



Board of Directors Meeting | Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 | 8:15am-9:15am

IN PERSON: The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Suite 201

Remote: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8028021111?pwd=M2tYNHNOU3RzTUZiemkrVmk0MmFvUT09>

Meeting ID: 802 802 1111 Passcode: 559659

Agenda

- Call to Order Russ Marsan, President
- Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2025 Russ Marsan, President
- Executive Director's Report Lyle Jepson
 - Update from the MINT Makerspace – guest Kim Griffin, Executive Director
- Committee Reports Lyle Jepson
 - DEI (no meeting) Chrispin White
 - Events (enclosed) Sue Bishop
 - Real Estate (enclosed) MaryAnn Goulette, Chair
 - Marketing (update enclosed) Russ Marsan, Chair
 - Business Dev. (enclosed) Chris Keyser, Chair
 - Finance (enclosed) Lyle Jepson
 - Policy (Legislative Breakfast)
- New Business
- Old Business
- Next meeting – Tuesday, March 18th at 8:15am
- Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Events Committee – Tuesday, March 4th, 4:00-5:00pm

Real Estate Committee – Wednesday, March 5th, 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.

Marketing Committee – Thursday, March 6th, 11:30am -12:00noon

Finance Committee – Tuesday, March 11th 8:15 – 9:15am

March Mixer at Vista Senior Living – Tuesday, March 11th 5:00-7:00pm

Business Development Committee meeting – Wednesday, March 12th 8:15-9:15am

StartUp Rutland Board Meeting – Friday, March 14th, 10:30 – 11:30 am

Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 18th, 8:15 – 9:15 am



Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 8:15 am

Present: Amy Laramie, Mike Mitrano, Ed Bove, Russ Marsan, Daniel Mora, Chris Keyser, Sarah Furman, Carly Perry, Cam Schaefer, Sue Bishop, Rolf Hirschmann, Mary Ann Goulette, Devon Neary

Staff: Lyle Jepson, Cooper Babbitt, Chrispin White, Olivia Bucksbaum, Shasta Mattino, Karly Haven, Lori Pinkowski, Bill Lucci

Guest: Joan Gamble, Strategic Change Consultant

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by Russ Marsan, President

Approval of minutes: Sarah Furman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Daniel Mora and passed unanimously.

Russ began by stating that the work with Joan on CEDRR's Strategic Plan for the next few years was a very lengthy process with many robust conversations over the last few months and today we are presenting the results of those conversations. He turned the floor over to Lyle, who thanked Joan for guiding us through this process.

Joan described the steps taken to arrive at this proposed plan. CEDRR staff and BOD met in October where the building blocks for the plan were conceived. Since then, a small group has been meeting and fine tuning the plan that is being presented today to gain Board approval.

Joan explained that this would be an ongoing living plan with accountability structures. She encouraged everyone to embrace the Values and said that the strongest organizations use their values when speaking with each other and using the values in everyday language can be helpful. She pointed out that goals are assigned to each committee and when they meet, they should be checking in to see where they are. The Goals, Mission and Values will remain the same, however the Action Steps will change and evolve as the year progresses. She recommended we review the Strategic Plan 3 times per year – In January, May and September.

Sarah made a motion to approve the plan as presented but with the ability to make adjustments to achieve the goals with overall Board support. The motion was seconded by Amy Laramie and passed unanimously.

Russ thanked Joan and everyone involved in developing this plan.

DEI: Lyle reported that as part of DEI's responsibilities of developing membership for the Board, the committee sent out a survey asking about skill set, sector of economy, etc. He stated that they are getting some surveys back and he will be sharing the link again for input.

EVENTS: The mixer at SWVCOA last week went very well with a great turn-out. They were very happy they could share information on who they are and what they do. An interesting tidbit is that in working with Meals on Wheels, they served over 200,000 meals in Rutland County.



Upcoming events:

- Monday, February 3rd – First Legislative Breakfast of the year at Southside Steakhouse, 7:30 – 9 am. Lieutenant Governor John Rodgers is the guest speaker, and all are invited. Register for the breakfast [HERE](#). We already have 88 people signed up and there is limited space, so please register soon.
- Tuesday, February 11th – Stafford Technical Center – this year is their 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- Saturday, February 15th, Real Rutland Feud at Paramount Theatre, 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased [HERE](#).

Whoopie Pie Festival: We need to shift our focus so that the event remains vibrant now that Dream Maker Bakers is out of business, and we've beat the record of the Largest Whoopie Pie. The festival will take place on Saturday, September 13th.

