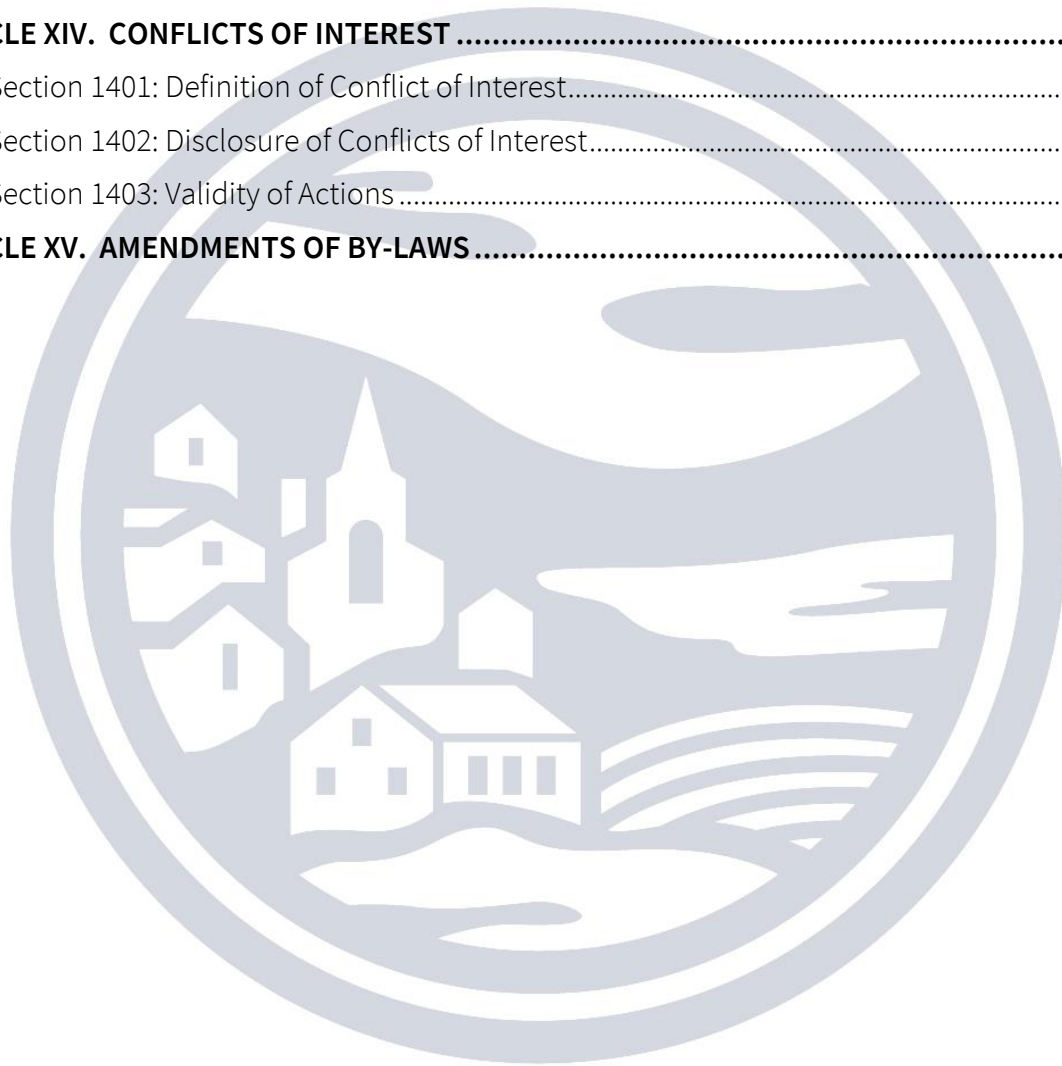
RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE: ~~October 17~~ June 20, 2023

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Pertinent to the administration of any organization are its by-laws. Since a regional planning and development commission is a legally constituted body having important powers and duties, such formal rules of procedure are necessary in order that a concise record of the Commission's actions will be maintained, and that the procedural rights of persons and individuals will be clearly established when doing business before the Commission. The following represents the by-laws of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission as amended at a legally constituted meeting on June 20, 2023.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. LEGAL BASIS

The legal basis for regional planning and development commissions is 24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, as amended from time to time, the Vermont Planning and Development Act, hereinafter referred to as the Act.

ARTICLE II. NAME AND AREA

The name of this regional planning and development commission shall be the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Commission shall be to promote mutual cooperation and coordination among area municipalities, organizations, and interests and engage in other activities as are appropriate, encouraged or specifically permitted by the Act.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

All municipalities in Rutland County, except the Town of Pittsfield, shall be considered voting members of the Commission.

