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**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

## Fall 2009 Newsletter

Andover / Baltimore / Cavendish / Chester / Ludlow / Reading / Springfield / Weathersfield / West Windsor / Windsor

### **SWCRPC**

#### **COMMISSIONERS:**

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Peter Daniels, Vice Chair,  
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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

### **2009 H1N1 and You**

As the 2009/10 flu season approaches, there are new concerns over the 2009 H1N1 flu virus, commonly known as Swine Flu, which has spread rapidly around Vermont, the United States and the World. As of 10/17/2009, there were 414,000 confirmed cases of H1N1 and nearly 5000 deaths worldwide according to the World Health Organization. However, these numbers do not reflect the true number of cases as many countries and health providers have stopped confirming new cases. Enough information has been gathered to determine that H1N1 is a global epidemic.

In the United States, forty five states have reported widespread flu activity while others are experiencing either local or regional outbreaks. It is expected that all states will increase to widespread flu distribution as the season progresses.

In response to the H1N1 flu, the United States has declared a public health emergency. The declaration releases resources to handle either an actual or potential public health emergency. The current guidance on H1N1 is that the virus is at a pandemic level; which means that infections are occurring on a global scale and there is not a current immunity to the virus. Past influenza pandemics have included: 1918 Spanish flu, 1957 Asian flu and the 1968 Hong Kong flu.

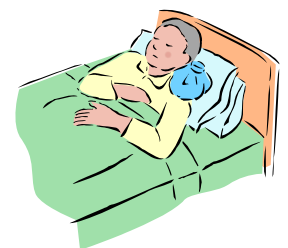
For 2009 H1N1, typical symptoms include those normally found in seasonal influenza including: fever, fatigue, sore throat or cough, and chills. It is the abnormal, prolonged or extreme symptoms such as difficulty breathing, pain in the abdomen, sudden dizziness or a return of flu like symptoms after an improvement that are noteworthy and a cause for contacting your doctor. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that people who do not display abnormal symptoms stay home and recover without visiting a doctor's office.

It is currently recommended that children and adults get both a seasonal flu vaccine and a H1N1 vaccine as they become available. The Vermont Department of Health is currently working on immunizing those most at risk; pregnant women, children six months to 24 years, and adults 25 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions.

To help prevent the spread of the flu, please be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and avoid contact with those who display flu like symptoms.

For those who experience flu symptoms...  
**stay home, rest and recover!**

Look for flu information , latest CDC updates, local and state info on [www.mtascutneyhospital.org](http://www.mtascutneyhospital.org) or call, 802-674-7300.



## SWCRPC Updates

### Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The State of Vermont was allocated \$10.3 million in block grants for energy efficiency and conservation initiatives under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Of those funds, \$500,000 is allocated to the ten largest towns in the state, no of which are in this region. RPCs will receive funding for local and regional energy initiatives outlined in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). The remainder of the energy ARRA funding will be used for weatherization and other renewable energy initiatives through Clean Energy Development Fund programs. The RPC is available to help towns to apply for Clean Energy Development Funds.

The RPC will receive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding through two discrete programs, one for Windsor County and one distributed by the Department of Public Service (DPS) directly to regional planning commission. The RPC submitted the County EECBG application two weeks ago in coordination with Windham Regional Commission and Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. The RPC will submit the DPS application by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

With both EECBG funding sources, the RPC will be able to offer the following services:

- **Integrated Planning** – This effort includes a baseline energy study, regional plan updates, developing model town plan language, technical assistance for towns updating energy chapters of town plans, model regulatory language, and technical assistance for towns updating subdivision, zoning or transportation-related regulations as it pertains to energy efficiency and conservation.
- **Transportation Analysis** – This will include a regional park and ride study and municipal fleet fuel consumption study. This may also include a traffic signal and street light inventory, and developing town policies to reduce fuel usage and related pollution.
- **Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings** – Under this task we will be able to assist county and town governments implement small energy efficiency improvements in public buildings. Funding is available for energy audits of public buildings and energy efficiency upgrades, such as CFL and/or LED light bulbs, programmable thermostats, and occupancy sensors. Town and county governments may need to install the equipment themselves.
- **Public Outreach** – Our activities will also include public outreach and education, such as regional workshops, meeting with town officials, support for local energy committees, and outreach materials, such as brochures, websites and newsletters.
- **Traffic Signal Upgrades** – Funding is available for LED upgrades for town traffic signals. Town and county governments may need to install the equipment themselves.

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

### Brownfields

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Planning Commission submitted an application for additional Brownfields Hazardous Assessment funds. The current program is funding Phase I and Phase II hazardous assessment at the Ludlow National Guard Armory in Ludlow, VT and the Edgar May Recreation Center (formerly the Southern Vermont Recreation Center) in Springfield, VT. The RPC is still looking for eligible sites for petroleum assessment in the Region. Any comments or questions, please call April Harkness or Tom Kennedy at 674-9201.