The Business Show has run its course and we needed something that would still focus on the needs of the community. We are in the process of planning a "Bring Back the Trades Skills Expo" to celebrate a passion for skilled tradespeople. This event will be held on Tuesday, May 20th at VT State University Castleton. The focus will be on 1,000+ students to engage with about 100 vendors in the Trades. We are focusing on providing this type of programming because we are fulfilling not only a local need, but a statewide need, for skilled students. The Governor has been invited and we hope to have him present scholarship checks to students. We are in discussions with school counselors and tech centers around the state in addition to community partners and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. If you or anyone you know have an interest in participating as a vendor, please contact Russ Marsan at 802-342-6416 or email at russ@carpentercostin.com.

REAL ESTATE: Cooper reported that the committee did not meet in January but re-capped their December meeting.

- The mayor has put together a task force to begin planning what the community would like to see in the downtown plaza once Walmart leaves in 2027. Cooper reported that conversations and meetings are moving forward.
- The BOA approved the Rutland City TIF.
- CEDRR continues to meet with the Belden's and the City of Rutland on the hotel project
- The MINT has approved the expansion at 112 Quality Lane
 - Kim Griffin will be at our next Board meeting to discuss the expansion.
- Cooper drafted a letter to the Governor from the mayor and Rutland County Senators regarding the impacts of the 3-acre rule on Rutland City businesses. There has not been a response yet.

MARKETING:

- Weekend Getaway Update: Olivia reported that the March Skiing/Maple Syrup weekend getaway, scheduled during the statewide maple house open week, has not garnered as much interest as our Fall weekend getaways.
- Real Rutland merchandise has been ordered – Travel mugs, umbrellas, pens, Carhartt beanies, 2 types of ball caps, men's and women's vests, and quarter zip pull overs. We plan on selling these items on the website.
- Brand Awareness & Communication: CEDRR historically has had a quiet image and we will be working hard to change that.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

- Russ reported on a workforce development event - Bring Back the Trades Event (see info under Events).
- 112 Quality Lane – discussions about how to fill this area and marketing of the space. Rutland Area Robotics was a potential tenant, but they would require additional funding to pay for the lease.
- Mayor's Task Force – CEDRR is hosting these meetings and launching discussions that include stakeholders from throughout the community. Joan Gamble will help with the vision process of downtown Rutland at the next meeting.
- 3-Acre Rule - Cooper drafted a letter to the Governor from the mayor and Rutland County Senators regarding the impacts of the 3-acre rule on Rutland City businesses. There has not been a response yet.
- TIF/Hotel: The application has been approved by the BOA. Negotiations are underway between the City and the Belden's regarding a development agreement.

New Business: Lyle has had conversations with Far Vision consulting about workforce placement for high skilled refugees. With the change in the administration, we will have to wait and see what programs are going to be funded before we proceed.

FINANCE: Cooper stated the committee reviewed the CEDRR internal finances and said we are expecting a number of grant payments over the next month. At this time, all loans are current. There is one pending application for a new restaurant in Poultney that Cooper hopes to get approved in the next few days.

StarUp Rutland – A Placemaking study took place relative to Downtown Rutland being an Innovation District and recommendations included proposals that would attract and retain business startups and support current businesses. One item noted was the need for a new trash receptacle system. A local donor is running a donation through StartUp Rutland's 501c3 to implement a new plan. The implication is that StartUp Rutland is becoming more of its own entity and will show up in future audits as such.

Audit – We are wrapping up the remote fieldwork and will be presenting it to the Board next month. Cooper thanked Shasta for doing the majority of the work on this.

POLICY: Cooper said the committee met again for the first time this year and reviewed the Legislative agenda. The priorities focus on housing, project based TIF Districts and the Small Business Technical Exchange program. The 2025 CEDRR Policy Statement Draft was discussed and will be updated and returned to the committee for review.

Meeting adjourned 9:19 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 8:15 am



Events Committee Minutes, February 4th, 2025

The Hub CoWorks – Classroom 2

Attending: Chrispin, Lyle, Olivia, Judi, Daniel Mora, Caitlin Gates, Kerry Mazzariello, Justin Pill, Leona Minard and Rachel Mendelson

Chrispin opened and presented Leona with the CEDRR Annual Meeting Co-Volunteer of the Year Award (Leona was unable to attend the event)! 14 years of service to our community.

