

Otter Creek Basin Planning Update June-July 2008

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Draft Basin Plan and Planning Process

A comprehensive list of Existing Uses for swimming, fishing, and water supply surface waters for the draft Otter Creek Basin Plan is being drafted and reviewed for inclusion in the draft basin plan. The Agricultural section of the draft plan has just finished review by the Agency of Agriculture and will be incorporated into the draft plan. The draft basin plan is anticipated to be released for public review in early autumn.

Northeast Regional Stormwater Education Program – Brandon community survey

UVM Extension and Lake Champlain Sea Grant are collaborating on the Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP), working on increased public awareness of stormwater issues in towns in Vermont (including Brandon). RSEP is a collaboration of Vermont municipalities and other entities to provide regional stormwater education to over 10,000 residents. The RSEP goal is to educate Vermont residents about the impact of their behavior on stormwater quality using professional marketing approaches. RSEP also coordinates stormwater management activities among the participating municipalities and other entities and assists Vermont towns to develop stormwater management plans with public involvement and participation. LCSG supported the production of “After the Storm”, an educational video for residents, and a stormwater panel discussion that brought together local officials and stormwater management specialists

Emma Lynn Melvin (UVM – Extension) attended a Brandon Planning Commission meeting and presented the results of the community survey that was distributed to residents of community subdivisions in Brandon within the prior year. The survey results (164 respondents) were discussed and next phases of the project were tentatively scheduled. The next action on this project is to sponsor “train the trainer” workshops with local distributors of lawn care products. The survey results will be made available on-line (either through UVM-Extension, the town of Brandon, or both).

Rutland Low Input Lawn Care Project

A project intern is currently in the process of implementing a program modeled on the successful Burlington *Friends of Englesby Brook* and St Albans *Watershed Stewards* projects to inform business and institutional property owners in the Moon-Mussey Brook watershed, Rutland, about non-point source pollution from grounds care and promote adoption of low input grounds care practices. The Moon Brook has been identified on the State List of Impaired Waters (Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act).

Ethan met with the project intern and representatives from Rutland City and the Rutland NRCDC to consider the project status and updates to activity that have occurred since the inception of the project in the beginning of June. The intern has been using municipal records and map data to identify business, institutional and municipal property in the Moon-Mussey Brook watershed. The intern has been recording the names of managers, telephone numbers and addresses and with that information, developing a priority list of properties based lawn size, property area and level of management. A map will be generated that lists the properties and identifies priority sites.

FERC re-licensing of the Proctor, Beldens, and Huntington Falls facilities

ANR staff met with the project permittees and their consultants to identify transects to undertake aquatic habitat assessment and aesthetic considerations in advance of field work as a condition of the re-licensing process at 3 facilities on the mainstem of the Otter Creek.

Science at the Hatchery

The Science on the Green workgroup met to discuss regional coordination for the regional event at the Pittsford USFWS Fish Hatchery now scheduled for September 30th. More information can be found at: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/SOTG/>

Moon Brook Headwaters Restoration Project

Moon Brook is actively incising through several large head cuts which have an undefined origin. Continued headcutting and incision through this section of stream will be followed by channel widening and planform adjustments as the stream works to redevelop a floodplain at a lower elevation. Property loss may be a concern for several landowners whose land borders this reach. The portions of this segment that have not degraded are in good geomorphic condition and have excellent floodplain access.

Ethan managed a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew and coordinated with project partners to install a large woody debris (LWD) jam to arrest a headcut in the upper Moon Brook watershed that was identified as a high priority project from the Moon Brook Watershed Geomorphic Assessment and River Corridor Plan:



Otter Creek Revitalization Project

Project partners met to discuss the newly developed “Paddle around Middlebury” map that has been drafted by the Middlebury Area Land Trust and Middlebury Mountaineers. Ethan met with representatives from Omya to improve the portage access and launch points at their respective hydro-electric operations on the

Otter Creek. In addition, a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) crew assisted in the development of a formal public access launch areas in Middlebury on the Otter Creek on municipally-owned parcels by stabilizing streambanks with erosion control matting, topsoil, and seed and building stairs and other enhancements for portaging and launching purposes as part of the “Paddle around Middlebury” map. The crew also undertook trail maintenance, trash cleanup, and invasives control at several sites:



Rutland and Middlebury Rain Garden Projects

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps assisted with the installation of rain garden signs at previously installed rain gardens in Middlebury and Rutland.



The Rutland rain garden at the Vermont Achievement Center adjacent to Moon Brook.

Shrewsbury Better Backroads Project

A project is underway to improve drainage and enhance public access to Spring Lake in Shrewsbury. This project was funded by a Better Backroads grant and technical assistance from the VT DEC Water Quality Division.



Mill River Corridor Planning

VT – DEC River Management Program staff and the Mill River Stream Geomorphic Assessment contractor met to review project alternatives identified in the Mill River Corridor Plan. The Mill River is a tributary in the Upper Otter Creek watershed. Several potential projects have been identified and technical and financial assistance have been determined to help implement these projects.

Happy Summer!