ARTICLE V. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

Section 501: Regular and Alternate Commissioners

The legislative body of each member municipality may appoint one Regular Commissioner, who may hold any office in the Commission except for paid positions.

An Alternate Commissioner may be appointed by the legislative body to serve in the absence of a Regular Commissioner except that said Alternate shall not assume the office of Committee Chair of the Regular Commissioner nor participate on the Executive Committee in place of the Regular Commissioner.

The municipality shall annually certify in writing the names of the Regular and Alternate Commissioners whether or not the same person continues to serve in that capacity. Such certification shall be filed with the RRPC by July 1, of the fiscal year in which such appointment becomes effective on a form to be provided. The municipality shall promptly fill any vacancy in either position.

Commissioners will not be compensated by the RRPC for their service as Commissioner. Reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in serving in their official capacity as Commissioner shall not be considered compensation.

Vacancies shall be filled by the legislative body of the municipality where the vacancy occurs, and such appointments shall be for the length of the unexpired term of the position vacated.

Section 502: Area-wide Citizen Interests

The Commission may include representatives from up to five organizations that shall typically represent a major area-wide interest as identified by the Commission.

The Executive Committee may identify areas of interest and request an organization to select an individual to represent that interest. Organizations may appoint an Alternate to serve in the absence of the Regular appointee.

Section 503: Ex-Officio Member

The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region and the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board shall each be able to appoint one individual to represent the organization on the Board of Commissioners. There shall be no limit on the number of terms the Ex-Officio Member may serve.

ARTICLE VI. VOTING

Section 601: Municipal Votes

Only Regular and Alternate Commissioners are allowed to vote – only one vote per municipality if both are present.

Section 602: Area-wide Citizen Interest Votes

Area-wide Citizen Interest representatives shall not have voting powers.

Section 604: Ex-Officio Votes

Ex-Officio members shall not have voting powers.

ARTICLE VII. MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

The Commission may receive and expend monies from any source.

Contributions from Member municipalities shall be approved annually by the Commissioners from member communities.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Section 801: Officers

The officers of the Commission shall include a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer; other elected officials shall include one At-Large member of the Executive Committee.

All officers and elected officials are to be elected from Commissioners appointed in accordance with Section 501.

Section 802: Proposed Nomination

~~A Nominating Committee of three (3) Commissioners shall be appointed by the Chair of the Commission no later than May 15 of each year. The Nominating Committee shall propose its slate of candidates in time for the June Board of Commissioners meeting. In April of each year, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee made up of three (3) Commissioners. The Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for all officers, standing committee chairs and vice-chairs, and the at-large member of the Executive Finance Committee. This slate of nominations will be presented at the annual meeting in June.~~ Candidates shall be Regular Commissioners and may be nominated from the floor.

Section 803: Nominations and Election

The officers of the Commission and ~~standing committee chairs and vice-chairs other elected officials~~ shall officially be elected at the June meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The election

shall be by the affirmative vote of a quorum. In the case where a candidate for a position does not receive a majority of the votes cast, a run-off vote shall be taken, between the individuals receiving the first and second highest number of votes.

Section 804: Terms of Office

The terms of office of all officers and other elected officials shall begin on the first day of the month following the meeting at which they are declared elected and shall end June 30 of the following year or until their successors have been elected and installed. No officer or other elected official may serve more than three consecutive terms in any one office.

If any office, or other elected position, is vacated, such vacancy shall be filled at the next Commission meeting. Candidates for such vacancy shall be nominated from the floor. Officers so elected are to hold office only for the balance of the current year or until their successors are elected and installed. Election to fill a vacated office shall not deny a person from serving an additional three consecutive terms in that office.

Section 805: Duties

The Chair shall call and preside over regular and special meetings of the Commission and the Executive/Finance Committee, and shall perform such other duties as are customary to the office.

The Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair in the Absence of the Chair.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform such duties as are customary to the office.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be bonded for the faithful performance of the duties of the office if and when so voted by the Commission in an amount to be determined and approved by the Commission. The premiums for such a bond shall be paid from Commission funds.

ARTICLE IX. STAFF

Section 901: Composition

The staff of the Commission shall include an Executive Director hired by the Executive Finance Committee. The hiring of other staff shall be determined by the Executive Director. The Executive Director will establish staff duties and compensation at the time the position is created or filled and as needed by the Commission.

ARTICLE X. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

It is the policy of the Commission that no employee, person seeking employment or having business with the Commission shall be discriminated against for reasons of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, place of birth, physical or mental condition, age, ancestry, veteran status, or status as a disabled veteran, or otherwise protected under applicable state law, except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification.