The Legislative Breakfast took place at the Southside Restaurant on February 3rd. We had a great turnout, 132, with our Lt. Governor John Rodgers as guest speaker. Great question and answer session!

We will schedule another breakfast for sometime in May/June

Chrispin - Went over upcoming Mixers. **Stafford Technical Center** being on February 11th. Leona and Rachel will volunteer at the CEDRR table.

March Mixer – March 11th – VISTA Senior Living

Real Rutland Feud is ready and set to go. Ticket sales are light, but picking up. All tickets are sold through The Paramount.

Daniel mentioned that rooms are filling up at Vista and construction on another wing is moving along.

Lyle talked about the Bring Back the Trades Skills Expo. We are inviting 1000+ Vermont students 7-12 grade level. It will be held at Vermont State University – Castleton on May 20, 2025, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Very exciting displays and scholarship giveaways.

Chrispin was asked about the Whoopie Pie Fest. We look forward to bigger and better. Lots of great ideas and comments. We will open up Merchants Row to E. Washington St., Caitlin is ready for soapbox derby again this year.



No need to go for the record Whoopie Pie, we did that. What can we replace it with? Kids baking contest was mentioned, dunk the Mayor, Creative Whoopie Pie contest and a Whoopie Pie eating contest.



Real Estate Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 5th, 2024

Present: Nicole Kesselring, Lyle Jepson, Cooper Babbitt

Meeting called to Order 8:18 a.m.

Downtown Plaza Task Force:

Visioning Exercise: Joan Gamble walked the group through the outcomes of the subgroup on visioning. The next step is develop a rendering using the desired elements outlined during the visioning. Then, it will be determined what steps need to be taken to approach Brixmor.

Departure Fund Discussion: Mayor Doenges and Tyler met with Dominic Cloud in St. Albans on a fact-finding mission. The topic of a departure fund will be discussed at the upcoming Board of Alderman Community & Economic Development Committee meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 13th (agenda attached).

Rutland City TIF progress: CEDRR will host the VEPC Board meeting on February 27th, at which time a presentation will be provided and tour conducted around sites that are potential targets.

Belden project update: The development agreement should be addressed this month, which will a supportive part of the TIF process.

112 Quality Lane: CEDRR intends to apply for a VCDP grant to study the north 3-acres at 112 Quality Lane for potential development of a spec building.

3-Acre Stormwater: The process continues and appears to be gaining steam in the Legislature. Two bills have been introduced to support property owners.

Old Business: None

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is Wednesday, March 5th, 2025.

Adjournment 9:00 a.m.

Update for the Marketing Committee 2-5-25

I hope you all have had a great start to your February. As promised, here is an update on a few things we have going on at CEDRR and Real Rutland.

Weekend Getaway:

481 people signed up

168 interviews have been scheduled. Karly is helping me tackle those this year - thank you!

Across ten ads we had the following

- 412,447 views
- 559,845 reach
- 6,947 clicks to our website

ThinkVT shared our link in their newsletter and on social media which inundated us a bit. Entries from every state except Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Most common states are New York (54 entries), Massachusetts (51 entries), Florida (38 entries), Texas (30 entries), Connecticut (28 entries), and California (25 entries).

The majority of the families are couples in the early stages of moving.

Interviews end of February 12. Lyle, Karly, and I will pick the winners later next week and let them know they have been selected on Monday, February 17.

GROW Grantee Meeting:

Karly and I attended the GROW Grantee Quarterly meeting yesterday. According to the GROW Grantee meeting, 35% of the new Vermonters have moved to Rutland County! We are leading the state in number of people moving to each area. 34 of the 97 new Vermonters in the last "GROW Year" moved to Rutland County. Burlington had 17 and Brattleboro had 12. This is great! Go Real Rutland!

Merchandise:

We received all of our sweatshirts, vests, hats, and accessories! We will be posting them on the website for sale and giving them away at our mixers.

Once I have the website metrics from this campaign, I will send them to the Marketing Committee. This Weekend Getaway should have drastically increased everything. Now, we need to keep them coming back.



Business Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12th, 2025 | Via Zoom

Present: Russ Marsan, Gina Grove, Traci Moore, Kyle Mendelson, Sarah Furman, Lyle Jepson, Cooper Babbitt

Guest: Dan Roswell, President and Lead Mentor for Rutland Area Robotics

The meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m.

Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8th, 2025. The motion was seconded by Gina and passed unanimously.

MINT Relocation:

Cooper outlined that the MINT is not yet in a position to expand, so they will continue in the space that they are currently leasing.

