



The Vermont Council on Rural Development 2004 Annual Report

From the presentation of the Vermont Forest Products Council's Final Report to the Legislature with the Governor in January to the completion of the Bristol Community Visit process in December, 2004 has been a year of expanded partnerships, exciting initiatives and continued dedicated service to the residents and communities of rural Vermont.

2004 VCRD Accomplishments

- Conducted successful **Community Visits** in **Johnson** and **Bristol**, provided a follow-up visit to **Enosburg**, and set up Visits for **Chelsea** and **Woodstock**.
- Produced and facilitated the **Governor's Summit on The Structure of the Planning System in Vermont** and completed the Summit Final Report: **"Planning for Vermont's Future; Building a System that Works."**
- Educated Vermonters around broadband issues, helped coordinate the Vermont policy dialogue around broadband access, and facilitated practical efforts around aggregation to expand **rural broadband** deployment with 24 communities.
- Managed and facilitated the work of VCRD-founded **Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation (VCCI)** as it built a strategic plan to expand the "creative economy" in Vermont.
- Produced the VCCI final report, **Advancing Vermont's Creative Economy**, and built a major statewide communications plan to build public awareness, share models of successful communities, and coordinate statewide efforts supporting community and economic development.
- Strengthened VCRD's usefulness to the Vermont **Legislature** where VCRD's perspective on rural issues was sought by the Agriculture, Commerce, Institutions, Economic Development, Finance, Education, and Natural Resources Committees.
- Presented the **Vermont Forest Products Council Final Report** to the Legislature (with the Governor) and the **VCCI Final Report** to the Gubernatorial Administration.
- Won a **Rural Impact Award** (one of four nationally) from the Office of Community Development at USDA Rural Development for efforts to coordinate agricultural policy in Vermont.
- Worked with Senator Jeffords' Office to obtain an EDA earmark to bring resources to Vermont to support design and marketing initiatives promoting the **Vermont Forest Products Brand**.

- Provided **facilitation services to two major federal agencies** in Vermont as they considered organizational development and/or staff communications issues.
- Participated on the **HUD Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee** to coordinate HUD spending in Vermont.
- Founded the 25-member **Vermont Council on Planning** whose one-year mission is to evaluate the structure of the town, regional, and state agency planning system in Vermont and recommend changes or improvements to the Governor and Legislature at the end of 2005.
- Expanded the **visibility of rural development issues** with press, radio, and TV coverage of Community Visits, the VCCI and Creative Economy efforts, telecom issues, and the structure of the planning system in the state.
- Hosted a **Northeast Regional Retreat** in Montpelier for State Rural Development Council Executive Directors from NH, RI, ME, NY, MA, CT.
- Expanded the **VCRD Membership** to over 100 leadership, organization, and individual members.

VCRD is proud of the partnerships that provide the foundations for each of these successes.

Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation Work Complete

VCRD deeply appreciates the dedication and leadership of members of the Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation listed below. Their Final Report for “Advancing Vermont’s Creative Economy” is on the VCRD web site or available on paper by request.

Alex Aldrich, Vermont Arts Council
Andy Broderick, Housing Vermont
Paul Bruhn, Preservation Trust
Paul Costello, Producer, VCRD
Senator Ann Cummings
Judi Danforth, Danforth Pewterers
David Donath, The Woodstock Foundation
Chip Evans, Chair, Human Resources Investment Council
Peter Gilbert, The Vermont Council on the Humanities
Kevin Graffagnino, VT Historical Society
Peggy Kannenstine, Artist and Community Organizer
Garret Kimberly, New England Creative Economy Council
Chuck Lief, The Hartland Group
Peter Mallery, Publisher
Bobbe Maynes, Innkeeper
Robert McBride, Rockingham Arts & Museum Project
Patricia Menduni, Senator Jeffords Office
Gretchen Saries, Senator Leahy’s Office
Gerianne Smart, Smart Communications
Elizabeth Stedman, Kimbell Sherman Ellis
Michael Levine, Project Director

VCRD 2004 Members

All of us at VCRD are sincerely grateful for the leadership and commitment of our 2004 partners in support of Vermont communities! To become a Member of VCRD, send contact information (or copy the application on the VCRD website) and a check for \$25 (individual), \$100 (organization) or \$500 (leadership) to VCRD, PO Box 1384, Montpelier, VT 05601 or call 828-6022.