Please refer to RRPC's Employee Handbook for additional information regarding Equal Employment Opportunity.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

Section 1101: Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at a time and place to be determined by the Commission. Changes from this procedure may be made, when necessary, by the Chair. Notification shall be in accordance with Section 1103 and Vermont Open Meeting Law.

A Calendar of meetings may be adopted on an annual basis at the September meeting and documented on the RRPC website.

Section 1102: Additional Meetings

Additional meetings may be called by the Chair in conformance with Section 1103 and the Open Meeting Law.

Section 1103: Notice

Notice of all meetings of the Commission shall be given not less than five days prior to such meetings to all Commissioners, Municipal Planning Commission Chairs, Chairs of Selectboards, Mayors, and President of the Board of Aldermen for member municipalities.

Notice of emergency meetings may be given by telephone or e-mail, with the approval of the Commission Chair, but in no case less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Section 1104: Minutes

A written record of all Commission and Committee meetings and agendas shall be available to the public.

Section 1105: Quorum

The presence of 10 Commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of general business at meetings of the Commission and business relating to approval of local plans, confirmation of local planning efforts, Annual Work Plan adoption, bylaws, budgets and the formula for contributions from member communities.

Commissioners may participate by telephone or virtually and be considered present for the purposes of a quorum. A quorum once present shall be considered a quorum for the entire meeting.

No quorum is required for committee action.

Section 1106: Action

Except as otherwise required, all actions by the Commission shall be by a quorum of Commissioners present. Action on Minutes may be taken even in the absence of a quorum.

Section 1107: Procedure

Except as otherwise provided in these By-laws, the most recent edition of Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern in any questions of parliamentary procedure.

All meetings are public meetings and shall be open to the public. Meetings conducted in executive session shall occur only as allowed by law.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

Section 1201: Composition

The standing committees of the Commission shall be the Executive/Finance Committee, the Community Committee, the Regional Committee, and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

At the discretion of the Chair of the Commission, ad hoc or special committees may be created.

~~Annually, the Chair shall appoint members of standing committees subject to confirmation by the Board at the first regular meeting following the June annual meeting. Annually, the Chair shall appoint members of standing committees subject to confirmation by the Board at the June annual meeting.~~ This does not apply to TAC, as TAC operates under a separate by-law.

Section 1202: Membership

Commissioners may, at their discretion, elect to participate on more than one committee.

The Chair may appoint any person, who is not a voting member of the Commission, to serve on any standing or ad hoc committee. Such persons shall not be eligible to serve as Chair of the standing or ad hoc committees.

The Chair of the Commission may be an Ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 1203: Committee Chairs

~~The Chair of the Commission shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee; chairs of Committees shall be chosen by Committee members. Annually each Committee, in June, shall elect a chair and vice chair who will continue to serve the following fiscal year until replaced or resigned. The Chair of the Commission shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee. Community and Regional committee chairs and vice-chairs, elected at the June annual meeting, will continue to serve the following fiscal year until replaced or resigned.~~

Section 1204: Meetings

Each Committee Chair shall call committee meetings with notification to the Chair of the Commission.

Section 1205: Powers and Duties

All Committee actions, except as noted below, shall be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for final action.

Executive/Finance Committee:

Composition:

The Executive/Finance Committee shall consist of the Officers, and the Chairs of Standing Committees, except for the TAC, and the At-Large Member and the Immediate past Chair of the Commission, who shall serve Ex-officio.

Duties:

- A. Provide guidance to the Executive Director.

- B. Provide leadership to standing and ad hoc committees through the coordination, facilitation and integration of activities including, but not limited to the development of the Annual Work Plan, the preparation, review and modification of Commission policies and mission statement, etc.
- C. Act for the Commission between regular meetings and when immediate action is required, and proper notice under Section 1103 of the Bylaws cannot be given for a special Commission meeting; in this instance a quorum of greater than fifty percent of the Committee must be present to transact any business.
- D. Recommend policies for the effective operation of the Commission.
- E. Propose and review amendments to these by-laws.
- F. Recommend the annual budget and any amendments thereto.
- G. Recommend contributions from member communities.
- H. All actions of the Executive/Finance Committee except for those covered by Paragraph C above and those involving confidential personnel items shall be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for final action. No action of the Executive/Finance Committee shall have the effect of over-ruling prior action of the Commission.

Community Committee Duties:

- A. Review local plans for consistency with the goals of the Act and compatibility with other plans and prepare recommendations on local plan approvals.
- B. Review local planning efforts to recommend confirmation in accordance with the Act.

