

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

November 2022

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### SWRPC is Recruiting

Due to an unprecedented level of opportunity, SWRPC is looking to reinforce its staff capacity. We are seeking an additional member of planning staff as well as a Community Housing Navigator. For additional information, please visit <https://www.swrpc.org/employment-opportunities/>.

### SWRPC Staff Lead Sessions at NHMA Annual Conference

On November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> SWRPC staff members Andrew Smeltz and Lisa Murphy presented at the New Hampshire Municipal Association Annual Conference. Featured sessions included:

- *Municipal Pavement Preservation Planning and Budgeting* focused on the Road Surface Management System program that is used to assist communities with planning and budgeting for pavement repair.
- *Planning for the Big One* focused on reducing the impact of natural disasters on our communities.

For more information, please contact Andrew Smeltz at [asmeltz@swrpc.org](mailto:asmeltz@swrpc.org) or Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at [lmurphy@swrpc.org](mailto:lmurphy@swrpc.org).

### CDBG Award for Cheshire County

Cheshire County was recently awarded \$750,000 in Community Development Block Grant-CV (CDBG-CV) funds on behalf of Monadnock Peer Support (MPS) to complete a renovation of its headquarters located at 32-34 Washington Street in Keene. MPS is a member-driven peer support agency and crisis center that serves all of Cheshire County and 11 towns in western Hillsborough County. MPS serves more than 500 individuals annually who are living with psychiatric disorders and/or are in addiction recovery. CDBG-CV funds will be used to complete facility improvements that are designed to improve accessibility, energy usage and air quality. The project is expected to fulfill the agency's goal to double the number of clients that can participate in MPS' services and programs each day. The CDBG-CV grant was written and will be administered by SWRPC staff. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at [tjohnson@swrpc.org](mailto:tjohnson@swrpc.org).

### 2022 Housing & Economy Conference

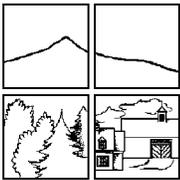
On November 15<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC staff attended NH Housing's 2022 Housing & Economy Conference, held in Manchester, NH. The conference focused on the Granite State's affordable housing and economic development needs and included a wide range of speakers with expertise on housing needs, land use, federal congressional funding priorities and opportunities, and the impacts of inflation and recession on our current and future housing market. All presentations are available for download at <https://www.nhhfa.org/2022-housing-economy-conference/>. For more information, please contact Sean O'Donnell of SWRPC staff at [sodonnell@swrpc.org](mailto:sodonnell@swrpc.org).

### Cheshire County Grant Writing Workshop

During November, SWRPC staff attended three grant writing workshops hosted by Cheshire County in response to a rising demand within the Monadnock Region for grant writing services. During these sessions, Cheshire County's Grants Manager provided training to attendees representing municipalities and non-profit organizations. For more information, please contact Benjamin Gradert of SWRPC staff at [bgradert@swrpc.org](mailto:bgradert@swrpc.org).

## Monadnock Region Digital Literacy and Access Needs Assessment Final Report

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted normal business operations for many organizations, including those serving older adults. In response, a project was proposed to assess the existing level of digital skills and access to technology for individuals and organizations in the Monadnock Region. SWRPC was contracted to undertake this effort which results in the region's first digital literacy and access needs assessment available at [www.swrpc.org/digital](http://www.swrpc.org/digital). The report contains a review of best practices to improve digital literacy, town-by-town statistics about broadband access and adoption, results of questionnaires from organizations and individuals, and recommended strategies to consider going forward. SWRPC would like to thank the many contributors that made this project possible including the Monadnock United Way, Keene Senior Center and the Monadnock Healthy Aging Collaborative. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org) or Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at [tjohnson@swrpc.org](mailto:tjohnson@swrpc.org).



### NHDES 2022 Asset Management Workshop

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Henry Underwood presented at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) Asset Management Workshop in Pembroke at a session titled *Demystifying GIS and How to Use GIS to Get Started with Asset Inventory*. The annual workshop serves as an opportunity for utility managers and staff, municipal officials, consultants, and others to learn about how to use data about their infrastructure as a decision-making tool. The day-long workshop also featured updates on a wide variety of grants and loans available to municipalities in support of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. SWRPC strongly recommends communities contact NHDES staff to learn about these new and updated opportunities. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org).

