



June 2011

# NTRPDC update

**nt**  
northern tier  
regional  
planning &  
development  
commission

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

## NTRPDC Hosts Gas Summit for Municipal Officials



**Tioga County Planner Jim Weaver discusses source water protection efforts in Tioga County**

The 2011 Northern Tier Gas Summit for Municipal Officials was held May 18 at the Wysox Volunteer Fire Hall. The half-day event attracted approximately 100 participants, who came to learn more about water source protection and pipeline development.

Mark Stephens, a licensed professional geologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), led a panel discussion. Panelists included Jim Weaver with the Tioga County Planning Commission, and Joan Hart, council president for the Borough of Wellsboro.

The best way to protect

Water Protection Program and its efforts to lead owners of public water systems through a voluntary process of developing a source water protection plan. Jim Weaver talked about the development of a source water protection coalition among public water system owners in Tioga County, and Joan Hart discussed Wellsboro Borough's risk reduction strategies.

David Messersmith, an Extension Educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension in Wayne County, led the panel discussion regarding pipeline infrastructure and impacts.

public water systems is to prevent contamination, however the panelists agreed that it is best to have a plan in place in case something goes wrong.

Stephens spoke about DEP's Source

Because development of the Marcellus Shale will lead to construction of extensive pipeline infrastructure in the region, it is important for municipal officials to understand the basics of pipeline construction and potential impacts. John Gaadt of Gaadt Perspectives, LLC, in Chadds Ford provided information about land use and ordinances. Stephen Saunders of Tressler Saunders, LLC, in Scranton talked about legal issues surrounding pipeline development.

The summit was hosted by NTRPDC. Sponsors for the event were Talisman Energy USA and Chief Oil and Gas LLC. Please visit [www.northerntier.org](http://www.northerntier.org) for more information and to download the speakers' presentations.



**About 100 participants attended the gas summit**

## Upcoming Meetings

### Local Loan Review Committee

[kulick@northerntier.org](mailto:kulick@northerntier.org)  
NTRPDC Conference Room  
9:00 a.m.

- July 8
- August 12

### RTAC Meeting

[baker@northerntier.org](mailto:baker@northerntier.org)  
NTRPDC Conference Room  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- July 11
- August 12

### Stronger Economies Together Team Meeting

[koski@northerntier.org](mailto:koski@northerntier.org)  
Riverstone Inn, Wysox  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- July 20

### FIT 4 Green Advanced Manufacturing Information Session

570-724-1939  
PA CareerLink Center, Wellsboro

- August 3

### Lighting Retrofit Mini-Grant Workshop

[painter@northerntier.org](mailto:painter@northerntier.org)  
161 College Ave, Factoryville

- August 2  
535 Main Street, Forest City
- August 10



Two workshops  
scheduled in  
August—  
Factoryville and  
Forest City.

## Lighting Retrofit Program Funds Upgrades

Seven entities have received grants to upgrade lighting.

The Lighting Retrofit Mini-Grant program, announced in the April 2011 e-newsletter, provides matching grants to municipalities, schools, and non-profit organizations to help pay for lighting upgrades to reduce energy costs. To date, the Sayre Historical Society, Wellsboro Borough, Warren Township, Wysox Presby-

terian Church, Eaton Township, Bridgewater Township, and Westfield Borough have all received grants.

Lighting workshops are being held on August 2 at the Factoryville Community Building (161 College Ave in Factoryville) and on August 10 at the Forest City Municipal Building (535 Main Street in

Forest City). Both workshops are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with lunch following (provided). RSVP by July 22. For more information, please contact Damian Painter, Energy Program Coordinator, at 570-265-1537 or [painter@northerntier.org](mailto:painter@northerntier.org).

## NTRPDC Annual Recertification Completed

Staff have met annual continuing education requirements.

As part of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) annual recertification requirements, qualified organizations must meet

continuing economic development education obligations. NTRPDC staff have completed the necessary training for the 2010-2011 fiscal year through the Pennsylvania

Economic Development Institute. Staff participated in training sessions related to finance, organizational management, and real estate development.

## FIT 4 Green Advanced Manufacturing Launched

New program prepares job seekers for “green” careers.