Regional Committee Duties:

- A. Undertake the review and revision on a continuing basis of the Rutland Regional Plan, unless otherwise assigned to an ad hoc committee created at the discretion of the Chair.
- B. Review and prepare positions on Act 250 applications and Section 248 Public Service Board Petitions.
- C. Coordinate Commission activities with other regional organizations.

Transportation Advisory Committee Duties:

- A. Foster intergovernmental and local cooperation on transportation issues.

- B. Monitor and when necessary, participate in, transportation policy making activities on the Local, State and Federal levels.
- C. Participate in Vermont Project Selection and Project Prioritization (VPSP2) and make recommendations to the Vermont Agency of Transportation on regional transportation needs and projects as appropriate.

ARTICLE XIII. MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

The RRPC may enter into municipal service agreements to promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate, implement, and administer service agreements among municipalities, including arrangements and action with respect to planning, community development, joint purchasing, inter-municipal services, infrastructure, and related activities; and exercise any power, privilege, or authority - capable of exercise by a municipality as necessary or desirable for dealing with problems of local or regional concern.

Participation by a municipality in a municipal service agreement with the RRPC shall be voluntary and only valid upon appropriate board action as set forth in 1 V.S.A. § 172 and other applicable provisions of law, including the Open Meeting Law by the legislative body of the municipality. To become effective, a municipal service agreement shall be executed by the Executive Director of the regional planning commission and of each of the legislative bodies of the municipalities who are proposed parties to the service agreement. The agreement may include other parties as may be relevant to a particular service. Any modification to a service agreement shall not become effective unless approved by all parties to the service agreement, including the legislative bodies of all involved municipalities. Such modifications shall be in writing, with a copy provided to all parties to the agreement.

A municipal service agreement shall describe the services to be provided and the amount of funds payable by, and/or a formula for allocating costs to, each municipality that is a party to the service agreement. Service of personnel, use of equipment and office space, and other necessary services may be accepted from municipalities as part of their financial support and shall be clearly documented in the annual budget for the service approved by the parties to the agreement.

When deemed appropriate by the participating municipalities and the RRPC, a service agreement may include a governance committee made up of representatives of the participating municipalities and RRPC. If a governance committee is formed, the service agreement shall include appropriate details regarding the responsibilities, voting rights and financial obligations of each member.

All service agreements shall contain a termination date unless some other method of termination is expressly provided in the agreement. Service agreements shall also contain a provision

describing how parties may withdraw from the agreement prior to the termination date. The method of withdrawing from and/or terminating a service agreement shall generally be the same as the process for entering such agreement - i.e., by majority vote of the members of the legislative body, subject to other applicable provisions of law. If, however, the service agreement involves multi-year financial obligations or other contractual obligations have been incurred in reliance on the service agreement, the withdrawing party shall withdraw only upon satisfaction of those obligations or mutual written agreement regarding the process to satisfy the same:

- A. The withdrawal provision of a municipal agreement with one municipality shall provide for at least 30 days' notice unless otherwise provided in the agreement.
- B. The withdrawal provision of a municipal agreement with multiple municipalities shall provide for at least six months' notice prior to the beginning of a fiscal year unless otherwise provided in the agreement.

Nothing within this section shall limit RRPC's ability to enter into contracts or agreements to provide services with other entities or governmental organizations, including those serving multiple municipalities.

The Executive Director shall prepare a recommendation to the RRPC Executive Finance Committee regarding any potential municipal service agreements and, if entered into, report on their status, the services provided, and funding arrangements, as appropriate. The Executive Finance Committee shall make recommendations to the RRPC concerning entering into, withdrawal from, and/or terminating municipal service agreements.

ARTICLE XIV. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Section 1401: Definition of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest will be deemed to exist whenever a Commissioner is in the position to approve or influence RRPC policies or actions which involve or could ultimately harm or benefit financially:

- A. the Commissioner;
- B. any member of the Commissioner's immediate family (spouse, parents, children, brothers or sisters, spouses of these individuals, close relatives) or other person close to the Commissioner who would benefit from the policy or action; or
- C. any organization (excluding the municipality) in which the Commissioner or person in sub section (b) above is a director, trustee, officer, member, partner, employee or more than 10% shareholder.

Service on the board of another not-for-profit organization does not constitute a conflict of interest *per se*.

Section 1402: Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

A Commissioner shall disclose a conflict of interest:

- A. prior to voting on or otherwise discharging their duties with respect to any matter involving the conflict which comes before the board or any committee;
- B. prior to entering into any contract or transaction involving the conflict;
- C. as soon as possible after the Commissioner learns of the conflict.