Rutland Area Robotics:

Dan Roswell presented on Rutland Area Robotics. (See attached slide deck.) Dan indicated that the organization's goal is to make Rutland the Center for Expertise in Robotics. A 9,000sq.ft. permanent home would be ideal. Based upon the discussion, the following action items were discussed.

- Traci Moore (RRMC, Senior Director of Development & Community Relations) would enjoy connecting with Dan about internship/career opportunities, staff volunteerism-mentoring, and potential funding sources.
- Sarah Furman (HFCU, Chief Lending Officer) would like to introduce Rutland Area Robotics to their Giving Team.
- Kyle Mendelson (Renaissance, Senior Manager of Customer Success) would like to talk more about the internship pipeline and supporting students with development of professional personal pitch training.
- Gina Grove (VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Development Specialist) has information on resources on data related to philanthropic giving.
- Russ Marsan (CEDRR President and Owner Carpenter & Costin) will introduce Dan to Arwen Turner at Come Alive Outside to learn more about grant writing opportunities and process.

Workforce Development Event - Bring Back the Trades:

Russ thanked Traci and Sarah for their upcoming support of the event, which is scheduled for May 20th at VTSU Castleton. Already, 300 tickets have been distributed, and more than a dozen businesses have been signed up, on the way to 80+.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12th, 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Adjournment 9:00 a.m.



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, February 11th, 2024 | Via Zoom

Present: Chris Keyser - Chair, Andrew Simonds, Russ Marsan, Mark Foley, Norm Ladabouche, Cooper Babbitt, Rolf Hirschmann, Karen Garrow, Deb Quirk, Shasta Mattino and Lyle Jepson

Guests: Bret Hodgdon, Aida Valpone, Margery McCracken

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chris.

Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2024: A motion was made by Karen to approve the minutes from January 14th, 2024. The motion was seconded by Russ and passed unanimously.

Audit Report: Bret presented the results of the 2024 Audit.

- His comments indicated that it is unmodified with no significant findings or deficiencies.
- Policies are in place.
- There are no management judgments or accounting issues.
- There were 13 budget adjustments, down from 18 the previous year. This is an average number for the size of the organization. Most are accounted for with timing issues.
- He discussed maintaining clear standards of Accrual Accounting, specifically around prepaid expenses.
- Be mindful of fraud prevention.
- There is sufficient cash-on-hand to support the organization for an appropriate period of time.
- All in all, a good report. He complimented Shasta and the team for their work.

Shasta agreed to investigate a discrepancy regarding a loan payoff. It will be followed up on.

CEDRR Financials: Cooper reviewed the CEDRR internal financials for the month.

IRP: All clients are current.

Tasteful Station LLC Loan Application: Following discussion and based upon the conditions provided by Cooper, including adding Nicole Bower's home as collateral, Karen made a motion to approve the loan. It was seconded by Rolf and passed unanimously. Cooper will follow up with Nicole on the conditions. As a reminder, the request is for \$60,000 over a 5-year term for renovations and operating equipment. It will be a 6.5% fixed interest loan with 1% commitment and any legal fees incurred by CEDRR.

StartUp Rutland EDA Grant: Lyle discussed potential delays in federal reimbursement for expenses. A revised expenditure strategy was discussed, which will provide for additional longevity of the program as the second EDA grant is applied for.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Adjournment at 9:07 a.m.



The Regional Development Corporations of Vermont (RDCs)

An overview of RDCs, our place in the economic development landscape, our state projects, and goals for legislative session

An overview of RDCs

What is a Regional Development Corporation (RDC)?

- Non-profit entity 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6)
- Governed by a board of directors
- 12 RDCs cover the entire state of VT with no overlap



RDCs of Vermont

CVEDC
Melissa Boun
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www.centralvermo
802 224 4654

GMEDC
Erika Hoffman-Kiess
erika@gmedc.com
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SRDC
Bob Flint
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BDCC
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Who are We?



