

The Governor's 2002 Summit
on
Rural Economic Development



Final Report

**Produced by the
Vermont Council on Rural Development**

Table of Contents

I.	Executive Summary	Page 3
II.	Summit Action Steps	Page 4
	Forest Products	Page 4
	Agriculture	Page 7
	High Tech/New Economy	Page 10
	Tourism	Page 13

Appendices

III.	Summit Schedule	Page 16
IV.	Summit Presenters	Page 20
V.	Summit Participants	Page 23

For Further Information:

Paul Costello
Executive Director
Vermont Council on Rural Development
P.O. Box 1384
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
vcrd@sover.net
www.sover.net~vcrd

Executive Summary

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) produces the annual Governor's Rural Summit to bring state, federal, and partnering organizations together to evaluate critical rural issues and devise cross-agency collaborative solutions for them. The Summit is a central element each year in the work plan of VCRD as it implements its mission to help "Vermont Communities develop their capacity to create a prosperous and sustainable future through coordination, collaboration, and the effective use of public and private resources."

The 2002 Governor's Summit on Rural Economic Development held at Basin Harbor on June 11th and 12th was particularly timely. With the difficulties facing the wood products sector today, the current dialogue about long-term agricultural viability, concerns about the regulatory climate and loss of IBM jobs, and the opportunity to integrate marketing across sectors to visitors to the state, Vermont's rural economic agenda is at an historically significant juncture.

Participants at the Summit recognized that Vermont faces an upcoming election sure to result in new priorities and new administrative leadership. In this context, the Action Steps detailed in this report reflect some of the best thoughts of the current administration, and its federal and non-profit allies, for practical work in the short term and as cross-agency recommendations for priority action by the next administration.

The Summit was structured this year around the challenges to four sectors of the rural economy: Forest products, agriculture, high tech/new economy, and tourism. The interdependence of these sectors became a key theme early in the Summit deliberations: tourism depends on the working landscape produced by agriculture and the forest products economy and has tremendous potential to support both sectors; high tech entrepreneurs are drawn to the state for the scenic beauty, quality of life, and strong communities that are a legacy of the traditional rural economy. No one at the Summit liked the idea that there may be two economies or two societies emerging in Vermont, and all participants considered strategies to build bridges between rural and urban areas, among the four identified sectors, and among those state and federal agencies which support their progress.

In the end, participants seemed to agree that despite the challenges before each sector of Vermont's rural economy, the state has assets in natural resources, human and social capital, and a certain unity around something essential to Vermont—call it the "Vermont Brand" or the soul of the state—that provided solid ground for optimism about the future.

VCRD deeply appreciates the dedication of each Summit participant to the progress of rural Vermont. We are especially grateful to Governor Dean for his support and to Lt. Governor Racine and Kathy Hoyt for their participation and leadership this year.

Summit Recommendations and Action Steps

I. Forest Products

Facilitator: Jeff Francis

Scribe/Reporter: Rhonda Shippee

Work Group Members:

Jo Bradley
Wayne Fawbush
Micque Glitman
Scott Johnstone
Don Kelpinski
Steve Patterson
Bill Talbott
Rhonda Shippee

Challenge One: Need to develop new and improve existing markets for Vermont value-added forest products.

Practical Action Step	Immediate Or Long Term Goal	Priority 1 to 5 (5 is high)	Responsible Person/ Agency
-----------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

1. Develop brand identity for Vermont quality products and tie that identity to the value of the working landscape	Start now/ Long Term	5	DED VT Wood Manufacturers Assn.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	---	------------------------------------------

2. Build a Vermont wood products resources website to serve as a clearinghouse for VT materials and to promote their use to homeowners and builders.	Immediate and Ongoing	5	DED
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------	----------	------------

3. Develop education initiatives to increase awareness of the value of the working landscape, stewardship, and the forest products sector of Vermont's economy.	Start now/ Long Term	4	DED ANR DOE Schools
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------	----------------------------------------

4. Vermont should set up tax credits for the use of Vermont wood products in construction.	Long Term	3	Tax Dept. Legislature Governor's Office
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	--------------------------------------------------------

5. The State should subsidize niche marketing efforts for Vermont value-added wood products/producers.	Long Term	3	DED Legislature Governor's Office
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	--------------------------------------------------

Challenge Two: Lack of clarity regarding the role of Vermont State Government in the support and promotion of the Forest Products industry in Vermont.

