



SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5
Post Office Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030
(802) 674 9201 phone (802) 674-5711 fax
www.swcrpc.org

Upcoming Grants

Recreation Trails Grant Program - Provides funding for the development and maintenance of recreation trails, trailside amenities, and trailhead facilities. \$20,000 grant limit; 20% minimum local match. For more information: <http://www.vtfrp.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>

Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program - Provides incentives for renewable energy systems, including solar electric solar hot water, wind and hydro systems. http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html

VLCT PACIF Equipment Grant Program- \$200,000 for 2011. Deadlines: April 30 and August 31, 2011. This ongoing program of the VLCT Property and Casualty Inter-municipal Fund (PACIF) makes 50/50 matching grants up to \$5,000 available to current PACIF members for the purchase of certain high-cost equipment that is likely to significantly reduce risk to people and property. Details are at www.vlct.org/insuranceriskservices/programs/equipmentgrants

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative- The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Rural Community Development Initiative. RCDI supports organization capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural area. www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=58143

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund Small Grants (Feb 15, 2011)
The goals of this grant program are to save energy, decrease a communities greenhouse gas emissions and to support community based initiatives. The grants will range from \$1,000-\$3,000 and can be sought by local energy groups that are seeking to accomplish the above goals. For more information please visit the following website: <http://grassrootsfund.org/grants/>

Vermont Communities Energy Efficiency Grant Program – A new program of the Vermont Energy Climate Action Network (VECAN) offers grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Applications are due by January 31, 2011. For more details visit www.vecan.net or www.grassrootsfund.org

SWCRPC Municipal Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (coming soon)
Efficiency Vermont Building Performance Incentives (see article on page 2)

Winter 2011

Special points of interest:

- SWCRPC awarded EMPG grant
- Efficiency Vermont Incentives
- Interstate Weight Limits Expiring
- Route 100 Scenic Byways
- Brownfields Program Booming

COMMISSIONERS:

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Peter Daniels, Vice Chair,
Weathersfield

Tom Bock,
Secretary/Treasurer, Chester

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Steve Cottrell, Windsor

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Thomas Kennedy,
Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,
Senior Planner

Daniel Potter,
Assistant Planner

Katharine Otto,
Assistant Planner

John Broker-Campbell,
Planner

Cynthia Porter,
Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,
Office Manager

SWCRPC Welcomes Katharine Otto, Assistant Planner

Following her graduation from the University of Durham (UK), Katharine entered the realm of planning at The Land Conservancy of New Jersey where she worked on open space and farmland preservation plans. Katharine returned to school for a Masters in City and

Regional Planning from Rutgers University in New Jersey, focusing on environmental and physical planning. In her last semester and the summer following graduation she spent time assisting with a new Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program in New Jersey and researching other TDR

programs across the nation. Outside of work, Katharine enjoys hiking and quilting, and is looking forward to trying cross country skiing and snowshoeing this winter.

Katharine may be reached at kotto@swcrpc.org or 674-9201 extension 116.

Funding For Municipal Building Energy Improvements

Efficiency Vermont has recently introduced a new performance incentives program to improve energy efficiency of buildings. The new program is geared towards small businesses and rental property owners, as well as municipally owned buildings that if they meet certain eligibility requirements municipal buildings must have less than 10,000 sq. ft. of conditioned space and be either wood framed or have masonry walls. The efficiency upgrades must be

completed by a participating Building Performance Institute certified contractor and there are up to \$7,500.00 available in incentives. For more information on this specific incentives program please visit the following site:
<http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/Business/SavingEnergy/BuildingPerformanceIncentives/>
The SWCRPC is hoping to implement the ongoing energy audits of municipal buildings through the soon to be released

Regional Energy Retrofit Program combined with Efficiency Vermont's Business Performance Incentives discussed in this article and other sources. Please contact Dan Potter or Jason Rasmussen for additional information.



