



ACRPC

update

September 2006

commission calendar

September	9	3:30-5 pm	VT Fish & Wildlife Dept. "Wildlife Congress" and Vermont Wildlife Action Plan development Location: Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee Information and RSVP: Jon Kart 241-2652/ jon.kart@state.vt.us
	11	6:30 pm	Continuity of Government During Emergencies Location: Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College
	12	7:00 pm	VT Solid Waste Mgt. Rules - Public Meeting Location: Asa Boomer State Office Bldg. Merchants Row, Rutland Info: Ernest Kelly 241-3549/ erniekelly@state.vt.us
	13	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Middlebury Inn
	14	10:00 am	VT Solid Waste Mgt. Rules - Public Meeting Location: Pavilion Bldg., 109 State St., Montpelier Info: Ernest Kelly 241-3549/ erniekelly@state.vt.us
	20	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	20	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	VTrans Airport Policy Plan Update National Life Bldg., Montpelier Rutland State Airport
October	27	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	11	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College
	18	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	25	7:00 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Champlain Bridge Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction

On August 29, 2006, the New York State Department of Transportation hosted a public information meeting for individuals, groups, officials, and local agencies regarding future improvements to the Champlain Bridge at Crown Point. The current condition of the bridge is very poor, and deterioration increasingly threatens the functionality and safety of the structure. The meeting was heavily attended by both Vermont and New York residents.

Tim Conway, the NYSDOT Project Manager for this project, emphasized the fact that no specific option has yet been selected. This meeting was the beginning of that process. He then outlined potential options for the project: (1) No build, (2) Rehabilitation, (3) Reconstruction on existing alignment, (4) Reconstruction on a slightly modified alignment, and (5) Reconstruction on a totally new alignment. He discussed the pro's and con's of each approach, including potential historic and archaeological impacts of each option. Vermont Agency of Transportation staff members also participated in this discussion and outlined likely obstacles and impacts for this project.

Tim Conway stated that future public feedback meetings will be held to provide more opportunities for public comment as the project scoping is developed. In addition, an advisory committee composed of representatives from both states will be created to help further guidance regarding the project. Any person wishing to obtain more information, or to comment on the project, can send written comments to: Tim Conway, P.E., NYSDOT – Region One, 328 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. The Vermont Project Manager overseeing Vermont involvement in this project is Danny Landry (at the Vermont Agency of Transportation). He can be reached at: 802-828-3639.

**Meetings are open to the public.
Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.**

Continuity of Government During Emergencies

Have you ever thought about how your town would run without its elected officials? Sometimes we wish town government didn't exist at all, but have you ever really thought it out? Who would pay the bills, grade the roads, put out the fires, supply the water? In many of our communities, town government provides limited services, but we would sure miss those services if we wanted to sell our house and land records were not available, or if the roads weren't plowed when the winter snows came.

Because predictions indicate up to 40% absenteeism in the work force should a pandemic strike our region, these are real concerns that might need to be addressed. Who can make decisions if selectboard members are ill? How many people does it take to keep water supplied to every home in town? Is there anyone who can fill in if the Sewage Treatment Plant operator is gone? COG (Continuity of Government) and COOP (Continuity of Operations) are two ways to plan for just this sort of disaster. COG addresses lines of succession and responsibility within local government. COOP on the other hand identifies what tasks are critical in government and how do we still operate with limited manpower.

ACRPC with assistance from the VT Department of Health has scheduled a COG/COOP planning workshop for **September 11th** starting at 6:30 pm at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College. All selectboard members, Town Emergency Management Directors and others are invited to attend to begin the process of preparing a COG/COOP plan for their community. Potential attendees should RSVP Tim Bouton at 388-3141 or tbouton@sover.net.

Peak Oil Preparation Spurs Regional Groups

Submitted by Carl Etnier of
"Peak Oil Awareness"

At the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Local Power Summit, held on August 22 at Lyndon State College, US Senator Patrick Leahy called "peak oil" one of the real threats facing Vermont. Peak oil describes the time when world oil production is at its all-time high. The US experienced peak oil for domestic production in 1971, and 33 of the 48 oil-producing countries have already passed their peak production and are in decline. Estimates of when world oil production will peak vary—some geologists believe 2005 was the peak year; many others set the date within the next few decades.

Industrial economies such as ours are highly dependent on abundant and relatively cheap oil. A decline in the world's ability to produce enough oil to meet rising demand is likely to send oil prices even higher than they are now—perhaps quite suddenly. The challenges for Vermont in a post-peak world are many. What happens to already strapped Vermonters living in homes that use 1,000 gallons of oil per year when oil doubles or triples in price? Will people in rural areas be able to afford to drive to work? And how much will importing food to Vermont from west of the Mississippi and elsewhere cost?

A network of groups around Vermont is preparing to reduce dependence on oil. The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN; acornvt.org) is working to make the county more self-sufficient for food and energy. The web site of the Vermont Peak Oil Network (vtpeakoil.net) lists other groups around the state and contains more information about peak oil. Please contact these groups to learn more about what Addison County can do to prepare for the coming oil price shocks.

