

For Immediate Release

Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience

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**Jon Copans to become Executive Director of the
Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience**

The Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience announces that Jon Copans has been hired as its new Executive Director. The Commission was formed to coordinate and drive forward flood recovery and resilience work in the wake of the July 2023 floods. The Commission serves as a convening and resource partner for the municipality and its citizens and working groups advancing flood recovery and resilience projects in the city. Jon rose to the top of a large pool of highly qualified candidates. Commission members are delighted that his vision, experience with climate and resilience issues, and commitment to Montpelier will soon be at work making the community stronger.

Copans comes to the Commission from Old Spokes Home, a nonprofit bike shop centered around transportation equity programs where he served as Executive Director. Previously, he worked at the Vermont Council on Rural Development directing climate and leadership programs, as Deputy Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service, as Senior Policy Advisor at the Department of Environmental Conservation, and he served for eight years in the Vermont Office of (then) Congressman Peter Welch. He lives in Montpelier.

“We were stunned by and grateful for the quality of candidates who responded to our search,” said Nathan Suter, who led the hiring process. “Jon’s collaborative leadership style, attention to inclusive process, experience guiding complex decisions, and creative intellect attracted the Commission to him.”

“In the aftermath of last summer’s flood, we came together to support each other in recovery and to talk about the steps we need to take to mitigate future disasters,” noted Copans. “I am humbled to take on this role of supporting the Commission and my community as we transform those conversations into actions.”

“As we shift from deliberation to action, Jon’s experience navigating policy and bringing communities together to drive toward solutions will be a critical foundation to carry the Commission’s work forward,” said Commission Chair Ben Doyle.

The next public forum hosted by the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience is May 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Montpelier Senior Center. Community members are invited to connect with Copans and the Commissioners, as well as share ideas and give feedback on Commission priorities for action.

More information on the Commission, its activities and related resources is available at <https://www.montpelierstrong.org/>