

## 2015 Leahy Environmental Summit Teams

### Franklin County

Project Name: TBD

Project Description: TBD

Team Leader: Denise Smith, Executive Director, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain

### Mad River Watershed

Project Name: *Tackling Stormwater Together in a Post-Irene Mad River Valley*

Project Description: Work together, at a watershed scale that crosses municipal lines, to establish a shared vision, priorities, and a plan for moving forward for the reduction of stormwater runoff in the MRV. We aim to build a more flood resilient valley and healthier Mad River and Lake Champlain.

Team Leader: Corrie Miller, Executive Director, Friends of the Mad River

### Dog River

Project Name: *Floodplain Restoration along the Dog River*

Project Description: The centerpiece of the project is a floodplain restoration project along the Dog River in Northfield. The restoration is taking place where a number of properties that were severely damaged in TS Irene were purchased by the Town. The properties cover about 5 acres and must be held in open space in perpetuity. The Town's goals are to enhance the property's floodplain functions, establish a substantial vegetated buffer, and provide recreation amenities. In addition to the physical restoration, the project team plans to create educational programs regarding the importance of floodplain functions to increasing flood resiliency. The educational programs will not only use the restoration site but include other projects, some already implemented and some new opportunities.

Team Leader: Ann Smith, Executive Director, Friends of the Winooski River

### South Lake

Project Name: *Watershed-scale Sustainable Landscape and Resilient Communities*

*Methodology*

Project Description: Vermonters live in a dynamic landscape, where public awareness of our natural heritage and our collective memory regarding the potential for catastrophic flood damage has waned over time. The South Lake Regional Team is developing a methodology for addressing long-term sustainability at a watershed scale, which we hope will improve our

communities' resilience to climate change and the increased threat of flooding. For each subwatershed in the larger South Lake area, we plan to create a matrix of information and actions that will help provide long-term protection. The steps will include reviewing information and studies available for each watershed and identifying additional data that should be generated. We will then determine a range of actions to take throughout the watershed. For the urban or village areas, we will promote stormwater master planning and other stormwater abatement and green infrastructure projects, while in the headwaters we will promote identifying high-value natural communities (perhaps a forested wetland that acts as a phosphorus sink) as well as areas that are likely to contribute to problems, such as highly erodible soils, and use zoning or community education to protect both the potential source and potential sink areas. Each subwatershed and the towns therein will end up with a list of existing data and recommendations, a list of studies that we wish to complete, and eventually, a broad framework for addressing climate change and flood resiliency within the community.  
Team Leader: Hilary Solomon, District Manager, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

### **South Windsor County**

Project Name: *Mill Brook Watershed Resiliency Project*

Project Description: The Mill Brook Team anticipates the completion of a Phase II Stream Geomorphic Assessment Report at the end of March. The Team hopes to utilize the recommendations and identified resiliency projects contained within the report in order to prioritize and plan for implementation of projects.

Team Leader: Dan Potter, Planner, South Windsor County Regional Planning Commission

### **Upper White River Watershed**

Project Name: *Building Resilience in the Upper White River Watershed*

Project Description: Building Resilience in the Upper White River Watershed is a collaboration between the five Upper White River towns, White River Partnership, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, Vermont River Conservancy, Green Mountain National Forest, and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Project goal is to identify, build community support for, and implement on-the-ground resilience projects with a primary focus on flood resilience.

Team Leader: Mary Russ, Executive Director, White River Partnership

### **Mid-Winooski River (Richmond to Waterbury)**

Project Name: TBD

Project Description: This project entails establishment and coordination of a five-town partnership in the Winooski Watershed (Waterbury, Duxbury, Moretown, Bolton and Richmond) by establishing a steering committee and communication structure, facilitating knowledge-exchange, and implementing activities to increase resiliency and better understand the impact of stormwater in the watershed during extreme weather events. With assistance from town representatives, Chittenden County RPC, Friends of the Winooski River, and Community-Resilience.org, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will lead the partnership in: establishing Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) in four new towns to help serve as local coordinating entities; conduct technical analyses such as dirt road erosion studies and application of a stormwater flow tool; and build education and outreach programs in all towns.

Team Leader: Peg Elmer, Owner, [www.community-resilience.org](http://www.community-resilience.org)

### **Lewis Creek Association and Sister Groups**

Project Name: *Ahead of the Storm, People Preparing Their Local Watersheds for Flood Resiliency*

Project Description: The intertown Team, holding 4 watersheds in common, will create a program to bring water quality assessment tools and information to landowners interested in applying and showcasing optimum conservation practices (OCPs). Our showcase OCPs will address climate change impacts on properties and visibly demonstrate new “on the ground” flood resilience measures for public benefit. This project will reinforce that high quality site level information compels people to become ongoing and active stewards of public waters.

Team Leader: Marty Illick, Executive Director, Lewis Creek Watershed Association

### **Barre: The Stevens & Jail Branch of the Winooski River (VERI Project)**

Project Name: *The Stevens & Jail Branch of the Winooski River*

Project Description: TBD

Team Leaders: Thom Lauzon, Mayor, City of Barre & John Hollar, Mayor, City of Montpelier

### **Statewide CRO Group**

Project Name: Community Resilience Organizations

Project Description: Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) are local teams that engage residents and town leaders in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation, while strengthening local collaboration and social cohesion. CROs break down community silos by bringing together a diverse mix of stakeholders involved in resilience and hazard mitigation: emergency management, conservation, social services, government and

more. Through an annual Day for CROing and ongoing projects, teams engage youth and the broader community to collaborate on critical projects that will make the town stronger and safer, simultaneously celebrating local spirit and building community.

The CROs organization provides backbone support to local teams. We share resources, provide technical assistance and capacity building, help fundraise, and host an annual summit for town CROs teams across the state. CROs are launching in six Vermont towns in 2015:

Hartford, Jeffersonville, Londonderry, Putney, Richmond and Waterbury.

Team Leader: Rebecca Sanborn Stone, Associate Director, Community Resilience Organizations