

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

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Broadband Internet: It's Essential - A Workshop for New Hampshire Communities

The NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program and the NH Regional Planning Commissions invite all communities in New Hampshire to learn more about how to evaluate and improve internet access for their towns. The workshop will be held on November 19, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the NH Municipal Association Building located at 25 Triangle Park Drive in Concord. Topics will include: economic development and broadband; organizing your community; gathering data; and action planning. There is no cost to attend this event, but seating is limited. To register for this event, please visit: https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=16822

SWRPC Fall Meeting

On October 21, 2014 SWRPC held its Fall Commission Meeting. The focus of the event was Monadnock Region Future, a multi-year effort to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan for Southwest New Hampshire. Commission staff and members of the Monadnock Region Future Leadership Team presented on the draft Regional Plan, describing its major themes, key findings, and proposed recommendations. The draft Plan will be released for public review and comment on SWRPC's website in the coming weeks. A notice of this release will be shared with towns, libraries, local media outlets, and SWRPC's committees and community contacts. The Plan should serve as an important resource to Southwest Region communities as they look toward the future. For more information, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Transportation Alternatives Program Update

As requested by the NH Department of Transportation, the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recently completed its review and ranking of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications from project sponsors in the Southwest Region. TAP is a federal reimbursement program established by the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP -21) program that funds non-motorized transportation projects such as trails, sidewalks and bike lanes. Keene, Hinsdale, Jaffrey, New Ipswich, Peterborough and Richmond each submitted applications for the funding. TAC members scored each application based on state-established criteria including the projects' potential for success, safety benefits, project connectivity, socioeconomic benefits, and multi-modal connections. Keene received the top ranking, followed by Hinsdale, New Ipswich, Jaffrey, Peterborough and Richmond. The ranking will be used as an input for each application that will be evaluated separately by the State TAP Advisory Committee that is scheduled to finish its scoring process in November. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Coordination

On October 3, 2014 SWRPC staff attended the quarterly meeting of Hazard Mitigation Planners at NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Mitigation Planners shared methods for preparing Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping communities meet the match requirement, and the inclusion of fluvial erosion hazards into the plans. Strategies for reducing the impact of natural and man-made hazards were also discussed. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

2014 Watershed Managers Roundtable

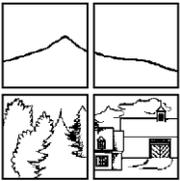
On October 9, 2014 SWRPC staff attended the 2014 Watershed Managers Roundtable sponsored by the NH Department of Environmental Services. The session included presentations on Maintaining BMPs, Managing Septic Systems, and Watershed Restoration through Low Impact Development Retrofits. A panel of speakers also gave some insight on methods of implementing watershed plans using state and federal funding. For additional information or to discuss watershed planning in your community, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

UNH Technology Transfer Center Roads Scholar Workshop

On October 22, 2014 SWRPC staff attended a training session hosted by the University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center. The training, part of the New Hampshire Road Scholar curriculum, covered the basics of RSA 482-1:3, XVII – XIX related to culverts. The course also covered the NH Department of Environmental Services stream crossing rules (Env-Wt 900), and the culvert maintainer certification program. A certified maintainer can replace a culvert up to 48 inches in diameter without requiring a permit when other criteria are met. Another key theme of the training was the importance of a culvert inventory to ensure proper maintenance, maintain water quality, prepare for replacements, and distinguish between private and municipal structures. For more information about the training session or conducting an inventory of culverts in your community, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

CDBG Application

During the month of October, Planning Commission staff assisted the Town of Richmond with the submission of a Community Development Block Grant Planning Study application. The proposed study in the Town of Richmond involves a feasibility study on the redevelopment needs of the Four Corners Store site. If selected, this study would move forward in the coming months. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.



Regional Energy Forum

On Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there will be an energy forum hosted by the Wapack Regional Energy Network at ConVal High School's Lucy Hurlin Theater in Peterborough. The goal of the event is to share inspiring stories of successful energy related projects and for communities and individuals to connect with each other and discuss opportunities for pursuing energy projects in their town and in the Region. Five speakers will give brief presentations on energy projects they have accomplished or are working on, followed by a roundtable discussion. There is no cost to attend this event; however, pre-registration is encouraged. For information about the event or to register, please visit: <http://WapackREN.org>.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 www.swrpc.org

