



# ACRPC

## update

December 2012

### Financing the Working Landscape Conference a Success

On Thursday, November 29th more than 100 entrepreneurs, service providers, capital providers, and representatives from many state and federal agencies participated in the 2nd annual *Financing the Working Landscape* conference. ACRPC partnered with Acorn and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation and received crucial support from six sponsors (National Bank of Middlebury, Co-Operative Insurance, People's United Bank, Yankee Farm Credit, VT Farm Viability Enhancement Program, and VT

Economic Development Authority) to create a day of networking, discussion, case studies, and education for agricultural, food, and forestry businesses, for regional capital providers, and for students. Representatives from across the capital continuum – local banks, VC's, community-based lenders, and federal and state agencies – heard pitches from several entrepreneurs and provided feedback to assist these early stage businesses seeking funding and solutions to their business challenges, and service providers.

The board of Vermont's *Working Lands Enterprise Fund* stood alongside Agency of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Jolinda LaClair as she announced nearly \$1 million in available grants for Vermont businesses (see article elsewhere in newsletter), which was made possible by the passing of Act 142 (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/Acts/ACT142.pdf>).

This event was rich with fresh ideas, burgeoning partnerships, and many opportunities for learning.

## Commission Calendar

Dec. 2012	12	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
	12	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barrack
	14	8:00-10:00am	Addison County Transit Resource
	19	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board (not confirmed)
	20	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District
	25		Office closed for the holiday
	Jan. 1		Office closed for the holiday

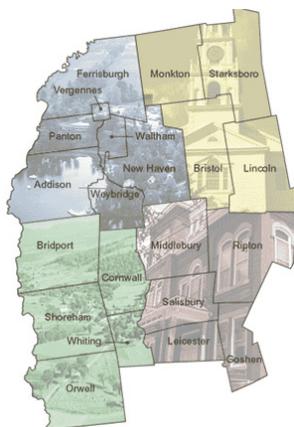
### Road Improvement Project *Rts 17 and 125 in Addison*

A road improvement project affecting the Town of Addison VT, in the County of Addison VT is beginning in November 2012 and will be completed in late June 2013. The Vermont Agency of Transportation and Peckham Road Corporation will be working together to complete the project.

The scheduled improvements will include resurfacing of 0.2 miles of roadway that includes 1,059 feet of portions of VT State Routes 17 and 125 and will include some new signage, new pavement markings,

*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.*

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
14 Seminary Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141  
Fax: 802.388.0038

# News / Grants

and drainage improvements. This project will also include the removal of the ferry access road, construction of a new boat launch, construction of two gravel parking lots, construction of walking paths and the reshaping of the Chimney Point driveway.

Message boards alerting motorists to possible road changes will be utilized in 2013 when work begins on Route 17 and 125. Project updates regarding the Town of Addison Improvement Project will be communicated regularly through local media channels. Project inquiries can be sent to [prevt@peckham.com](mailto:prevt@peckham.com).

## Vermont Noise Survey

Are you interested in environmental policy and regulations within your community and the State of Vermont and how it affects you, your organization, or your business? If so, please consider taking the Vermont Noise Survey:

<http://edu.surveygizmo.com/s3/1097289/4f63dbe88cb5>

The Vermont Noise Survey is part of a Master's thesis for the Environmental Studies program at Green Mountain College. The thesis deals with developing scientifically sound noise pollution policy for Vermont's rural land uses and communities. The thesis could potentially be used by state and local policy makers and land use planners to either improve existing noise policy or create new policy.

For additional information please email [gmcgradresearch@greenmtn.edu](mailto:gmcgradresearch@greenmtn.edu).

## Nearly \$1 Million in New Funding for Farm and Forest enterprises

*Application Due in January*

Last week at the Financing the Working Landscape in Middlebury, the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) announced the release of available grant funds to invest nearly \$1 million into agricultural, forestry and forest product enterprises and organizations.

