

ACRPC News

March 2002



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, and (4) include your Rapid Response Emergency Plan also to be reviewed for changes. We have tried our best to streamline this annual update process and appreciate your efforts in responding.

LCBP Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) has announced its 2002 Local Implementation Grants. This year the LCBP will award over \$150,000 to support community involvement in the implementation of the lake's management plan, *Opportunities for Action*.

This year there will be three types of grants available to local governments, educational institutions, conservation districts and nonprofit organizations in the Lake Champlain Basin. The application deadline is **April 5** and all grant types require a 25% match.

Two of the three grant programs will provide funding of up to \$5,000. Organiza-

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Vote on Regional Plan Still Pending Due to Lack of Attendance at Last Two Meetings

ACRPC has completed several updates to the Regional Plan and will be trying to vote on the adoption of those amendments and then the readoption of the entire plan at its March meeting.

According to state statute, the plan or amendments must be adopted by a minimum **60 percent vote** of the commissioners representing a majority of the municipalities.

This means that **23 votes from commissioners representing 11 municipalities** are required to pass an amendment or readopt the plan.

There are currently 38 voting seats on the commission. However, there are only 29 delegates and 19 alternates named.

In January, there were 18 commission members present and in February there were only 15 voting members in attendance. So, a vote could not be held.

At February's meeting all delegates were reminded that if they were unable to attend, they should contact their alternate to attend in their place.

The plan amendments were mailed out to all commission members and to municipalities with November's monthly mailing.

The plan sections are also available for review at the ACRPC office or online (http://www.acrpc.org/pages/publications/reg_plan.htm).

March

Calendar

April

- 12** 5:00 p.m. Fire Grant Open House. ACRPC Office.
- 13** 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Kirk Alumni Center
- 14** 5:00 p.m. Fire Grant Open House. ACRPC Office.
7:00 p.m. Lewis Creek Association Watershed Assessment Presentation. Charlotte Town Hall.
- 20** 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 27** 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

- 5** Lake Champlain Basin Program Local Implementation Grants Due.
- 8** Bike-Ped Grant Applications Due.
- 10** 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.
- 17** 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 24** 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

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Fire Grant Workshops

FEMA will be making grants to local fire departments again this year. \$360 million will be available in Fire Act Grants nationally in 2002.

Grants will be awarded in the following categories: (1) emergency medical services; (2) fire operations and firefighter safety; (3) fire prevention programs; and (4) vehicles.

As was the case last year, awards will be determined by a panel of reviewers and will be very dependent on the quality of your application.

The application period opens March 1 and closes on April 1. Unlike last year, FEMA will require online submission of grant applications.

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission is willing assist local departments with their applications.

Like last year, we are planning to have two open house sessions. We will have computers set up here at our office during those sessions to compose and file applications. The two open house sessions will be held from **5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 12 and 14.**

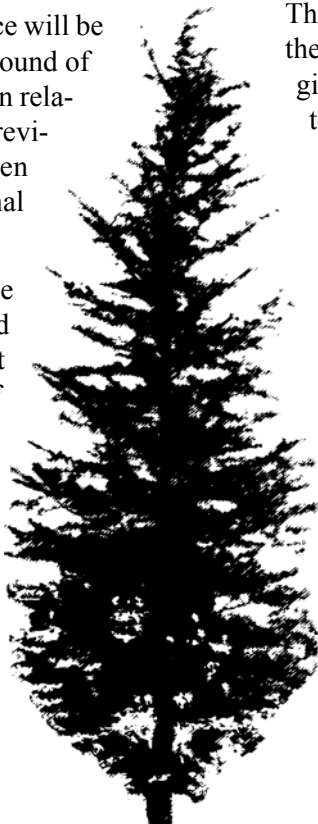
Appointments can also be scheduled with either Tim Bouton (tbouton@sover.net) or Brandy Saxton (bsaxton@sover.net) (388-3141) if those times do not work for you.

Please feel free to contact either of us during the month with any questions that arise as you are working on your applications.

Green Mountain National Forest Plan Revision Process Continues

The Forest Service will be holding another round of public meetings in relation to the plan revision for the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF).

There will be five meetings held throughout March. One of these sessions on the role of the forest will be held in the **Bristol Town Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21.**



The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the role of the GMNF in the state, regional and town contexts and to come to agreement on some of the roles the GMNF should play in the future.

At this session, the Forest Service will also present some changes to the plan revision process that are a response to public input received during the round of meetings held last fall.

For more information call Melissa Reichert at 802-747-6754 or visit the Forest Service website (www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm).

LCBP Grants, Con't

tion Support Grants are intended to support increased organizational capacity and long-term effectiveness of watershed organizations working to implement elements of the *Opportunities for Action*.

Partnership Grants will fund smaller projects that emphasize community partnerships. These projects may address any of the priorities identified in the *Opportunities for Action*.

The third grant category is the Annual Priorities Grants. These grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. They will fund larger projects that address one or more of the following priority areas:

- (1) enhancing stream or riparian areas for pollution control or habitat protection;
- (2) promoting pollution prevention for toxic substances;
- (3) reducing human health risks from waterborne bacteria or pathogens;
- (4) reducing nonpoint source inputs of phosphorus and toxic substances from developed areas.

For more information contact the LCBP (800-468-5227 or lcbp@lcbp.org) or ACRPC (Brandy Saxton or Hilary Spitz 388-3141).

Lewis Creek Association Watershed Assessment

Lewis Creek Association (LCA) has completed the first year of a study assessing the fluvial geomorphic condition of Lewis Creek and the river's ability to maintain dynamic stability. This study will help LCA understand and prioritize conservation and restoration activities to better serve its communities.

The results of this study will be presented at the Charlotte Town Hall on March 14 at 7 p.m. For more information contact Marty Illick (Scottpond@aol.com).