

the Monthly Update

a newsletter of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission
September 2001

Grant Opportunities

Vermont Watershed Grants

The Vermont Watershed Grant program funds water-related projects that protect or restore habitat, improve water quality, enhance recreational use, monitor wildlife populations, educate people about watershed resources or protect historic and cultural resources. Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups are eligible to apply.

The application deadline is **October 26**. There are two funding categories. 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.

The VT Agency of Natural Resources awarded just under \$50,000 in grants statewide through this program last year. The funding comes from the sale of conservation license plates. These grants can be used for all aspects of a project including materials, labor, land purchase, administrative costs and equipment.

Applications are available from the Vermont Watershed Grants office 241-3777 or online at www.vtwaterquality.org/lakesgrants.htm.

Meetings & Events

September

- 6 Municipal Planning Grant Workshop, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 11 Phosphorus TMDL Public Hearing, Lawson Lounge, Middlebury, 7PM
- 12 ACRPC Full Commission Meeting, Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury, 7:30 PM
- 13 Public Hearing held by the ACRPC Local Gov't Committee on Regional Approval for the Whiting Town Plan, Whiting Town Clerk's Office, 7:30PM
- 19 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
Public Hearing held by the ACRPC Local Gov't Committee on Regional Approval for the Orwell Town Plan, Orwell Town Clerk's Office, 7:30PM
- 26 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM

October

- 10 ACRPC Full Commission Meeting, Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury, 7:30 PM
- 17 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 24 Lake Champlain Basin Program Workshop, Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury, 1 to 4PM
- 26 Watershed Grant Deadline
- 31 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
Municipal Planning Grant Application Deadline

Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grant time is rolling around again. The application deadline is **October 31**. For those towns whose plans are expiring within the next year or so, this is an excellent opportunity to receive funds to support the rewriting and readoption process.

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.

For those municipalities interested, ACRPC will be holding another informational workshop to discuss eligible activities, the application process and grant administration. The workshop will be at the ACRPC office in Middlebury **Thursday September 6 at 7 pm**.

If you have any questions, please contact Brandy Saxton at 388-3141 or by email, bsaxton@sover.net.

Phosphorus TMDL Public Hearing

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, 7 p.m. in Middlebury College's Lawson Lounge to take public comment on the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loading) plan for phosphorus in Lake Champlain.

On June 22, 2001 the State of Vermont issued a draft for public discussion of the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain phosphorus TMDL. The Otter Creek is listed as an impaired segment of Lake Champlain subject to the phosphorus TMDL.

Copies of the TMDL are available from the ACRPC or the Agency of Natural Resources. Please join us and participate in this discussion on the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL. Please call Tim Bouton or Adam Lougee at the Regional Planning Commission, 388-3141, for further information.

The Community Video Project

In order to find a new way to excite and inspire citizens to plan and shape the future of their communities, the Orton Family Foundation developed the Community Video Project. The Community Video Project uses the power and fun of a video production to encourage residents to talk about the issues and opportunities facing their communities and the choices that can be made regarding their future.

The 30-minute videos are produced using digital technology and allow citizens to produce broadcast-quality programming at a low price in a relatively short period of time. Each video involves three days of pre-production, four to five days of interviews and location filming and seven to ten days of editing.

The Community Video Project was developed and initially tested through the shooting of community videos in the Vermont towns of Brattleboro, Brandon, and Morristown. The Brandon video focused on issues such as Brandon's 250 registered historic buildings; the town's efforts to revitalize its downtown, attract new industry and encourage travel tourism; and the significant dilemma posed by the massive level of auto and truck traffic on US Route 7 passing directly through town on a daily basis.

The foundation is developing a manual so that any community might be able to produce its own community video with minimal assistance. For more information contact Eddie Gale at the Orton Foundation (802) 773-6336 or by email, egale@orton.org.

Intersection Safety Inventories

The VAOT is conducting a pilot program to conduct safety inventories of non-signalized intersections in Vermont communities. The ACRPC is participating in this pilot program and anticipates conducting safety inventories of three such intersections on either state or Class I highways.

The inventories will look at various elements of an intersection including signs and markings, visibility, pavement defects, roadside safety, and non-motorized traffic. The ACRPC is looking for suggestions for two intersections that may qualify for this program. If your community has an intersection that would be a good candidate to be inventoried, please call Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

LCBP Heritage Resources Workshops

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.

One workshop will be held in Middlebury at the Kirk Alumni Center on October 24, 1 to 4 PM. For information more information about the series of meetings contact Bill Howland of the Lake Champlain Basin Program at (802) 372-3213 or lcbbp@anrmail.anr.state.vt.us.

Annual Conference on Recreation

The many hats worn by people who provide parks, recreation and leisure services will be the theme of the Annual Governor's Conference on Recreation to be held on Tuesday, October 23rd, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier.

Sponsored by The Vermont Recreation and Park Association, with support from the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, the conference will feature sessions that will of interest to town park and recreation committee and board members, trails and path committee members and volunteers, recreation programmers, people who do maintenance work at parks, administrative support staff, and natural resource managers. In addition to the 15 educational sessions and a key note speaker there will be over 20 exhibitors related to parks and recreation and presentation of the Theresa S. Brungardt Awards for outstanding service to parks and recreation.

For information about the conference contact the Vermont Recreation and Park Association at 883-2313 or plumb@together.net