

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2018

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2018 SWRPC Annual Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2018 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Centennial Hall at Keene State College. Announcements for the event, which will focus on "Celebrating Monadnock" will be distributed soon. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

EPA Awards Brownfields Assessment Grant to SWRPC

On April 25th the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an award of \$200,000 for community-wide mixed hazardous substances brownfields assessment. The award will allow SWRPC to continue its long-standing Brownfields Assessment program to support the communities of Southwest New Hampshire in creatively addressing environmental and economic development challenges. Although various projects will be eligible for funding, SWRPC hopes to focus on the development of at least one brightfield: a brownfield hosting a solar array. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Community Transportation Forums

On April 17th and 18th, Principal Planner J. B. Mack joined Ellen Avery, Executive Director of the Community Transportation Volunteer Company, and the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation in hosting community transportation forums in Peterborough and Keene. Forty-nine people attended the forums including community transportation users, volunteer drivers, state legislators, selectmen, hospital, and social service agency representatives. Each forum included a presentation on Why community transportation is everyone's business, and provided information about community transportation needs, existing resources and service gaps. Many attendees shared concerns about shortages of both services and financial support for community transportation. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Training

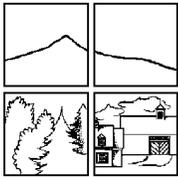
On April 25th, Senior Planner Lisa Murphy participated in a webinar regarding the incorporation of green infrastructure methods into hazard mitigation plans that was co-hosted by U.S. EPA and FEMA. The primary hazards discussed included flooding, erosion, and heat effects. On April 27th Lisa attended the Annual Local Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting sponsored by NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management that included a demonstration of the Stream Crossing Mapper developed by the NH Department of Environmental Services. Information obtained at these sessions can be beneficial to communities in the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Applications

SWRPC staff recently assisted Cheshire County and the City of Keene in writing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. Projects for Cheshire County include sub-granting CDBG funds to the Hannah Grimes Center, the University of New Hampshire/Pathway to Work program, and the Regional Economic Development Center. Grant funds will be used to provide training and technical assistance services through the subrecipients and partner organization's microenterprise programs, to a collective minimum of 152 microenterprises throughout the State. The microenterprise program's mission is to increase the income and economic stability of self-employed people and microenterprises by helping them access capital, business training and expanded market opportunities. The City of Keene project involves a request for CDBG funds to support an optics manufacturing start-up company known as 603 OPTX. The City will sub-grant project funds to the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation who will then provide them to the business in the form of a loan. The project will result in the creation of 10 new jobs. For more information, please contact [Rebeckah Bullock](#) of Commission staff.

Recreational Trails Program Applications Available

New Hampshire's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a competitive grant program for both motorized and non-motorized public trail projects. The program is one of the many ways the federal gas tax supports trail improvements throughout our region and the State. Projects can include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase of certain types of equipment, and construction of new trails or related facilities. Depending on the project, up to \$80,000 is available. The program requires a 20% local match by the grantee, an eligible private organization, non-profit, educational institution, municipality, or state/federal agency. Complete details are available via the Bureau of Trails website: www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/Trails/grants. Applications are due **June 22, 2018**. For those thinking to apply, attendance at a related workshop on either May 14th or May, 15th is strongly encouraged. For more information, please contact Alexis Rudko at the Bureau of Trails 271-3254 or alexis.rudko@dncr.nh.gov.



Plan NH's Municipal Technical Assistant Grant (MTAG) Program

New Hampshire's population is changing rapidly and housing inventory in most communities cannot meet future or even current demand. In an effort to address the changes, Plan NH's MTAG Program provides funding to communities who wish to expand options for places to live through zoning regulations. Funds are awarded through a competitive application process, to hire consultants to review current regulations, identify needs of the community, and create or rewrite zoning to support what is needed. Funds range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. A 25% cash match is required, as is community involvement in the process. **Applications are due June 1, 2018**. For more information, including application materials, visit <http://plannh.org/>. If your community is interested in applying for this grant, and would like the assistance of SWRPC, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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