



ACRPC

update March 2010

Legislative Breakfasts Scheduled Starting at 7:00 am, unless noted

March 1	American Legion, Vergennes
March 8	Whiting Town Hall
March 15	Bridport Community Hall
	Agriculture Lunch at noon
March 22	Governor's Breakfast
	American Legion, Bristol
March 29	American Legion, Middlebury
April 5	Congregational Church, Shoreham
April 12	Congregational Church, Weybridge

Join our legislatures for discussion and breakfast.

Commission Calendar

March	8	7-9	Energy Committee
	10	4:00	ACRWC
	10	7:00	VLCT VIT Workshop on Census Data at MUHS VIT Lab
	10	7:30	Full Commission
	16	7:30 AM	Strategic Planning Committee
	16	7:00	ACORN Annual Meeting
	17	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	18	7:00	ACSWMD
	23	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	25	7:00	Mitigating Climate Change
April	30	7:00	ACORN Video Discussion: Crash Course
	31	6:30	Executive Board
	5	7:00	Energy Committee
	8	7:00	ACORN Video Discussion: Crash Course
	13	7:00	ACORN Video Discussion: Crash Course
	14	7:30	Full Commission
	15	7:30 AM	ACEDC Board Meeting
	20	7:30 AM	Strategic Planning Committee
	21	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	22	7:00	Integrating Design-Build for Energy Savings for Non-Residential Buildings
27	7:00	Natural Resources Committee	
28	6:30	Executive Board	

Meetings are held in the evening at ACRPC and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Program: Public Transportation in Addison County Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

This month ACRPC is pleased to have Jim Moulton, the Executive Director of Addison County Transit Resources ("ACTR"), speak with us about:

1. ACTR's new routes, which just came on line on Monday, March 6th
2. Service to and from New York
3. ACTR's proposed new transit facility and
4. Other transit/park and ride related issues within the region

ACTR has been adding riders and services consistently since Jim took over as Director and is the model transportation provider in Vermont. Please join us for an informative discussion about public transportation in Addison County. ACTR's new route schedules will be distributed. The public is invited to attend our monthly presentations and Full Commission Meetings. For more information, contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 or alougee@sover.net.

Legislative Trip to Montpelier for Benson, Orwell, Shoreham, and Whiting residents

Representative Will Stevens has organized a bus trip to Montpelier for Tuesday, March 9 for a full day of events, including meeting with the Governor and the Speaker, a dedication of the portrait of Levi P. Morton (arguably Shoreham's most famous native son), and viewing floor action in the House and Senate. Due to several businesses who are helping to underwrite the expense of the trip, the cost is only \$5.00 per person. The bus will leave the Halfway House Restaurant at 7:30 am and return at 5:30 pm. To save a space, call Will at home at 897-7031.

Mitigating Climate Change Program Thursday, March 25 at 7 PM

Patrick Parenteau of Vermont Law School will share his insight into the hard truths: what's really required to save the planet and his ten year mitigation plan.

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.

Events

**VLCT Workshop:
Data Resources Your Town Needs
for Comprehensive Planning
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7 PM
Delivered Via Vermont Interactive Television**

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in land use planning and regulation.

Registration information: \$45.00 VLCT PACIF members, \$55.00 VLCT members, \$75.00 Non-members.

Visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/ to register online, or fax your registration to (802) 229-2211. If you need registration materials please call 1-800-649-7915.

Presented by Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions.

PRESENTATIONS:

Getting the Picture: Incorporating Community Data into the Town Plan by Will "Chip" Sawyer of the UVM Center for Rural Studies. Will manages the website Vermont Indicators Online and provides technical assistance to Census Bureau data users. These two sources of information are integral to the municipal comprehensive planning effort, which includes understanding population growth and demographics, analyzing the local economy, addressing housing needs, gaining insight on energy use, and understanding how your community relates to the region. He will lead us on a tour of interesting community data resources and provide specific ways to use and analyze this information when planning for your town's future.

Using Existing Natural Resource Data to Develop a Natural Resource Inventory by Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Community Wildlife Program, Vt. Fish and Wildlife Dept. Jens provides natural resource planning assistance to planning commissioners across Vermont and offers both practical guidance and resource data to help advance town conservation policy. His message stresses the importance of outlining conservation goals, and how to use data appropriately and implement policy. In this session, we will learn about the Community Wildlife Program in the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and where to find and how to use existing natural resource data to create a natural resource inventory to help communities set conservation goals.

Help is on the Way from Your Regional Planning Commission by Steve Schild, the GIS Manager with the RPPC. Steve will provide a brief overview of some of the free technologies and GIS information that can be provided by your RPC, in particular the Interactive Map Viewer, ANR Environmental Interest Locator, Google Maps and Google Earth., as well as other data resources.

**Full Moon Workout
to Benefit the Middlebury Area Land Trust**

WHAT: This will be a safe guided hike through Chipman Hill with body resistance exercises performed along the way. ³/₄ of the way through we will have a group stretch session and core workout. The workout/hike ends back where we started.

