



# Spring 2010 Newsletter

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[www.swcrpc.org](http://www.swcrpc.org)

The SWCRPC newsletter can be found online at [www.swcrpc.org](http://www.swcrpc.org)

## SWCRPC

### COMMISSIONERS:

Don Barrett, Chair, Springfield

Peter Daniels, Vice Chair,  
Weathersfield

Tom Bock, Secretary/Treasurer,  
Chester

Joseph Fromberger, Andover

Carol Lighthall, Baltimore

Shep Thomas, Alt., Baltimore

Etienne Ting, Cavendish

Cecil Waldo, Alt., Chester

Norm Vanasse, Ludlow

Rose Goings, Alt., Ludlow

John Mitchell, Reading

Hal Pyke, West Windsor

Steve Cottrell, Windsor

### SWCRPC STAFF:

Thomas Kennedy,

Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,

Senior Planner

April Harkness,

GIS Planner

John Broker-Campbell,

Planner

Cynthia Porter,

Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,

Office Manager

## NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission was recently awarded \$200,000 in Brownfields Assessment Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to assist towns, property owners, or prospective purchasers of properties contaminated or suspected of being contaminated by hazardous substances. The public is invited to review the application and provide comments prior to the RPC submitting a work plan to EPA for this project. The RPC will be holding a **public informational meeting** as part of their regular monthly board meeting on **Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** at noon at Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney, Vermont.

A brownfield site is real property that may be vacant or underused because of the real or feared presence of a hazardous substance or contaminant. Some of the properties that have already benefited from EPA site assessment funds include the Windsor Welcome Center in Windsor, the Proctorsville Village Property in Cavendish, Windsor Gas Light property in Windsor, and the former Fellows Gear Shaper building (now owned by Precision Valley Development Corporation), and the former Jones & Lamson property in Springfield. New site assessment funds will be used to complete site assessments and remedial action plans on sites contaminated by hazardous waste in the SWCRPC region.

Copies of the application are available online at [www.swcrpc.org](http://www.swcrpc.org) and at the SWCRPC offices in the Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5 South, Ascutney, VT. For more information or to submit comments, contact April Harkness (802) 674-9201 or email [aharknes@swcrpc.org](mailto:aharknes@swcrpc.org).

## Challenges for Change

The legislature recently passed "Challenges for Change" legislation which directs affected organizations to find savings in their operations through greater efficiencies, performance contracting, collocation and/or the merging of operations. Initially, the legislature and Governor's Office considered reducing the number of Regional Planning Commissions from 11 to 9, with Southern Windsor and Lamoille County as the targeted RPCs. Once it became known to our communities that this might occur, the legislature received many letters from community members voicing their concern over this possibility and the legislature decided to maintain the status quo for the time being. The RPC wants to thank all those who called and emailed members of the legislature, your support was greatly appreciated.

The law will now require that all RPCs sign performance contracts with the Agency of Commerce. The contracts will have specific outcomes and measures, and payment will be predicated on meeting these outcomes and measures. In addition to the performance contract, the RPC Commission will be working to find efficiencies through possibly co-locating with the Springfield Regional Development Corporation or other Regional entities, sharing staff with other RPCs or adopting technologies that lessen the amount of time staff spends outside the office.

These are very difficult economic times and the RPC will meet this challenge, like they have met others, in a spirit of cooperation and creativity.

## FY 2011 Transportation Enhancement Program

This is a funding opportunity for sidewalks, bike paths, streetscape improvements and landscaping, mitigating highway runoff or vehicle-caused wildlife mortality. The application is available at the following website:

<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>.

Key dates to remember include:

- June 4, 2010 – Letters of Intent are due
- June 22 or 23, 2010 – Required workshop for applicants
- August 20, 2010 – Complete applications are due

RPC staff is available to help prepare an application. For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

## Way to Go!

Sign up at [www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org) for the commuter challenge the week of May 17 to 21, 2010. This is an annual program encouraging the use of cheaper, healthier and more efficient forms of transportation. Leave your car at home, join the fun and have a positive impact on air quality. The goal is to reduce 500,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions in one week. Everyone is welcome to participate – individuals, businesses, schools, organizations.

**Take the bus:** public transportation uses about one-half of the fuel consumed by the average car for every mile traveled. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$6 in local economic activity. See currently available bus service at: [www.crtransit.org/](http://www.crtransit.org/)

**Carpool:** motor vehicles are the single greatest contributor to air pollution in Vermont. Save an average of 31 pounds of pollution by adding just one passenger for part of your commute. Sign up for carpooling at: [www.connectingcommuters.org/](http://www.connectingcommuters.org/)

**Bicycle or walk:** A short, four-mile round trip bicycle commute keeps almost 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe. Walking to work will keep pounds of pollution out of the air and help to keep pounds off you too. Calculate how much air pollution you can save by walking or bicycling at: [www.10percentchallenge.org/](http://www.10percentchallenge.org/)

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

## Upper Valley Trail Finder



On Trails Day, June 5, 2010, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance plans to unveil a great new website: Upper Valley Trails Finder. This will be an easy to use map-based database of public, nonmotorized trails in the greater Upper Valley area, including southern Windsor County. Trail Finder's goal is to help people get outside, stay active and explore the region with up to date trail information.

