

## BRPC Officer Elections & Committee Chair Appointments for FY 2006

The following were elected as officers at the Annual BRPC meeting in June:

**Chair:** Sam Haupt, Peru

**Vice Chair:** Sarah Hudson, Tyringham

**Clerk:** Jack Hickey, Lanesborough

**Treasurer:** Chuck Ogden, Egremont

**At-Large Exec. Comm. Member:** Rene Wood, Sheffield

Committee Chairs are:

**Clearinghouse Review Committee:** James Mullen, New Marlborough

**Commission Development Committee:** Mary Ellen Ausman, Pittsfield

**Finance Committee:** Chuck Ogden, Egremont

**Regional Issues Committee:** Anita Barker, Williamstown

**Transportation Committee:** Sam Haupt, Tyringham

## Orientation for New Delegates & Alternates

Immediately prior to the regular September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, an orientation session will be held for new delegates and alternates. This will provide them better information regarding their roles and responsibilities as members of BRPC. Additional information will be sent out. *Contact: Nat Karns*

## Fall 2005 Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Workshops

*Introduction to the Subdivision Control Law and ANR* - Wayne Feiden, Northampton Planning Director  
Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m.

*Vested Rights and Nonconforming Structures and Uses* - Alan Seewald, Seewald, Jankowski & Spencer, P.C.  
Thursday, November 10, 7 p.m.

Both workshops will be at the BRPC meeting room. Flyers will be sent out. For further information, go to [www.umass.edu/massetpc](http://www.umass.edu/massetpc)

## Restructured Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization Approved

At its August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the existing Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously approved a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the document that establishes the MPO in accordance with federal laws and regulations. The primary changes are to increase the membership of local elected officials by adding the two mayors and members of select boards from four sub-regions in the Berkshires, to create an MPO with ten members (there have been only four) and to clarify the primary role of the BRPC in regional transportation planning and the State in statewide planning. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation remains as the permanent chair and the implementing agency (usually MassHighway or BRTA) has to be on the prevailing side of any vote affecting projects for which they are responsible. *Contact: Nat Karns*

## Commonwealth Capital Update

The electronic Commonwealth Capital FY06 application is now available at <http://commcapapp.oed.state.ma.us/> These applications need to be filed each

fiscal year (current Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grants will use the FY05 score). A town-specific user name and password (provided to the Chief elected official) is required to access the application form, then a user-specific user name and password are required. Commonwealth Capital scores influence 22 state grant programs. Applications coincide with the grant program deadlines. Five Berkshire County towns will receive BRPC assistance with funds from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Request for assistance for the next round of awards (using the simple form provided for the July 15 request) are due by September 30, 2005. *Contact: Tom Matuszko*

## New Staff Spotlight

BRPC welcomes Duane Nealon as a Senior Planner in Community Development. He has worked with not-for-profit organizations, government and private firms. Duane is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and his expertise includes affordable housing, construction management, grant writing, organizational and neighborhood/community development. Duane is enthusiastic about working in Berkshire County.



*Duane Nealon*

## CALENDAR

September 7	Executive Committee Meeting	3:30 PM	BRPC
Sept. 10	LAPA-West Symposium	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	
September 15	Full Commission Meeting	7:30 PM	BRPC
October 5	Executive Committee Meeting	3:30 PM	BRPC



## Common Ground

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 121  
Pittsfield, MA

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

### Transportation Updates

Forty-three traffic counts were conducted in Berkshire County over the summer. This data was incorporated into the ongoing database that compiles traffic counts done by BRPC and Mass Highway. In addition, BRPC evaluated the pavement conditions in Adams, Clarksburg, Lee, and Williamstown. This work was expertly handled by BRPC's two outstanding summer interns: Dekka Michael and Jason McWhirter. BRPC is indebted to them for all of their hard work and we wish them the best in their future endeavors. *Contact: Ethan Abeles*

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization voted on August 17, 2004 to approve the final 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2006 Unified Work Program. Copies of the TIP are available from BRPC. Highlights in the early years include South Street reconstruction and improvement in Dalton, safety improvements at the intersection of South St & Dalton Div. Road in Dalton, and Rt. 8 & Rt. 116 intersection signal upgrade in Adams. *Contact: Andrew Lenton*

The state recently released a Comprehensive Statewide Transportation Plan that designates \$31 billion over the next two decades for the roads, bridges, and transit network of the Commonwealth. The document, currently in draft form, can be viewed at [www.mass.gov/eot](http://www.mass.gov/eot). The Executive Office of Transportation has organized a series of events to provide information and solicit public input on the draft Plan. The western Massachusetts events are scheduled for: **Thursday, September 15, 2005, 3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting) at Jones Library, 43 Amity Street, Amherst.** *Contact: Andrew Lenton*  
**For directions visit [www.joneslibrary.org/directions/index.html](http://www.joneslibrary.org/directions/index.html)**  
**For information visit [longrangeplan.eot@state.ma.us](mailto:longrangeplan.eot@state.ma.us)**

### New Transportation Bill Aids Berkshires

The August 10<sup>th</sup> reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) provides Massachusetts about \$332.5 million; with \$6.1 million allocated in Berkshire County for bike path design and construction, \$2 million for the design and construction of roadway and streetscape improvements in North Adams, and \$100,000 for a BRTA Bus Maintenance Facility. *Contact: Ethan Abeles*



*A Harvesting Machine Collects Invasive Species in Lake Buel*

In August, BRPC completed the *Lake Buel Implementation and Demonstration Project*. BRPC received s. 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grant funds from the Department of Environmental Protection to implement recommendations of the 1982 Diagnostic/Feasibility for Lake Buel and the 1999 *Stormwater Assessment for the Hoosic and Housatonic Watersheds*.

BRPC worked with the Public Access Board on stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the public access boat launch in Monterey, including two catch basins and a three chambered water quality inlet. BRPC also worked with the Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District and Princeton Hydro to expand upon an innovative Plant Replacement Program *Contact: Melissa Jette*