WHERE: Top of Springside Road, Middlebury, VT.

WHEN? March 30th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm (Repeated Monthly) Show up at 15 minutes early to register.

WHO: All levels of health, open-minded folks looking for a fun, structured, adventurous, memorable workout!

BRING: Water, fruit, comfortable/warm clothing that may get dirty.

INSTRUCTOR: Nick Lynch, International Sports Science Association fitness trainer and specialist in sports conditioning.

COST: \$10.00 per person, group discounts available.

PROCEEDS: Middlebury Area Land Trust.

CONTACT: info@imsuperb.com or call Nick Lynch at 802-377-5808.

**ACORN Spring Video Series: The Crash Course
March 30, April 6 and 13 at 7 PM
at ACRPC**

The ACORN Network will present Chris Martenson's "Crash Course" on three Tuesday nights: March 30, April 6 and April 13. The meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the ACRPC. The Crash Course looks at several areas that are important to our current situation: economy, energy and environment. Martenson has spent several years compiling this information and creating an informative and compelling presentation that has been viewed by thousands of people around the world. We will watch a high-definition DVD followed by a short discussion period. The Course is in three sections. On March 30 we'll watch and discuss "Foundational Information and Money"; on April 6, "Economy;" and on April 13, "Energy, Environment and Integration." For more information, contact Ron Slabaugh at 388-9857 or ron.slabaugh@gmail.com.

**Statewide Food Summit
April 10, 2010
Rutland Middle School**

The purpose of the summit is to bring together stakeholders from the whole state to review and vet the draft plan goals and provide specific feedback to guide final drafting of the Farm to Plate strategic plan. An inspirational keynote speaker will begin the day and many breakout sessions will be organized to seek feedback on draft recommendations. Registration required - \$10 suggested donation to help cover costs - lunch served. Please email heather@vsjf.org to register. For more information, go to:

www.vsjf.org/project-details/5/farm-to-plate-initiative

Green Mountain Club's Centennial Celebration

Come celebrate GMC's actual birthday at the Doubletree Inn in South Burlington. Festivities will include slideshow presentations, a cash bar, snacks and of course a birthday cake. It is rumored that James P. Taylor may make a special appearance.

WHAT: GMC's 100th Birthday Party
WHEN: Thursday, 3/11/2010 - 6 pm
WHERE: Doubletree Inn, South Burlington, Vermont
SUGGESTED DONATION:\$10
RSVP: gmcevents@greenmountainclub.org

Community Facilities Funding Opportunity For Farmer's Markets

Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, has identified local farmers markets as a way to stimulate farm business, rural economies and increase awareness and consumption of locally produced food. He identified USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Program as a possible funding source to assist Farmers Market organizations with their facility needs. The Program offers direct and guaranteed loans and grants designed to finance and facilitate the development of over 80 different types of essential community facilities serving rural areas. These facilities include, but are not limited to, hospitals, elderly care facilities, child care centers, fire and rescue stations, vocational and medical rehabilitation centers, schools, public transportation infrastructure, and farmer's markets.

Eligible applicants include rural communities and non-profit organizations. Loans are made at below-market, fixed interest rates. Grants are limited to projects with high financial need that serve low income communities. Eligible expenses include land acquisition, construction of facilities, necessary professional fees, and equipment.

KEY PROGRAM POINTS ARE:

They do not fund the individual market stalls, tables, or signage for individual farmers.

Loan and Loan guarantees are available to all communities of 20,000 or less in population.

Contact your local Rural Development Office regarding grant eligible service areas. Please visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt/vtstaff.htm to find an office near you.

Grants range from 15%-75% and require matching funds. Please visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt/vtnhcfgranteligibility.htm to see if your community is eligible for grant assistance.

Algae & Energy in the Northeast Conference March 17 & 18, 2010 Davis Center, UVM

Join your colleagues for a special two-day conference bringing together some of the foremost algae researchers and entrepreneurs in the country to present the current state and projected future of algae as a biofuel feedstock.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- * Overcoming challenges to algae feedstock production in northern climates
- * Algal harvesting, lipid (oil) extraction and biofuel conversion
- * Uses and markets for algal oil and by-products
- * Concurrent poster session featuring algae R&D projects

Registration for the 2-day conference is just \$85.00. College & University students can register for Free. (Walk up registration fee increases to \$100, if not preregistered by March 11).

