



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

September 2020

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SWRPC Fall Commission Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 13th, at 3:30 p.m. and will be conducted remotely using a Zoom format. Attendees will join a live meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group focused on topics related to broadband connectivity in Southwest New Hampshire. **Please register in advance if you plan to join the meeting.** Log-in information for the meeting will be provided to registrants and posted on the SWRPC website at www.swrpc.org. To register, please contact [Rich Clough](#) of SWRPC staff.

Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridges Forum

On October 15th, at 6:30 p.m. representatives from Hinsdale, NH, Brattleboro, VT, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Windham Regional Commission and SWRPC will hold a public forum on the *Future Use of the Charles Dana and Anna Hunt Marsh Bridges*. The event marks the first step in a public involvement process to develop a vision, programming and design ideas for the two bridges and Hinsdale Island area after the bridges are closed to vehicle traffic when a new Hinsdale-Brattleboro bridge is constructed over the Connecticut River. This event will be held online with more meeting details to follow in future editions of Happenings and at www.swrpc.org. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Community Power

On September 29th, SWRPC's Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee hosted a presentation on Community Power. Henry Herndon, Director of Local Energy Solutions at Clean Energy NH served as presenter. The topic is one that is gaining attention around the State since Senate Bill 286 went into effect in October 2019. The Community Power law enables local governments to purchase power in bulk creating economies of scale which reduce energy costs for those choosing to participate in the program. The presentation provided an introduction to Community Power and how it works. For additional information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Housing Roundtable

On September 1st, the Monadnock Housing Roundtable met to continue discussions focused on gaining a better understanding of the region's housing challenges and how to respond. The roundtable is comprised of developers, real estate professionals, municipal staff, housing advocates, and others. A lack of housing options continues to pose challenges for the Monadnock Region. A tight rental market and a scarcity of starter homes makes it difficult for employers to recruit and retain a new generation of workers. Meanwhile, retirees or empty-nest baby boomers looking to downsize often find it difficult to do so while remaining in the communities they currently call home. Housing costs have continued to increase, affecting not only lower-income households, but also individuals and families in the middle class. You can learn more at <https://monadnockhousingroundtable.wordpress.com/>. If you'd like to become involved in the effort, please contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

CDBG Update

During September, SWRPC staff assisted Cheshire County in submitting an application for federal Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. The application involves the request of \$430,000 to support the Hundred Nights Shelter. If selected for award, Cheshire County will sub-grant grant proceeds to Hundred Nights, who will utilize the funds for the long-term lease of space to provide 24 emergency shelter beds from January 2021 to June 2022. The County is sponsoring the grant with SWRPC acting as grant administrator. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.



Hazard Mitigation

SWRPC staff is currently working with five communities to update their hazard mitigation plans. Local work group meetings have begun in the towns of Greenville, Jaffrey and Temple. In addition, plan updates are soon to begin in Bennington and Marlborough. If you are interested in attending meetings or reviewing the draft plans, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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