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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sarah Marchant

2011 was an exciting and challenging year for New Hampshire planners and as we venture into 2012, NHPA's Executive Committee has some new faces. The Executive Committee would like to say thank you and farewell to Mikeala Engert and Julie Labranche, both will be missed! Jennifer Czysz will continue to serve on the Executive Committee in her new role as the NH State Director for NNECAPA. Our two new members include Tara Germond of Southwest Regional Planning Commission and Meena Gyawali, from the Community Development Finance Authority. The changes to members and positions in the Executive Committee can be found under "[Executive Committee](#)."

The Legislative sub-committee for the 2011/2012 session has been formed and is gearing up for the upcoming Legislative Season. We are beginning to building some new partnerships this year with the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association, the Fire Prevention Society and the NH Building Officials Association in the hopes of extending and enhancing our ability to effectively advocate for sound planning policy in New Hampshire. Please see the [NHPA Legislative Tracker page](#) for the 2012 NHPA Priority LSRs and if you are interested in joining the sub-committee let us know!

Mark your calendars for the 2012 NHPA Annual Conference, on May 10th and 11th in downtown Concord, NH. The COG (Conference Organizing Group) is hard at work under the attentive eye of its Chair, Ben Frost, to bring you a comprehensive professional development opportunity. If you are interested in helping please contact Ben to let him know (bfrost@nhhfa.org).

Please read on for more great information about planning in New Hampshire.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tim Corwin, Legislative Liaison

2012 is shaping up to be another busy year in Concord as nearly 1,000 bills have been submitted for consideration. The NHPA Legislative Sub-Committee has identified dozens of bills which they feel may have some impact on planning in New Hampshire or a related issue such as the environment, energy, transportation or housing. I encourage you to follow the status of the bills we have identified by visiting the NHPA web site and clicking on "Legislation/Law."

The Legislative Tracker element of the website (which will be updated shortly after if not prior to the publication of this newsletter) makes it very easy for planners to quickly find and read bills that may be important to you. All of the bills are hyperlinked for easy access to the text and hearing dates, status, and sponsors are listed as well. If you have concerns with any of the positions that the NHPA is taking I would encourage you to contact any member of the Sub-Committee. As we did last year, we will be conducting a survey of the members sometime in early winter to ensure that the subcommittee reflects the positions and priorities of the NHPA membership.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President

JENNIFER CZYSZ
Vice-President

SHANNA SAUNDERS
Secretary

BENJAMIN FROST
Treasurer

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Legislative Liaison

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MIKAELA ENGERT
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NNECAPA Ex-Officio

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NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSING RECEIVES \$1M HUD COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

New Hampshire Housing has been awarded \$1 million through the Community Challenge Planning Grant Program, a HUD funding source that parallels the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. As the leader of a statewide consortium, New Hampshire Housing will use the funding to develop and facilitate a competitive grant program for New Hampshire municipalities, called the New Hampshire Community Planning Grant (CPG) Program.

The CPG Program will provide matching competitive grants of up to \$30,000 for communities to conduct work that supports the creation of local regulations that will foster sustainable community development and implement more than a decade of statewide research and reports promoting smart growth and sustainable development. These regulations include the following: form-based codes; mixed-use and inclusionary zoning; lot-size averaging, village plan alternative subdivisions and infill development; growth boundaries, transfer of development rights and density transfer credit codes; neighborhood heritage districts; building codes for energy-efficient rehabilitation of older structures; corridor planning to increase mixed-income housing near employment nodes, pedestrian- and transit-oriented development and affordable housing; and economic development connecting housing and transportation investments and local adoption of the "Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive."

In addition to New Hampshire Housing, the CPG Consortium includes the Office of Energy and Planning, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Transportation, Community Development Finance Authority, Plan NH, New Hampshire Municipal Association, New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, and UNH Cooperative Extension.

Working through the NH Preservation Alliance, the CPG Program will pilot the development of Neighborhood Heritage Districts in two communities. The NH Community Loan Fund, UNH Cooperative Extension, and NH Legal Assistance will assist in the development and delivery of outreach efforts targeted to traditionally marginalized populations. These efforts will be integrated with municipal grant awardees' communication and outreach initiatives. Additionally, UNH Cooperative Extension and the Community Loan Fund will pilot an outreach process with one selected grantee community to work with residents of a manufactured housing community to promote grass roots engagement in the planning process.

The CPG Program will award grants in two rounds (2012 and 2013), timed to allow for preparation of regulations to present for voter adoption at annual town meetings. Grantee municipalities must provide a minimum of 25% match, at least ¼ of which must be in cash. Municipalities will be able to use the funds to hire qualified consultants, such as their regional planning commissions, to develop the regulations. While some of the funding will specifically target the development of inclusionary zoning and Neighborhood Heritage Districts, most of the grants will be more flexibly aimed at the creation of local land use policies that support principles of sustainability.