Applications are available at [www.vermontworkinglands.com](http://www.vermontworkinglands.com), along with tools and resources to assist applicants. Agriculture, forestry, and forest products investments will be made in the following areas:

**Enterprise Investments** \$3,000-\$15,000 grants, required minimum 25% cash match. Application deadline January 24. Agriculture, Forestry and Forest Products Enterprise Investments are available to new or growing businesses (including farm and/or forest landowners), Partnerships, Limited Liability Corporations, Sole Proprietorships, Cooperatives, Corporations, S Corporations, L3Cs, and B Corporations and/or non profits that are involved in the production of agriculture and/or forest related products.

**Working Lands Service Provider Grants** \$10,000 – \$100,000 grants, required minimum 50% cash and in-kind match. *Application deadline January 4.* Agriculture, Forestry and Forest Products Service Provider Grants are available to non-profit organizations, associations, colleges or universities, private sector or partnership groups.

**Capital and Infrastructure Investments** \$15,000 – \$100,000 grants, required minimum 1:1 match (in-kind and at least 50% cash). Application deadline January 4. Capital and Infrastructure Investment grants are available to agricultural and/or forestry and forest products based businesses (including farm and forest landowners) and non-profit organizations (e.g., food hubs, farmers' markets, shared processing facilities), for capital investments that will increase operational capacity and have an impact on their industry beyond their immediate business.

Visit [www.vermontworkinglands.com](http://www.vermontworkinglands.com) for details. The fund is directed by the WLEB and is administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. For additional information, contact Noelle Sevoian, Working Lands Development Coordinator, at [noelle.sevoian@state.vt.us](mailto:noelle.sevoian@state.vt.us) or 802.585.9072.

# Grants

## **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

*Deadline for the 4th round is February 1, 2013*

The state of Vermont received a federal disaster declaration for damages resulting from the high wind and flooding events which occurred in May, 2012. The state also received additional mitigation funding in connection with the disaster declared last year due to tropical storm Irene.

In addition to FEMA Public Assistance, there are additional federal mitigation funds available to all Vermont towns through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS) is now accepting HMGP applications from towns and agencies in all Vermont counties in connection with the most recent disasters. The HMGP program is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is administered by Emergency Management. Federal funds are available to cover up to 75% of project costs; however, there is a 25% local match requirement that is the responsibility of the applicant.

Typical hazard mitigation projects would include: repair and mitigation of local roads and bridges, home acquisition (buy-out), structural elevations or relocations, replacement of undersized culverts, remediation of stream bank erosion, etc. Flood insurance rates are scheduled to be increased in January, 2013: this is an opportunity for repetitive loss structures, businesses, and other buildings located in the 100-year flood plain to consider elevation, relocation or acquisition.

If you wish to apply for an HMGP grant, please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Emergency Management by January 18, 2013. The LOI should include a brief description of your proposal and the total estimated cost of your project.

Download the HMGP application at [vem.vermont.gov](http://vem.vermont.gov) or contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for an application. Contact Tim Bouton at ACRPC (388-3141 or [tbouton@acrpc.org](mailto:tbouton@acrpc.org)) with questions.

## **USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loans and Grants**

*Applications Due January 13, 2013*

Community Facilities serves non-profits and public bodies. Loans and grants can be used to renovate, repair, purchase or construct buildings which house community services or purchase equipment for the facilities.

Benefits of the Communities Facilities program include:

- Low Interest Rate Loans: Rates currently 3.5%
- Some loan terms can be as long as 30 years: Predictable Affordable Payments
- No pre-payment penalties: Flexibility

Projects that will receive priority this year are:

- Library or educational construction projects
- Projects that support local food security or food systems such as food pantries or farmer's markets
- Health information technology projects
- Child care and pre-school projects (Additional grant money is available from Washington, DC)
- Energy efficiency improvement projects

*"The Upper Valley Educators Institute is very appreciative of the efforts of the USDA Community Facilities Program to enable us to acquire and renovate a facility for our first 'home of our own' after 40 years of renting. At every stage of the process, the USDA folks have been at our side, offering guidance, expertise and support. We couldn't have done it without them." - Rob Fried, Executive Director, UVEI*

To find out more, contact Karen Lynch (802-828-6044 or [Karen.Lynch@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Karen.Lynch@vt.usda.gov)) or visit [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF\\_CF.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html). Application available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/VTNH-ComFacLoan-Grant.html>