

the Monthly Update

a newsletter of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission

December 2000

Project Impact Summit 2000

Over 1500 Project Impact awardees from throughout the United States recently gathered in Washington D.C. to learn more about the grant process and to see what other communities are doing. ACRPC was represented at the summit by Adam Lougee, Kevin Behm and Tim Bouton, ACRPC's Project Impact Coordinator. ACRPC staff brought along some local food products courtesy of Shoreham Coop, Cabot Cheese, and Otter Creek Brewing to share at a Community Pride Social. The Vermont table was well received by all participants and FEMA Director James Lee Witt was particularly pleased with the Vermont maple syrup given by the Vermont contingent.

Workshops ranging from Community Risk Assessments and GIS to involving local officials and the media were led by previous Project Impact grantees. Possibly the most valuable advice given by all participants to the newly designated communities was "don't reinvent the wheel just try to improve on it." ACRPC staff has returned with a new appreciation of the grant program and of the importance of creating a "disaster resistant community" in Addison County.



FEMA Director James Lee Witt thanks ACRPC's Tim Bouton for his gift of homemade maple syrup at Project Impact's Summit 2000

To receive this newsletter by email, send a request to bsaxton@sover.net.

Meetings & Events

December

- 13 ACRPC Commission Meeting, Kirk Alumni Center, 7:30PM
- 20 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Painter House, Middlebury, 7:30PM
- 25 Christmas, Office closed
- 27 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM

January

- 1 New Year's Day, Office Closed
- 10 ACRPC Commission Meeting, Location TBA, 7:30PM
- 17 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Location TBA 7:30PM
- 31 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM

Mini-Grants for Watershed Associations

The Lake Champlain Basin Program has set aside funds for the professional development of staff and volunteers of qualified watershed associations and other water-related organizations. Mini-grants are available to cover expenses such as travel, meals, registration and accommodations at meetings, conferences, workshops and other venues designed to enhance the organization's capacity to operate.

Qualifying organizations should have a mission statement that includes natural resource stewardship specifically pertaining to water quality in the Basin. The professional development activities must be related to improving water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin or to strengthening the long-term operation of a local watershed group.

Applications are due at the end of each month, with awards announced shortly thereafter. Organizations are encouraged to submit their requests a month in advance. There is a \$1,000 annual cap per organization for these funds.

For more information contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program (655-6382) or ACRPC staff.

Recreation Trails Grant Program

The VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation has announced its 2001-2002 Recreation Trails Grant Program. There will be \$500,000 in state or federal funds available, requiring a minimum 20% local match. These grants will be awarded to municipalities and nonprofits to be spent on recreational trails.

There is also \$3,000 available for Mini-Grants of up to \$500, requiring no local match. These funds are available to local governments, community volunteer groups, educational institutions or nonprofits.

The Recreational Trails Grant monies can be used for maintenance on existing trails, restoration of areas damaged by use, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, providing trail access to people with disabilities, construction of new trails, trail-related maps and educational materials, trail protection, and the purchase of hand tools for trail work.

Applications are due on February 2, 2001. For more information contact Laurie Adams (241-3690 or ladams@fpr.anr.state.vt.us) or ACRPC staff.

Who's Planning for the Forests Contest

In hopes of finding out about and sharing what communities throughout the Northern Forest are doing to incorporate the forest resource into their planning, the National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region is sponsoring a contest. To enter, send in the sections of your town plan that specifically reference forests, forest products, or forest land. Prizes will be awarded and all entrants will receive a compilation of the submissions.

Submissions should include the relevant sections of your town plan, its date of adoption and a contact name, address and phone number. Entries should be sent to: National Community Forestry Center, c/o Yellow Wood Associates, 95 South Main Street, Suite 2, St. Albans, Vermont 05478-2209. Entries must be received by December 15. For more information, contact Shanna Ratner or Debra Mason at 800-727-5404.

Vermont Community Development Program

Approximately \$6.4 million in Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) funds will be available to municipalities through June 2001. These funds support projects addressing a wide variety of community development needs, including projects that benefit people of low to moderate income, preserve jobs, support affordable housing, improve public facilities or strengthen public services.

The program underwent a redesign that went into effect in November. The new application materials are now available. VCDP has developed an early notification form so communities can notify the Department of Housing and Community Affairs of potential projects. This form, along with a list of eligible projects, can be found on the Department's website (www.state.vt.us/dca/housing) and can be filed electronically.

The next application deadline is January 16 for Cycle II, with the deadline for Cycle IV on May 8 and an interim deadline for minor projects on March 13.

VCDP has scheduled an application workshop on Tuesday, December 12 in Montpelier. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be organized in two parts. The morning session will provide an overview of the new redesigned program and the afternoon session will be set up to give applicants an opportunity to receive technical assistance specific to their projects.

This workshop is for those planning to submit applications for the upcoming two cycles in March and April. Due to the redesign, VCDP strongly urges applicants to attend even if they are familiar with the program.

Registration is \$15/person before December 6 and \$25 after that date. VCDP recommends registering early, as they expect a high turnout and space is limited. Contact the ACRPC for a copy of the registration form. For further information call Cindy Blondin (828-5219) or the ACRPC.

UPCOMING Grant Deadlines

February

**Recreation Trails Grants, Forests,
Parks & Recreation**

**Urban & Community Forestry, Forests,
Parks & Recreation**

April

**Land & Water Conservation Fund,
Forests, Parks & Recreation**

**Bicycle & Pedestrian Construction &
Technical Assistance, Agency of
Transportation**

**Scenic Byways, Agency of Transpor-
tation**

May

**Public Lands Highways, Agency of
Transportation**