6. The Governor's Office should set a dialogue with the industry and take testimony on their recommendations for state action.	Intermediate	4	Governor's Office
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------	----------	--------------------------

Challenge Three: Lack of access to raw materials.

7. Improve the Current Use program to improve its competitiveness with development value and so that it provides real benefit and incentives for pro-active forest management.	Intermediate	4	ANR Tax Dept.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------	---	------------------

8. Create a total resource management plan for state-owned land so that they are a working resource to the industry and to make these lands a model for private landowners.	Intermediate	4	ANR Governor's Office Legislature
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------	---	-----------------------------------------

Challenge Four: Lack of capacity for business management and planning within the Forest Products Sector.

9. Facilitate the creation of a partnership or association to build a closer relationship between primary (logging operations and sawmills) and secondary (manufacturers) forest products producers.	Intermediate	3	DED VWPA FPA
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------	---	--------------------

II. Agriculture

Facilitator: Hal Cohen

Scribe/Reporter: Commissioner Leon Graves

Work Group Members:

John Bramley
Greg Brown
Stephanie Carter
Charity Clark
Leon Graves
Fred Schmidt
Gus Seelig
Michael Zahner

Challenge One: Build a strong Agricultural Policy in Vermont.

Practical Action Step	Immediate Or Long Term Goal	Priority 1 to 5 (5 is high)	Responsible Person/ Agency
------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

1. The Governor’s Office should institute and facilitate a broad-based public discussion on the future of the natural resource economy in Vermont.	Immediate	5	Governor’s Office Gubernatorial Candidates
2. The State should develop more effective incentives for Smart Growth and disincentives for development on agricultural lands.	Long Term Ongoing	5	DHCA Orton Fdn. Environmental Board ANR

3. Vermont should continue to match federal dollars available for purchasing development rights.	Immediate & Long Term	5	Governor's Office Legislature
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------	------------------------------------------

4. Vermont should maintain its ground on Current Use Legislation, attempt to eliminate the remainder of the school tax on the current use value of farmland, and eliminate taxes on farm buildings.	Immediate	5	Governor's Office Legislature
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	------------------------------------------

5. Vermont's Congressional Delegation should fight against the provision of EPA regulations for large farms being applied to smaller farm operations. We should support state or functional equivalency and recognize state permit programs that are already in place.	Immediate	5	Leahy, Jeffords, and Sanders Offices
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Challenge Two: Vermont needs to promote agricultural diversification.

6. Vermont should create and fund a Farm Viability Enhancement Program that includes support for farmer transitions, technical help, strengthened research and coordination of information to farmers, and provides grants to support strong business models.	Immediate	5	VHCB DOA Governor's Office Fed Partners: Congressional Delegation USDA, FSA
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

7. Vermont needs to develop funding to support diversification, especially value-added processing infrastructure.	On-going	5	Federal Partners/USDA Dept. of Housing & C D
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------	----------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Challenge Three: Marketing Vermont Products

8. Systematically develop markets connected to Vermont’s value-added agricultural products.	Immediate	5	DOA Private Sector MarketVT
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	------------------------------------------------

9. Develop a systematic way to coordinate the work of Vermont’s 42 Marketing Boards.	Immediate	5	DOA Private Sector
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	-----------------------------------

10. Promote and protect the Vermont Brand as a coordinated strategy of the M.A.P. Team.	On-going	5	DOA M.A.P. Team
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------	----------	--------------------------------

11. Promote the purchase of Vermont products by Vermonters through a campaign to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a baseline on the consumption of local products (potentially through the Center for Rural Studies at UVM). • Outreach to local retailers to obtain shelf space for VT products. • Incentives to retailers to provide shelf space. 	Immediate and Ongoing	5	DOA Private Sector Institutional Purchasers State Chambers Center for Rural Studies, UVM
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------	----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

12. Enforce legislation requiring publicly funded institutions to purchase a percentage of locally grown agricultural products.	Immediate	5	Attorney General’s Office
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	------------------------------------------

III. New Economy/High Tech

Facilitator: Cynthia Gubb

Scribe/Reporter: Karrin Wilks

Work Group Members:

Darcy Carter
Chris D'Elia
Fred Kenney
Susan Murray
Christine Salembier
Patricia Urban
Karrin Wilks

Challenge One: Vermont needs a consensus Vision for the New Economy.

