



March 2009

NTRPDC update



SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

NTRPDC Receives Green Highways Recognition Award



Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission received a Green Highways Recognition Award at this year's Green Highways Partnership Leadership forum in Washington D.C.

The award is given to organizations that implement innovative conservation strategies in transportation planning efforts.

"The Northern Tier Region has a rich inventory of historical and environmental resources and through this program, we are making every effort to mitigate any potential disturbance prior to the implementation of transportation projects," said Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager for NTRPDC.

The Green Highways Partnership pushes the boundaries of traditional road construction practices. Partners include the Environmental Protection Agency, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Federal Highway Administration. Practices include the mapping of all resources in the area to identify, avoid, and protect critical resources and cultural landmarks. The use of recycled materials is encouraged.

The ultimate goal is to develop self sustaining partnerships that integrate green practices into planning and building the nation's transportation system. It is not a regulatory-driven initiative but rather a way of integrating transportation and environmental objectives.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming County Outreach Meetings:

- March 27—Wyoming County
- April 3—Bradford County
- May 1—Susquehanna County
- May 29—Tioga County

NTRPDC Annual Meeting

April 17, 12:00 p.m. in Tioga County (tentative). Guest Speaker: Lieutenant Governor, Joe Scarnati

LTAP Training—Chainsaw Safety

April 7, 8 a.m.—3p.m. Athens Borough, Public Works Department

PA Trade Representatives Meeting

April 27—See page 3 for details

Call **1-888-868-8800** or e-mail **bartholomew@northerntier.org** for more information and to register for all events.

Penn State offering free webinars on natural gas issues

In order to address the opportunities and challenges of exploring for natural gas in the Marcellus shale, Penn State is offering a seven-part series of free on line seminars through May. A variety of topics will be covered. For more information visit www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu and click on "webinars" on the menu bar.

Staff News

Two complete Grantsmanship Training Program



Jeff Field, Information Technology Program Manager (top photo) and Matt Williams, Regional Planner recently completed The Grantsmanship Training Program.

The training is conducted by The Grantsmanship Center, which was founded in 1972 to offer training and resources to non-profit and government agencies. They conduct intensive five day workshops throughout the country.



The workshop teaches specific approaches to targeting appropriate government, foundation, or corporate grants for an organization or project, and writing the proposal to meet that need. While receiving instruction, students work

on real proposals for their organization and receive constructive feedback from the group.

This training helps NTRPDC staff prepare for writing and managing our own grants and helps us provide technical assistance to our non-profit and municipal clients who are working on proposals for their local projects.

Jeff and Matt joint the roster of more than 110,000 alumni, which includes most of the NTRPDC Staff. For more information visit www.tgci.com.

Community Development

Six projects received grant or loan funding totaling \$306,545

DCED Community Revitalization Grants were awarded to the following municipalities:

- \$10,000 to Wyalusing Township for installation of playground equipment in the village of Camptown.
- \$10,000 to Herrick Township for its

community park.

- \$20,000 to Westfield Borough to help purchase a generator for its fire hall/community center.

DCED Local Government Loans were awarded to the following municipalities:

- \$25,000 loan to Gibson Township for a truck

- \$50,000 loan to Mansfield Borough to help with rehabilitation of the Mansfield Armory.

A \$191,545 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Loan was awarded to Thompson Hose Company for a new heavy-duty rescue/pumper fire truck



“The workshop teaches specific approaches to targeting appropriate government, foundation, or corporate grants.”

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

How will the economic recovery package impact our region?

The money from the ARRA will be used to re-energize existing programs by providing them with additional money to invest in our communities. NTRPDC, as one of seven Pennsylvania Local Development Districts, is prepared to help the Commonwealth with the challenges and opportunities presented by this legislation.

Programs and projects focused on workforce, infrastructure, and energy of are particular interest to the Northern Tier Region. Please visit our website for the latest information on ARRA: www.northerntier.org.

Unemployment Rates

Unemployment rates continue to rise

	December 2008	January 2009
Bradford County	6.9%	7.9%
Sullivan County	7.3%	9.3%
Susquehanna County	7.2%	8.4%
Tioga County	8.2%	9.7%
Wyoming County	7.6%	9.1%
Pennsylvania	6.7%	7.7%
United States	7.2%	8.5%

Unemployment is a segment of the civilian labor force that includes individuals who are not working, but are waiting for a layoff to end or are actively seeking employment.

Upcoming Event

Overseas Trade Representatives to meet with businesses

Monday April 27th Pennsylvania trade representatives from China, Russia, Vietnam, Canada, and United Arab Emirates will meet with area businesses. Focus will be manufactured housing, green building, lumber, constructions materials, construction design, engineering and design, and architecture; however they are willing to meet with any industry sector. Contact Cynthia Krise, Export Development Program Manager, at krise@northerntier.org for more information.



“Pennsylvania trade representatives from China, Russia, Vietnam, Canada, and United Arab Emirates will meet with area businesses.”

Non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses can benefit from Summer Youth assistance. To submit a project please contact:

Bradford County:
Bradford County Action—570.265.4434

Sullivan County:
TREHAB—570.928.2120

Susquehanna County:
TREHAB—570.879.8131

Tioga County:
TREHAB—570.723.7000

Wyoming County:
TREHAB—570.996.2448

For more information on the Summer Youth Program, please contact Sherry Felten, Workforce Development Program Manager by e-mailing felten@northerntier.org or calling 570.264.9103

Projects Needed

Summer Youth Program gets a boost from economic recovery funds.

Each summer, eligible youth are given employment opportunities in businesses or organizations. Wages are paid through funding from the Workforce Investment Act because at-risk youth receive valuable work experience.

This summer, thanks to additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, extra project sites will be needed to accommodate additional participants.

Past projects have included municipal work in townships and parks including sidewalk installation, painting, landscaping, and more. Businesses have also benefited from having additional summer workers.

Youth up to age 24 will benefit from the work experience, while you receive additional help.



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Visit our Web Site!

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