Fred Kenney
Addison County EDC



Bill Colvin
Bennington County EDC



Adam Grinold
Windham County EDC



Tim Smith
Franklin County EDC



Frank Cioffi
Greater Burlington EDC



Erika Hoffman-Kiess
Green Mountain ECD



Bob Flint
Springfield RDC



Lyle Jepson
Rutland EDC



Melissa Bounty
Central VT EDC



Pat Ripley
Lamoille EDC



Dave Snedeker
Northeastern VT EDC



Andy Julow
Lake Champlain Islands

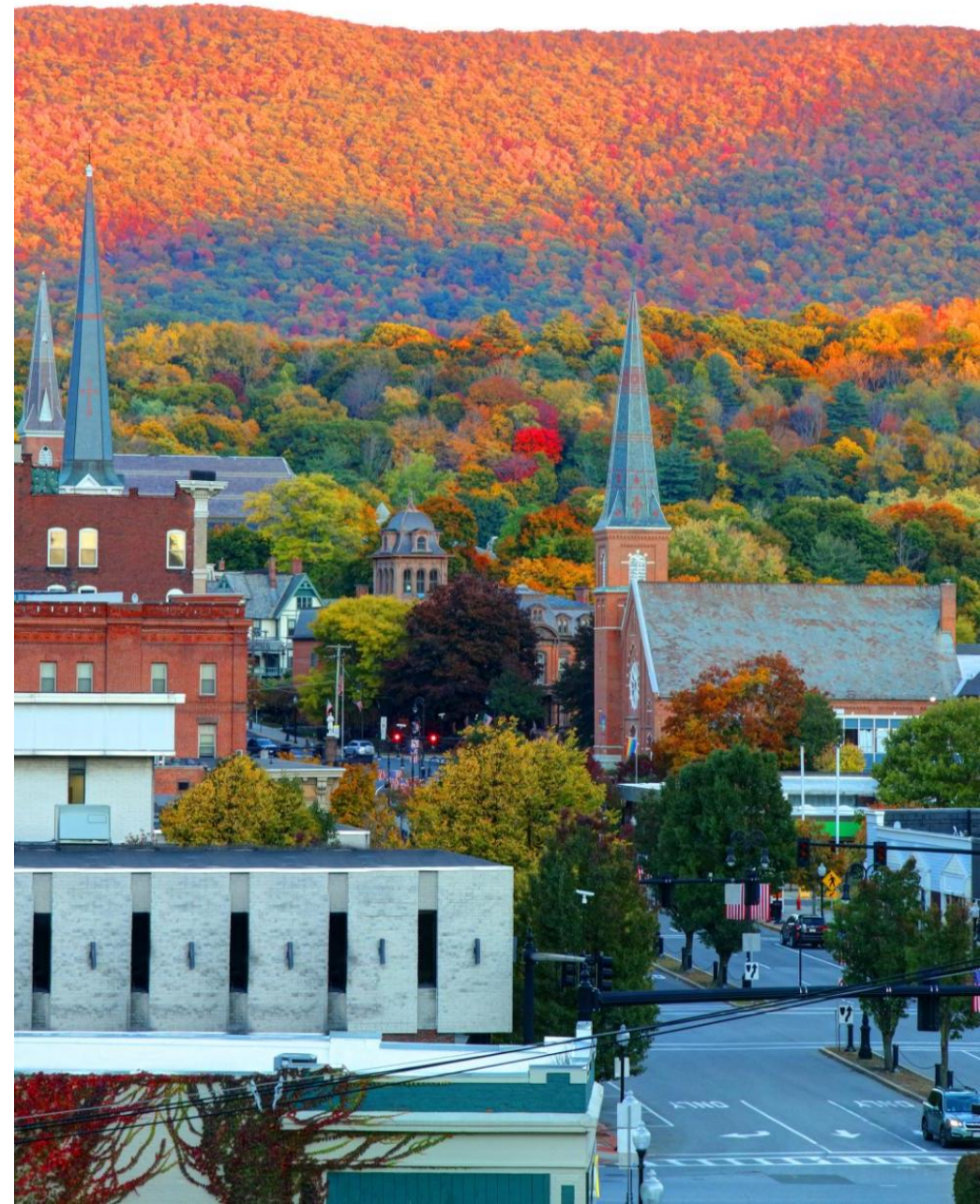
What is a Regional Development Corporation not?

- Not a state agency...but
- Not a chamber of commerce...but
- Not a regional planning commission...but
- Not a technical assistance provider for startups...but



What Does a Regional Development Corporation Do?

