



MAD RIVER VALLEY

PLANNING DISTRICT

Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren

Mad River Valley Planning District Partners Meeting

January 12, 2023, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Village Meeting House (4355 Main St, Waitsfield)
Facilitator: Paul Costello

AGENDA

- I. **Arrival** – 5 min
 - II. **Introductions** (Bob Ackland, MRVPD) – 5 min
 - III. **Keynote** (Ted Brady, VLCT) – 10 min
 - IV. **MRVPD Overview: Mission, Approach, & Deliverables** (Joshua Schwartz, MRVPD) – 15 min
 - V. **Q & A** - 5 min
 - VI. **MRVPD Members Discussion: MRV's current & anticipated challenges** (Facilitator) – 30 min
 - VII. **MRVPD Members Discussion: MRVPD role in addressing and collaborating on the MRV's current issues & future needs** (Facilitator) – 30 min
 - VIII. **Public Discussion: Vision, Values, & Ideas for the future of MRVPD** (Facilitator) – 30 min
 - IX. **Observations** (Ted Brady, VLCT) – 5 min
 - X. **Closing Comments & Next Steps** (Bob Ackland, MRVPD) – 5 min
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- XI. **Post Adjournment: Time for networking & additional discussion by attendees** – 10 min



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MRVPD Overview

Joshua Schwartz, Director

MRVPD Partners Meeting

1.12.23

MAD RIVER VALLEY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Chronological List of Studies done in the Mad River Valley

Available as of September, 1983

- Sugarbush Ski Area Master Plan, (10/79, Sno-Engineering)**
Summary, (1/80, Sno-Engineering)
- Visual Analysis, (1980, Sno-Engineering)**
- Report of the Scoping Process for SVI, (6/80, Sno-Engineering)**
- Surficial Geology of SVI, (7/81, Tarbox)**
- Erosion Studies, SVI, (7/81, Hydrosience)**
- Flood Peaks and Volumes, (6/81, Hydrosience)**
- Mad River Valley Growth Study Interim Report: Inventory and Analysis, (5/80, CVRPC)**
- Agriculture of the Mad River Valley, (1980, Lapping)**
- Mad River Valley 1760-1980, (5/81, Graff/MRVSC)**
- Mad River Valley Growth Projections, (6/81, Humstone)**
- Economic Impact Analysis, (1981, Gsottscheider)**
- Economic Impact Analysis, SVI, (6/81, RKG Associates)**
- Assessment of SVI Expansion on the Long Trail, (8/81, Spencer)**
- Rural Character in the Mad River Valley, (5/81, Denham)**
- Rural Character in the Mad River Valley, (8/81, Nergaard, USFS)**
- Transportation Element SVI, (8/81, Wilbur Smith)**
- Municipal Impacts of Proposed SVI Expansion, (7/82, Humstone)**
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement, SVI, (12/82, USFS)**
- Environmental Impact Statement Comments, (3/83, MRVSC, CVRPC)**
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, SVI, (7/83, USFS)**
- Ski Area Development in Vermont: Community Impact Analyses, (3/83, D. Francis thesis)**
- Memorandum of Understanding, SVI, CVRPC, (7/83)**

Introduction and Executive Summary of the:

MAD RIVER VALLEY GROWTH STUDY

**INTERIM REPORT:
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

MAY 15, 1980

Prepared by Donald Swain
LandPlan, Inc.