For more information, go to: www.uvm.edu/~epscor/index.php?Page=events/2010_algae_for_energy_conference.php

Solar Farm Proposed for Ferrisburgh

Addison Solar Farm, LLC has filed a Petition for a Certificate of Public Good to the Vermont Public Service Board for the Ferrisburgh Solar Farm - a proposed one megawatt solar electric generation project on a part of a 16 acre undeveloped parcel of land, located at the southwest corner of Route 7 and Monkton Road in Ferrisburgh. According to the application, the expected net energy output is 1,200 megawatt hours of electricity per year - equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of roughly 170 homes, based upon the average residential electricity use in Vermont. Once constructed, the Project will be one of the largest solar energy installations in the State of Vermont and in the Northeast. The Project's location along Route 7 and its proximity to Vergennes Union High School offers an excellent opportunity to inform and educate the public about a form of commercial scale renewable energy that is new to Vermont. Consequently, the Project will include an education component through an information kiosk and associated parking, and education partnerships with VUHS.

The Project's equipment consists of individual polycrystalline solar photovoltaic panels, a metal support structure under the panels to create south facing collector arrays, electrical lines in underground conduit connecting the panels to the inverters and switch gear enclosure, and underground electrical lines from the interconnection transformer to the GMP distribution system. Approximately 5,200 individual 200-watt solar panels will be used, attached to a fixed mounting system. For more information, go to: <http://ferrisburghso->

Grants

VSJF Oilseed Crops & Commercial Biodiesel Production Grants

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs announces that new grants totaling \$125,000 will be made available for biofuels-related R&D and demonstration projects. These funds are the first in a series of competitive rounds of grant making that the VSJF will be conducting in 2010 as part of their Vermont Biofuels Initiative (VBI).

Any organization, farm, individual or business that maintains an active and physical presence within Vermont may submit an application. Individual farms or a group of neighboring farms or individuals and businesses working cooperatively are also encouraged to apply. The first round of grant making in 2010 is for the research and development of oilseed crop feedstocks, and/or the development of small-scale commercial oilseed and biodiesel processing facilities.

The VSJF is seeking proposals that will lead to increased acreage of oilseed crops (such as soybean, sunflower, canola) to be processed in-state for sustainable biodiesel for Vermont's farms and communities. Additionally, VSJF is seeking proposals that will develop a commercial biodiesel and/or oilseed processing facility (for feed) that serves the needs of multiple farms, and/or the surrounding community.

The deadline for proposal submission has been extended to March 29, 2010.

The full RFP, application, and instructions are available on the VSJF website at: www.vsjf.org/what-we-do/grants/apply

According to VSJF Executive Director, Ellen Kahler, "the purpose of the VBI is to foster the development of a viable biomass-to-biofuels industry in Vermont that uses local resources to help the state meet 25% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2025." The VBI was designed as a component of diversified, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy production and distribution in the state and supports the key priorities of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) multi-year Biomass Plan. The VBI is funded in large part through U.S. DOE grants, secured by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy.

Netaka White, Biofuels Director at VSJF, said that future competitive funding rounds will release an additional \$660,000 over the next 6 months for such projects as commercial biofuels expansion, algae feedstock R&D and demonstration projects, grass energy pelletization projects, and workforce training. "Oilseed and biodiesel production in Vermont are still new, and they're a good fit with rotational cropping of grains, grasses and corn. Volatility in fuel and feed costs are two variables in farming that these grants are helping to address," says White.

Municipal Planning Grants

MPGs will be offered again this year. MPG funds provide assistance for town planning and implementation. Information about the program is available online at: www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm. Municipalities may apply for any amount up to \$15,000 for single applications or up to \$25,000 for multi-town (consortia) projects. No local match is required. Approximately \$250,000 is available for grants statewide in FY10.

Priority will be given to the following types of projects this year:

- Update of municipal bylaws for the purpose of bringing bylaws into conformance with the municipal plan by 2011 as required in 24 VSA §4401 & §4481.

- Developing or updating a municipal plan that addresses pressing planning concerns in the community. (A recently expired plan or pending expiration of a plan alone is not considered a priority.)

- Studies or activities furthering growth center planning that will help meet requirements for designation [24 V.S.A. § 2791].

- Studies or activities leading to a Vermont Neighborhoods designation application [24 V.S.A. § 2791(15)].

Please review the Program Description at www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/MPGProgramDescription_FY10.pdf first for an overview of MPG program requirements and competitive criteria. Contact ACRPC Land Use Planner, Claire Tebbs at 388-3141 or ctebbs@sover.net for assistance.

Application Instructions are available at: www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/MPGApplicationInstructionsFY10.pdf. These will orient you to the online application process and provides tips on preparing a competitive application. You are encouraged to begin working on your application before the on-line application is available on March 15th. You can start by meeting with appropriate boards and consultants and your RPC, and developing your work plan and budget using the sample application at www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/SampleApplication10.doc as a reference.

Application dates:

March 15, 2010	- Online application website available
March 23	- Training on the online application system, noon - 1 pm
April 16	- Training on the online application system, noon - 1 pm
April 30	- Application due
Late May	- Grant decisions will be announced

To register for the training, go to <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/TrainingDates.pdf>. For questions about the MPG program, please email Wendy Tudor at wendy.tudor@state.vt.us or call: (802) 828-5249.