

## commission calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
APRIL	5	9:00 a.m. Vermont GIS Expo Location: Wyndham Hotel, Burlington Info: <a href="http://www.vcgi.org">http://www.vcgi.org</a>
	13	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kenyon, Middlebury Coll. Agenda: Regional Plan Hearing
	18	7:30 p.m. GMNF Open House Location: Middlebury Union High School Info: Melissa Reichert, (802) 747-6754
	18	1:00 p.m. Otter Creek Watershed Initiative Agricultural Working Group Location: Brandon Fire Station Info: Ethan Swift, (802) 747-5070
	21	8:00 a.m. Town Officers Conferences (TOEC) Location: Sheraton, South Burlington Info: Mary Peabody, (802) 223-2389
	27	8:00 a.m. Town Officers Conferences (TOEC) Location: Holiday Inn, Rutland Info: Mary Peabody, (802) 223-2389
	27	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
MAY	2	7:00 p.m. Natural Resources Committee Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	11	ACRPC Annual Meeting Time and Location: TBA
	18	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	25	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Note: The location of the April Full Commission meeting and hearing on the Region Plan has been changed to Middlebury College's Kenyon Lounge (located above the ice rink in the athletic complex).

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).  
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

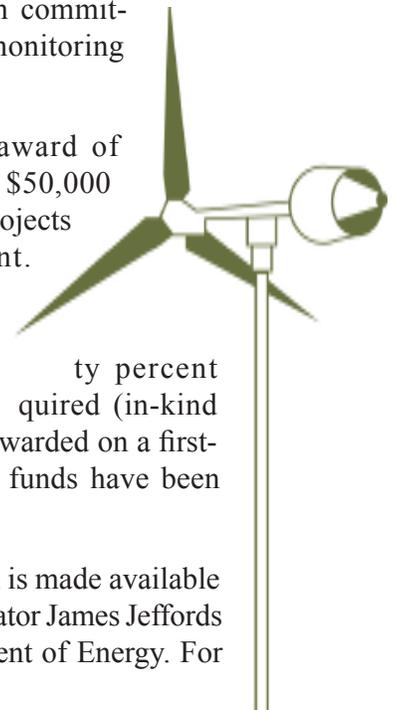
## Wind Demonstration Funding

The Department of Public Service recently announced that it will provide over \$300,000 to support Vermont wind energy demonstrations. Grants will be provided to cover a portion of the cost of installing small-scale, net-metered wind systems on farms, schools and other public areas. Applicants will be required to demonstrate a long-term commitment to maintenance, monitoring and evaluation activities.

There is a maximum award of \$30,000 per project or \$50,000 for farm projects. All projects must occur in Vermont.

Municipalities, schools and farms are eligible to submit proposals. Fifty percent matching funds are required (in-kind or cash). Funds will be awarded on a first-come basis until all the funds have been distributed.

Funding for this program is made available through the efforts of Senator James Jeffords and the federal Department of Energy. For



**Reminder: ACRPC will be sending out its annual mailing to municipalities this month. In that packet, we (1) ask for updated contact information on municipal officials, (2) send appointment forms for both the Commission and for the Transportation Advisory Committee, (3) include a local road map to be reviewed for any changes in the last year, (4) include your Rapid Response Emergency Plan also to be reviewed for changes, and (5) request information on permits issued from zoning administrators. We have tried our best to streamline this annual update and fact gathering process and appreciate your**

## Regional Plan Public Hearings

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has completed several updates to the Regional Plan. The Utilities, Facilities and Services section, which now includes an Energy plan, has been entirely revised. Minor changes have been made to the Introduction, Future Land Use and Consistency sections of the plan as well.

ACRPC will be holding its second public hearing on the revised Regional Plan at the April Full Commission meeting, which has been moved to Middlebury College's Kenyon Lounge. The draft plan sections have been mailed out to all commission members and to municipalities. More information, including the draft sections and meeting information can be found at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).

After consideration of the comments made at the public hearings, the plan, with the revised sections, will be submitted for re-adoption by not less than a 60 percent vote of the commissioners representing a majority of the municipalities, tentatively scheduled for the Annual Meeting in May.

Please feel free to contact either Brandy Saxton ([bsaxton@sover.net](mailto:bsaxton@sover.net)) or Adam Lougee ([alougee@sover.net](mailto:alougee@sover.net)) with any questions or concerns (388-3141).

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## GMNF Plan Meeting

The Forest Service will be hosting an informational open house on April 18 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School to share information about the release of the Proposed Revised Forest Land and Resource Management Plan for the Green Mountain National Forest.

There will be a presentation on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Forest Plan that will review the preferred alternative and discuss the process by which the preferred alternative was selected. The public will be able to ask the panel questions and will be provided with information about how to comment on the DEIS and the plan.

*This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.*

## Lake Champlain Basin Program State of the Lake Report

The Lake Champlain Basin Program is preparing a State of the Lake Report to be released to the public in late June 2005. The State of the Lake Report will present answers to a select group of questions reflecting heightened public interests, including highest priority areas of LCBP's Opportunities for Action, and collectively characterizing the overall state of Lake Champlain. The report will also provide program guidance for the LCBP staff and partners on the toughest issues that need to be addressed by the program.

To help inform this report, LCBP convened a State of the Lake Workshop in Plattsburgh, New York on March 11 to bring together key professionals as panelists to help answer some of the more difficult questions. The workshop focused on the exchange of ideas and expertise, with input from the citizen advisory committees. The panelists consisted of the scientists and manager from Vermont, New York and Quebec. Notes from the meeting will inform the content of the State of the Lake Report preparations in March and April.

Of the many interesting facts and theories offered by the panelists, Eric Smeltzer of VTDEC Water Quality Division presented trends in lake phosphorous concentrations and tributary loads. The data source is the Lake Champlain Long-Term Monitoring Program operated by Vermont DEC and New York State DEC with funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Through a trend analysis of data from 1990 through 2000 for Vermont and 1990 through 2004 for New York and Quebec, Eric and his colleagues found evidence of an increasing trend of in-lake phosphorous concentrations in the following portions of Lake Champlain

and tributaries: Mallets Bay north to the Missisquoi Bay bridge including St. Albans Bay, Pike River (Quebec), Lewis Creek, Putnam Creek (NY), Little AuSable (NY).

A decreasing trend was found in the Winooski River, LaPlatte River, Little Otter Creek, Otter Creek, Mettawee River and the Great Chazy River (NY). No discernible trend was found in the remaining portion of Lake Champlain including Missisquoi Bay, Missisquoi River, Lamoille River, Poultney River, Boquet River, AuSable River (NY), Salmon River (NY), Saranac River (NY) and Little Chazy River (Smeltzer, 2004).

The decreasing in phosphorous loading from Otter Creek is probably a result of waste water treatment plant upgrades in Rutland and Middlebury. Although phosphorus trends in these two surface waters show improvement, neither river is meeting the State Water Quality Standard's criteria or targets.

The most difficult challenges facing the Lake Champlain Basin is controlling the non-point sources of nutrient loading including storm water from urban and suburban sources, agricultural runoff and stream-bank erosion.

This workshop is not the only source of information for the State of the Lake Report. LCBP is encouraging citizens of the basin to comment on how they interpret the state of the lake in the context of the key issues presented above. Public comments should be made in writing and sent to:

The Lake Champlain Basin Program  
54 West Shore Road  
Grand Isle, VT 05458  
Tel. 802/372-3213 or 800/468-5227  
Email. [lcbp@lcbp.org](mailto:lcbp@lcbp.org)