VERMONT CONSERVATION PLAN

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VERMONT, USA OCTOBER 2025

The Vermont Legislature has directed the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VCHB), in consultation with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), to lead the process of developing a Vermont Conservation Plan (VCP). As part of the development of the Conservation Plan, the leadership team at VHCB and ANR are forming several key working groups, including the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a key group in the development of the Vermont Conservation Plan.

The TAC was formed in May 2025 and has a role throughout the duration of the project. Primarily, TAC members will assist VHCB and ANR to articulate technical and stakeholder input and craft a viable plan. They will act as an initial sounding board to VHCB and ANR and a public facing group of stakeholders who represent a range of perspectives. They will provide input on various aspects of the project throughout the process.

The membership was drawn from the legislatively identified stakeholder groups, including private owners of forestlands and agricultural lands, land trusts, conservation organizations, environmental organizations, working lands enterprises, outdoor recreation groups, watershed groups, municipalities, regional planning commissions, conservation commissions, and relevant State and federal agencies, as well as from other groups identified by VHCB and ANR.

TAC ROLES & RESPONSIBILITES

The TAC provides an important advisory function to the Vermont Conservation Plan project, and its work includes:

- Provide input and feedback on the draft objectives and pathways created by the VHCB and ANR, and eventually on the draft Plan.
- Assist VHCB and ANR to review and assimilate input from the Working Groups and stakeholders at the Regional Listening Sessions.
- Assist in identifying regional stakeholders to be invited to the regional listening sessions and encourage participation.
- Assist VHCB and ANR to address difficult outstanding questions that require resolution, and review drafts of the plan.
- Assist the VHCB and ANR to promote the Vermont Conservation Plan process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEMBERS

Legislatively Identified Stakeholders	Broad Themes	Particpating Organization	Participant
Private owners of forestlands and agricultural lands	Working Lands	Blue Ledge Farm	Hannah Sessions, Blue Ledge Farm, Salisbury VT (Agricultural Lands)
		Vermont Woodlands Association	Kate Forer, Executive Director, Vermont Woodlands Association (Forest Lands)
Working Lands Enterprises		Maine Woods Company	Chris Castano, Sales and Marketing Manager, Maine Woods Company (Working Land Enterprise)
Land Trusts	Conservation & Environment	Vermont Land Trust	Tracy Zschau, President & CEO, Vermont Land Trust
Conservation Organizations		Trust for Public Land	Shelby Semmes, VP New England Region, Trust for Public Land
		The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Vermont	Gannon Osborn, Director of Resilient and Connected Lands, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Vermont (Alternate Elise Barry)
Environmental Organizations		Audubon Vermont	Jamey Fidel, Vice President, Vermont
Watershed Groups		Watersheds United Vermont	Lyn Munno, Director, Watersheds United Vermont
Outdoor Recreation Groups and Businesses	Recreation	Vermont Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Alex Smith, Board Member, Vermont Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (Traditional Recreation)
		Vermont Trails and Greenways Council	Nick Bennette, Chair, Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. Executive Director, VMBA (Trails-based Recreation)
Indigenous groups and Representatives from historically maginalized and disadvantaged communities	Land Access, Environmental Justice, and Government Liaison	Native Communities	Rich Holschuh, Appointee for VT Commission on Native American Affairs
		Land Access and Opportunity Board	Jean Hamilton / Ornella Matta Figuroa, Co-Directors of the Land Access and Opportunity Board
		Center for Whole Communities	Emily Alger, Senior Fellow at Center for Whole Communities
Municipalities and Conservation Commissions	Government	Thetford Conservation Commissions	Krista Karlson, Thetford Conservation Commission Member
Regional Planning Commissions		Windham Regional Commission	Chris Campany, Executive Director, Windham Regional Commission (Alternate Tasha Wallis, Executive Director, Lomoille County Planning Commission)
Conservation Commissions		United States Forest Service	Greg Gustina, Ecological Services, United States Forest Service
Relevant State and federal agencies		Agency of Food Agriculture and Markets	Ryan Patch, Agriculture Climate and Land Use Policy Manager
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	Conveners	VHCB and ANR	Annie Decker - Associate Director of Resource Development & Resiliency, VHCB; Project Manager for VCP
			Trey Martin - Director of Conservation & Rural Community Development, VHCB
			Isaac Bissell - Conservation Stewardship Director, VHCB
Agency of Natural Resources			Robert Zaino - Natural Community Ecologist, ANR
			Billy Coster - Director of Policy and Planning, ANR
			Oliver Pierson - Director of Forestry and State Forester, ANR
			Rebecca Washburn - Director of Lands Administration and Recreation, ANR
			John Austin - Director of Wildlife, ANR
			Gunnar Nurme - Land Acquisition Coordinator, ANR
			Evan Horne - Resilient Lands Coordinator, ANR