Section 1403: Validity of Actions

No action or decision by or approved by the RRPC in which one or more of its Commissioner[s] have a substantial financial interest, shall be either void or voidable for this reason alone or by reason alone that such Commissioner, or of a committee of RRPC which the Commissioner served, where the Commissioner's votes are counted for such purpose if the material facts as to such Commissioner's interest in such action are disclosed in good faith or known to the Board or committee, and the Board or committee authorizes such action by a vote sufficient for such purpose without counting the vote or votes of such interested Commissioner. A Commissioner's presence during the vote may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board or committee which authorizes such action. At the time of the discussion and decision concerning the authorization of such action, the interested Commissioner should not be present at the meeting.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

Proposals to amend or repeal any portion of these bylaws may be submitted by any Commissioner to the Executive/Finance Committee for review and comment.

A proposed amendment or repeal shall be given, pursuant to Section 1103, with the recommendation of the Executive/Finance Committee. Such an amendment shall be voted on at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

September 20, 2023

PLANNED GROWTH AREAS	
<u>Description</u>	Planned Growth Areas include the most compact existing settlement and growth areas with uninterrupted development density and the highest concentrations of population, housing, and employment. They include a mix of commercial, residential, and civic or cultural sites with active streetscapes, supported by public water and wastewater and multi-modal transportation systems. These areas include historic or new commercial downtowns and village centers.
<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Criteria description</u>
Housing Density	Among highest in region; per Act 47 at least 5 du/ac net densities. E911 residential sites/acres of area (Be sure to get the sum of the unit count field when merging all site points).
Housing Target	They are planned to accommodate most, if not all, of the municipal housing target through a diversity of residential building types when considered in combination with adjacent Transition Areas.
Employment	Among highest in region
Land Uses	Mixed commercial, mixed residential, civic, parks, residential neighborhoods
Types of Appropriate Development	Redevelopment, renovation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings, infill, adjacent greenfield development where needed to meet housing targets and be flood safe
Downtown & Village Center	In order for property owners to achieve Downtown or Village Center benefits for eligible properties, must meet criteria in the designation program.
Zoning/Subdivision	Zoning and subdivision regulations
Community Water	Present or planned water service area
Community Sewer	Present or planned sewer service area
Transportation	Varied options emphasizing walking, biking, and transit
Natural Resources	Important natural resources such as rivers are often in these areas, so flood resilience is a key factor.
Other	Protecting important natural resources. VSWI (VT significant wetland inventory), Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU should align with designations that encourage the most growth and redevelopment (Growth Centers, Neighborhood Development Areas, Downtowns, Village Centers (with zoning, water and sewer) or any new designation intended for significant growth). Designation benefits of Act 250 exemptions and tax benefits should apply here for certain properties. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
Act 250	These areas should be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction when the community demonstrates good planning and regulation with water and sewer. Consideration of climate resilience is critical. If exempt for future Act 250 jurisdiction, need a process for a property owner to transition to municipal jurisdiction. Do we need state review for river corridors/floodplains and transportation?
State Investment	Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, EVSE, urban trees, state offices, schools, housing, historic preservation and adaptive re-use, ...

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

September 20, 2023

VILLAGE CENTERS	
<u>Description</u>	Village Center Areas – means the core of a traditional or proposed settlement, typically comprised of a cohesive mix of residential, civic, religious, commercial, and mixed-use buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets that are within walking distance for residents who live within and surrounding the core. Village Center Areas are without at least one of the following: water, sewer, or zoning.
<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Criteria description</u>
Housing Density	5du/ac in zoning if sewerer per Act 47 (4 du/ac per NDA criteria). E911 residential sites/acres of area (be sure to get the sum of the unit count field when merging all site points)
Housing Target	Demonstrate ability to accommodate small portion of municipal housing target within this FLU.
Employment	Typically, employment center for town
Land Uses	Mix of uses including the civic and commercial core of the town. Village Centers may become Planned Growth Areas when they meet the criteria.
Types of Appropriate Development	Redevelopment, renovation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings, infill, adjacent greenfield development where needed to meet housing targets and be flood safe
Village Center	Village centers serve as the focus of economic and social interaction, including places of employment, shopping, worship, tourism, dining, entertainment, services, and government institutions often within historic buildings.
Zoning/Subdivision	Zoning and subdivision regulations
Community Water	Possible without having either sewer or zoning
Community Sewer	Possible without having either water or zoning
Zoning/Subdivision	Possible without having either sewer or water
Transportation	Pedestrian-oriented
Natural Resources	Important natural resources such as rivers are often in these areas, so flood resilience is a key factor.
Other	protecting important natural resources VSWI (VT significant wetland inventory); Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU should align with designations that encourage significant local growth and redevelopment. Designation benefits of Act 250 exemptions and tax benefits should apply here when the community demonstrates good planning and regulation. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
Act 250	These areas should be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction to encourage redevelopment and growth when the community demonstrates good planning and regulation. Consideration of climate resilience is critical. Do we need state review for river corridors/floodplains and transportation?
State Investment	Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, EVSE, urban trees, state offices, schools, housing, historic preservation, ...