- Offer technical assistance to develop and strengthen businesses (brownfields, lending, VEGI guidance, NBRC Admin)
- lead workforce development initiatives, and support employment (job fairs, incubators, accelerators, CTE support and career centers)
- connect businesses and municipalities to services available through our networks and partnerships with local, state, and federal programs (SBDC, VTP, VEGI, BEGAP, Efficiency Vermont, ACCD, CDBG, NBRC,



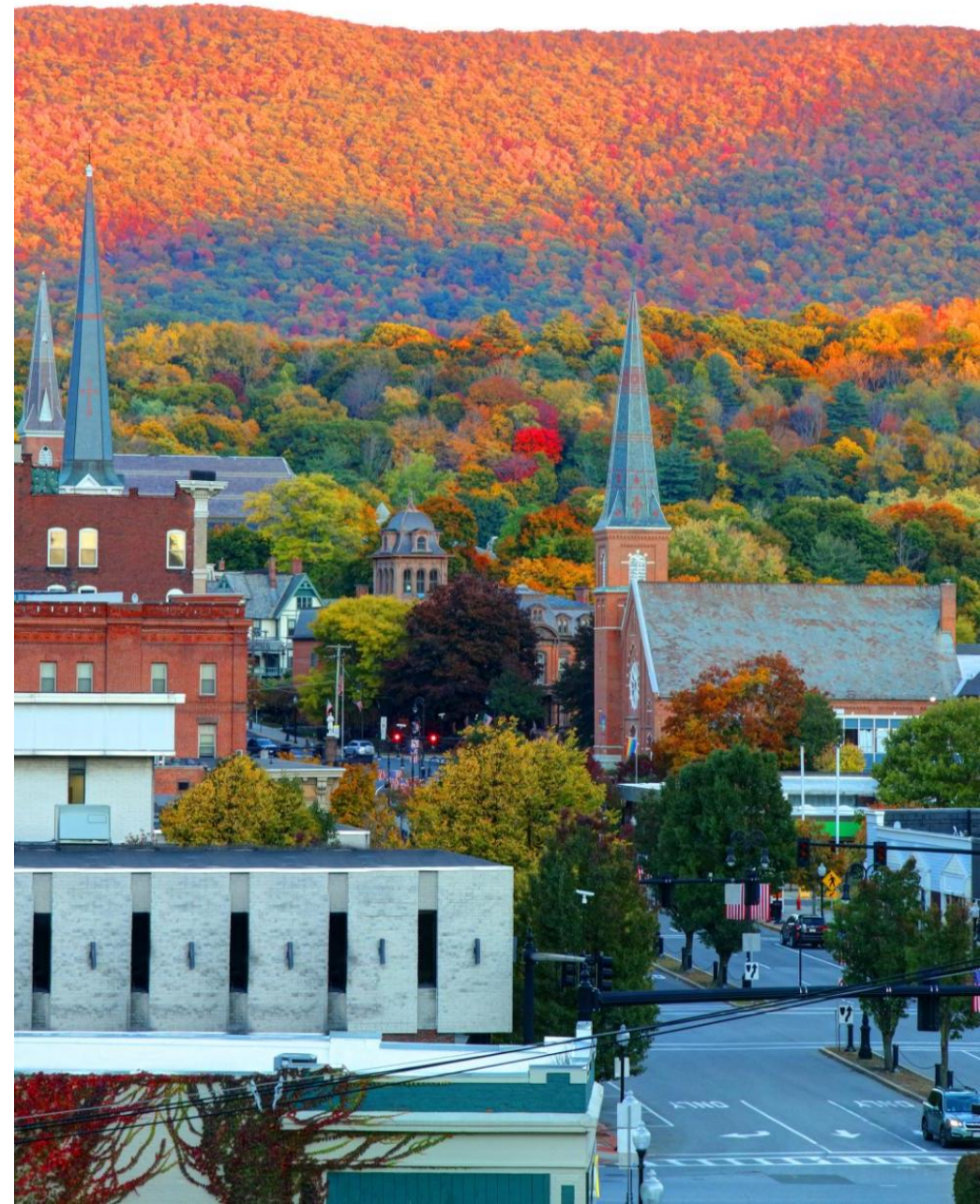


Where Do RDCs fit in the Economic Development Ecosystem?

- Regional Planning Commissions – Work with municipalities to create zoning and plans for growth
- SBDC and Community Action Agencies provide technical assistance to startups and nascent small businesses
- Regional Development Corporations – work to grow and retain businesses through the small to large phases of growth

Regional Development Corporations of Vermont?

- An informal association of the 12 Regional Development Corporations
- Executive Team with a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large
- Monthly meeting open to the public includes updates from ACCD, DOL, and 2 guest speakers, First Friday of every month @9:30am
- Rdcsofvermont.org





State Contracts with RDCs



How are RDCs connected to the State of Vermont?

