



# Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

May 2010

## LWCF IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Many communities inquired about the Land and Water Conservation Fund after reading the March newsletter. Previously we advised that we would be providing more information after GFP opens the program. Applications are being accepted this year and the deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2010. Some of you may have received an email from Municipal League with this announcement.

The LWCF application requires that applicants pass a resolution to verify that applicants will be able to provide at least one-half of the total project cost and that applicants agree to operate and maintain the completed project/facility for the reasonable life expectancy of the facility/project. **For those who only meet once a month, you will want to contact our office and request an example of the resolution before your June meeting to prevent having to hold a special meeting to pass the resolution.**

Keep in mind that LWCF grants are awarded for up to 50% of eligible project costs and are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Local matches can be cash or in-kind donations. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000 and the minimum amount is \$5,000. NECOG staff can assist you in preparing your applications, please contact us as soon as possible if you are considering submitting an application.

## EECBG GRANT AWARDS

NECOG assisted with the preparation of 29 Energy Efficiency grant applications in the Northeast Region. The following applicants were approved for funding:

Ashton	\$4,800
Beadle County	\$116,480
Bristol	\$26,160
Campbell County	\$7,385
Cavour	\$2,850
Claremont	\$8,500
Eureka	\$40,340
Faulk County	\$347,250
Hecla	\$26,090
Ipswich	\$11,110
Java	\$2,420
Leola	\$94,700
Marshall County	\$84,970
Selby	\$13,670
Spink County	\$33,070
Tolstoy	\$35,620
Waubay	\$20,045
Webster	\$88,440
Wolsey	\$7,740
Veblen	\$2,860
Yale	\$2,950

The NECOG region received a total of \$977,450 in grant awards from the EECBG program. Many of you are anxious to get started on your energy efficiency improvements. Keep in mind that State Bid Laws must be followed and to ensure that the terms of the grant agreement are being met when you draft your specifications for the project. As with all of the ARRA funded projects, remember there are additional reporting requirements that must be followed.

## COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM

Community Access Grants are state funds for towns less than 5,000 in population and are for the construction or reconstruction of major streets in town such as Main Street and roads that lead to elevators, schools, hospitals, and

farm-to-market roads. This program provides for 60% of the construction costs of the project, not including engineering or utility work. Applications are typically due August 1<sup>st</sup>, however, at this time the grant has yet to be announced but NECOG anticipates that this program may be made available this summer and NECOG will provide an announcement of the application deadline once it is released. Grant size is limited to \$400,000. If you have projects that may qualify for this program please start gathering your information.

## **DOT GIS ROAD PROJECT**

NECOG has finished collecting over 350 responses from towns, townships, and counties in our region on changes to their local road system. The information provided will allow staff during the next three months to make updates to the existing road layers and to forward that information on to the DOT. Due to existing road conditions we have not been able to start driving and mapping the changes, but we hope to be starting soon. We would like to thank everyone who assisted in reviewing their local maps and returning them to our office.

## **OFFICIAL DOT STIP MEETINGS**

The official DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meetings will be held in Aberdeen on July 20 at the Ramada Convention Center and in Pierre on July 27, 2010 at the Ramkota Hotel. Other locations include:

Rapid City Ramkota Hotel July 15, 2010  
Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel July 21, 2010  
Mitchell Technical Institute July 22, 2010

All of the meetings are held at 7:00 pm. The STIP document lists the projects that South Dakota Department of Transportation has scheduled in the Federal Fiscal Years 2011 through 2015.

## **UPCOMING NECOG MEETING**

The next NECOG meeting will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the NECOG office.

DOT will be the guest speaker at this meeting. They will furnish a tentative STIP to be reviewed and discussed prior to the official public meetings listed in the previous section. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and state your concerns about particular projects.

## **NECOG HAS HIRED A NEW SUMMER INTERN**

NECOG has hired Ashli Griffith as a summer intern. Ashli is an accounting major at Northern State University and will be assisting NECOG staff in the many different functions of the office. Please be patient if she doesn't recognize you right away by voice or name.

### **Contact information for NECOG staff:**

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