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

September 20, 2023

OPTIONAL – TRANSITIONAL AREA	
Description	Includes areas of commercial, office, mixed-use development, or residential built (or planned to built) in areas adjacent to Planned Growth Areas and served by water and wastewater. The intent of this land use category is to transform these areas into higher-density, mixed use settlements, or residential neighborhoods through infill and redevelopment. Commercial strip auto-oriented development should not be encouraged as to prevent negatively impacting the economic vitality of commercial areas in adjacent or nearby Planned Growth Areas.
Criteria	
Housing Density	Intent to add housing to these primarily commercial corridors or in adjacent greenfields safe from flooding. Demonstrate ability to accommodate municipal housing target within this FLU.
Employment	Primarily but converting to a mix
Land Uses	Should be planned (and zoned) for a mix of uses
Community Water	Yes, or planned
Community Sewer	Yes, or planned
Transportation	sidewalks
Natural Resources	protecting flood and river corridors
Other	protecting important natural resources
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU should align with designations that encourage the redevelopment of auto-oriented strip development adjacent to Planned Growth Areas. Designation benefits of Act 250 exemptions and tax benefits might apply here when the community demonstrates good planning and regulation. Consideration of climate resilience is critical.
Act 250	These areas might be exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction to encourage safe, climate-resilient housing development when the community demonstrates good planning and regulation. Consideration of climate resilience is critical. <i>Do we need state review for river corridors/floodplains and transportation?</i>
State Investment	If called for in good plans: water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, EVSE, housing, historic preservation, ...

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

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OPTIONAL - RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION AREA	
Description	Includes large-scale resource-based, recreational facilities, often concentrated around ski resorts, which provide infrastructure, jobs and housing to support seasonal recreational activities.
Criteria	
Housing Density	High but less overall than Planned Growth Areas, often seasonal
Employment	High but less overall than Planned Growth Areas, often seasonal
Land Uses	Recreation, accessory and/or seasonal residential & commercial
Community Water	Often present but limited capacity
Community Sewer	Often present but limited capacity
Transportation	Road access and transit may be seasonal
Natural Resources	protecting flood and river corridors
Other	protecting important natural resources
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU is likely outside of any state designation.
Act 250	These areas should be subject to Act 250 jurisdiction.
State Investment	When called for in good plans: water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, EVSE, conservation easements, housing? ...

ENTERPRISE	
Description	Enterprise areas are locations of high economic activity and employment which are not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas. These include industrial parks, areas of natural resource extraction, or other uses which involve larger land areas. Enterprise areas typically have ready access to water supply, sewage disposal, electricity, and freight transportation networks.
Criteria	
Housing Density	None or low (from existing homes)
Employment	High employment
Land Uses	Industrial, Office, Limited retail, resource extraction not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas
Community Water	May be present
Community Sewer	May be present
Stormwater Utility	May be present
Transportation	Driven by freight transportation (large truck, rail, air, and/or boat)
Natural Resources	protecting flood and river corridors
Other	protecting important natural resources
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU is likely outside of any state designation.
Act 250	These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction unless part of a regional or town center. Different Act 250 criteria should be considered.
State Investment	Water, wastewater, stormwater, sidewalks, paths, complete streets, EVSE,

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

September 20, 2023

HAMLET	
Description	Small clusters of homes and perhaps a school, church, store, or other public buildings not planned for significant growth; no public water supply or wastewater systems, and mostly focused along 1-2 roads. These may be depicted as points on the FLU map.
Criteria	
Housing Density	low density residential
Employment	minimal
Land Uses	Hamlets may become Village Centers when they meet the criteria.
Community Water	no
Community Sewer	no
Transportation	
Natural Resources	protecting flood and river corridors
Other	protecting important natural resources
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU is typically outside of state designations. This FLU may be eligible for Village Center designations for the purpose of historic preservation.
Act 250	These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction.
State Investment	Sidewalks, paths, EVSE?,