Sponsored by the Central Vermont Regional
Planning Commission, through a grant from
the Farmers Home Administration

Valley Perspectives

Forums on Growth and Development

- THE LAND -

the long valley and there stands a mountain: Images of Vermont
McHenry-geographer
on the yellow brick road: The function and future of Route 100
Jobs-Historic Preservation Program, University of Vermont
erty and pastures for plenty: Attitudes toward the land
rdell-Department of History, Middlebury College
sc: Should we preserve open land?
books-Director Environmental Law Center, Vermont Law School
ley III-philosopher
tain majesty: Perceptions of the landscape
ath-Department of Art, Dartmouth College

E ECONOMY -

business: Small business in the valley
Department of History, Norwich University
re recreation industry in the valley
Department of Natural Resources, University of Vermont
Department of History, University of Vermont
The evolving Yankee farmer
Department of Sociology, University of Vermont

PEOPLE -

ment of Political Science, University of Vermont
men in the valley
ment of Economics, University of Vermont
he Mad River Valley consider changing its name
ent of Geography, University of Vermont
scratch yours: Is intermunicipal cooperation desirable or feasible?
er, Dartmouth College
sing situation in the valley
it of Art, Middlebury College
ent of Engineering, University of Vermont
g and preserving a comfortable way of life
rth Congregational Church
s Division, Johnson State College
of Geography, University of Vermont

ing Commission (229-0389) or the
times.

nd Public Issues and the Central Vermont
th Impact Study

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS AGREEMENT, dated July 28, 1983, by, between and among Sugarbush Valley Inc. (hereinafter "SVI") its successors or assigns, the municipalities of Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston (hereinafter the "Valley Towns"), through their respective Boards of Selectmen, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (hereinafter "CVRPC") its successors or assigns, and the State of Vermont (hereinafter "Vermont"),

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, through the United States Forest Service (hereinafter "USFS") is completing its Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") for SVI's Winter Sports Area; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to establish a process to identify, communicate, and coordinate actions on issues of concern that may be occasioned by the implementation of the alternative recommended in the FEIS and to insure that (1) the mitigating actions set forth in the FEIS shall be carried out; (2) the environmental safeguards cited in the FEIS shall be executed according to plan; and (3) initial mitigating actions are revised or eliminated, or new mitigating actions are adopted in order to achieve desired social, economic or environmental effects in the event that unanticipated consequences result from the FEIS alternative, its projections prove inaccurate or it creates unreasonable or adverse impacts; and

- More structure and organization was needed around land use planning related to Sugarbush than the three Valley Towns could accommodate individually.
- A process was needed to communicate and coordinate actions relating to resort growth that might have caused, or had the potential to cause, impacts to the social, economic, and environmental fabric of the community.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

March, 1985

**Agreement to Create
the
Mad River Valley Planning District**

An Agreement by and between: Town of Fayston, Town of Waitsfield,
and Town of Warren, Vermont.

WHEREAS, the Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren,
Vermont share a common interest in planning for the future of the
Mad River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Mad River Valley is served by an areawide
watershed, roadway network, commercial center and recreation
industry; and

WHEREAS, the Towns have allotted funds to participate in an
areawide planning program since 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Towns joined together in a Memorandum of
Understanding with other parties in 1983 to monitor major
development in the Mad River Valley through 1992; and

WHEREAS, 24 VSA Chapter 121 provides that municipalities may
form a union municipal district for cooperation in providing
services and facilities in a manner and under a form of
organization that accords best with the needs of those
municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed to create a union municipal
district to be known as the **MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT**,
to be a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of
Vermont, and subject to the following Articles of Agreement.

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mad River Valley Planning District
(hereinafter "District") is to carry out a program of planning
for the future of the Mad River Valley. The planning program
shall be directed toward the physical, social, economic, fiscal,
environmental, cultural and aesthetic well being of the Towns of
Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren (hereinafter "member Towns") and
their inhabitants.

ARTICLE II. DURATION

The District shall be ongoing, unless terminated in
accordance with Article IX within.

MRVPD's Purpose

"...carry out a program of planning for the future of the Mad River Valley. The planning program shall be directed toward the **physical, social, economic, fiscal, environmental, cultural & aesthetic well-being** of the member Towns and inhabitants."

