

the Monthly Update

a newsletter of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission

November 2001

Grant Opportunities

Vermont Watershed Grants

The Vermont Watershed Grant program application deadline is **October 26**. Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups are eligible to apply. Watershed Mini-Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 and are intended for small projects or a discreet portion of a larger effort. Watershed Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Applications are available from the Vermont Watershed Grants office 241-3777 or online at www.vtwaterquality.org/lakesgrants.htm.

Municipal Planning Grants

The Municipal Planning Grant application deadline was October 31. In the Addison Region, the municipalities of Leicester, Orwell and Vergennes applied for FY2002 Planning Grants.

The Municipal Planning Grant Program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

Meetings & Events

November

- 1 Transportation Enhancement Grant Application Deadline
- 14 ACRPC Full Commission Meeting, Kenyon Lounge, Middlebury College, 7:30 PM
- 21 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 28 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 30 Municipal Solid Waste Grant Application Deadline

December

- 12 ACRPC Full Commission Meeting, Location TBA, 7:30 PM
- 19 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 26 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM

Lake Champlain Basin Program Heritage Resources Workshop

The Lake Champlain Basin Program will be holding a series of workshops and public forums this fall on the topic of regional heritage resources. The goal of these meetings is to determine what sort of heritage tourism program would best meet the needs of the region.

A workshop will be held in Middlebury at the Kirk Alumni Center on **October 24, 1 to 4 PM**. The topic of this session will be Coordinating A Heritage Strategy for the Champlain-Richelieu Valley.

For information more information about the series of meetings contact Bill Howland of the Lake Champlain Basin Program at (802) 372-3213 or lcbp@anrmail.anr.state.vt.us.

Committee Appointments

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Staff: Garrett Dague

Chair: John Emerson

Dan Baker Tom Yager

Jim Peabody

others as appointed by towns

Act 250 Committee

Staff: Adam Lougee/Tim Bouton

Chair: Fred Dunnington

Ellen Kurrelmeyer Kent Wright Judy Kowalczyk

Tom Yager Thea Gaudette Bill McQuillan

David Smith

Local Government Committee

Staff: Brandy Saxton/Adam Lougee

Chair: Thea Gaudette

Ed Payne Joseph Kelley Joan Witteman

Jeff Dunham Ed Hanson Don Shall

Natural Resources Committee

Staff: Kevin Behm/Tim Bouton

Chair: David Raphael

Alan Karnatz Tom Yager David King

Harvey Smith Bill Sayre

Housing/Economic Development Committee

Staff: Brandy Saxton

Chair: Peter Grant

Jeanne Montross David Smith Bill Sayre

George Foster Linda Stearns Jim Peabody

Karl Neuse

Local Dial-up Internet Grants

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the availability of Local Dial-up Internet Grants. These grants will fund the acquisition, construction and installation of equipment, facilities and systems to provide dial-up internet access to rural communities.

Public entities, commercial companies, cooperatives and nonprofits proposing to provide internet access in areas with populations of less than 20,000 people are eligible. Up to \$2 million will be awarded nationally through individual grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$400,000. Applications are due November 13.

For more information contact Roberta Purcell of the Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720-9554 or look online at www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/initiatives/initiatives.htm.

Mitigation Planning

As part of ongoing efforts to help make Addison County disaster resistant, ACRPC has received funding for and will be overseeing development of a region-wide disaster mitigation plan. The plan will be designed to evaluate our hazard weaknesses and will address steps that can be taken to reduce our risk of natural disasters.

The plan will consist of a core region-wide hazard analysis and will include general mitigation strategies for these known hazards. Once this core plan is complete, individual towns will be evaluated for their specific risks and appropriate mitigation tasks will be suggested.

Hopefully, enough money will be available to complete every town in the region starting with our mountain towns with the highest risk for flash flooding. Towns who have mitigation plans in place for flooding are eligible to apply for additional funding to implement those plans. In the case of Ripton, these additional funds would allow the relocation of their fire station away from the flood plain.

Project Impact Update

No, Project Impact has not died. It has just entered the permit doldrums. In late July we were informed that every project we submitted had been approved for funding through the program. In addition, those programs that did not require extensive permitting were given a categorical exclusion to allow them to proceed.

At this time we are developing partners to carry out a stream assessment of the Middlebury River and for establishing remote rain gauges in the upper reaches of Lincoln and Ripton. The mobile disaster communications center is well on

its way with the leadership of Middlebury Chief Tom Hanley. He will be presenting the concept to the emergency response community for their support later this month.

Projects that require any soil disturbance or construction still have a long way to go since sign-offs have to come from a myriad of state and federal agencies. With any luck, some of these projects may be able to break ground in the spring of 2002.