



July 2009

NTRPDC update

nt
northern tier
regional
planning &
development
commission

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

Summer Youth Employment Program



L-R: Nick Lentz (crew leader), Trevor Lamphere, and Benjamin Kinsmen clean up Oak Hill Cemetery as part of a roving crew.

Many area youth were given the opportunity to earn a paycheck this summer while learning valuable employment skills. With oversight from the Youth Council and the Workforce Investment Board, the Summer Youth Employment Program helps area young people achieve academic and employment success. Because of Stimulus funding that was received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 we were able to increase the number of individuals served.

It's a chance to make a real difference in the lives of many youth; not only to give them useful work experience and income over the summer months, but to help prepare them for what it will take to be successful in the labor market in the future.

Before being placed in the summer job, participants take part in many activities during Academic Enrichment Week. In addition to career exploration, resume writing, interviewing skills, and college preparation, participants learned about job opportunities in "green" occupations such as weatherization, renewable energy, and jobs in the Natural Gas Industry. In addition to employment at traditional worksites, some youth were placed on roving crews that were involved in community restoration and beautification at local parks, cemeteries and little league fields by mowing, painting and landscaping as well as graffiti removal on community bridges and buildings.

The Summer Youth Employment Program is funded by the Workforce Investment Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Administered by the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, the program is operated in Bradford County by Bradford County Action and TREHAB in Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming counties.

Upcoming Events

SBDC First Steps Seminar
August 6—NTRPDC Conference Room

Bradford County Outreach Meeting:
September 4, 9a.m.—NTRPDC Conference Room

Natural Gas Summit for Municipal Officials
October 6, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.—
Wysox Volunteer Fire Hall

NTRPDC Full Commission Meeting
October 16, Wyoming County
Details TBA

NTCA Buyer-Vendor Symposium
October 26, 8:30—3:30—Penn
College North Campus,
Wellsboro
(contact Jen Swain, NTCA at
570.265.7455 for more info.)

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

Did you know...

That over 60% of the land in the Northern Tier Region cannot be developed? 10% of the land is federal and state game lands and forests, 51% is comprised of steep slopes, and 8% are wetlands and other undevelopable areas. The remaining 1,200 square miles encompass either small towns or farmland. This means that about 30% of available land is supporting the entire region in terms of generating tax revenues to provide services. Development is limited to transportation corridors with available access to infrastructure. On the other hand, the scenic and rural nature of the region can be considered an economic asset. This is why responsible land development is so important.

Loan Program Activity

Four loans totaling \$390,000 were closed in May and June.



NTRPDC HOSTS LENDERS WORKSHOP

Pictured above is Scott Dunkleberger, Executive Director, PA DCED Center for Business Financing who spoke with area bankers at a seminar hosted by NTRPDC. Dunkleberger, along with Donna Riling, PA Dept. of Banking, talked to bankers about a variety of state financing programs for businesses and about the establishment of a DCED certification process to improve and streamline the loan delivery process.

The following loans were closed during May and June:

- \$200,000 First Industries Fund agricultural loan to **Triple H Farms, Inc.** in Canton Township, Bradford County for the construction of a swine nursery.
- \$65,000 Tri-District Loan to **Wysox Equities, LLC** in Wysox, Bradford County for building improvements.
- \$25,000 micro-loan to **Montrose Laundromat** in Montrose, Susquehanna County to upgrade equipment.
- \$100,000 Tri-District Loan to **ARARI Investments, LLC** in Towanda, Bradford County for building improvements.

These loan funds will create or retain a total of 12 full time jobs. The funds helped to leverage \$1,080,000 in private investment.

“The funds helped to leverage \$1,080,000 in private investment.”

Community Development Funds Awarded

Four loans and grants totaling \$154,573 were awarded in May and June

- \$44,950 DCED 2% Municipal loan to Middleton Township, Susquehanna County, to help fund a cinder shed.
- \$25,000 DCED 2% Municipal loan to Gibson Township, Susquehanna County, to purchase a truck
- \$74,623 PEMA Loan to The Thompson Hose Company, Susquehanna County, to purchase a heavy-duty rescue/pumper fire truck.
- \$10,000 DCED Community Revitalization grant to The Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania for an Endless Mountains Trail Feasibility Study.

For more information on community development grants and loans, please contact Tom Schill By e-mailing schill@northerntier.org or calling toll-free: 888-868-8800

Local Libraries Receive Funding

\$25,378 in funding secured for 18 libraries across the region.



The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, as part of seven Local Development Districts in Pennsylvania, has been working on “eCOMM” a broadband project to identify communities or institutions in the region that lack modern, affordable

broadband services.

The project provides funding to accelerate and implement broadband services to underserved areas to meet their information technology and system needs.

As part of the project, NTRPDC provided small (Cont. on page 4)



“The project provides funding to accelerate and implement broadband services.”

Wyalusing Heritage Community

Wyalusing is going through the Route 6 Heritage Community process.

The Pennsylvania Route 6 Heritage Communities Program is a planning effort to help communities along the Route 6 Corridor become better host communities for the travelling public.

Wyalusing has been chosen as the first community to go through the process in the Northern Tier Region. NTRPDC has helped facilitate the program, along with the Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce, and a group of community volunteers. The process includes visioning and analysis of existing conditions. In the end, Wyalusing will have a community work plan that provides detailed guidance and action-oriented next steps for enhancements.

Improvements for Pedestrian Areas

NTRPDC Receives \$1.2 Million through Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative

The funds will be used for the review, construction, and implementation of pedestrian friendly traffic signals at specific locations in Bradford and Tioga Counties. The areas identified are part of completed mobility studies including Athens Township, Mansfield Borough and Richmond Township, and Wellsboro Borough and Delmar Township.

Local Libraries Receive Funding Cont...

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grants to local libraries to help them increase their wireless service, upgrade equipment, or increase memory. Eighteen libraries received a total of \$25,378 in funding:

Towanda Public Library	Forest City Branch Library
Sayre Public Library	Green Free Library
Wyalusing Public Library	Blossburg Memorial Library
Mather Memorial Library	Westfield Public Library
Monroeton Public Library	Knoxville Library Association
Spalding Memorial Library	Elkland Area Community Library
Susquehanna County Library	Mansfield Free Public Library
Susquehanna Branch Library	Tunkhannock Public Library
Hallstead-Great Bend Branch Library	Mehoopany Area Library



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