



May 2008

NTRPDC update



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

Success Stories Highlight Annual Meeting

On April 17, NTRPDC's Annual Meeting was held at the Best Western Grand Victorian



From left to right: Kevin Abrams, Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman, Jennifer Dibble, Mike Theim, and Jack Kilmer

Inn in Sayre. This year, we honored "Success Stories" which included businesses and organizations that have thrived with assistance from our programs. Three clients spoke about how assistance from our programs helped them with their project. Each were presented with a plaque and \$500.

Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman received a First Industries Fund loan to help finance Wiseman Dairy Farm's state of the art robotic milking equipment. He was on hand to describe his venture from the operating room onto the farm.

The YMCA of Bradford County received a Health Care Industry Partnership grant last summer to help fund career exploration camps focusing on jobs in health care. Jennifer Dibble described how the funds helped raise awareness of the diversity of opportunities in the health care field.

When the Wysox Volunteer Fire Company lost their facility to a fire, they turned to NTRPDC's Community Development Program to help apply for assistance to rebuild. Mike Theim and Jack Kilmer talked about the devastating fire and how they worked with our Community Development Program Manager, Tom Schill, to apply for a (continued on pg. 4)

Upcoming Events

Strategic Energy Planning

Wednesday, June 11th

8 a.m.—12 noon

American Legion, Towanda

To register visit:

www.palocalgovtraining.org

Upcoming County Outreach Meetings:

May 2—Susquehanna County

June 6—Tioga County

June 27—Wyoming County

Sept. 5—Bradford County

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

Did you know...

The Northern Tier's reputation as the least densely-populated region in Pennsylvania is misleading? Standard demographic information states that the Northern Tier has a population density of only 45 persons per square mile. It is true that among our 166 municipalities, only two have total populations exceeding 5,000. However, density is an indicator of the relative availability of land. When you factor in federal and state game lands and forests, steep slopes, wetlands, and other areas that can not be developed, the density rises from 45 persons per mile to 151 per (habitable) square mile.

Loan Program

Four loans totaling \$275,000 were approved in March and April.



Hurley's Super Market, Inc. is expanding their store in North Towanda Township, Bradford County with help from NTRPDC's Loan Program

- \$75,000 First Industries Fund agricultural loan to **Pepper's Dairy, LLP** in Union Township, Tioga County for their dairy herd expansion
- \$75,000 Tri District RLF loan to **Drinkers Creek Holdings** in Susquehanna Borough, Susquehanna County for real estate acquisition.
- \$100,000 ARC loan to **Hurley's Super Market, Inc.**, Dushore, Sullivan County for building expansion in their North Towanda location.
- \$25,000 micro-loan to **Towanda Creek Animal Hospital** in Towanda Township, Bradford County for equipment.

These loan funds will help create or retain a total of 36 full time jobs and 58 part time jobs and will help leverage \$849,724 in private investment.

“The funds helped to leverage \$849,724 in private investment.”

Community Development

Eight grants totaling \$283,150 were awarded in March and April through assistance from the Community Development Program.

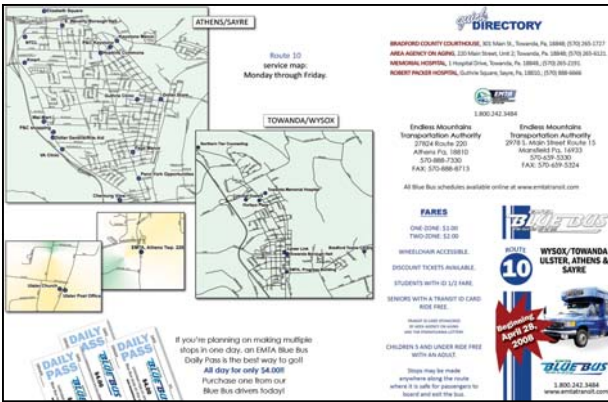
- \$15,000 DCED Community Revitalization Grant to Susquehanna Borough Police Department for a police car.
- \$100,000 safe water appropriation to Hamilton Township for their water system.
- \$10,000 PennStep grant to Laceyville Borough for their water system
- \$15,000 DCED Community Revitalization grant to Mehoopany Township to assist in the construction of their community park.
- \$100,000 PEMA loan to the LeRaysville Fire Company for their new building.
- \$18,500 DCED Shared Municipal Services grant to the Townships of Bridgewater and Jessup for a wood chipper.
- \$16,650 DCED Shared Municipal Services Grant to the Townships of Silver Lake and Choconut for a wood chipper.
- \$8,000 PennStep grant to Blossburg Borough for their water system.

Geographic Information Systems

GIS Program helps transportation authority with mapping.

While our GIS technology is typically used for transportation planning, it can also be used for resource management, infrastructure analysis, emergency response planning, and site selection.

As another practical application, we worked with the Endless Mountains Transportation Authority to update the maps for their new brochures. Gretchen Elwell, GIS Coordinator, mapped current bus stops using EMTA's latitude/longitude coordinates, then added new stops and made corrections to some stops that were in the wrong location. Each map



includes the new updated route and stops, along with the street names to allow riders to locate each stop easier. EMTA updated three different routes- Route 10, 15 and 20. The view the new brochures and schedules go to the EMTA website- www.emtatransit.com.

For more information about our GIS Program, contact Gretchen Elwell at ellwell@northerntier.org



“We worked with the Endless Mountains Transportation Authority to update their maps .”

Kevin Abrams Directs Statewide Organization

Kevin Abrams is serving as the Director of Pennsylvania's Local Development District Network.

Pennsylvania's network of seven Local development Districts represent fifty-two of the Commonwealth's sixty-seven counties and are essential in helping to create jobs and improve the quality of life in these counties. The Local Development Districts' most important role is identifying priority needs of local communities and helping to identify solutions to meet their needs.

As the LDD Network Director, Abrams is responsible for ensuring the efficient use of funding from federal, state, and local resources. For more information, visit www.paldd.org.





Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Loan to rebuild.

Service awards were also presented to the membership and staff. NTRPDC relies on guidance from volunteers who serve on our committees. Tom McCullough who serves on the Local Loan Review Committee (LLRC) was honored for 20 years of serves. Richard Schwoebel and Max Little were also honored for their 15 years of service on the LLRC. Ray Stolinas was awarded for his 15 years of service on the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee. Sheryl Potocek and Brenda Abplanalp were honored for their 5 years of service on the LLRC and the Workforce Investment Board, respectively.

Staff Service awards included Kevin

Abrams, Rick Biery, and Tom Schill for 15 years of service and Susan Coates and Frank Thompson for 10 years.

Outgoing Chairperson Janet Lewis, a former Bradford County Commissioner was presented with a plaque and framed photograph of the annual report cover by incoming Chairperson Tioga County Commissioner Erick Coolidge.

Guest speaker was John Frey , Executive Director of the Center for Dairy Excellence who spoke about the Center's mission to improve Pennsylvania's dairy industry production and profitability.

Entertainment was provided by motivational speaker and magician Tim Piccirillo, from Ridgway, PA.

Top Photo: L-R, Frank Thompson, Susan Coates, Tom Schill, Rick Biery, Kevin Abrams, and Erick Coolidge. Middle Photo: Eric Coolidge, Janet Lewis, and Kevin Abrams. Bottom Photo: John Frey



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