Individual

Alex Aldrich
Sue Aldrich
Robin Barone
Phillip Camp
Vaughn Collins
Elizabeth Courtney
Paul Denton
Michael Dupee
Jackie Folsom
Governor's Commission on Women
Jane Greenwood
Ward Heneveld
Paul Hill
Kevin Jasmin
Robert Justis
Jolinda LaClair
Stephanie Lahar
Sydney Lea
Chuck Lief
Dr. Christine Lilyquist
Karen Temple Lynch
Charles Morse
Pat Moulton Powden
Jenny Nelson
Bess O'Brien
Scudder Parker
Howard Pierce
David Pierson
Robert Smith
Tamara Smith
Tim Smith
Susan Spaulding
Peter Thoms
Cynthia Tokos
Christopher Wing
Lee Youngman

Organization

Champlain Valley Office of Economic
Opportunity
City of St. Albans

Duey Associates
East Haven Wind Farm
John Ewing
Fannie Mae
Greater Burlington Industrial Corp.
Green Mountain National Forest
Human Resources Investment Council
Peggy Kannenstine
Lake Champlain Housing Development
Corp.
Merchants Bank
Montgomery and Merrill
New England Creative Economy Council
Northern VT RC & D Council
Pilgrim Partnership, LLC
Snelling Center for Government
Southeastern VT Community Action Inc.
Southern Windsor Regional Planning Com.
Town of Essex
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Com.
Union Bank
Verizon
Vermont Council on the Humanities
VT Dept. of Employment & Training
VT Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs
VT Development Credit Union
VT Economic Progress Council
Vermont Farm Bureau
Vermont Historical Society
Vermont Land Trust
VT Office of Economic Opportunity
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
VT State Employees Credit Union
VT Wood Manufacturers Assn.
Wall Goldfinger, Inc.
Washington Co. Mental Health Services
Yankee Farm Credit
Yellow Wood Associates

Leadership Contributors

Casella Waste Systems
Chittenden Bank

Community National Bank
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
Barb Grimes
Housing Vermont
International Business Machines
Jane's Trust
Northfield Savings Bank
Passumpsic Savings Bank
Preservation Trust of Vermont
Smart Communications
USDA Rural Development
Vermont Agency of Administration
Vermont Agency of Commerce and

Community Development
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Association of Planning &
Development Agencies
Vermont Broadband Council
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Council on the Arts
Vermont Environmental Board
Vermont Planners Association
Windham Foundation
Woodstock Foundation

VCRD Board of Directors in 2004

VCRD deeply appreciates the leadership of board members who dedicate their time and energy to promote and support the VCRD work-plan and the communities we serve as a team. The following list includes members of the board who have retired this past year with our special thanks: **Bill Kurtz, Cynthia Gubb, Marcia Merrill and Pat McDonald.**

FEDERAL

Roger Allbee, Farm Service Agency
Jolinda LaClair, USDA-Rural Development
Paul Brewster, USDA-Forest Service
Bill Kurtz, Senator Jeffords' Office
Brian Keefe, Senator Jeffords' Office
Jenny Nelson, Congressman Sanders' Office
Chuck Ross, Senator Leahy's Office

NON-PROFIT

Alexander Aldrich, Vermont Arts Council (Treasurer)
Hal Cohen, Central VT Community Action Council (Chair)
Barbara Grimes, Burlington Electric Company (Chair Emeritus)
Fred Schmidt, Center for Rural Studies, UVM

STATE

Allen Evans, Human Resources Investment Council
Steve Kerr, VT Agency of Agriculture
Patricia McDonald, VT Agency of Transportation
Jonathan Wood, VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
Dawn Terrill, VT Agency of Transportation

LOCAL

Jeffrey D. Francis, VT Superintendents Association
Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (Vice Chair)
Duncan Hastings, Town of Johnson
Steve Patterson, Northeastern VT Development Association

PRIVATE

Joe Fusco, Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

Cynthia Gubb, Chittenden Bank

Marcia Merrill, Montgomery and Merrill

Richard White, Community National Bank

Peter Mallary, Behind the Times/Its Classified

The Vermont Council on Rural Development

A proud member of the National Rural Development Partnership, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the locally-defined progress of Vermont's rural communities. VCRD is a dynamic collaboration of federal, state, local, non-profit, and private partners. Actively non-partisan with an established reputation for community-based facilitation, VCRD is uniquely positioned to sponsor and coordinate collaborative efforts across governmental and organizational categories concerned with policy questions of rural import.

Since its inception in 1992 VCRD has built a profile of rural policy leadership that is grounded by work in local communities and extended to collaborative partnerships with the highest levels of state and federal programs. VCRD's Community Visits build bridges between local needs and state, federal, non-profit, and private resources. The annual VCRD-led "Governor's Rural Summit" provides a structured process for state and federal leaders to work together to build cooperative resource strategies that will best meet the needs of rural Vermont communities. Because of its neutrality and ability to bring diverse parties together, VCRD has a unique public policy role and a responsibility to raise questions that span organizational sectors and have broad import for the future of the state. VCRD is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome your comments, suggestions, membership, and support. For membership information or to review recent reports visit www.sover.net/~vcrd or contact Paul Costello, Executive Director, at vcrd@sover.net.

Vermont Council on Rural Development

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