Practical Action Step	Immediate Or Long Term Goal	Priority 1 to 5 (5 is high)	Responsible Person/ Agency
------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

1. With the leadership of the Governor's Office, Vermont should develop an integrated, overall vision for the State and its economic development (5, 10, 15, 20 years).	Immediate/ 6 months	5	Governor's Office
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	----------	--------------------------

Challenge Two: Vermont needs to develop its telecommunications infrastructure.

2. The State of Vermont should explore its role as part of a public/private aggregate purchasing telecommunications services.	Immediate	5	Agency of Administration
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	---------------------------------

3. The State should systematically explore ways to streamline the cell tower siting process toward having a single entity provide approval.	Immediate	5	Agency of Commerce
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	---------------------------

4. The State should hire a telecommunications expert (R.F. Engineer) to provide technical assistance, including negotiation and information on telecom services, to towns and regions and for statewide planning.	Immediate	5	Agency of Commerce Public Service Department
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	---------------------------------------------------------

Challenge Three: Vermont needs to address workforce development needs and the lack of availability of capital.

5. Identify target growth industry sectors and develop strategies for workforce development to support these sectors.	Immediate	5	HRIC and member organizations including WETC
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	-----------------------------------------------------

Challenge Four: Vermont needs to develop investment support for the high tech sector.

6. Research and develop new sources and programs of venture (externalities, green buildings, intangible assets) capital/lending capital.	Long Term	5	VEPC VEDA
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	----------	----------------------

IV. Tourism

Facilitator: Chip Evans

Scribe/Reporter: Alex Aldrich

Work Group Members:

Alex Aldrich
Sally Cavanagh
Steve Gold
Robert Ware
Bill Kurtz
Jolinda LaClair
Linda McIntire
Brian Searles
David Tucker
Emily Wadhams

Challenge One: Market rural Vermont communities to increase the number of visitors, money spent, and length of stay without compromising character.

Practical Action Step	Immediate Or Long Term Goal	Priority 1 to 5 (5 is high)	Responsible Person/ Agency
------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

1. Coordinate Marketing of the "Vermont Brand": Produce a "Bottoms up" inventory of goods, attractions, and services; an asset inventory of local offerings that could be packaged together.	Immediate		M.A.P. (Marketing and Promotional Services Partnership) and VT Arts Council
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2. Build a Strategic Plan for new niches (birding, biking, etc.), tourism/crafts economy product development.	Begin Immediately		M.A.P. State Chamber
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------	--	-----------------------------

3. Complete and publish a hard copy Guidebook for Touring Rural Vermont; and “insiders guide”(also offer it online with updates). Create in this publication Tour Packages of mapped activities and sites to inform visitors, provide shopping opportunities, and bring the customer to the product in Rural Vermont.	Long Term		M.A.P. State Chamber
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	-----------------------------

4. Research and Documentation for Promotion.	Long Term		M.A.P. Private Sector
-----------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	------------------------------

5. Develop Pilot Projects: Self-Selected local promotion of best practices.	Immediate		VT Dept. of Tourism & Marketing/VT Arts Council/ Travel and Recreation Council
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Challenge Two: Ameliorate the negative perception of the Tourism economy in Vermont. Many believe that the tourist economy is low wage, low skill and fear that VT will become a boutique or museum that will suffer from economic volatility of visitor market.

