



## From the Executive Director

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) is a joint regional planning and development organization serving the 3-county Northeast Kingdom region of Vermont. Our greatest strength remains our agility in forming strategic partnerships – public and private - with local, state, and federal entities to bring about lasting and positive impacts. This year, these collaborative efforts with local and regional partners became especially important in our community and economic development efforts as we worked to assist businesses and communities to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Since March 2020, the NVDA staff has worked diligently and remotely to assist businesses and communities to deal with the impacts of the pandemic. This included assisting local boards with remote and virtual meetings, providing guidance to municipalities and businesses on state and federal resources to help them begin a recovery, increasing our communications with clients, and participating in regional and state recovery efforts, including the NEK Recovery Plan initiative.

While COVID has certainly impacted the local landscape, it has not stopped many of the 'normal' initiatives that NVDA staff were working on prior to the pandemic. We continued to implement our Brownfield Assessments program with our local partners; worked with local road departments through the Grants-in-Aid program; assisted numerous communities with updating their Local Emergency Management Plans; provided grant writing and administration services to municipalities seeking state and federal funding; advanced regional water quality and basin planning initiatives; and aided many communities across the region with planning, mapping, designation, and regulatory assistance through our municipal Technical Assistance program. Notably, we observed many communities take on the challenge of broadband this past year and many have joined to form the NEK Community Broadband communications union district. NVDA has been able to assist with this initiative by providing federal and state funding for the necessary planning and feasibility work that the CUD will need for future broadband buildout.

In a normal year, changing environments place new demands on the limited resources of our municipalities. Communities and businesses rely on our professional services and technical support more than ever. The map on the following page represents the diversity and extent of our services, all of which support our underlying mission to serve the communities and businesses of the Northeast Kingdom. I am always amazed at what our small, but very skilled, professional staff can accomplish in any single year, but even more so in this year's challenging pandemic environment.

As always, NVDA will continue to pursue new partnerships and opportunities for the betterment of the Northeast Kingdom region and its people. Thank you to all of our communities, businesses and partners for your continued support.

David Snedeker

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Back row, left to right: Tracy  
McIntyre, Alison Low, Dave  
Snedeker, Irene Nagle, Doug  
Morton. Front row: Karen Geraghty,  
Lorna Higgs, Frank Maloney, Tina  
Gonyaw, Bruce Melendy, Judy  
Butson.  
Photo: Tina Mitchell-Stowell /  
Captured Moments Photography



