Purpose: Ecological & Physical function

- Applies to certain commercial development (project size dependent upon town zoning)
  - Undisturbed riparian zones
  - Intermittent & small perennial streams – 50 ft
  - Perennial streams & rivers – 100 ft
  - Lakes & Ponds – 100 ft from mean water level
  - Critical wildlife habitat, wetlands
  - VTANR Guidance under revision
VT Shoreland Protection Act

Purpose: Ecological & Physical function

- Lakes > 10 acres
- Regulates shoreland development and vegetation management within 250’ of mean lake elevation
Purpose: Physical isolation of improvements

- Maps flood hazard areas & river corridors
- Provides for riparian “buffer” of 50’
- No vegetation management requirements
VT Wetland Rules

**Purpose:** Ecological function

- Class I – 100’ buffer
- Class II – 50’ buffer
- Allowed uses include forestry, agriculture, etc.
VT Acceptable Management Practices for Logging (AMP’s)

**Purpose:** Sediment & Nutrient Control

- **Protective Strips:**
  - 25’ no transport machinery
  - 50’ + light thinning, continuous cover
  - No log landings

- Practices are currently advisory – enforcement dependent upon discharge

- Under revision
VT Required Agricultural Practices

Purpose: Agricultural Pollutant Control

- Buffer Strips:
  - 10’ from ditches
  - 25’ form surface waters
  - Harvesting of perennial crops allowed

- In revision - 2nd draft
Easements

**Purpose:** Restoration of Ecological & Physical Function

- **River Corridor Easements**
  - Purchase channel management rights
  - No new structures or development
  - 50’ “floating” wooded riparian buffer

- **Riparian Easements**
  - USFWS, CREP, etc.
  - Often includes riparian restoration
VT Agency Lands Riparian Guidelines
(State Forests, Parks, WMA’s ~ 500K acres)

**Purpose:** Ecological & Physical function

- Ephemeral streams - considerations
- Intermittent & small perennial streams – 50 ft
- Perennial streams/narrow floodplains – 100 ft + active floodplain
- Perennial streams & rivers/broad floodplains – 100 ft + floodplain function/natural community
- Vernal Pools – 3 zones; pool, protection, life zone
- Wetlands & seeps – Sig Natural Community (100 ft), Class 2 & seeps (50 ft)
- Lakes & Ponds – 100 ft from mean water level
VT Municipal Zoning

**Purpose:** Ecological function & physical isolation

- Very few towns....variable approaches
VT Riparian Protection

Working Well:
- Regulations
- Internal Agency Guidance
- River Corridor Easements

Challenges:
- AAP’s & AMP’s
- Limited jurisdiction
- Monitoring
- Compliance
- Enforcement