6. Develop a tourism economy Case Statement with accurate information and facts and figures on the positive contribution of tourism to Vermont communities.	Immediate		VDTM/VAC TRC
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	---------------------

7. Advocacy to key discussion groups through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Speaker Network organized through Ski Area Association, and other industry groups to speak to Rotary Clubs, Select Boards, Chamber Boards, WIBs, ROC Boards. • “Vermont Day” for Tourism to target VT youth with free passes. 	Immediate & Long Term		TRC M.A.P. State/Local Partnership
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------

8. Empower Local Communities in tourism economy (see Strategy # 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Inventory • Technical Assistance • Advocating for more consistent resources. 	Immediate		VDTM Regional Marketing Organizations
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--	----------------------------------------------

Summit Outline and Schedule

Location: Basin Harbor, Vergennes, Vermont

Date: Tuesday evening and Wednesday, June 11th and 12th, 2002

The 2002 VCRD Governor's Rural Summit will facilitate the development of action steps for collaborative work across agencies and organizations to promote economic opportunities for all rural Vermonters. At this time of Gubernatorial transition, the Summit also is designed to evaluate the challenges before rural economic development in Vermont and to build a platform of policy recommendations for the incoming administration.

The Summit will focus attention on the rural development needs of the state.

- Rural areas have not shared the prosperity of more urbanized centers.
- Job losses and plant closings have had a proportionately more powerful negative impact.
- Workforce development issues and the export of youth are significant challenges.
- The traditional foundations of Agriculture and Forest Products are threatened, and new opportunities in tourism and the “new economy” require new thinking and coordinated planning.
- Regulation designed to protect the environment sometimes impinges on traditional rural economic practice.
- Rural infrastructure needs make for significant disadvantages to the economies of rural communities.
- Together, these issues compound into an economic division and magnify cultural differences between the “New” and the “Old” Vermont.
- In this setting, the development and implementation of a comprehensive rural development strategy is crucial: the provision for economic opportunity provides the best means to ameliorate current divisions.

Schedule:

Tuesday, June 11th

Summit Commences Social Hour	5:00
Kathy Hoyt Welcome	5:50
Dinner	6:00
After Dinner Speakers and Roundtable “Challenges to Rural Economic Sectors” Moderator: Paul Costello	7:00
Speakers:	
Jonathan Wood; Forest Products	7:00 to 7:20
Bill Stenger; Tourism	7:20 to 7:40
Deb Conant, Agriculture	7:40 to 8:00
Jito Coleman; The “New Economy”; And High Tech. Manufactures	8:00 to 8:20
Roundtable Moderator: Barbara Grimes	8:20
How the Work of Agencies and Organizations Impacts on Economic Sectors. What are the key challenges presented by panelists in each sector?	
Adjournment for private discussion	9:00

Wednesday, June 12th

Breakfast	7:30
Review Schedule of the Day and Introductions Chip Evans	8:30
Opening Remarks, Lt. Governor Racine	8:45

“Key Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Development” Fred Schmidt	9:00
Roundtable: “Two Vermonts or One: 1. The Challenge of Rural Development 2. How Do These Challenges Impact Agencies and Organizations?” Moderator: Jeff Francis	9:45
Break	10:30
I. Breakout Groups—Session One Discussion of General Issues and Challenges—Sector Analysis	10:45
<p>Breakout Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Forest Products B. Tourism C. Agriculture D. New Economy/High Tech <p>Each of the four Breakout Groups will chart the challenges before their sector based on the following parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Labor/Workforce Development 2. Infrastructure 3. Regulation 4. Capital Formation 5. Other Challenges that the Workgroup may identify. 	
Lunch Featured Speaker: Becky Anderson The “Handmade in America” Campaign in North Carolina.	11:45
II. Breakout Groups—Session Two Cross Agency Action Step Development	1:00
<p>Each Breakout Group will build specific Action Steps and Recommendations for action by state or federal agencies, or private organizations in response to the challenges to each of the four targeted rural economic sectors. Participants will be charged to consider how</p>	

common strategies could build comprehensive solutions. Each group will prepare to report out strategies and solutions.