- RDCs receive a sustaining base grant from ACCD as part of the State Budget. \$122k/yr. This represents 5-40% of RDC budgets (rest from memberships, loan funds, commercial property development, grants)
- RDCs receive an additional 10k/yr to compile Regional Priority Project Lists
- RDCs have recently administered or been technical assistance providers for the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange (SBTAE) and BEGAP and recipients of RIDP.

RDC Grant (122k)



Business Visits 25-50



Data entry into the State Site Locator



Arrange for property tours



Events

Financing/Capital Education Workshop (1)
Job Fair or Workforce Event (1)
Events of Choice (2)



Demonstrate close work with RPCs, APEX, SBDC,
and Municipal Officials



Demonstrate workforce development efforts

RDC Grant



Demonstrate work with RPC to advance infrastructure for business growth



Participation in creative economy, or incubator and accelerator efforts



Data entry into statewide CRM



Maintain newsletters, social media presence, and up to date website



Meet with legislators (1)



Meet with municipalities (2)

RDC Grant



Joint business visits with agency staff (3-9)



Quarterly Reports



Monthly ACCD meeting attendance



Demonstrate work with local partners



Demonstrate work with SBDC or other technical assistance providers



Annual report demonstrating how state and federal dollars have been leveraged



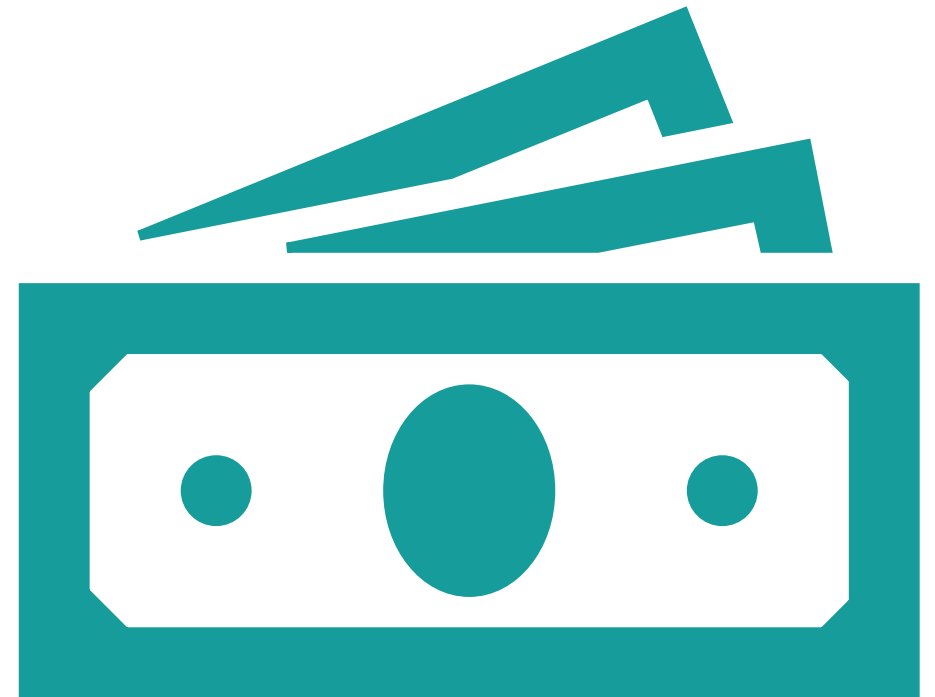
Peer to peer reviews every other year



Professional Development courses (1)

Regional Priority Project Compilation Grant (10k)

- Regional Development Corporations solicit contributions for and maintain a running list of projects that are eligible for public funding in their region. Twice a year RDCs work with their RPC to rank the application and submit the top ten to the State Priority Project List



Recent One Time Funding

Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange (SBTAE) 2023-2024



SBTAE was a grant program administered by the RDCs of Vermont. The purpose of the program was to fund special one-time projects for Vermont-based small businesses that may not be able to access such services otherwise



Navigators from the RDCs of Vermont helped access the program, find a vendor and identify quality projects.



