

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

October 2020

Vol. 26 - No. 10

### **Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide**

At the 2020 SWRPC Fall Commission Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, staff announced the release of the *Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide*, a resource intended to help local communities chart a course towards improved broadband connectivity. The Guide focuses in particular on the *Chesterfield Model*, an approach pioneered in the Town of Chesterfield, NH that relies on a public-private partnership between municipal government and an internet service provider to build a town-wide broadband network. The Guide was written with contributions from broadband champions and stakeholders from across the Region. It aims to collect the knowledge and experience of communities that have acted as broadband trailblazers and share that knowledge with communities who are interested in pursuing a similar path. In addition to detailing steps necessary to pursue the *Chesterfield Model*, the Guide contains a variety of information that any community might want to consider in determining approaches to expanding connectivity. The Guide can be found at <http://www.swrpc.org/broadband/resources>. The Fall Meeting also included a presentation on Communication Districts, a new tool that allows communities to join together to own and operate broadband infrastructure. For more information, visit the Monadnock Broadband Group website at [www.swrpc.org/broadbandgroup](http://www.swrpc.org/broadbandgroup) or contact [Henry Underwood](#) or [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Public Input Requested on the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, an online public forum was held by the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Existing Bridges Subcommittee, a citizen's advisory group tasked with developing a vision for the Connecticut River crossing that comprises Hinsdale Island and the Charles Dana and Anna Hunt Marsh bridges (Route 119). Approximately 40 people attended the forum, designed to provide information about planned changes to the bridge crossings over the Connecticut River and solicit public feedback on a vision for the reuse of the island and bridges which will be restricted to pedestrian and bicycle access upon completion of a single span replacement bridge. The meeting was recorded and a weblink to the video and an accompanying survey is located on SWRPC's homepage at [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org) under "What's New". The meeting featured a description of the overall project by the NH Department of Transportation (starts at minute 11) as well as a preview of some reuse and redesign ideas for the bridges and island by several University of Massachusetts students (starts at minute 46). SWRPC and the Subcommittee are seeking additional input through the survey that was administered at the meeting that is also available on the SWRPC [homepage](#). For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **New Resources for Addressing Opioid Misuse**

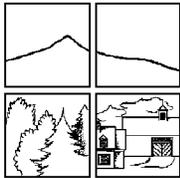
SWRPC was recently enlisted to develop helpful resources to assist the [Monadnock Rural Communities Opioid Response Program](#) (MRCORP) Consortium in efforts to address opioid misuse in the Monadnock Region. A guide was compiled to provide a one-stop-shop for resources in the Monadnock Region related to substance abuse prevention, treatment, recovery, and beyond. The [Resource Guide](#) was built specific to the Monadnock Region and represents a detailed effort to capture a wide range of local resources including prevention and services such as housing, transportation and food assistance that can support those in recovery from substance use disorder. In addition, a [Data Dashboard](#) provides a demographic profile of the Monadnock Region, current data and historical trends on substance misuse and information about the Region's treatment and recovery workforce. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.

## Watershed Planning

During October, SWRPC received notification that pre-proposals for two projects recently submitted to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) have been selected to submit full proposals. The projects include:

- Spofford Lake Implementation Phase II. This project will focus on physical improvements in locations within the watershed that have previously been identified in the Spofford Lake Watershed Management Plan to address water quality. The primary project is improvements to the public boat ramp and parking area.
- Ashuelot River Corridor Management Plan Update. This plan will identify and assess areas of concern so towns within the river corridor can work to reverse trends in degradation that have developed over recent years.

Full proposals will be submitted to DES in early December 2020. For more information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.



## Community Development Block Grant Applications

During October, staff assisted the Town of Jaffrey with the submission of an application for a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The application requests \$500,000 in CDBG economic development funds to assist the Town in constructing a water treatment plant at the Cold Stone Springs properties. The proposed water infrastructure improvements will support the growth of MilliporeSigma, a major manufacturer and employer in Jaffrey, who have committed to creating 25 new jobs as a result of the project via the application. The Town of Jaffrey is sponsoring the grant with SWRPC acting as writer and grant administrator. For more information please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