Grant application information will be posted online at http://www.nhhfa.org/rl_CPGprog.cfm on April 15, 2012. Contact Ben Frost at New Hampshire Housing with any questions (603-310-9361 or bfrost@nhhfa.org).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *(continued from page 1)*

Please keep in mind that the Sub-Committee is always looking for members of the Association to testify or to provide comments on pending legislation. If there is any legislation that is of particular interest to you and you would be willing to testify on behalf of the NHPA, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the Sub-Committee members to let us know.

2012 Legislative Sub-Committee Members

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NEW GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR PROTECTING REGIONAL GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Check out NH DES's new "Guide to Groundwater Reclassification (November 2011)" designed to help municipalities and water systems "reclassify" important groundwater resources, such as aquifers or wellhead protection areas. To reclassify important groundwater resources, an application must be submitted to DES by a local entity, such as the board of selectman or city council. This guide provides important details and instructions to help complete the application process.

Established under New Hampshire's Groundwater Protection Act (RSA 485-C), reclassification allows water systems and municipalities to limit certain high-risk land uses, institute a local Best Management Practice

inspection program to minimize mismanagement of harmful contaminants, and requires greater monitoring of groundwater discharges within reclassified areas. Reclassification is an effective way to coordinate groundwater protections across town boundaries and build greater local awareness of local sources of drinking water. Today, nearly 70,000 people in New Hampshire benefit from protections established through state reclassification. Contact Pierce Rigrod at (603) 271-0688 or pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov to learn more about reclassification. Download the new guide at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-24.pdf>.

NEW GUIDE TO HELP COMMUNITIES MANAGE ENERGY USE

by Tara Germond

An important tool for communities seeking to reduce energy costs through energy efficiency improvements to municipal buildings is an energy audit. However, the process of identifying and selecting an auditor can be a challenge for many towns and cities. The term "energy audit" can encompass a broad range of possible services that can vary considerably.

To help communities maximize energy savings based upon energy audits and to better understand energy use in buildings, the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association, in collaboration with the Municipal Energy Working Group has released the "Field Guide to New Hampshire's Municipal Buildings and Energy Audit Guidelines." This instructional resource is specifically designed for New Hampshire's diverse town-owned building stock but includes other relevant information for all building types and uses. It outlines how to determine the appropriate type of audit and expertise needed as well as how to ask for it. Moreover, the guide explains how an audit can be used as an integrated energy planning tool.

The guide is divided into four sections. The first is an introduction to energy use, building systems, energy auditing and some fundamental building science. The second section is designed to help a decision maker select the type of energy assessment and appropriate level of expertise for a particular building based on its energy load and system complexity. This section categorizes the wide range of municipal buildings and mechanical systems based on their size, construction, and unique energy uses.

The third section offers a comprehensive Model Scope of Work that is relevant for most building types, which can be included in an RFP. Section three outlines information necessary to expect from each audit and auditor depending on the building type. The fourth section highlights current best practices for building energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. This section of the guide will be revised as necessary to keep up with rapid innovations in the field.

Funding for this guide came from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. A copy may be found on the NH Sustainable Energy Association website ([nhsea.org](http://www.nhsea.org)) or by visiting: http://www.nhsea.org/resource/Audit_Guidelines_Nov2011.pdf

SAVE THE DATE!

May 10-11
Holiday Inn, Concord

**2012 NH Planners Association
Annual Conference**

**The *New*
New Hampshire**

**Forces of Change in Our Society
and Environment**

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Region 1: North Country Council

Bethlehem, NH
 Michael King, Executive Director
www.nccouncil.org/

**Region 2: Lakes Region
 Planning Commission**

Meredith, NH
 Kimon Koulet, Executive Director
www.lakesrpc.org/

**Region 3: Upper Valley
 Lakes Sunapee Council**

Lebanon, NH
 Christine Walker, Executive Director
www.uvlsrc.org/

**Region 4: Southwest
 Planning Commission**

Keene, NH
 Tim Murphy, Executive Director
www.swrpc.org/

**Region 5a: Central NH
 Regional Planning Commission**

Concord, NH
 Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
www.cnhrpc.org/

**Region 5b: Southern NH
 Planning Commission**

Manchester, NH
 David Preece, Executive Director
www.snhpc.org

**Region 5c: Nashua Regional
 Planning Commission**

Merrimack, NH
 Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
www.nashuarpc.org

**Region 6: Rockingham
 Planning Commission**

Exeter, NH
 Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director
www.rpc-nh.org/

**Region 7: Strafford Regional
 Planning Commission**

Dover, NH
 Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director
www.strafford.org/

