



802 674 9201 / PO Box 320 / Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont 05030

## Summer 2009 Newsletter

Andover / Baltimore / Cavendish / Chester / Ludlow / Reading / Springfield / Weathersfield / West Windsor / Windsor

### SWCRPC

#### COMMISSIONERS:

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Springfield

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John Mitchell,  
Reading

Hal Pyke,  
West Windsor

Steve Cottrell,  
Windsor

#### SWCRPC STAFF:

Thomas Kennedy,  
Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,  
Senior Planner

April Harkness,  
GIS Planner

John Broker-Campbell,  
Planner

Cynthia Porter,  
Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,  
Office Manager

### Grant Opportunities:

**FY 2010 Ecosystem Restoration Grants:** pre-proposals are due September 20, 2009. This grant program, offered by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Center for Clean and Clear, is intended to improve water quality, including but not limited to projects that: improve stream stability, protect against flood hazards, improve in-stream and riparian habitat, protect and restore riparian wetlands, and re-establish lake shoreline native vegetation. For more information, please contact April Harkness.

**FY 2010 Barn Grant Program:** applications are due November 2, 2009. Up to \$10,000 is available for each project to repair historic agricultural buildings that are listed or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a competitive reimbursement grant program that requires a minimum 50% local match. See this website for more information: <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/barn2.html>

**FY 2010 Historic Preservation Grant Program:** applications are due October 5, 2009. The Historic Preservation Grant Program offers a maximum award of \$15,000 to repair historic buildings. Historic buildings must be owned by a municipality or non-profit organization and be listed or be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a competitive reimbursement grant program that requires a minimum 50% local match. See this website for more information: <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/hp2.html>

**FY 2010 Municipal Planning Grants (MPG)** Applications were to be due on September 30, 2009. However, due to anticipated downgrades in state revenues, the program has been put on hold. The MPG training sessions have also been cancelled. Towns will be notified 4-6 weeks in advance of any new future application deadline, if funding allows. Please contact Jason Rasmussen for more information. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm>

**FY 2010 Transportation Enhancement Program:** applications are due October 13, 2009 (letters of intent were due August 10, 2009). This reimbursement program can fund sidewalk and bike path construction, and other non-traditional transportation projects. There is a maximum limit of \$300,000 per award, and a 20% local match is required. Please contact Jason Rasmussen for more information. <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>

**Vermont Better Backroads Grants:** forms will be mailed out in late September; applications are due by the end of October. Eligible grant activities include road inventory and capital budget planning, and correction of a road related erosion problem, such as rock-lining a ditch, installing a culvert header, or streambank stabilization. Please contact Jason Rasmussen for more information. <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/broads.htm>

**Vermont Community Development Block Grant Program (Cycle II):** applications are due November 3, 2009. Planning and implementation grants are available for economic development, housing, public facilities, and public services, in support of economic development or housing initiatives that will result in direct benefit to persons of low- and moderate-income, will eliminate slums or blight, or will address a community's urgent need. Please contact Tom Kennedy for more information. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/VCDP/index.htm>

The SWCRPC newsletter can be found online at [www.swcrpc.org](http://www.swcrpc.org)

## SWCRPC Updates

### Water Quality

The firm of South Mountain Research & Consulting recently completed a Phase II Stream Geomorphic Assessment along selected tributaries in the Black River watershed. The Phase II Final Report outlines potential issues and ideas for recommended projects that could improve water quality along these stretches of river. SWCRPC will be having a public meeting in the Fall to review the findings and solicit public input in order to formulate future project ideas and funding sources. Please contact April Harkness with any questions or for a copy of the final report.

### Brownfields

On August 4, 2009, the SWCRPC received notification of \$590,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA) Supplemental Funding from the U.S. EPA. The funds will be used to recapitalize our Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. From the sites listed in the application, the EPA and the Brownfields Steering Committee will be narrowing down the sites list based on several factors including shovel-readiness and job creation. Please contact April Harkness or Tom Kennedy with any questions. We want to thank Joelle for her hard work in putting together an excellent application.



### Transportation

The SWCRPC was awarded \$10,000 to support Weathersfield's Safe Routes to School program during the 2009-2010 school year. The RPC will be hiring a consultant to assist the Weathersfield Safe Routes to School Team, which is a collaboration of the Weathersfield School and the Town of Weathersfield. The consultant's work will include assisting the school to develop a School Travel Plan, implement an attitude survey of both students and parents, and other support as needed. This effort will also involve safety programs, such as bicycle rodeos and buying safety vests and other materials to promote safe walking to school activities. RPC staff and the consultant will also work with the school and Town of Weathersfield to identify needed infrastructure improvements to make walking or bicycling to school safer.