Mad River Valley Planning District Impetus for MRVPD Formation

- **Rapid Ski Area Development**
- **Escalating Land & Housing Costs**
- **Suburban Development Patterns**
- **Erosion of Rural Character**
- **Lack of Local Planning Capacity**
- **Lack of Inter–Town Coordination**

Mad River Valley Planning District Organization and Purpose

- **Three Town Union District**
 - **Fayston, Waitsfield & Warren, Vermont**
- **Seven Member Steering Committee**
 - **Elected and Appointed Officials**
 - **Business Community**
- **Broad Responsibilities**
 - **Local Planning Assistance**
 - **Valley-wide Planning**
 - **Ski Area Development**
 - **Rural Resource Protection**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
APRIL 2, 1998

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("Agreement"), dated this 2nd day of April, 1998, is entered into by Sugarbush Resort Holdings, Inc. ("Sugarbush"), its successors or assigns, the municipalities of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren (the "Valley Towns"), through their respective Boards of Selectmen, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission ("CVRPC"), its successors or assigns:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1983 an agreement was signed between Sugarbush Valley, Inc., the Valley Towns, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and the State of Vermont establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between the aforementioned parties, and

WHEREAS, the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") was based on and intended to implement the recommended alternative of the July, 1983 Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") for the Sugarbush Valley, Inc. Winter Sports Area, and

WHEREAS, the 1983 MOU established a process to identify, communicate, and coordinate actions on issues of concern occasioned by the implementation of the alternative recommended in the FEIS and subsequent actions taken by SVI and the Valley Towns to insure that (1) the mitigating actions set forth in the FEIS and other permits were carried out; (2) the environmental safeguards cited in the FEIS and other permits were executed according to plan, and (3) initial mitigating actions were revised or eliminated, or new mitigating actions adopted in order to achieve desired social, economic or environmental effects, and

WHEREAS, in accord with the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), the parties desired to establish procedures which allow them to coordinate their efforts and minimize duplication in complying with NEPA, state and local requirements, and to provide one forum in which permit decisions reached will apply to and satisfy the same or similar requirements or purposes at all levels of governmental review and approval, whether federal, state or local; and

WHEREAS, the parties desired to establish a cooperative working relationship with common aims and defined responsibilities regarding the environmental impacts, and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the signing of the MOU, the Mad River Valley Planning District ("MRVPD") was established as the primary forum for communication, impact review, mitigation development, and coordinated action among the parties, and

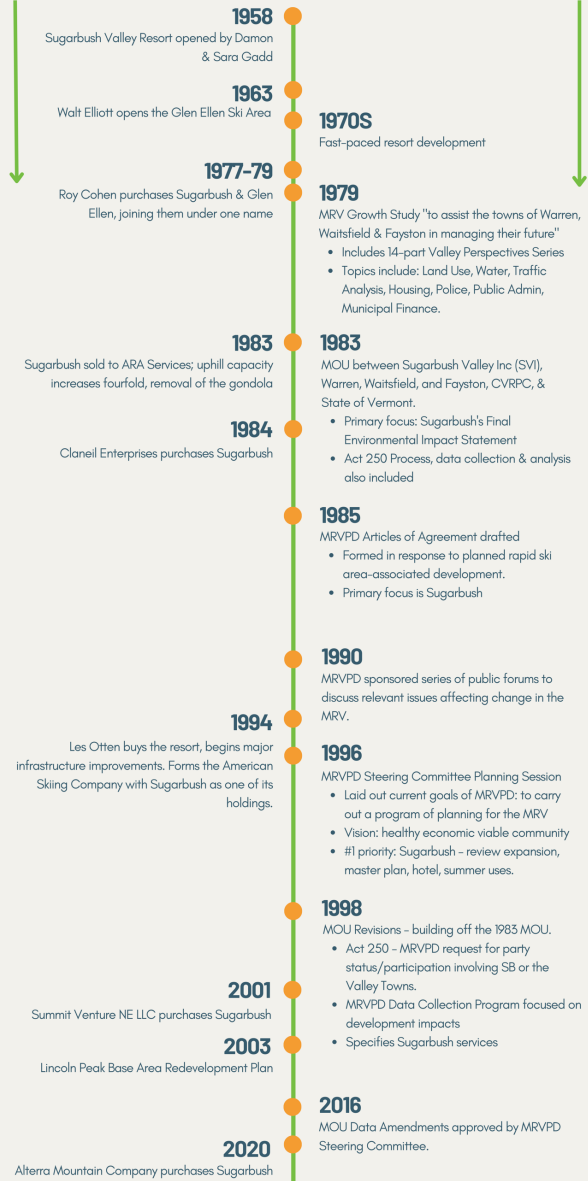
WHEREAS, the Steering Committee, the governing body of the MRVPD, is comprised of members of the legislative and planning bodies of each of the Valley Towns, a representative of the Valley business community, and CVRPC, with formal but non-voting participation by Sugarbush, and

