

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

July 2023

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### **Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting**

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) featured a discussion regarding funding and technical assistance available through the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for water and sewer infrastructure. Ted Diers, Assistant Director of the NHDES Water Division, provided an overview of current programs and federal legislation that has increased funding opportunity for water-related projects. Due to the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there is an influx of funding available through 2026. Long-running programs, such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, have received supplemental funding. New programs are also available to address emerging needs. For example, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Program addresses lead contamination in schools among other needs. Municipalities should also be aware that NHDES offers asset management grants, energy efficiency grants, and planning grants to help towns better understand the existing conditions of their water infrastructure and plan for improvements. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at [thorner@swrpc.org](mailto:thorner@swrpc.org).

### **Brownfield Update**

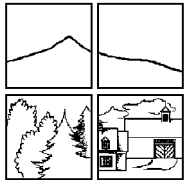
SWRPC staff, in coordination with the Towns of Chesterfield and New Ipswich, successfully enrolled two brownfields sites - the former Electrosonics property in Spofford Village and the former New Ipswich highway garage - into the University of Connecticut Technical Assistance for Brownfields (UConn TAB) Summer 2023 Municipal Assistance Program, a technical assistance program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The UConn TAB Program will complement on-going environmental assessment activities through SWRPC's Brownfields Program for the two properties by administering a site reuse assessment to gather public feedback on possible redevelopment scenarios. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the UConn TAB team met with town officials, SWRPC, and other stakeholders and conducted site visits at each brownfield property. The UConn TAB program is one of several brownfield-related resources that SWRPC staff have leveraged for towns needing help with their brownfield sites. SWRPC has also arranged assistance from the NH Department of Environmental Services to conduct a structural assessment of the building at the Electrosonics property for potential reuse. For more information about the SWRPC Brownfields Assessment Program, please contact J.B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org).

### **Community Center Investment Program**

During July, the NH The Community Development Finance Authority announced that it has awarded more than \$11.5 million in Community Center Investment Program (CCIP) resources to New Hampshire nonprofits and municipalities to help advance community-based projects. These funds allow for deeper impacts within New Hampshire communities with one-time, strategic investments in critical infrastructure. CCIP resources will support improvements of current indoor and outdoor facilities, as well as the construction of new spaces, that have proven to be inclusive, open to the public, and foster a culture of health and wellbeing in the communities they serve. Five awards were issued to projects in the Monadnock Region including: The Brian A. Mattson Recreation Center (Keene); Hannah Grimes Center, Inc. (Keene); Jaffrey Civic Center (Jaffrey); Monadnock Area Peer Support Agency (Keene); and the Peterborough Community Center (Peterborough). CCIP is administered in coordination with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at [tjohnson@swrpc.org](mailto:tjohnson@swrpc.org).

## Complete Streets Information Sessions

On behalf of the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) and in partnership with Cheshire Medical Center, SWRPC is pleased to promote a 2023 Complete Streets Implementation Grant opportunity. Up to \$120,000 is available to support complete streets construction and non-infrastructure activities including planning, preliminary engineering, "pop-up" events, and development of complete streets policies. More details and application materials are now available at [mastnh.org/2023-complete-streets-grant](http://mastnh.org/2023-complete-streets-grant). The deadline to apply is **Friday, September 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** SWRPC is also hosting two information sessions in support of the program: **Tuesday, August 8, 2023** from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom (register at [bit.ly/3O4BH1M](http://bit.ly/3O4BH1M)) and **Tuesday, August 15, 2023** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (register at [bit.ly/3Q4POH2](http://bit.ly/3Q4POH2)). For more information, please visit the MAST website ([www.mastnh.org](http://www.mastnh.org)) or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org).



## Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) convened which featured two presentations of timely interest this summer. David Healey, Chief Scientist at New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, discussed state air quality monitoring efforts, as well as specific impacts of the recent Canadian wildfires in New Hampshire. David illustrated how regional weather patterns can directly lead to areas being exposed, or spared, from harmful smoke. A recording of David's presentation may be found on the SWRPC YouTube page at <https://bit.ly/Jul26ENRAC>. Peter Walker, Principal, Environmental Services at VHB Inc, presented on the Keene-Swanzey bypass floodplain mitigation project. He provided insight on the background for the project, site selection, and the methodology behind its future structure and appearance. Slides from this presentation are posted on the SWRPC website at <https://bit.ly/K-SFloodplainPresent>. For more information, please contact Jason Cooper of SWRPC staff at [jcooper@swrpc.org](mailto:jcooper@swrpc.org).