### TOWN APPOINTED MEMBERS OF CALEDONIA COUNTY

#### Barnet:

**Burke:** Joe Allard

**Danville:** Kenneth Linsley

**Groton:** Brent Smith

**Hardwick:** Shari Cornish

**Kirby:** Martin Etter, Marla Waring

**Lyndon:** Martha Feltus

**Newark:** Kim Fried, Mark Whitworth

**Peacham:** Bruce MacLean, Anna Rubin

#### Ryegate:

**Sheffield:** Keith Ballek, Al Robertson

**St. Johnsbury:** Jim Brown, Larry Donna

#### Stannard:

**Sutton:** Paul Brouha

#### Walden:

**Waterford:** Fred Saar, William Piper

**Wheelock:** Steve Amos, Paul Tomasi

### TOWN APPOINTED MEMBERS OF ESSEX COUNTY

#### Bloomfield:

**Brighton:** Joel Cope

**Brunswick:** Sharon Graham

**Canaan:** Gregory Noyes, Frank

Sawicki **Concord:** Cynthia Stuart

**East Haven:** Kirwin Flanders

**Granby:** Reginald Bunnell

**Guildhall:** Gary Brown

#### Lemington:

**Lunenburg:** James Peyton

**Maidstone:** David Atkinson

**Norton:** Gina Vigneaut

**Unified Towns & Gores:** Peter Rodin

### TOWN APPOINTED MEMBERS OF ORLEANS COUNTY

**Albany:** S. Christopher Jacobs, Edward O'Leary

**Barton:** William Davies

**Brownington:** Bill Davis, Laurence Thompson

**Charleston:** Michael Gonyaw, Teri Gray

**Coventry:** Michael Marcotte

**Craftsbury:** Farley Brown, Rudy Chase

**Derby:** Beula-Jean Shattuck, Grant Spates

**Glover:** Hope Colburn

**Greensboro:** Michael Metcalf

**Holland:** Andrew Bouchard

**Irasburg:** Judith Jackson

#### Jay:

#### Lowell:

#### Morgan:

**Newport City:** Paul Monette, Laura Dolgin

#### Newport Town:

**Troy:** Robert Langlands

**Westfield:** Scott Dunn

**Westmore:** Louisa Dotoli

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

Amanda Carlson, John Morley, Tom Robinson, Tomas Jankowski

### LEGISLATORS

#### SENATORS BY DISTRICT:

**Caledonia:** Joe Benning Esq., Jane Kitchel; **Essex-Orleans:** John Rodgers, Robert Starr Jr.

#### REPRESENTATIVES BY DISTRICT:

**Caledonia-1:** Marcia Martel; **Caledonia-2:** Joseph "Chip" Troiano;

**Caledonia-3:** Scott Beck; Scott Campbell **Caledonia-4:** Martha Feltus; **Caledonia-**

**Washington:** Catherine "Kitty" Beattie Toll; **Essex-Caledonia:** Constance Quimby; **Essex-**

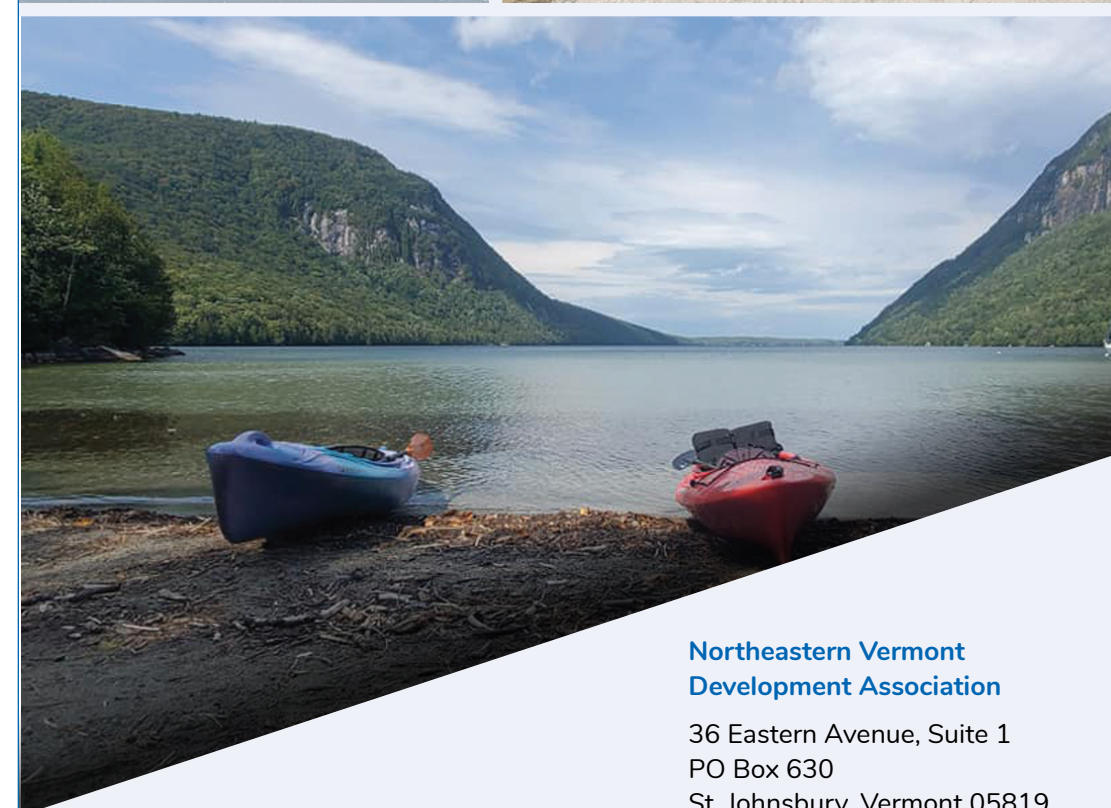
**Caledonia-Orleans:** Paul Lefebvre; **Orange-Caledonia:** Charles "Chip" Conquest;