RURAL	
Description	<p>Rural areas promote the preservation of Vermont's traditional working landscape and natural area features. They allow for low-density residential and sometimes limited commercial development that is compatible with working lands and natural areas. Agriculture and forestry are permitted throughout this area, as rural areas can also encompass large forest blocks, sand/gravel/mineral deposits, and prime agricultural soils.</p> <p>Optional Sub-Area: Working Land Areas are blocks of unfragmented forest or farmland that sustain resource industries, provide critical wildlife habitat and movement, outdoor recreation, flood storage, aquifer recharge, and scenic beauty, and contribute to economic well-being and quality of life. Development in these areas should be carefully managed to promote the working landscape and rural economy, and address regional goals, while protecting the forest resource value.</p> <p>Optional Sub-Area: Conserved or Protected Areas with regulations or property rights limiting development, fragmentation, and conversion in order to maintain ecological health and scenic beauty. Areas with public ownership or stringent regulations limiting development. These lands have significant economic value, and require special protection due to their uniqueness, fragility, or ecological importance. They may include protected lands, areas with specific features like</p>

VAPDA Regional Planning Report – Future Land Use Area Profiles (DRAFT)

September 20, 2023

	steep slopes or endangered species, wetlands, flood hazard areas, and shoreline protection areas, and are intended to remain largely undeveloped for the benefit of future generations. This area may be defined by constraint mapping done as part of Act 174 for Enhanced Energy Plans.
Criteria	
Housing Density	Very low
Employment	Resource-based employers and scattered sites
Land Uses	Predominantly farms and low density residential
Community Water	No
Community Sewer	no
Transportation	Auto oriented with some trails
Natural Resources	Ag soils and other resources are likely, Act 174 Possible Constraints
Other	
Thoughts on relation to other S.100 Studies	
Designation	This FLU is outside of state designations.
Act 250	These areas should be under Act 250 jurisdiction.
State Investment	Clean water, working lands, conservation easements

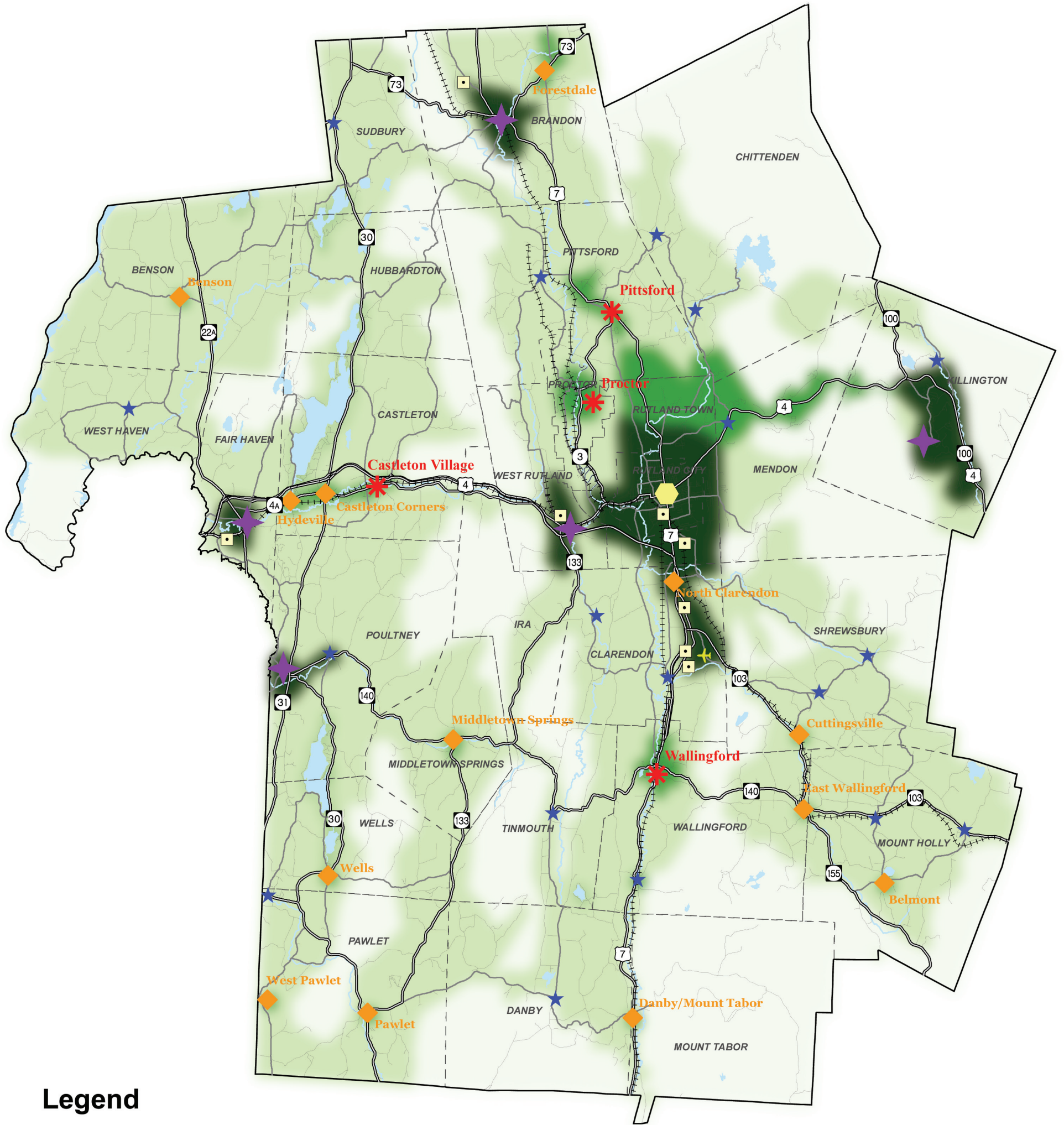
We should keep in mind that RPCs may call out special land use areas beyond this list and include some statutory language providing the ability and parameters.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Early thoughts:

1. How to handle existing Act 250 permits in growth areas –
 - a. they are superseded by the municipal permit
 - b. don't have to go back to Act 250 as of a certain date
 - c. some sort of board to review if they need to remain – NRB, a housing appeal board, ?
2. Regional Plans reviewed by a re-named New Downtown Board (NDB) (*state agencies and interest groups are all there*). (*Possible new names: Vermont Designation Board, Planned Development Board, Future Land Use Board, etc.*).
3. Accountability: Consequences of not following statute – lose benefits, notice and time to correct before losing benefits. Review against clear statutory criteria.
4. RPC documents efforts to engage marginalized communities in developing Regional Plan.
5. RPC prepares report to NDB documenting compliance with criteria and requesting approval of both Regional Plan FLU Areas and State Designations.
6. NDB reviews and makes a decision on both Regional Plan FLU Areas and State Designations.
7. NDB decision can be appealed to ? NRB, ECourt, Other? Within how many days – 45?
 - a. Only appeal if doesn't meet housing targets and would further exclusionary housing practices.

Rutland Region Future Use of Land



Legend

- Development Constraint Areas
- Low Density Development
- Hamlets
- Medium Density Development
- Villages
- Town Centers
- High Density Development
- Urban Center
- Sub-Regional Centers
- Business / Industrial Parks
- Rutland State Airport

Note:
 This map is a generalized land use map. It is not intended to regulate actual uses in specific geographic areas, but instead reflect potential land use patterns. This map is for planning purposes only. Determination of appropriate land uses for a specific site necessitates thorough review of the local plans and by-laws as well as the policies of the Regional Plan. For more information, please contact the RRPC at (802)775-0871 or (800)464-7900, or at www.rutlandrpc.org.
 Created January 24, 2006

Re-adopted June 19, 2018



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

October 17, 2023

Mike Smith, Interim President
Vermont State University
124 Alumni Drive, PO Box 500
Randolph Center, VT 05601

Dear Mr. Smith:

On October 17, 2023, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to issue a letter of opposition in response to Vermont State University's *Optimization 2.0*. The preservation of our post-secondary educational assets is essential to creating strong local economies and vibrant communities in the Rutland Region.

The RRPC Board of Commissioners was troubled to learn about VSU's *Optimization 2.0* proposal to restrict the Fine Arts Major to the Johnson campus and the Graphic Design Major to the Lyndon campus. The RRPC, as with many Rutland Region entities, relies on interns from these critical areas of study to support our organization, especially for outreach and engagement. Moreover, those interns often go on to seek full-time employment by Rutland-Area businesses. This symbiotic relationship between Castleton University and the Rutland Region is a direct manifestation of the Vermont State University mission, "as Vermont's regional public university, our technological, professional, and liberal arts programs engage with partners throughout Vermont and beyond to provide students with rich real-world learning while meeting the needs of our communities and the state" and must be preserved.

We support keeping the Fine Art and Graphic Design programs at the Castleton University campus. These programs enhance the cultural vibrancy of our cities and towns, provide local support for arts and cultures within our communities, and revitalize the economies of our region. The proposed recommendation to relocate them would undercut their vital services and resources from our Region and go against the core mission of Vermont State University.

The Rutland Region has already seen the shuttering of two important colleges, Green Mountain, and St. Josephs. The future of Castleton University is critical to the continued success of our Region. We strongly oppose any action that would stifle that success and urge Vermont State University to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Erika Berner, Chairperson
RRPC Board of Commissioners