



ACRPC

update

June 2007

commission calendar

June	13	6:00 pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Mtg. Location: ACRPC Office
	13	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Courtyard Marriott in Middlebury
	16	11:15 am	Vermont Land Trust Annual Celebration Registration deadline: June 11 Location: Shleburne Farms Information: www.vlt.org
	20	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Special Guest: Secretary of Transportation Neil Lunderville See next page for information Location: Jury Room, Addison County Courthouse
	27	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
July	11	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBD
	18	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	18	9:00 am	Advancing Vermont's Creative Economy Location: State House, Montpelier More info: www.vtrural.org
	25	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.

For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

ACRPC Awarded \$200,000 for Brownfield Assessments

On May 15, ACRPC was awarded a second \$200,000 EPA brownfields assessment grant. The grant will help pay to assess parcels where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse is complicated by the real or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

The 2007 grant award will expand ACRPC's current brownfields program beyond. The new grant will fund assessment at sites contaminated by a variety of hazardous substances not covered under the petroleum grant.

ACRPC is one of 294 EPA brownfields grant recipients in 2007, and was selected from over 800 applicants across the country. Five other regional planning commissions in Vermont also received brownfields assessment grants from EPA this year.

Brownfields assessments leverage resources for redevelopment, promoting reinvestment in town centers and helps reduce sprawl. In addition to facilitating industrial and commercial redevelopment, brownfields projects have converted industrial waterfronts to riverfront parks, rail corridors to recreational trails, and gas station sites to housing. EPA estimates that every acre of reclaimed brownfields saves 4.5 acres of greenspace. We look forward to putting these funds to work in our communities.

Harvey Smith to Head Farm Service Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns appointed Harvey Smith as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Vermont. In this role, Mr. Smith will oversee programs designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry in Vermont.

Harvey is a delegate to ACRPC from New Haven, a previous Chair of the ACRPC, and currently heads the Energy Committee. In addition to farming in New Haven for over three decades, Harvey has served as state representative for Addison-5 district and was a member of the House Agriculture Committee. Harvey is the President of the Addison County Farm Bureau and also serves as a member of the UVM Extension Advisory Board, Agri-Mark/Cabot Cooperative, the Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Business Management Committee of the Dairy Task Force. (cont'd on next page)

Smith to Head Farm Service Agency

(cont'd from front page) FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international export credit programs.

Congratulations Harvey!

Secretary of Transportation at June TAC

June 20, 7:00 pm

Jury Room, Addison County Courthouse

Secretary of Transportation Neil Lunderville will be attending the June Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to discuss local, regional, and state transportation issues. This is a good opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns that you may have. Contact Richard Kehne at ACRPC (388-3141 or rkehne@sover.net) for more info.

Cornwall Route 30/125 Bike-Pedestrian Study

In 2005, ACRPC contracted to have a Feasibility Study completed to identify preferred alternatives for bike/ped access between Cornwall and Middlebury along VT 30 and VT 125. Many options were considered, and shared use shoulders along both routes were identified as the preferred alternative. Since then, the Cornwall/Middlebury Path Committee was formed to keep this project moving forward. Due to over-all project cost, the committee is trying to break the project into manageable pieces. ACRPC is currently funding a supplemental study that will identify specific safety "hot spots" in the project area, and make recommendations for upgrading. Contact ACRPC's Rick Kehne at 388-3141 or rkehne@sover.net for info.

Introduction to Computer Mapping GIS Summer Course

August 8 and 15 in Montpelier and August 22 and 29 in Rutland

This course will provide training in basic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) knowledge and skills to municipal officials and volunteers in Vermont. Participants do not need to have any prior experience using GIS.

Using free software (ArcExplorer) participants will explore mapping options and resources that they can continue to use when they return to their town office. Exercises and supplemental information will be tailored to participants' interests and needs.

The course will cost \$50 and will be offered in Montpelier and Rutland. Each course consists of two classes - 4 hours each. See dates and locations below. Please visit the website or contact Leslie Pelch for more information and to register for the course. <http://www.vcgi.org> or 882-3002 or lesliep@vcgi.org.

Montpelier (133 State St.)

August 8 and 15: 12:30 to 4:30

Rutland (Stafford Technical Center)

August 22 and 29: 12:30 to 4:30

ACRPC Awarded Funds for HazMat Study

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) through VT Emergency Management recently awarded ACRPC a \$3,500 matching grant to upgrade Hazardous Materials planning in the Addison Region. This award will provide funds to review and correct 2006 Tier II reports, which are submitted annually by any business that stores reportable quantities of hazardous chemicals.

The Tier II reports are sent to the state and to local fire departments so they may have advance knowledge of hazards they might face in a fire at the facility. The review will also seek to determine if any relevant businesses are not reporting. If appropriate, those businesses will be encouraged to begin the reporting process. Results of this review will be incorporated into the current rewrite of the region's HazMat plan. For further information, contact: Tim Bouton 388-3141 or tbouton@sover.net

Additional Ancient Roads Grant Applicants to Receive Funding

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) has sent a mailing to towns that had applied for the Ancient Roads Municipal Grant but were not funded. The Legislature has appropriated \$200,000 for the Ancient Roads Research and Mapping Grant Program. These funds will be used to support the existing pool of unfunded 2007 grant applicants.

The Department intends to distribute these funds equally among the existing pool of unfunded FY '07 applicants. The exact amount will depend upon the number of towns that respond to the DHCA announcement. Grant funds will be awarded to those FY '07 applicants who have submitted the appropriate documentation to the DHCA Planning Division **by June 15th, 2007**. Please see the mailing to find that documentation, or contact DHCA's Sue Minter at sue.minter@state.vt.us.

Note that the Legislature also appropriated \$75,000 in funds for FY '08. Applications for these new funds will be mailed to towns later this summer.

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.