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RESORT + MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION IN THE MAD RIVER VALLEY

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN SUGARBUSH AND WAITSFIELD, WARREN & FAYSTON HAS HELPED GUIDE THE RESORT'S DEVELOPMENT, DATA SHARING & PERMITTING PROCESSES, AS WELL AS INFORM COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION WITH THE VALLEY TOWNS

SUGARBUSH OWNERSHIP

PLANNING MILESTONES



MRVPD's Purpose

"...carry out a program of planning for the future of the Mad River Valley. The planning program shall be directed toward the **physical, social, economic, fiscal, environmental, cultural & aesthetic well-being** of the member Towns and inhabitants."

To what end?

MRV Vision Statement

The Mad River Valley is an innovative, vibrant, connected and caring community honoring its past, celebrating its landscape and actively pursuing its potential.

Our vision is to...

- Be a welcoming community that builds a healthy and sustainable environment.
- Support the historic settlement pattern of vibrant villages surrounded by rural countryside.
- Identify and promote the Valley's historic and cultural heritage.
- Promote and maintain a diverse economy that supports existing businesses and attracts new ones.
- Enhance the Valley's year-round recreational opportunities.
- Invest in a safe, environmentally friendly, efficient, and integrated transportation network.
- Provide access to safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing for current and prospective residents.
- Steward and sustainably use the Valley's natural resources and environmental quality for the benefit of future generations.

Community Wellbeing in the Mad River Valley
How are we doing?

| COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS | BUILT ENVIRONMENT | ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY | SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How strong is the fabric of community and environment? Other Report: Franchise of Safety, Social Connections, Connections to Social Connections, Franchise of Belonging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do built environments support community well-being? Other Report: Franchise of Safety, Social Connections, Connections to Social Connections, Franchise of Belonging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do economic opportunities support the Mad River Valley? Other Report: Franchise of Safety, Social Connections, Connections to Social Connections, Franchise of Belonging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do social infrastructure support the Mad River Valley? Other Report: Franchise of Safety, Social Connections, Connections to Social Connections, Franchise of Belonging |

Communication | Engagement | Collaboration

To learn more about how you can use the MRV Community Dashboard & Wellbeing work, please contact MRVPD Community Planner Kati Gallagher at kati@mrvpd.org

Data

Land Use

Economic Vitality

Recreation



MRV HOUSING SUMMIT
OCTOBER 12th, 4:30-7pm
Lareau Farm Pavilion
48 Lareau Rd., Waitsfield
*Childcare provided
Information: mrvpd.org

Transportation

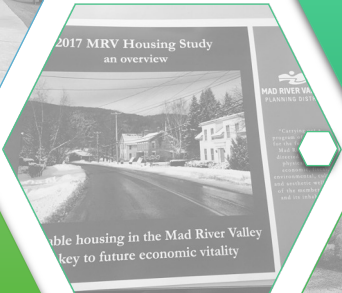


Municipal Support

Housing



Environment
Climate



Placemaking



Sugarbush



Rural Resources