

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

October 2013

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### **Climate Change Subject of Planning Commission's Fall Meeting**

On the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission hosted its Fall Commission Meeting at The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy. The featured speaker was Dr. Cameron Wake from the Institute of Earth, Oceans and Space at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Wake presented on the recently completed Climate Assessment for Southern New Hampshire, which is one of three climate impact assessments completed for the state through the Granite State Future initiative. The focus of the presentation was on the past, present and predicted future impacts of climate change in the region. Not only did Dr. Wake discuss impacts on temperature and precipitation, he reviewed the implications of changing climate on natural resources, outdoor recreation, energy consumption, and public health. For more information on Dr. Wake's presentation, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

### **Town of Hinsdale Awarded CDBG Funding**

A Community Development Block Grant application submitted on behalf of the Town of Hinsdale was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Hinsdale will receive a Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the Oak Hill Acres Cooperative for much needed infrastructure improvements. The project is led by Oak Hill Acres Cooperative with assistance from the Community Loan Fund. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

### **Brownfields Nominations Being Sought for Petroleum Contaminated Properties**

Southwest Region Planning Commission is seeking nominations for public or private property with petroleum contamination through its brownfield assessment program. Program funds are available for a limited time. "Brownfields" are typically former industrial or commercial sites whose future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. In the Southwest Region Brownfields Assessment Program's ten year history, the program has helped finance costs of excavating, emptying, removing and cleaning twelve underground and above ground storage tanks totaling 104,700 gallon capacity of petroleum fuels. The program is designed to help address community environmental problems, even if located on private property, as well as spurring redevelopment on properties that are seen as undevelopable because of real or perceived environmental contamination. Please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff if there is a potential site in your community that might benefit from the Program.

### **NH Route 12 Corridor Study**

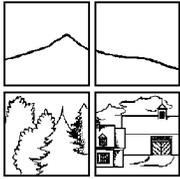
SWRPC is conducting a NH Route 12 Corridor Study that will evaluate the corridor from Rt. 101 south to the Massachusetts state line including the communities of Keene, Swanzey, Marlborough, Troy, and Fitzwilliam. The study will include traffic analysis at various locations and an inventory of data which will describe the physical characteristics along the corridor. The intent of the study is to develop an improved understanding of assets and issues relative to transportation, land use and related matters, and to develop a schedule of possible local capacity and safety improvements. A comprehensive strategy for the development and use of the corridor will be developed and available for state and local decision-makers. SWRPC has previously conducted three corridor studies in the region including NH 101, US 202 and NH 9. Please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff for more information.

### **Community Development Block Grant Application**

During the month of October, Planning Commission staff assisted the Town of Jaffrey with the submission of a Community Development Block Grant application. The proposed project in the Town of Jaffrey involves a much needed feasibility study on the condition and need of infrastructure improvements to the Forest Park Tenants' Association Cooperative. If selected, this project would be awarded funding in December this year. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

### **Broadband Service Map Verification Project Completed**

The Planning Commission has wrapped up efforts to collect cable and DSL information from municipalities through the Broadband Service Map Verification Project which is part of the NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMPP). Twenty-eight municipalities submitted detailed information regarding the location and extent of high-speed internet infrastructure through local knowledge, research, windshield surveys, and other resources. Annotated maps have been forwarded to the project, which is located at the University of New Hampshire, to improve the accuracy of existing data sources. This effort has supported the program objective to locate served, underserved, and unserved areas throughout New Hampshire. In related news, a draft broadband plan is available at our website for review and comment. The plan, which can be accessed at [www.swrpc.org/broadbandplan](http://www.swrpc.org/broadbandplan), outlines proposed goals, objectives and strategies for addressing the needs for and challenges to broadband availability and adoption in the region. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.



### **GIS Data Collection**

The Planning Commission is in the process of developing maps and graphics for the Monadnock Region Future initiative as well as Transportation and Environmental components and corridor studies. Communities may be receiving requests for a variety of data such as updated parcels, zoning, and land use information. The data is necessary to understand local and regional issues such as the location of development constraints as well as the amount of commercially zoned land along a major highway. For more information, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.

## **Southwest Region Planning Commission**

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