### New Town Highway Bridge Projects

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has begun a process to identify new town highway bridge projects for the FY 2011 Transportation Budget and Program. VTrans is proposing to delete low priority projects off of the current “candidate” list, and identify new candidate projects that “reflect the current condition of Vermont’s Town Highway bridges and their priority for repair based on condition and importance to the community.” VTrans has asked the RPC to help in this process. There are currently no candidate projects for this region in the Town Highway Bridge Program listed in the FY 2010 Transportation Budget and Program.

The Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Committee is meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> to finalize a list of priority bridges on town highways. The Commission will meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> to accept the listing of new projects before submission to VTrans. VTrans intends to re-evaluate Town Highway Bridge Program candidate projects annually based on structural condition and community importance.

For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS:

Vermont Downtown Conference:  
Nov. 6, 2009 at Middlebury Inn and Town  
Hall Theater, Middlebury.  
<http://www.historicvermont.org>

Planning and Zoning Forum: Nov. 10, 2009  
at Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street,  
Montpelier VT.  
[http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/  
workshops/Planning\\_Zoning\\_11.10.09.pdf](http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/workshops/Planning_Zoning_11.10.09.pdf)

VCDA Fall Conference and Annual Meeting:  
Nov.10, 2009 at Hotel Coolidge, White  
River Junction, VT.  
<http://www.vtcda.org/>

2009 Vermont Community Energy and  
Climate Action Conference: Dec. 5, 2009 at  
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT.  
[http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/  
default.aspx?EventID=754675](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=754675)

Windsor VLCT Legislative Preview:  
Dec. 8, 2009 at Windsor Town Offices, 29  
Union Street, Windsor, VT. [info@vlct.org](mailto:info@vlct.org)

Transportation Research Board Annual  
Conference: Jan. 10-14, 2010 in  
Washington, DC. [http://www.trb.org/  
AnnualMeeting/default.asp](http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp)

#### Recent Workshops

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, John Broker-Campbell  
and April Harkness attended a **Regional  
Planning Commission Training on  
Conservation Planning for Fish, Wildlife &  
their Habitats** at the Okemo Mtn. Resort in  
Ludlow. The event, sponsored by the VT  
Department of Fish & Wildlife, included  
presentations and discussions about avail-  
able gis data, habitat connectivity, ecologi-  
cal analysis and prioritization, integrating  
habitat protection into local bylaws, and  
incentive programs for private landowners.  
The Vermont Natural Resources Council  
put together a *Strategies Guide for Forest-  
land and Wildlife Conservation* matrix out-  
lining regulatory and non-regulatory tools  
for communities to consider. For a copy or  
more information, please email  
[aharknes@swcrpc.org](mailto:aharknes@swcrpc.org).

### Calendar of Events

#### November 2009

- 6 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm  
in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 13 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste  
Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 17 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC  
Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 17 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon  
in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 18 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm,  
location TBA

**26/27 Thanksgiving, RPC Offices Closed**

#### December 2009

- 9 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm,  
location TBA
- 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, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 15 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the  
RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 16 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in  
the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

**25 Christmas Day, RPC Offices Closed**

#### January 2010

- 1 New Year's Day, RPC Offices Closed**
- 8 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste  
Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 13 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm,  
location TBA
- 19 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC  
Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 19 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the  
RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 20 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in  
the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 28 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste  
Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield

Route 5, Ascuney  
Professional Building  
PO Box 320  
Ascuney, VT 05030



In honor of America Recycles Day on November 15, we ask that you make it a priority to step up your recycling efforts this year. Take the National Recycling Coalition's pledge:

- I pledge to find out what materials I can and cannot recycle in my community.
- I pledge to lead by example in my neighborhood by recycling.
- I pledge to recycle batteries, cell phones and other electronic waste.
- I pledge to email my elected officials to ask them to increase funding for my community's recycling programs.
- I pledge to tell five friends that recycling is the easiest thing they can do to slow global warming.

FACT: Today, the U.S. recycles 32 percent of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years.

FACT: In 2005, Americans discarded up to 2.2 million tons of unwanted electronics — 80% of it in landfills.

FACTS: Recycling:

- Prevents the emission of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants
- Saves energy
- Supplies valuable raw materials to industry
- Creates jobs
- Encourages development of greener technologies
- Conserves resources for our children's future
- Reduces the need for new landfills and incinerators



**Please contact Mary O'Brien, Recycling Coordinator,  
Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District with any questions:  
(802) 674-9235 or [mobrien@swcrpc.org](mailto:mobrien@swcrpc.org) . [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org)**