Coffee Break	3:15
III. Action Step Reports and Recommendations to Incoming Administration Breakout Group Reports	3:30
Closing Remarks	4:15
Adjourn	4:30

2002 Summit Presenters

Jonathan Wood, Forester, Bell Gates Lumber

Jonathan Wood is an SAF Certified Forester. He is presently the forester for Bell-Gates Lumber Corporation in Jeffersonville, VT. He has been with Bell-Gates for over 20 years, where he is responsible for management of company timberlands, log procurement and environmental permitting and compliance. Jonathan is a board member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development. He serves as the Chair of the Vermont Forest Products Council which is developing a set of consolidated recommendations in support of the Vermont value-added forest product sector. He is a Trustee for the Vermont Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Policy Chair for the New England Society of American Foresters and the Tree Warden for the town of Cambridge. Jonathan lives in Jeffersonville, Vermont with his wife Iris and son Alexander.

Clint “Jito” Coleman, President and CEO, Northern Power Systems

Jito Coleman has been in the distributed energy business for over 25 years. Mr. Coleman joined Northern Power Systems in 1980, as the company’s Chief Engineer, and was named President and CEO in 1994. He has designed hundreds of renewable systems worldwide. Mr. Coleman’s direction has been instrumental in establishing Northern’s reputation as world leader in the remote power arena as well as the emerging distributed generation marketplace. During his tenure as President, the company has seen tremendous growth, in both the number of employees—more than triple over the past three years—and in revenue with a 400 percent increase since 2000.

A strong community and environmental activist, Mr. Coleman spent two years in the Peace Corps working on rural development in the Dominican Republic. Today, he devotes a great deal of personal time to wildlife habitat preservation. He is a founding member of Mad River Valley Citizens for Responsible Growth and an active board member of Mad River Glen.

Mr. Coleman holds a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Nevada, Reno and a B.S. in Wood Science and Technology from Colorado State University. He is the sole or co-inventor on U.S. Patents for wind turbine rotors, controls, blade manufacturing and aileron controls for wind turbines. In 2002, Mr. Coleman was awarded Small Business Person of the Year from the Vermont chapter of the Small Business Association.

Bill Stenger, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jay Peak Resort

Bill Stenger is a 30-year veteran of the ski industry who has served for the past 18 years as President and Chief Executive Officer at Jay Peak Ski Resort in northern Vermont.

During that time Jay Peak has developed into one of Vermont's most distinctive ski resorts. With vacation visitors from all over eastern North America, Jay Peak is one of resident Vermonters' favorite places to ski, largely because of its exceptional snowfall, legendary glade network, and special rate structure just for Vermont residents.

Stenger is currently Chairman of the Vermont Ski Areas Association and incoming Chairman of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vermont's largest Chamber of Commerce.

Stenger is a graduate of Syracuse University and currently resides in Newport, Vermont with his wife Mary Jane.

Deb Conant, Dairy and Produce Farmer, Conants' Riverside Farms

Deb Conant is a dairy and produce farmer from Richmond, VT. She is married and has four children. Her husband David and she co-own and operate Conants' Riverside Farms with his brother and wife. She is a native of Vermont, attending schools and graduating from The University of Vermont with a degree in early childhood education. Deb taught school until her family and the responsibilities of the farm grew too large for her to continue to work away from the farm. Her chief responsibility lies with all of the secretarial and bookkeeping needs of the family business. She is also on call for any of the many job descriptions that may need to be filled at a moment's notice on the farm! She and her children operate a produce stand, primarily selling sweet corn, pumpkins and squash. Deb has served on the Richmond school board and continues to be very involved with many school-related activities in the schools that her children attend. Presently, Deb serves as a county representative on the Chittenden-Washington Farm Services Agency Board.

Fred Schmidt, Director, Center for Rural Studies, University of Vermont

Fred Schmidt was awarded a PhD in Development Sociology with minors in Community Development and Southeast Asian Studies from Cornell University in 1973. Schmidt currently holds an Associate Professorship at the University of Vermont in the Sociology Department, College of Arts and Sciences and Community Development and Applied Economics. He has appointments in the Graduate College, in the School of Natural Resources and with the Extension Service as a Community Resource Development Specialist.

Fred founded and currently co-directs the Center for Rural Studies in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Vermont. The Center's purpose is to provide information (or provide the tools to generate information) necessary for rural people to exercise control over their individual and collective destiny. The Center conducts a variety of research tasks including program evaluation, community needs

assessment, market studies, political polls and attitudinal surveys, as well as routinely constructing organizational, demographic and economic profiles.

