

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

March 2015

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### Partnership to Improve Community Health

The Planning Commission has partnered with Healthy Monadnock 2020 and Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock Keene to take on a three-year initiative called *Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH)*. The focus of PICH is to create population health improvements and increase access to healthier living opportunities for residents and workers throughout the Monadnock Region. Through this initiative, SWRPC will focus on enhancing safe access to physical activity by assisting communities in Cheshire County with improving the safety of the local transportation network by working with schools to develop Safe Routes to School action plans; enhancing the Rack It Up! program, a community based bicycle rack initiative; and, developing Complete Streets policies and demonstration events. Complete Streets are roadways that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. In the first year of this program, SWRPC will be working with the City of Keene and the Town of Swanzey. We plan to expand the program to additional communities in years 2 and 3 of the effort. For more information, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff or visit [www.monadnocktma.org/programs](http://www.monadnocktma.org/programs).

### Brownfields Assessment Program Update

SWRPC's first brownfields project with its newest brownfields assessment grant will be a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of a property located at 797 Marlborough Road in Keene. The assessment is being conducted on behalf of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to determine if there are any environmental conditions on the site that merit further study. The assessment will help MEDC perform environmental due diligence on the property - a requirement that provides protections to landowners, contiguous property owners and bona fide prospective purchasers of land from environmental contamination liability. Additional nominated projects are scheduled for review by SWRPC's Brownfields Advisory Committee at their meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information about the Brownfields Assessment Program including how to nominate a property, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Planning and Zoning Conference

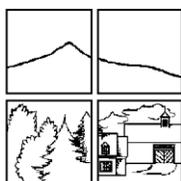
The NH Office of Energy and Planning has announced that registration is now open for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Planning & Zoning Conference. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015 and will be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. Topics featured at this conference include: legal update, right to know law issues, ZBA roles and responsibilities, basics for planning board members, Accessing and Using Census Bureau Data in Community Planning, Planning for Rooftop Solar Systems, historic preservation, using your master plan, and more. To register, and for additional conference details, go to: <http://www.nh.gov/oep> or contact Michele Zydel at 603-271-2155 or [michele.zydel@nh.gov](mailto:michele.zydel@nh.gov). The registration deadline is **Thursday, April 23, 2015** and the registration fee is \$60 per person. The fee includes full conference participation, breakfast, lunch, and breaks. Sessions often fill up, so early registration is recommended.

### Using the Social Vulnerability Index to Strengthen Regional Planning

The Planning Commission has partnered with the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network and Antioch University New England to offer a social vulnerability index (SVI) training session on April 29, 2015 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Cheshire County House of Corrections, Keene, NH. Social vulnerability refers to the socioeconomic and demographic factors that affect the resiliency of communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry developed the SVI tool to assist emergency response planners and public health officials to identify and map the communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a disaster. To register contact: Tricia Wadleigh ([twadleigh@cheshire-med.com](mailto:twadleigh@cheshire-med.com); 603-354-5454 x 3030) by April 22, 2015. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

## 2015 Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) has announced that the 2015 Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This conference has become the largest drinking water *source protection* event in New England and is the only statewide event focused solely on how to protect local sources of drinking water. This year's event will include presentations on a variety of topics including: barriers to private well testing and treatment, contaminants of emerging concern in drinking water sources, case studies and design factors for low impact development systems and stormwater management, local efforts to balance recreational access and source water protection, and many other topics. The conference fee is \$55.00 and includes lunch and refreshments. To register please visit the DES website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/workshop.htm>. For questions please contact Pierce Rigrod ([Pierce.Rigrod@des.nh.gov](mailto:Pierce.Rigrod@des.nh.gov); 603-271-0688) at DES or Win Saltmarsh ([wsaltmarsh@agwt.org](mailto:wsaltmarsh@agwt.org), 603-228-5444) at the American Ground Water Trust. This event will offer New Hampshire water works operators 5.0 Technical Credit Hours.



## Community Health Improvement Plan

The Planning Commission has partnered with the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network to create the Region's first-ever Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Development of the Plan is based on data that addresses key public health issues that have been determined by regional health partners including the Monadnock Council for Healthier Community (CHC) executive committee. The CHIP will present data, identify trends, and set priorities for action by regional health partners between 2015 and 2017. Region-specific goals and objectives will be based on statewide objectives, guidance from the CHC executive committee, public health experts, and numerous health-specific data resources. The CHIP will also benefit from the Cheshire Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment, the Monadnock Community Hospital Community Assessment, and the work of Healthy Monadnock 2020. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood or Tara Germond of Commission staff.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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