209 projects funded



Average award \$3,463

Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP) 2023 & 2024

- RDCs staffed flood recovery centers and provided technical assistance to business with physical damage due to flooding
- 18.5 million in awards distributed in 2023
- 2.7 million in awards distributed in 2024



Rural Industry Development Grants (RIDP)

- Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) – Brattleboro
A \$1M RIDP grant allows BDCC to purchase a 7-acre parcel in Brattleboro that will retain one current employer while developing the other part of the parcel to be used by a future employer. This project is expected to retain more than 100 jobs in Vermont and create the opportunity to attract additional manufacturing capacity in Brattleboro. The total price tag is \$5.1M.
- Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) – Wilmington
A \$220,200 RIDP grant enables BDCC to purchase a 3.4-acre site in Wilmington that sat vacant for 15 years, allowing WheelPad to expand by combining its production capabilities and warehouse at one location. WheelPad will focus on making capital improvements to the property and intends to buy it from BDCC within seven years. The total project price tag is \$1.1M.
- Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) – Clarendon
A \$157,555 grant allows CEDRR to design, permit and construct an extension of the water and fire suppression systems currently serving the Rutland Airport Business Park on Route 7B. The project is expected to enable four manufacturers to grow and create approximately 100 high-quality manufacturing jobs. The total price tag is \$779,301. (The Northern Border Regional Commission awarded this project \$489,746 in 2022.)
- Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC) – Colchester
A \$1M RIDP grant will be used to facilitate the expansion of a manufacturing facility in the Ethan Allen Industrial Park in Colchester, retaining 135 jobs and creating 35 more. Improvements include infrastructure, parking, storm water treatment, site preparation, and development. The total project price tag is \$21M.

RDC Priorities

Housing

- Increase State investment in water and wastewater systems. Many municipalities are working towards these systems but ran out of time in the ARPA window
- The RDCs support innovative efforts to increase workforce housing
- Consider further modifications to Act 181 to further remove barriers

Brownfields

- Brownfield funding is essential to development, especially in villages and downtown districts with a commercial history
- Many publicly funded projects would have been stalled or abandoned if not for the availability of brownfield funds (Yellow Barn, South Hero Meeting House)
- The RDCs call for an additional \$5 million investment in brownfield funds

Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange (SBTAE)

Previous round was oversubscribed and had a wait list of 300 applicants two weeks after launch

The Infrastructure already exists for this program and the RDCs have built an extensive database of technical assistance providers

Allows RDCs to build connections with small businesses that are not often made when executing the objectives in our RDC grant

Request \$1,250,000 to continue this valuable program for Vermont's very small and small businesses.

Supporting Disaster Recovery

Senator Welch has helped obtain a Disaster Supplemental and reached out to all RDCs

The RDCs are proposing a grant program using CDBG-DR funds that would provide block grants to businesses still struggling from the effects of flooding in 2023 and 2024

This would include businesses who suffered economic injury which has been largely unaddressed up until this time.

The program would be modeled after a 2016 program run by Springfield Regional Development Corporation and Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation following Hurricane Irene.

We hope this program will significantly reduce the amount of state aid needed in addresses ongoing disaster recovery and hope to work the the legislature to foster understanding of our efforts and avoid overlap

Commercial Property Development

- Land suitable for industrial and commercial development (flat, served by water, wastewater, appropriate utilities, and adequate transportation routes) is limited.
- Lack of pre-developed properties is an impediment to commercial and industrial development.
- The RDCs **support additional funding for** the Rural Industrial Development Grant Fund

Project Based TIF

- Many smaller municipalities have single development/redevelopment projects in designated areas that could benefit from the Tax Increment Financing model but do not have the staff capacity or need to establish a full TIF District.
- Project-based TIF allows smaller communities to accomplish important, transitional economic, housing, and community development projects that add incremental property tax revenue and new jobs.
- The RDCs strongly **encourage the enactment of a Project-based TIF** concept. Working together and with the VEPC Council and Administration, the RDC's are confident a Project-based TIF can provide the necessary support that our smaller municipalities need

Career Technical Education

- The RDCs believe that the importance of technical education will continue to grow as our economy and energy needs evolve and that the current CTE funding model is unable to meet this challenge
- The RDCs endorse **expanding access to CTE**, including funding system modifications and strengthening of career pathways, as well as other measures to reduce barriers to access, including fully funding CTE adult education programs.

Other priorities

- Vermont Employee Growth Incentive (VEGI) - RDCs will work with VEPC to explore options for incentivizing business growth and understanding other states approaches to the same problem
- Workforce Recruitment and Development – RDCS support the Green Mountain Job and Retention Program & GROW with their recruitment efforts
- Vermont Training Program – RDCs support increased investment to allow employees to grow in their employment as business needs change.
- Public Safety – Call on the legislature to support our communities as they work to address this issue

Thank you