Schmidt has worked in the U.S.S.R., Uganda, Kenya, Honduras, and Scotland on rural and agricultural development projects. He served as a community development field worker in the Peace Corps in Malaysia from 1963 to 1965 and earlier with American Friends Service Committee in Mexico.

Fred is on the board of directors of the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA Board President, 1994-96). He has participated on the national board of Rural America and Rural Voice. Fred serves his town of Shelburne as a Justice of the Peace, and as a member of the Board of Civil Authority and the Planning Commission. Fred also provides leadership to the Vermont Rural Development Council and the Vermont Institute of Government.

Rebecca Anderson, Executive Director, HandMade In America, Inc.

Twenty-seven years experience in economic and community development work in Western North Carolina: 22 years in community and economic development and 5 years in craft-focused community development. As founder and Executive Director of HandMade In America she coordinates 15+ major projects involving 3,500 citizens and over 20 partnerships with local, regional and state organizations and institutions; serves as a consultant for heritage and cultural tourism and educational economic development projects related to arts and crafts. In 2000 she was named by U.S. News and World Report as one of America's top ten visionaries for her work in community and civic development.

Positions prior to Director of HandMade In America include: 12 years as Director of Economic Development for the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, and Director of Downtown Development for the City of Asheville.

2002 Rural Development Summit

List of Participants

Alex Aldrich, Executive Director, Vermont Arts Council

Jo Bradley, Executive Director, Vermont Economic Development Authority

Andrew J. Bramley, Provost, UVM

Gregory Brown, Commissioner, Dept. of Housing and Community Development

Darcy Carter, U.S. Small Business Administration

Stephanie Carter, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Tourism and Marketing

Sally Cavanagh, Commissioner, Department of Tourism and Marketing

Charity Clark, Policy Analyst, Office of Governor

Chris D'Elia, Commissioner, Department of Economic Development

Wayne Fawbush, Executive Director, Sustainable Jobs Fund

Micque Glitman, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Transportation

Steve Gold, Commissioner, Department of Employment and Training

Leon Graves, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

Kathy Hoyt, Secretary, Agency of Administration

Scott Johnstone, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

Don Kelpinski, Director, Small Business Development Center

Fred Kenney, Executive Director, Vermont Economic Progress Council

William Kurtz, State Director, Senator Jeffords' Office

Jolinda LaClair, VT/NH Director, USDA, Rural Development

Molly Lambert, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Susan Murray, Director, Montpelier Export Assistance Center

Steven Patterson, Deputy Secretary, Commerce and Community Development

Chuck Ross, State Director, Senator Leahy's Office

Christine Salembier, Commissioner, Department of Public Service

Fred Schmidt, Director, Center for Rural Studies, UVM

Brian Searles, Secretary, Agency of Transportation

Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Rhonda Shippee, Community and Business Development Director, USDA RD
Bill Talbott, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education
David Tucker, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity
Pat Urban, Chief Information Officer
Emily Wadhams, State Historic Preservation Officer
Karrin Wilks, V.P. for Academic Affairs and Strategic Planning, Vermont State Colleges
Michael Zahner, Vermont Environmental Board
And
Douglas Racine, Lieutenant Governor

Presenters

Jonathan Wood, Forester, Bell-Gates Lumber
Bill Stenger, President, Jay Peak Resort
Jito Coleman, President, Northern Power Systems
Deb Conant, Conant Riverside Farm
Fred Schmidt, Director, Center for Rural Studies, UVM
Becky Anderson, Founder, HandMade in America

VCRD Facilitation Team

Hal Cohen, Executive Director, Central Vermont Community Action Council
Paul Costello, Executive Director, VCRD
Chip Evans, VCRD Board Chair, Director, VT Human Resources Council
Jeff Francis, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association
Barb Grimes, General Manager, Burlington Electric Company
Cynthia Gubb, Director of Community Services, Chittenden Bank
Candy Koenemann, VCRD Executive Assistant

The VCRD 2002 Summit Planning Committee was made up of Micque Glitman (Chair), Jolinda LaClair, Bill Kurtz, Chuck Ross, Barb Grimes, Marcia Merrill, Sally Rice, and Chris D'Elia.