

commission calendar

March	8	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College Campus
	14	7:00 p.m. Local Gov't Committee Location: Bridport Town Office Agenda: Bridport Plan Review
	15	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	16	7:00 p.m. VLCT: Writing Effective Zoning Decisions Location: Vermont Interactive Site Hannaford Career Center 51 Charles Ave, Middlebury
	29	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	30	7:00 p.m. Hearing on Proposed Rules for Construction of Electric and Gas Facilities Location: Vermont Interactive Site 451 Lawrence Place, Williston
April	12	8:00 a.m. Town Officer's Education Conference Location: Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington
	12	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College Campus
	13	9:00 a.m. Vermont GIS Expo Location: Wyndham Hotel, Burlington Information: http://www.vcgi.org/
	19	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee 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.

New Staff Planner On Board at ACRPC

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has hired Jeff Owen as its new Staff Planner. Jeff previously worked as a regional planner in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom from 2000 to 2003. There he worked with municipalities on town planning and grant-writing, transportation planning, and updated portions of the regional plan.

From 2003 to 2005 Jeff worked in Romania as a Peace Corps volunteer, where he assisted non-profits and the local government on a variety of development issues, and met his Hungarian-Romanian wife Csilla Zold.

Jeff has a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts. While earning that degree, he worked for the regional planning commissions of Cape Cod and the Berkshires, and for a non-profit development company in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Jeff was born in New London, Connecticut, where his parents worked for General Dynamics building nuclear submarines for the Navy. After attending the University of Connecticut, Jeff moved to the Boston area to work as a homebuyers' representative. In his spare time Jeff mountain bikes, hikes and fishes. He can be reached at 388-3141 or jowen@sover.net.

Incident Command System / National Incident Management System Training

The Police Academy and Fire Academy in Pittsford have been given funds to provide ICS/NIMS training free of charge to groups who request it. ACRPC Emergency Planner Tim Bouton has been trained to give instruction under the auspices of the Police Academy and is willing to provide a base level of training to groups who request it. Classes must be open to the public, have a minimum of 15 enrollees and should probably not exceed 30 students. This base level of instruction takes about 4 hours and can be broken into smaller blocks as needed. To find out more call Tim Bouton 388-3141 or tbouton@sover.net.

Otter Creek Basin Planning

On Feb 9th, 2006 the Otter Creek Basin Planning Advisory Committee held a public meeting at Ilsley Library to discuss local river management issues. The issues presented by various VTDEC staff and Kristen Underwood of South Mountain Research and Consulting included river corridor planning on the New Haven River and Lewis Creek, stream geomorphic assessments, Fluvial Erosion Hazard mapping and presentation of the draft River Management Section white paper which will be included in the Otter Creek Basin Plan.

A Phase One Assessment has been conducted on all major river systems in Addison County except for Dead Creek. Phase Two and Three Assessments have been completed on local waters as well. These protocols study the channel evolution process and the results guide an Alternatives Analysis, which in turn guides the chosen management activity. River Corridor Management (RCM) staff emphasized that the RCM program's primary funding is to improve water quality rather than protect property. Staff presented other grant programs that can fund property protection projects.

Ty Mack of VTDEC presented an overview of Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) mapping. An FEH addresses channel migration and erosion hazards which are not identified through traditional National Flood Insurance Program inundation maps. If a municipality chooses to adopt an FEH, there are funding incentives available for disaster recovery and mitigation.

The Draft River Corridor Management Section of the Otter Creek Basin Plan is available at ACRPC offices. As part of the Otter Creek Basin Plan, it will provide permitting guidance to ANR and will also guide regional planning and municipal planning and zoning.

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.

New Safe Routes to School Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is in the process of implementing a new statewide program called Safe Routes to School (SR2S), which is intended to benefit children in primary and middle schools (K-8) walking and biking to school: regularly, routinely, and safely. The Vermont SR2S program will provide support in the form of funding and services to participating schools around the state. Schools will conduct self-assessments, actively promote walking and bicycling by students, and will identify infrastructure projects to make walking and bicycling safer.

It is anticipated that this spring, VTrans will send out a solicitation to schools in Vermont to sign up for support with their non-infrastructure SR2S activities. These activi-

ties would most likely be initiated with the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year. If you have any questions about the Vermont Safe Routes to School program, contact Richard Kehne, Transportation Planner at Addison Regional Planning Commission (802-388-3141); or Jon Kaplan, VTrans Safe Routes to School Coordinator (802/828-0059 or by e-mail at jon.kaplan@state.vt.us.)

HELP WANTED

The Cornwall Planning Commission is looking for a secretary to take minutes, help with mailings, and other administrative duties. The Planning Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday and Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Pay is +/- \$10 per hour. Experience preferred. Call Bruce Buyers at 462-3677 for more information.

Grant Funding

Trees for Local Communities

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is offering cost-sharing grants of up to \$4,000 for tree plantings, maintenance, education, or planning. Municipalities, community tree boards, educational institutions, and non-profit groups are eligible for funding. The state/local cost-share is 50/50. A \$200 mini-grant with no local match is also available for single tree purchases, Arbor Day activities, training, and the purchase of reference material. Applications must be postmarked or emailed by **March 20, 2006**. Grant applications are available at: Urban and Community Forestry Program, 103 South Main Street, 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601, or call (802) 241-3678. You may also download a grant application www.vtcommunityforestry.org.

Watershed Grant

The Waterwheel Foundation is accepting grant proposals for 2006. There is no grant application and **no due date**, but submitting a letter explaining your organization and the funding purpose by this spring is suggested. Any watershed organization can request the \$2,000 maximum grant amount and there are no reporting requirements. Please send a letter or contact Beth for more information at: Beth Montuori Rowles, 33 Main Street, Suite 5, Burlington, VT 05401, beth@phish.com.

HP Technology For Communities

The HP Technology for Community Grant Initiative will provide technology tools to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations operating in health and human services, workforce development, environment, arts and technology, and/or community/economic development. In 2006 HP will award organizations an HP wireless technology package valued at approximately \$17,000. The deadline for applications is **March 22, 2006**. To apply for the grant, an organization must be registered at TechSoup Stock (<http://www.techsoup.org/>) and must complete the qualification form. For more information see the grant guide at the HP Web site <http://www.hp.com/>.

Agricultural Mgt. Assistance

The USDA's Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program provides 75/25 cost-share assistance, up to \$50,000 per year, for agricultural producers to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. Application are due **April 3, 2006**. For more information, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama/> or contact the Middlebury NRCS office at 388-6746.