VTrans to Conduct Public Presentations of Airport Policy Plan

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) will hold two public presentations on Sept. 20 regarding Vermont's Airport System and Policy Plan. VTrans is in the process of updating the plan, which provides the Agency with updated airport system planning products, policy recommendations, and a framework for evaluating the State's aviation infrastructure needs. Public presentations of the draft plan will take place on September 20th at 1 pm in Montpelier at the 5th Floor Board Room of the National Life Building, and at 7 pm in the Civil Air Patrol Building at the Rutland State Airport.

As part of the Airport System and Policy Plan, VTrans is interested in obtaining public comment and input. To date, comments have been received through members of the Study Advisory Committee established for the study, as well as the Vermont Aviation Advisory Council. For additional information on the Vermont Airport System and Policy Plan, please contact Scott Bascom of VTrans at 828-5748, or by email at scott.bascom@state.vt.us.

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.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps Transportation Enhancement Project Opportunities

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) is again seeking transportation enhancement projects for their crews for the 2007 field season. VYCC anticipates receiving funding from the Federal Highway Administration and VTrans to complete transportation related conservation projects. Selected projects will receive a fully funded crew of up to ten youth and two adult leaders. For more information or a project proposal form, see the "Hire a Crew" section at www.vycc.org.

Completed forms are due by **October 6, 2006**.

Lake Champlain Basin Local Implementation Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is pleased to announce 2006 Local Implementation Grants. Eligible projects will support the comprehensive management plan *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*. The plan addressed issues ranging from protecting water quality to preserving cultural heritage resources and encouraging sustainable recreation.

Applications and guidelines may be found at the website www.lcbp.org or you may call Kathy Jarvis at 800-468-5227 or 802-372-3213, or email her at kjarvis@lcbp.org.

Due October 13, 2006

Organizational Support Grants – Up to \$4,000 to strengthen the long-term effectiveness of watershed, cultural heritage and recreation organizations.

Partnership Grants – Up to \$5,000 for local projects that emphasize community partnerships and collaborative efforts.

Annual Priorities Grants - \$5,000 - \$20,000 to support technical projects which address any of the highest priorities in *Opportunities for Action*.

Due November 15, 2006

Education & Outreach Grants – Up to \$7,500 for projects that increase students and/or adults awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to key Lake Champlain issues identified in the plan.

Cultural Facilities Grant

The Cultural Facilities grant program is administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. It is designed to assist nonprofit organizations and municipalities in Vermont to improve facilities providing cultural activities for the public.

Awards range from \$750 to \$20,000. Grants must be matched on a 1:1 basis (at least 75% of which must be in cash and up to 25% of which may be in well documented in-kind materials and/or labor).

The application deadline is **October 16, 2006**, and all applications must be submitted online at www.vermontartscouncil.org. For more information please contact Michele Bailey, Director of Programs at 802-828-3294 or mbailey@vermontartscouncil.org.

Funding to Improve Water Quality Through Agricultural Nutrient Management

The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to announce funding for implementing projects that will improve water quality by minimizing agricultural nutrient runoff into surface water. The area of primary concern is the Lake Champlain Basin, however proposals in other watersheds that provide potential transferable ideas leading to success in the Lake Champlain Basin will also be considered.

The PMNRCD is seeking proposals for projects that will utilize systems, models or technology that will lead to phosphorus reduction as well as reduction of other nutrients and pathogens entering surface water by implementing on-farm conservation practices.

A total of between \$100,000 - \$200,000 is available for projects funded under this RFP. A 25% match of the total project cost is required, either as funds or in-kind services.

Eligible applicants include individuals, colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies and government agencies. To receive the Request For Proposal and the proposal format guidelines giving complete details, contact: Marli Rupe, PMNRCD, 802-287-8339 or pmnrcd@sover.net.

The deadline is Friday **October 13, 2006**.

Grant Funding Available for Northern Forest Community, Cultural and Economic Projects

The Northern Forest Partnership Program is pleased to announce the availability of \$259,000 in grants to fund community-based projects that promote diverse and sustainable economies built upon a well-managed forest landscape in the Northern Forest. Non-profits, local government entities—including schools—and businesses are eligible to apply. Small Grants are offered up to \$7,500 each; General Grants are offered up to \$20,000 each; and Special Grants are offered up to \$30,000.

The Northern Forest Partnership Program seeks to fund projects that:

- Strengthen the capacity of rural communities to support sustainable forest-based local economies;
- Promote environmentally sensitive uses of the forest and other natural resources;
- Promote local history, culture and working connections to the landscape;
- Are part of sustaining or helping to create new jobs in these areas.

Applications are available at www.northernforest.org and must be submitted online by **Sept. 15, 2006**. ONLY online applications will be accepted. For more information, contact Kelly Short by e-mail (kshort@northernforest.org) or by phone: 603-229-0679, ext. 105.