The “FIT 4” careers series is designed to help any job seeker plan and prepare for a career by focusing on the entry-level skills needed to obtain employment in a specific industry. It provides foundational industry training, supports career exploration, and facilitates additional training opportunities such as on-the-

job training or post-secondary education. “FIT 4 Natural Gas has been a popular program.

NTRPDC has added the FIT 4 Green Advanced Manufacturing program to provide specific, hands-on training focused on real-world green practices in building and construction as well as manufacturing.

An information session for FIT 4 Green Advanced Manufacturing will be held on August 3, 2011, at the Pennsylvania CareerLink Center in Wellsboro, Tioga County.

For more information and to register, please call 570-724-1939.

## NTRPDC Loan Program Activity

\$100,000 loan closed in May.

One loan was closed in May in the amount of \$100,000 to Masters Concrete Products, Inc., in Susquehanna County. The funds will be used to purchase equipment and for working capital. This Revolving Loan Fund financing helped to leverage \$120,000 in private investment and helped to create four jobs.

NTRPDC Loan Program also sponsored two regional workshops in Bradford and Wyoming counties. The program was designed to inform lenders of recent changes in public lending policies and to provide bankers with tools to better service their commercial

borrowers. Given the uncertain economic climate, banks and service providers are looking for opportunities to serve small businesses while mitigating credit risks.

Steel Valley Authority – Strategic Early Warning Network (SEWN) can provide such tools to local banks and Northern Tier companies. This organization provides a wide variety of professional and consulting services at no charge, in an effort to revitalize Pennsylvania's economic base and retain jobs. SEWN can help a small businesses with financial restructuring, buyouts, succession planning, transition of ownership, labor

management relations, high performance workplaces, operations, and cost management.

The Small Business Administration, The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Department of Banking, and NTRPDC provided updates to public lending.

For more about the organizations that presented at the workshop or about public financing, contact Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager at 570-265-1510 or email at [potter@northerntier.org](mailto:potter@northerntier.org).



NTRPDC loan workshops provided bankers with tools to better serve their local commercial borrowers.

## 2011 Annual Meeting Held in April

Local accomplishments and success stories shared with attendees.

NTRPDC's Annual Meeting was held on April 29 at the Montrose Bible Conference center in Susquehanna County. Leon Allen, Susquehanna County Commissioner and outgoing Chairman, was presented with a plaque and framed photograph of the 2010 Annual Report cover for his service and leadership. Keynote Speaker Sandra Major, Pennsylvania Representative, shared information about legislative happenings

in Harrisburg, the Commonwealth's budget, and the impact on our region.

Each year, selected businesses and organizations that benefitted from funding or technical assistance from our programs are honored as "success stories" during the meeting. This year, Auburn Township was included as a recipient of municipal technical assistance and funding through our Municipal Hardware/Software incentive

grant program. Also, Bob Housel, Vice President of Masters RMC, Inc., spoke about the expansion of their concrete manufacturing company and how NTRPDC's business loan program helped support their growth. Joe Brelo, PA CareerLink Specialist, spoke about how the "Fit 4 Natural Gas" training program has made an impact on preparing workers interested in employment with the natural gas industry.



*Outgoing Chairman Leon Allen was honored at the Annual Meeting*

## Fleming Promoted

Will serve as PA CareerLink Site Administrator for the region.



***Melissa Fleming will bring her 12 years of NTRPDC program experience to her new role with PA CareerLink.***

The Northern Tier PA CareerLink Operator's Consortium has selected Melissa Fleming as the PA CareerLink Site Administrator for the region. The promotion includes supervision of the region's two comprehensive PA CareerLink sites in Towanda and Wellsboro, as well as assisting the Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming outreach facilities.

Fleming has been with NTRPDC for 12 years, provid-

ing quality assurance and technical assistance for the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. This program background will give her a unique perspective and understanding as she steps into the role of Site Administrator, helping the PA CareerLink system adapt to our region's changing workforce needs with an emphasis on business services.

Fleming also is responsible for the Workforce Online

Learning Initiative Portal (WOLIP), which provides online training opportunities to employers and individuals. She also is involved in the region's ShaleNet program, which provides training for opportunities in the natural gas industry.

For more information on either program please contact her at [fleming@northerntier.org](mailto:fleming@northerntier.org) or 570-265-1524.



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