



# Windham Regional Commission Newsbrief

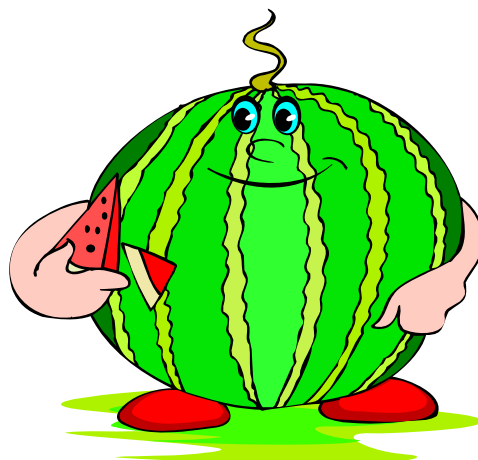
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June 2009

## Annual Picnic

**Don't forget about the annual picnic. Please join us for food and drinks on Tuesday June 30, 2009 at the Townshend Dam Lake, Davis Picnic Pavilion. Please RSVP to Abby before Tuesday by phone 802-257-4547 or email [wrc@sover.net](mailto:wrc@sover.net).**

**Hope to see you all there!**



## **Windham and Dover receive Town Plan Approval from the WRC**

Congratulations to the towns of Windham and Dover for the recent WRC approval of their town plans. This achievement is an important achievement for those who put a lot of effort and dedication to work on the plans.

Towns with adopted plans are under no obligation to have those plans *approved* by the WRC. While a duly adopted plan can be used to guide development and serve as evidence in Act 250 hearings, only towns with approved plans are eligible to apply for Municipal Planning Grants. An approved Town Plan is also a requirement for a municipality interested in applying for Downtown or Village Center designation. In addition, state agencies proposing projects must consider approved town plans before proceeding. Regardless of whether a locally adopted plan is approved, however, it still is in effect.

Please contact Sue Fillion x112 ([sdf@sover.net](mailto:sdf@sover.net)) if you have any questions about Town Plan Approval.

**Do you have any great pictures of your town center, town hall, town roads, or seasons in your town?**

**We are in need of digital pictures from around the Windham Region to incorporate into our website makeover!**

**Please send digital photos to [afletche@sover.net](mailto:afletche@sover.net)**

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## FY2010 Municipal Planning Grant Program

Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program has been announced at a funding level of \$408,700 for fiscal year 2010. Municipalities will be able to apply for up to \$15,000 for single applications or up to \$25,000 for multi-town (consortia) applications. No local match is required at this time but only one application per municipality may be submitted. **Municipal Planning grant applications for FY10 will only be accepted online and are due on September 30, 2009.**

Please note this important change about the MPG process: All communication regarding MPGs will be done through email and applications must be submitted on-line. Please contact the WRC if you need any help with that process. Your initial point of contact here should be Mike Shaughnessy (257-4547 X-103; [mshags@sover.net](mailto:mshags@sover.net)); depending on the nature of your potential grant application, someone else on staff may be assigned to follow up with you.

### **Dates to Know:**

Online Application Training Dates: **September 1, 3-5 pm or September 19, 12-2 pm**

RPC Confirmation of Municipal Planning Process: **September 30, 2009 \*\***

Applications due: **September 30, 2009**

Award Decision: **November, 2009**

Project Completion Date: **May 9, 2011**

<http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm> (this website has all of the below information and more)

\*\*A key point among the eligibility criteria is the requirement for the town to have a “confirmed planning process”, which in turn requires that the town plan be approved by the WRC. If your town plan is not currently approved and you are not already in the process for approval this summer, it is unlikely that you would be able to become eligible by September. The only exception to that is for a town that wants to apply for funding for the purpose of developing a plan that would meet the state criteria for approval.

### Municipal Planning Grant Program Details

Access to the online application will be available in August, but you are encouraged to start planning your projects now and begin the application process by taking the following steps:

- Review the [Program Description](#) to determine the eligibility of your town and project. Pay special attention to the competitive criteria and statewide priorities in determining if you have a project that is a good candidate for funding through this program.
- Meet with your local planning commission, selectboard and other entities to discuss and agree on a project. Municipal organizations other than the planning commission (e.g. conservation commission) may apply but must have approval from both the planning commission and selectboard.
- Review the [sample application](#) and develop a work plan and budget for your project with input from [Windham Regional Commission](#) and/or a private consultant.
- Write any “essay” responses to the application questions in a word processing document that can later be pasted into the online application.
- If you or your town has not yet used the online grants management system, review the [Roles](#) and determine who will fill those roles from your municipality.
- Create a new user account on the system following the instructions provided on [Grants Management Log-in page](#).
- New Municipal/Authorizing Official(s) will need to create a new user account on that site and obtain the necessary validation by calling 802-828-5249 during business hours.
- If you need coaching, sign up for one of the optional [online application trainings](#).
- Anyone who has created a user account in the online grants management system (this year or last), will receive email notification when the FY10 online application is ready for use, sometime in August.

If you have questions or need assistance, in addition to the WRC you may contact the DHCA MPG program administrator, Wendy Tudor at 802-828-5249 (direct line), 800-622-4553 (toll free) or email [wendy.tudor@state.vt.us](mailto:wendy.tudor@state.vt.us).