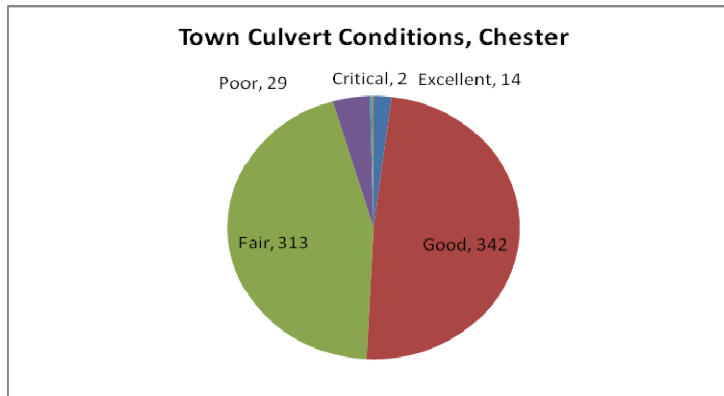
Chester Culvert Inventory

The SWCRPC recently completed a final draft bridge and culvert inventory and condition assessment for the Town of Chester, funded in part by a Better Backroads grant.

The purpose of the project was to update the Town's old paper-based inventory, map culvert and bridge locations, assist in developing a capital budget and program, and make the Town eligible for the reduced local match in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 309b. The reduced local match is for both the Town Highway Structures and Class 2 Roadway Programs.

The Town of Chester maintains 701 culverts and 78 bridges. More than half of all culverts are in good to excellent condition, with about 4% in poor to critical condition. A draft capital budget has also been

completed to address the structures in poor condition. The Town is currently reviewing the final draft inventory, and



the SWCRPC will assist the Town to refine the inventory, map and budget.

The SWCRPC is also assisting Weathersfield to update their infrastructure study and incorporate the data into their Town Plan. In addition, staff have recently assisted Ludlow and West Windsor to update

their bridge and culvert inventories.

In order for towns to be eligible for the reduced local match for highway

projects, towns must have adopted road and bridge standards and develop an infrastructure study, which consists of an inventory of town roads, bridges and culverts. The inventories must be updated at least every three years. All towns in the Region have a bridge and culvert inventory. Reading

maintains their own inventory, and all other town inventories were developed by town highway departments with assistance from the SWCRPC.

Please contact Jason Rasmussen for additional information.

Emergency Management

SWCRPC was recently awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for \$38,500 to continue the emergency planning

efforts throughout the region. These grant funds will be utilized to update critical facilities GIS data, continued support to Local Emergency Planning

Committee (LEPC 3) and many other tasks. For additional information please contact John Broker-Campbell.

The monthly Regional Planning Commission meeting for December has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Everyone at the Regional Planning Commission office would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday.

Brownfields Program

The Brownfield program has been quite active these past couple of months. The 2008 assessment grant, awarded to the SWCRPC by EPA Region 1, is currently funding three new assessment activities which are: a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the Bryant Grinder

Facility in Springfield, a Phase I ESA at the 100 River Street site in Springfield, and a Phase II ESA on the North School also in Springfield.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Revolving Loan Fund grant were used also put to hard work at the

100 River Street site in Springfield funding the pouring of concrete to cover a contaminated concrete slab. This work will further the development of the 100 River Street Site. Please contact Dan Potter for additional information.

Water Quality

SWCRPC staff, the Town of Springfield and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources met in October to discuss the outcomes of recent stormwater mapping work that was completed by ANR. The study focused on the downtown area and updated drainage maps for the municipal stormwater system. The resulting data provided to the town can be used as a tool for

future planning and maintenance of the existing stormwater system. Additional findings from the study include the identification of potential stormwater mitigation projects and the development of current GIS data that can be used to enhance any stormwater program the town undertakes. The mitigation project sites are those areas where stormwater treatment prior to it

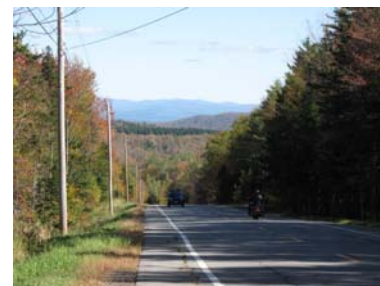
entering the municipal system is the most cost effective and efficient. Removal of pollutants through natural processes reduces the need for additional treatment i.e. 'end of pipe' solutions. For additional information on this study please contact John Broker-Campbell.

