



May 2009

NTRPDC update

nt
northern tier
regional
planning &
development
commission

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

Annual Meeting Held at Mansfield University



Incoming Chairperson, Betty Reibson and Executive Director Kevin Abrams present Outgoing Chairperson, Erick Coolidge with a plaque and framed photograph of the 2008 Annual Report cover.

NTRPDC's Annual Meeting was held on April 17 at Mansfield University. Lieutenant Governor Joe Scarnati was the keynote speaker.

During the ceremony, Executive Director, Kevin Abrams highlighted projects in Tioga County that have a regional impact on the Northern Tier Economy. The development of U.S. Route 15 into Interstate 99 is expected to ease the transportation needs of the region. Also, the development of the Tioga County I-99 Business Park as one

of the few shovel ready business parks in the region.

After a presentation of program highlights from 2008, service awards were presented to advisory committee members and staff who have served five years or more. Three "success stories" were also highlighted. These are projects or businesses that have received NTRPDC assistance whether it be financing, grants, or facilitation and have had a positive impact on their communities. Honorees this year included Boss Holiday Market, Laurel Health System, and The Myles Group.

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Upcoming Events

Wyoming County Outreach Meeting:

June 5—Wyoming County Courthouse

NTRPDC Executive Committee meeting:

July 17—10:30, NTRPDC Conference Room

2009 Equipment Shows:

July 30—Susquehanna/Wyoming—Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock

September 10—Bradford/Tioga, Alparon Park, Troy

Northern Tier Natural Gas Summit for Municipal Officials:

October 7—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.

Northern Tier Municipal Land Use Controls

The Northern Tier Region has 166 municipalities and 19 school districts. This is approximately one local government for every 1,000 persons. Fewer than half have a municipal planning commission or a comprehensive plan. Few have municipal subdivision and land development ordinances and even less— only 49 municipalities—have zoning. This general lack of planning contributes to uncoordinated development, undesirable uses of land, and sprawl and is more costly in the long term.

Workshops and Outreach

Programs help improve businesses and municipalities

Outreach and training are important cornerstones of NTRPDC's assistance programs. Workshops, training, and networking opportunities are offered directly through our programs or in partnership with other local and regional organizations.

- On April 27th, five businesses in the Northern Tier met one-on-one with representatives from Pennsylvania's overseas trade offices representing United Arab Emirates, China, Singapore, and Russia.
- On April 2nd, twenty-one participants took part in our "Making Your Website Work For You" workshop, which helps businesses with internationalizing their website.
- Fourteen municipal officials attended Excel Level 1 training through our municipal computer training program.



NTRPDC Staff: First Row, L-R: Melissa Fleming, Sherry Felten, Kim Barnes, Kevin Abrams, Frank Thompson, Jill Koski, Laurie Lentz. Back Row L-R: Ken Reeves, Karen Vaughn, Theresa Chubbuck, Cynthia Krise, Rick Biery, Heather Bartholomew, Jeff Field, Brian Baker, Susan Coats, Deb Mathers, Paulette Potter, Kerry Meehan. Not Pictured: Cindy Lundy, Matthew Williams, Bonnie Warner, and Tom Schill.



“Outreach and training are important cornerstones of NTRPDC’s assistance programs.”

Loans and Grants

Two business loans closed totaling \$140,000 and three community development grants were awarded totaling \$95,000

Business Loans Closed:

- \$75,000 First Industries Fund agricultural loan to **Alfred Jones Farm** in Friendsville, Susquehanna County, to purchase dairy cows.
- \$65,000 First Industries Fund loan to **Jeffrey Faivre Hog Farm** in Liberty, Tioga County,

for barn upgrades.

Community Development Grants:

- \$35,000 DCED Planning Grant to **Towanda Borough**, Bradford County.
- \$10,000 DCED Community Revitalization Grant to **Colley Township**, Sullivan

County for municipal building repairs

- \$50,000 DCED Shared Municipal Services Grant to the **Tri-Borough Municipal Authority** to purchase as sludge truck.

New Loan Program

SBA launches new 100-percent guarantee loan program to help struggling businesses

Small businesses suffering financial hardship as a result of the slow economy may be eligible to receive temporary relief to keep their doors open and get their cash flow back on track through a new SBA loan program.

Beginning June 15, SBA will start guaranteeing America’s Recovery Capital loans. They are part of the Recovery Act to help small businesses that have a history of good performance. These loans are deferred-payment loans of up to \$35,000 available to established, viable, for-profit small businesses that need short term help to make their principal and interest payments on existing qualifying debt. They are interest free to the borrower, 100 percent guaranteed by SBA and have no fees.

America’s Recovery Capital loans will be disbursed within a period of up to six months and will provide funds to be used for payments of principal and interest for existing qualifying small business debt including mortgages, term and revolving lines of credit, capital leases, credit cared obligations, and notes payable to vendors, suppliers, and utilities. Repayment will not begin until twelve months after the final disbursement. Borrowers don’t have to pay interest. After the twelve month deferral period, borrowers will pay back the loan principal over a period of five years.

This financing will be made by commercial lenders. For more information, please visit www.sba.gov/recovery/arclloanprogram/index.html.



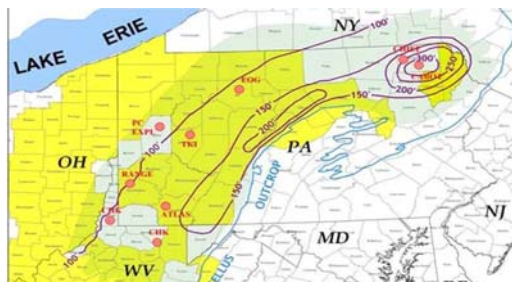
“Beginning June 15, SBA will start guaranteeing America’s Recovery Capital Loans.”

Save the Date!

October 7, 2009—Northern Tier Gas Summit for Municipal Officials Wysox Volunteer Fire Hall

Dr. Terry Engelder, Professor of Geosciences at Pennsylvania State University will be the keynote speaker for this one-day informational and networking summit for municipal officials in the Northern Tier Region.

The event will provide a forum for municipal officials to learn more about the emerging issues associated with the drilling activity of the Marcellus Shale in our region. Particular emphasis will be water issues, roads, maintenance and environmental impacts.



The Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania

Annual Meeting

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L-R: Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager; Melanie and Ryan Schaut, owners of Bloss Holiday Market; and Kevin Abrams, Executive Director.

NTRPDC provided start up financing for the market in Blossburg. The Schauts were honored for their investment in the community and entrepreneurial spirit.



L-R: Kevin Abrams; Tom Myles, owner of the Myles Group; Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager.

The Myles Group is the operator of the Wellsboro and Corning RR and the owner of the Tioga Central RR. They were honored for their investment in the commercial and tourism rail industry in Tioga County. NTRPDC helped facilitate funding and support for this project.



L-R: Kevin Abrams; Linda Patterson; Laurel Health System; and Deb Mathers, Special Projects Program Manager

NTRPDC provided a Healthcare Industry Partnership grant to help Laurel Health System train 52 employees. As the largest employer in Tioga County, they have a major impact on the local economy and well being of the communities they serve.



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