### Emergency Planning

The new Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) format is now available and should be used to replace the old Rapid Response Plan (RRP). The new format has no major content changes but allows users to quickly find contact information and also includes commonly used forms used during an emergency. Staff at the SWCRPC are available to help with the update process, please contact John Broker-Campbell with any questions.

The SWCRPC has recently requested funding through Vermont Emergency Management to continue with all our many activities including: emergency management planning with towns, training and exercise opportunities for first responder organizations and ongoing administration to LEPC 3. The LEPC recently completed a three year Training and Exercise Plan to guide the development of upcoming trainings. The plan outlines specific goals and capabilities that the LEPC would like to have along with a three year calendar with a variety of scheduled activities to help the LEPC in achieving their goals. Some events from the calendar include: ICS/NIMS training, BEOP development workshops, and a communication and mass care table top exercise. Please stay tuned to the SWCRPC newsletter and the LEPC website, [www.lepc3.org](http://www.lepc3.org), for more information.

A New Home for Vermont Orthophotography!  
July 1, 2009 the VCGI Imagery Program will begin distributing orthophotos for FREE via download from their website:  
[www.vcgi.org/dataware](http://www.vcgi.org/dataware)



**FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collections will be held on:**

**Saturday, September 12 from 9:00am-12:00pm in Weathersfield and Springfield.**

**The events are free for residents; qualified businesses are welcome but must pay for disposal.**

**For details visit [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org)**

**Please contact Mary O'Brien, Recycling Coordinator, Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District with any questions: (802) 674-9235 or [mobrien@swcrpc.org](mailto:mobrien@swcrpc.org).**

## UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS:

Vermont Communications (VCOMM) Seminar: September 9, 2009 6:00-9:00pm at the VA Hospital in White River Junction

Managing Stormwater Through Low Impact Development (LID) Techniques: September 17, 2009 at Vermont Interactive Television Sites. This workshop for local planning and zoning officials provides an overview of Low Impact Development and designing innovative stormwater design techniques. For more information see the following website:

<http://www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/upcomingevents/?event=253>

Annual Conference of the Northern New England Chapter of the APA: September 24-25, 2009 in Belfast, Maine. The 2009 NNECAPA conference will focus on finding opportunity amidst the current economic situation. Attendees will have three tracks of workshops to choose from: the local economy, rethinking transportation, and the new built environment. For more information see the following website:

<http://www.nnecapa.org/resources/conference.php>

VLCT Town Fair: October 1, 2009 in Barre. Annual Town Fair for local officials sponsored by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The theme of the 2009 Town Fair is "Local Officials: Vermont's Super Heroes." See the following website for more information:

<http://www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/upcomingevents/?event=237>

National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference: October 18-30, 2009 in Savannah, Georgia. Sponsored by the National Association of Development Organizations, this conference will bring together transportation planners, economic development professionals, local officials, state DOT staff and stakeholders from rural and small metropolitan areas across the nation for three days of learning and networking with peers. See this website for more information:

[http://www.ruraltransportation.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=59353](http://www.ruraltransportation.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=59353)

Transportation Research Board Annual Conference: January 10-14, 2010 in Washington, DC.

<http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp>

### People in the News...

Tom Kennedy was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Tom's task on the Board will be to advocate for small towns.

Exciting news in the Greenland Family– Addison McAllister Greenland was born on June 23rd and is a happy and healthy baby girl. The sad news is Joelle has left the SWCRPC for Philadelphia as her husband has a new job and they will be closer to family and friends. Best of luck to Joelle and her family!

Angela Esslinger has recently joined the SWCRPC as the new Office Manager. Angela and her husband Erik, both PADI certified divers, live in Langdon, NH. When they are not working in the woods gathering firewood, spending time with the children or pets they enjoy participating in the Yesteryears Motorcar Club with their 1962 Studebaker Hawk or their 1967 Oldsmobile convertible.



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## Calendar of Events

September 2009

- 7 **Labor Day, RPC Offices Closed**
- 9 Vermont Communications Seminar @ 6:00pm at the VA Hospital, White River Junction, Vermont.
- 15 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 15 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 16 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

October 2009

- 12 **Columbus Day, RPC Offices Closed**
  - 14 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm, location TBA
  - 20 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
  - 20 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
  - 21 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
  - 29 Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Springfield Selectboard Conference Room, Springfield Town Hall, Springfield VT.
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