Route 100 Scenic Byway

SWCRPC has been involved with an effort to establish a Vermont Scenic Byway designation in the region. The proposed Route 100 Scenic Byway would include Route 100 through the towns of Andover, Ludlow, Plymouth, Bridgewater, Killington and Pittsfield. It is planned for the Byway to include spurs off Route 100 into Ludlow village on Route 103 and into Plymouth on Route 100A. The Route 100 Scenic Byway Committee is composed



of representatives from Pittsfield, Killington, Bridgewater, Plymouth, Ludlow and Andover; Killington and Okemo Valley Chambers of Commerce; SWCRPC and Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. The Committee is finalizing their Corridor Management Plan that inventories and assesses the resources along the Byway route. This Plan



also includes a vision for the future of the Byway and strategies to improve and enhance the

resources and destinations along the way. Please contact Katharine Otto for additional information.

Interstate Weight Limits

As discussed at the October Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, the one year Congressional pilot allowing trucks in excess of 80,000 pounds to travel on the interstate highway network is coming to an end December 17, 2010. This pilot allowed many of the trucks up to 100,000 pounds that usually travel through the region on state highways to instead use the interstate highway network. VTrans is working to develop a congressional report on the

impacts of the increased weight limits on the interstates and state highways, such as improved safety, reduced pavement and bridge wear on Class 1 town highways, energy and emissions benefits and other factors. Congressional action is needed in order to extend this pilot or make the increased interstate weight limits permanent.

Senators Patrick Leahy and Susan Collins (ME) are leading an effort to extend the Vermont and Maine pilot

program through the Senate FY 2011 budget bill. The proposed one-year extension would allow the Federal Highway Administration more time to study the impacts of the pilot program. If it passes the Senate, it would require approval by the House before being sent to the President. The proposal is receiving significant opposition.

Please contact Jason Rasmussen for additional information.

Upcoming Winter Events and Workshops

Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting

January 23-27, 2011 Washington D.C.

<http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2011/Public/AnnualMeeting2011.aspx>

Local Government Day in the Legislature

February 16, 2011

LOCATION: Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802-229-9111

A special day at the Vermont State House for local officials to hear about the status of pending legislation from VLCT and Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association representatives, attend legislative hearings and speak with their representatives and senators at the Vermont Legislature.

Town Meeting Tune-Up

February 23, 2011

LOCATION: Montpelier Elks Lodge

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802-229-9111

A parliamentarian's paradise, this annual workshop is designed for moderators and selectboard members, both seasoned and new. It focuses on the statutory requirements for town meeting, Robert's Rules of Order, and best practices for making it through Town Meeting unscathed.

Municipal Role in Public Service Board Proceedings

March 10th at VIT sites

<http://www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/upcomingevents/?event=361>

Selectboard Institute I

March 26, 2011

LOCATION: Rutland Holiday Inn, Rutland

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802-229-9111

The Selectboard Institute provides Vermont selectboards with the skills they need to manage the affairs of their town. Delivered over the course of two Saturdays, the program will focus on the fundamentals of municipal governance and current issues facing selectboards. Topics will include understanding the municipal organization, essentials of municipal law, running effective meetings, managing the town budget, information technology best practices, and how to reduce liability risks. Detailed agendas for both workshops will be available in January.

For more information on upcoming events please visit www.vlct.org

RPC Calendar of Events

December 2010

- 24 **Christmas Eve; RPC office will be closed.**
- 31 **New Years Eve; RPC office will be closed.**

January 2011

- 12 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 14 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 18 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 18 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 19 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 27 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield

February 2011

- 9 VTrans Public Transit Policy Plan Public Meeting, CT River Transit Offices, 706 Rockingham Rd (Rte 5), Bellows Falls, 7pm. (tentative)
- 11 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 15 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 15 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 16 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 21 **President's Day; RPC office will be closed.**

March 2011

- 9 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 11 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 15 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 15 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 16 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- TBD Energy Expo, Springfield, VT.