

ACRPC News



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

February 2003

ACRPC Utilities, Facilities & Services Committee Update

ACRPC's Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee has completed a draft of the first of four subsections of the Utilities, Facilities and Services Section of the Regional Plan. That first subsection covers the topics of water supply, wastewater and solid waste.

Copies of the draft will be available for public comment shortly. The draft will be distributed at upcoming Full Commission meetings and will be placed on the commission's website.

The committee expects the process of revising this sizable portion of the Regional Plan to continue throughout 2003. The next subsection to be worked on covers health and safety topics including; healthcare, human services, law enforcement and criminal justice, fire protection and rescue services, and emergency management.

The committee meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the ACRPC office. For more information contact either Brandy Saxton (bsaxton@sover.net) or Tim Bouton (tbouton@sover.net) at 388-3141.

319 Funding Available for Impaired Waters

The Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking interested parties to apply for federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funding to assist in the management and control of nonpoint sources of pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is the primary source of impairment in Vermont's surface and groundwater. The goal of 319 funding is to support restoration and implementation of activities in priority watersheds. Priority watersheds are impaired or threatened by NPS pollution or are addressed by an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

In the Addison Region, sections of Otter Creek, Middlebury River and Lewis Creek are impaired as a result of NPS pollution and eligible for 319 funding..

Eligible types of NPS management or implementation activities include; demonstration projects, watershed resource restoration, enforcement, technical or financial assistance and monitoring.



A non-federal match is required for all NPS activities funded under this program. Proposal requests cannot exceed

\$50,000 unless submitted as multi-year projects.

Proposals are due Friday, February 21, 2003. Please contact Nell Fraser, ACRPC Watershed Planner, for more detail regarding eligible projects, evaluation criteria and a copy of the work plan format. (nfraser@sover.net or 388-3141).

February

Calendar

March

- 12 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Kirk Alumni, Middlebury College.
- 17 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 19 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 26 10:00 a.m. Addison County Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Vergennes Rescue Building.
- 26 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

- 12 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.
- 17 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 18 3:00 p.m. Economic Committee. ACRPC Office.
- 19 7:30 p.m. Local Gov't Committee. Waltham Town Office.
- 19 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 26 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

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Addison County Regional
Planning Commission

79 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Ph. 802.388.3141

Fx. 802.388.0038

www.acrpc.org

Emergency Planning Grants Being Sought in the Region

At the January meeting of the Addison County Emergency Planning (ACEP), members decided to pursue grant opportunities to assist them in the launch of several projects in the coming year.

The first project is designed to create Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The program is an offshoot of the Citizen Corps launched by President Bush after 9-11 and is designed to develop a force of 400,000 volunteers who can be mobilized to assist in the event of a disaster.



Volunteers will be recruited and trained in basic emergency management, shelter operations, damage assessment, volunteer coordination, and other valuable skills that are designed to free up first responders during a disaster.

Members of the group would be available to assist town officials in their recovery efforts and be prepared to interact directly with FEMA or Red Cross officials. ACEP members formed a sub-committee to apply for a grant and to oversee training efforts in the region.

A second grant request from ACEP will be directed at available Haz-Mat planning funds. The grant, if awarded will be used to con-

duct a survey to determine the amounts and types of hazardous materials transported on the region's highways. For a 24-hour period, recorders would track size and placard numbers of all truck traffic in the region. This data will be valuable in planning for the region's haz-mat response capacity.

A related request will support a county-wide disaster drill slated for this May to be held at Addison County Field Days in New Haven. The drill, being designed by local first responders with the assistance of VT Emergency Management, will test communications, crowd control, Incident Command and interoperability between the area's first responders.

Volunteers are currently being recruited to be victims or onlookers to help play out the scenario. If interested, contact Tim Bouton (tbouton@sover.net) at ACRPC.

Backyard Bird Count

The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 14-17, will focus on the effects of these threats, bring conservation home by telling participants what they can do to help, and add vital new information to our understanding of our birds and their environment.

The GBBC asks families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days.

Instructions can be found at www.birdsource.org. For more information contact Bridget Butler at Audubon Vermont, at 802-434-3068



2003 Fire Grants Announced

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced another round of their FIRE grant program for 2003.

The program, which awarded Addison, Bridport and Shoreham fire departments over \$70,000 in 2002 grant funds, is scheduled to launch again in March.

Available funds this year have been estimated at more than double what has been awarded in the past.

The past two years of FIRE grants awarded funds to: (1) train firefighting personnel; (2) establish wellness and fitness programs for firefighting personnel; (3) buy firefighting vehicles, including fire trucks; (4) buy firefighting equipment, including equipment for communications and monitoring; (5) buy personal protective equipment; (6) fund fire prevention programs.



As in the past, both Brandy and Tim will be available during the application period to assist local fire departments develop their requests.