Lots of volunteers have helped gather this information. To find out more or get involved check this website: <http://www.uvtrails.org/>.

## Free Energy Audits for Municipal Buildings

The RPC has received grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and Vermont Department of Public Service, which will allow us to assist municipalities to conduct energy audits and purchase energy efficient equipment. We anticipate hiring one or more trained energy auditors to complete 10 to 15 municipal building audits within the next few months. Please submit a nomination form by May 14, 2010 if you are interested in an energy audit of a public building in your community. The nomination forms have been sent to towns and are posted on our website at <http://swcrpc.org/wp/programs/energy/>. Please contact Jason Rasmussen for more information.

## New Energy Planning Tool

The Renewable Energy Atlas of Vermont is a new online tool for mapping and analyzing existing and potential renewable energy sites in Vermont. It was released on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at: <http://www.vtenergyatlas.com/#>

### Emergency Planning/LEPC Workshop

On April 8, 2010 Local Emergency Planning Committee 3 sponsored a Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) workshop held at the RPC offices in coordination with VT Homeland Security Unit. The purpose of the workshop was to acquaint local first responders and selectboard members to the importance and role of the BEOP in emergencies along with identifying strengths and areas for improvement within each town's current plan. The workshop was well attended with twelve people attending from five different towns along with various volunteer groups and state organizations.

The Basic Emergency Operations Plan provides basic contact information and resources available for use during an emergency event. The plan can be utilized in all situations, from large scale flooding to more localized power outages. For more information about your town's current BEOP, please contact John Broker-Campbell.

### Article – Fluvial Erosion Hazard Study Outcomes

During the summer of 2007/8, SWCRPC in coordination with South Mountain Research and Consulting completed both a Phase I and Phase II stream geomorphic study on the Black River and some of the major tributaries (Twenty Mile Stream, North Branch, etc.). The Phase I study focused primarily on determining the characteristics of the Black River watershed and identifying the historic changes that have occurred throughout; including road construction, river bank armoring and others. Within Phase II, pre-identified river reaches were further assessed to determine the current river condition and stressors. As a result of the Phase II study, several potential conservation and mitigation projects were identified as a way to improve current water quality and as a chance to lessen the impacts of the next flooding event.



Stream bank erosion, bank failure and even catastrophic river channel enlargement are all potential fluvial erosion hazards. One potential option for towns is to identify mitigation activities that will reduce the severity of damage from an emergency. The Phase II report from South Mountain Research and Consulting provides a number of possibilities:

- Removing constraints to water and flooding
- Upsizing culverts for adequate water passage
- Additional zoning protection for those areas above and below river impediments
- Conserving the remaining areas that allow for water infiltration and sediment storage
- Greater education and outreach to landowners regarding Low Impact Development practices

For more information about water quality assessment or mitigation projects, please contact John Broker-Campbell.

If you printed this newsletter, please remember to recycle it.  
Thank you. [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS:

**June 7—8th: *NRRA's 29th Annual Recycling Conference and Expo***; NRRA's 29th Annual Recycling Conference and Expo will be the one conference to go to for all things recycling. For two days, we'll discuss plastics, e-waste, steel, composting, fibers, MSW, single stream, dual stream, source separation, and much, much more.

**June 16th: *Windsor - National Safety Council Defensive Driving Class***; A 4-hour classroom training for PACIF member employees offered at four Vermont sites. Space is limited! This workshop is designed for any employee who drives a municipal over-the-road vehicle is eligible to take this course. We also welcome selectboard members to attend. Every driver can benefit from learning safe driving strategies and using a defensive attitude!

For more information on any of these upcoming events and workshops please visit [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org)

## Household Hazardous Waste Collections

**May 22 at the Townshend Town Garage  
9-10 a.m.**

**June 12 at the Ludlow Transfer Station  
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**July 10 at the Windsor Town Garage  
9-11 a.m.**

These "Rural Rover" collections are being offered cooperatively by the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District and the Windham Solid Waste Management District. For more information,

Please contact **Mary O'Brien,**  
**Recycling Coordinator,**  
**Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid  
Waste Management District with any recycling  
questions: 674-9235 or [mobrien@swcrpc.org](mailto:mobrien@swcrpc.org) .**

## Calendar of Events

### May 2010

26 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT

**31 Memorial Day; RPC office will be closed.**

### June 2010

9 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD

12 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow

16 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office

16 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield

17 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

### July 2010

**5 Observance of Independence Day; RPC office will be closed.**

9 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow

14 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD

20 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office

20 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office

21 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

29 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield

### August 2010

11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD

13 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow

17 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield Town Office

17 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the Martin Memorial Conference Room, Weathersfield

18 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.