**Orleans-1:** Lynn Batchelor, Brian Smith; **Orleans-2:** Michael Marcotte, Woodman Page;

**Orleans-Caledonia:** Vicki Strong, Sam Young; **Orleans-Lamoille:** Mark Higley



## 2020 Annual Report

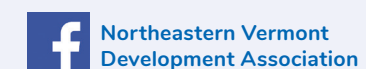


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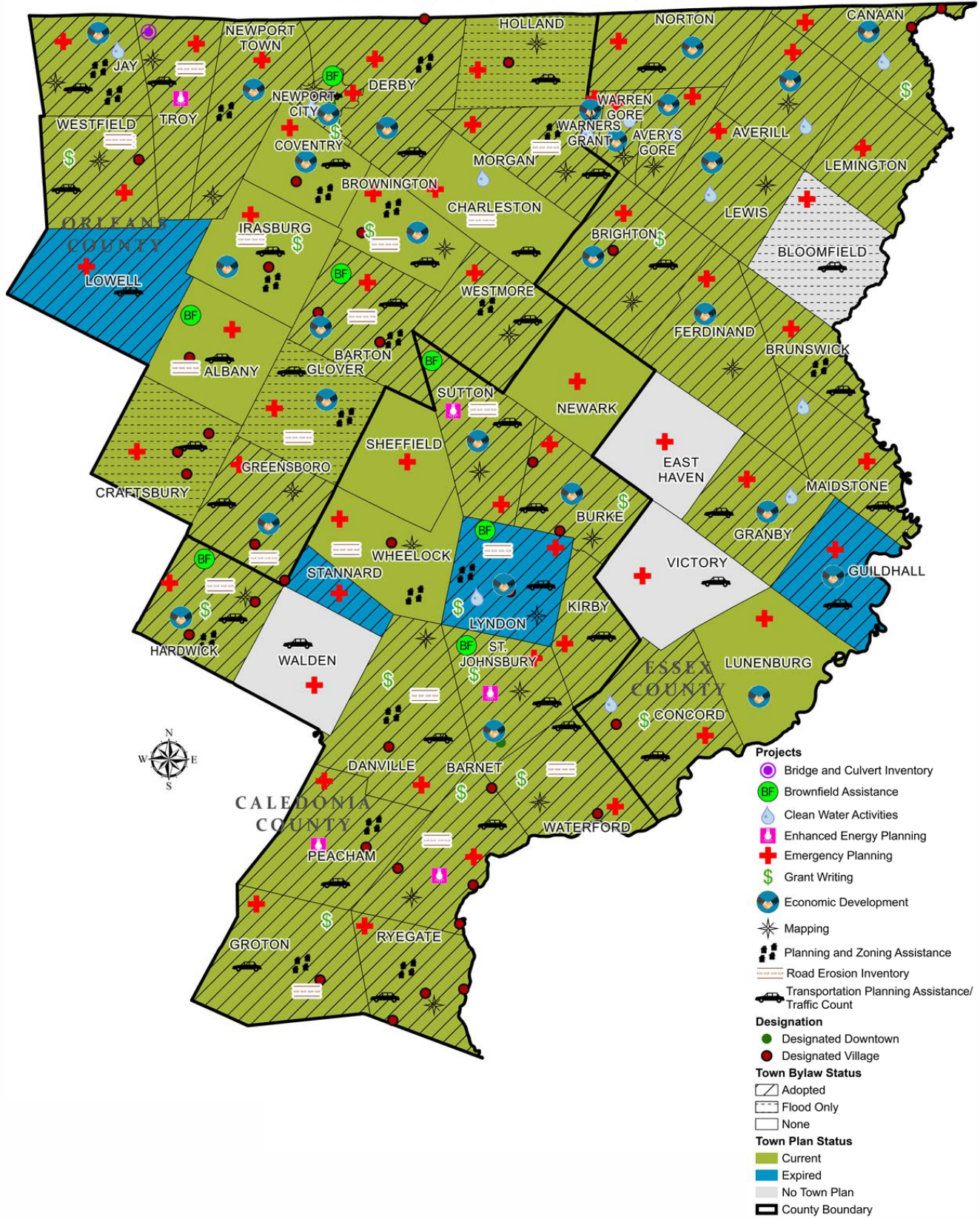
[www.nvda.net](http://www.nvda.net)



NVDA is an equal opportunity employer, lender, and provider.

**Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) is a unique entity in Vermont where regional economic development and planning are combined for great effect.**

Our broad array of services supports our mission to the 55 municipalities and scores of businesses in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties: "Improving the quality of life in the Northeast Kingdom through planning, promoting economic development, and preserving the region's natural environment."



**FY2020 Highlights**

**Municipal Planning:** We now have 42 municipalities with current municipal plans – a record high. Additionally, NVDA staff helped the following communities obtain Village Center Designation: Waterford, Ryegate, Peacham, Irasburg, and Groton. These designations will help further community development efforts that currently include upgrades to cultural facilities, assessment of affordable housing, and establishment of a daycare center.

**Brownfields:** NVDA is on track to complete its EPA Coalition grant a year early. We've already implemented \$600,000 worth of assessments in 14 projects over a two-year period. Our work has helped several projects go forward, including the rehabilitation of the Depot Square Apartments in St. Johnsbury, the transformation of the former St. Jay Hardware building into the St. Johnsbury Distillery, and numerous other projects in the region.

**NEK Community Broadband:** In FY2020 we applied for and received grants to help close the last mile. NVDA used funding from a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to plan a regional Communications Union District (CUD). NVDA also secured funding from the State of VT's Broadband Innovation Grant to conduct additional work on network design and business planning. In March, 28 towns voted to form a CUD.

**NBRC Recreation Grant:** NVDA secured a \$250,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission to advance the outdoor recreation economy in the Northeast Kingdom. Working in partnership with the Northern Forest Center and the NEK Collaborative, NVDA sub-awarded funding to four outdoor recreation projects.

**Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator:** NVDA was instrumental in obtaining grants to fund construction. Our award from the Economic Development Administration was \$3 million – the largest grant received in memory. Other awards included a \$900,000 award from the Vermont Community Development Program, \$2.1 million in financing from VEDA Program, and an \$80,000 award from the Northeast Heritage Economic Partnership.

**Unaudited Financials for Fiscal Year 2020\***

NVDA's revenues came from numerous sources, including a share of the state's property transfer funds; private, state, and federal grants; and annual appropriations from each of our 50+ member communities. We also received rental income from the Charles E. Carter Business Resource Center, the Gallery Building, and other income from contracted services such as grant administration and municipal plan and bylaw development.

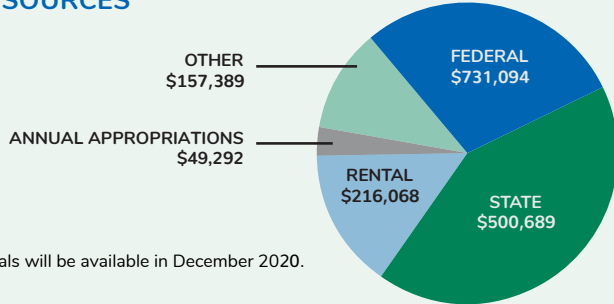
**REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS**

NVDA has two Nonprofit Community Development Organization (NCDO) relending funds capitalized by loan repayments from Community Development Block Grants. Business loan activity was minimal in FY2020.

**PROGRAMS**

	REGIONAL PLANNING	TRANSPORTATION	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	TOTALS
REVENUES	\$909,208	\$ 298,479	\$ 446,845	\$ 1,654,532
EXPENDITURES	\$ 977,588	\$ 3298,479	\$ 496,500	\$ 1,772,567
BALANCE	\$ (68,380)	\$ —	\$ (49,655)	\$ (118,035)

**REVENUE SOURCES**



\* Audited financials will be available in December 2020.

**STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR FY2020**

- Economic Development Administration — US Department of Commerce
- Northern Border Regional Commission
- USDA Rural Development — U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Vermont Agency of Transportation — U.S. Department of Transportation
- Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Vermont Department of Labor
- Vermont Department of Public Safety — U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Vermont Department of Public Safety
- Vermont Department of Public Service
- Vermont Small Business Development Center — U.S. Small Business Administration