

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

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BRACE Project Completed

During August, SWRPC staff completed a project under the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) program designed to reduce potential threats to human health caused by extreme precipitation events, flooding, and storm damage. Related health effects and/or injuries are of particular concern among vulnerable populations, such as older adults and those with disabilities. Since 2017, the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Greater Monadnock Public Health Network, Antioch University New England and SWRPC have partnered to conduct research, plan and implement emergency preparedness interventions in the Monadnock Region. As of July 2021, the program has reached over 7,800 residents through a public outreach campaign and emergency preparedness workshops, the most recent held on July 27th. The public outreach campaign was bolstered by support from 14 community partners including eight human service organizations and six municipalities. According to evaluation conducted by BRACE partners, the program has influenced the perception of danger and awareness to extreme precipitation events, flooding, and storm damage among the population that has been reached. In addition, workshop participants now have specific tools and resources to adopt emergency preparedness plans which include emergency preparedness kits, evacuation and/or shelter-in-place plans, and lists of emergency phone contacts for notification and help. These resources are available on the SWRPC website at <http://www.swrpc.org/BRACE-Webinar>. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

Transportation Advisory Committee

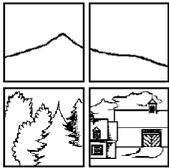
On August 2nd, SWRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met to hear a presentation from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) regarding efforts to develop a draft Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) for the period 2023-2032. State law requires that NHDOT propose a TYP for improvements to the State's transportation system every two years. The purpose of the TYP is to develop and implement a plan allowing New Hampshire to fully participate in federally supported transportation improvement programs as well as to define and schedule individual projects. While the U.S. Congress has not yet approved a federal transportation bill, NHDOT is planning for a budget of approximately \$183 million per year between July 2023 and June 2032 primarily consisting of federal and state revenue. The draft TYP is scheduled to be published in September 2021. The TAC also heard a presentation from SWRPC staff concerning the completion of a Cheshire Rail Trail South plan. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

New Ipswich Launches Municipal Broadband Survey

The Town of New Ipswich, with technical assistance provided by SWRPC, has launched a municipal broadband survey to better understand the internet-related needs of residents and local businesses. A municipal broadband survey is a great first step that towns can take towards addressing broadband challenges. It can help answer questions like where is broadband available, at what speeds, and how might a lack of broadband be negatively impacting local quality of life and economic opportunity. Information collected through a survey can help provide direction to municipal staff and officials interested in taking proactive steps to addressing broadband challenges. Such steps could include developing grant proposals for state or federal funding and exploring public-private partnerships to expand connectivity. The Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide provides additional information about how towns can facilitate improved broadband access. To view an online copy of the guide please go to: <http://www.swrpc.org/files/Monadnock%20Broadband%20Implementation%20Guide%202020-10-12.pdf>. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.

Rail Trail Planning

During August, SWRPC provided printed copies of the recently completed Cheshire Rail Trail South Plan to five communities along the rail trail corridor that participated in a planning effort to identify challenges and opportunities along the Trail. These communities include Keene, Swanzey, Marlborough, Troy, and Fitzwilliam. Development of the Plan included various tasks conducted between October 2020 and June 2021 including development of a webpage to promote activities and share results (www.swrpc.org/cheshire-rail-trail-south), an online survey to learn about improvement priorities and trail use, automated counts of people using the Trail, and documenting goals, objectives and implementation projects to guide collaborative efforts over the next ten years and beyond. In addition, SWRPC staff continues to represent rural communities as part of the NH Trails Plan update project Advisory Stakeholder Committee. Project consultants held four public hearings throughout the State including one in Keene on August 11th. Individuals interested in participating in the project are encouraged to participate in an online survey announced in August at the project webpage, www.nhtrailtrailsplan.com or via www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRWWWJR. A draft plan document is expected to be available for review in Spring 2022. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.



Emergency Management Planning

SWRPC staff have recently completed updates of hazard mitigation plans for the member towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale and Surry, all of which are now awaiting approval from NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Richmond and Swanzey are currently in the process of updating their plans while Westmoreland, Sullivan, and Antrim will be initiating plan updates in the coming months. In addition, SWRPC staff recently assisted Antrim in updating their Emergency Operations Plan and will soon begin working with Nelson in updating their plan. All work group update meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.

