

**Letta Jean Taylor**  
Mayor, Town of Montreat



**Terry Bellamy**  
Mayor, City of Asheville



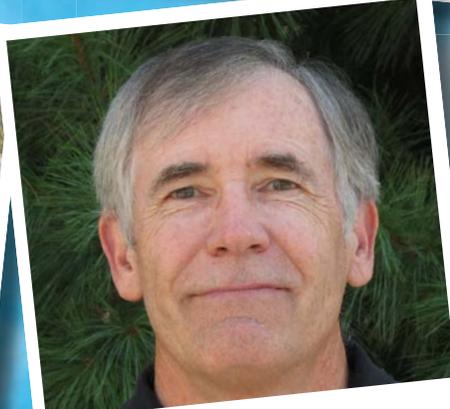
**Jason Chappell**  
Commissioner, Transylvania County



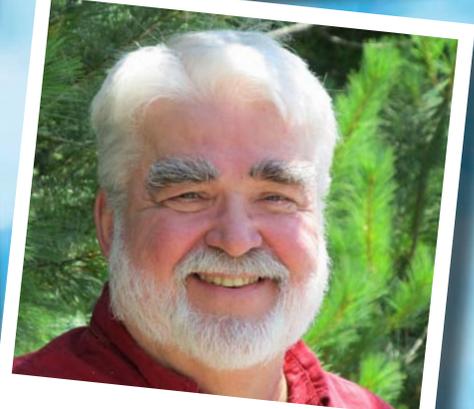
**Holly Jones**  
Commissioner, Buncombe County



**Debbie Ponder**  
Commissioner, Madison County



**Bob Davy**  
Councilman, Town of Fletcher



**Bill O Connor**  
Commissioner, Henderson County

# Executive Director



## Survivor Western North Carolina

In the past two years, local governments across the nation have struggled to respond to a slowed economy. Service cuts and staff reductions have been commonplace across our region as counties and municipalities position themselves to better serve their citizens. Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) has partnered with many of our local governments to consolidate services and improve efficiencies throughout the region.

In the past twelve months, our agency has positioned ourselves to respond to the growing request for services on a regional basis. Working together, our local governments have been able to reduce duplication of services and control growth in expenditures. Through cooperation and collaboration, our communities have relied on regionalism as a means of surviving these tough economic times.

LOSRC is a regional government entity that works with Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties and their municipalities. We offer a forum for local government officials and community leaders to come together to address challenges we face in Western North Carolina. For the past forty-five years, our organization has remained true to our mission – to foster desirable social, economic, cultural, and ecological conditions in our region.

The 2011 LOSRC Annual Report highlights a few of our programs that have impacted the lives of many citizens in Western North Carolina. We trust it will give better insight into our organization and the spirit of cooperation that exists between our local governments.

We offer this report to our community as an opportunity to review this year's accomplishments and celebrate our successes.

Joe McKinney, Executive Director

## Council

### Executive Committee

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Letta Jean Taylor

#### First Vice-Chair

Terry Bellamy  
Chuck McGrady\*

#### Second Vice-Chair

Jason Chappell

#### Secretary

Holly Jones

#### Treasurer

Bob Davy

#### At-Large Member

Bob Davy

#### At-Large Member

Debbie Ponder  
Eddie Fox\*

### Council Members

#### Buncombe County

Holly Jones  
Denise Braine

#### Henderson County

Bill Moyer  
Bill O'Connor  
Chuck McGrady\*

#### Madison County

Vernon Ponder  
Debbie Ponder  
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#### Transylvania County

Jason Chappell  
Kelvin Phillips

#### City of Asheville

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#### Town of Biltmore Forest

George Goosemann, III  
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#### Town of Black Mountain

Carol Bartlett  
Tim Rayburn

#### City of Brevard

Jimmy Harris  
Joe Moore

#### Village of Flat Rock

Dave Bucher  
Jim Wert

#### Town of Fletcher

Bob Davy  
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Barbara Volk  
Jeff Collis

#### Town of Hot Springs

Johnny Norton  
Kenny Ramsey

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Dona Menella  
James Ball

#### Town of Mars Hill

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Eddie Fox  
Darhyl Boone\*

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Luther Nix  
Lawrence Ponder

#### Town of Montreat

Letta Jean Taylor  
Jack McCaskill

#### Town of Rosman

J.C. Chapman  
Roger Petit

#### City of Weaverville

Walt Currie

#### Town of Woodfin

Jerry VeHaun  
Jason Young

#### Aging Programs Representative

Charles Dickens  
Jack Roberts\*

#### Volunteer Services Representative

Richard Shuttleworth\*

### Economic Development Representatives

#### Buncombe County

George Morosani

#### Henderson County

Andrew Tate  
Larry Blair\*

#### Madison County

Jerry Plemmons

#### Transylvania County

Mark Burrows

### Minority Representatives

#### Buncombe County

Janet Bowman

#### Madison County

Simone Bouyer

#### Transylvania County

Rodney Locks

\*Served part of the Fiscal Year

## Regions Working Together for a Sustainable Future

In October of 2010, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) was awarded a \$1.6 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Planning Grant to lead the Western North Carolina Livable Communities Initiative. In anticipation of federal funding opportunities related to sustainability, regional partners worked together for almost a year to ensure the area was well-positioned to receive this award. The Initiative is a 3-year project to develop a regional vision for economic prosperity, quality growth, and sustainable development.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities was formed by HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June, 2009. This Partnership developed a set of federal livability principles which the LOSRC Board modified to match our regions values. The principles called for integrating planning for jobs, energy, housing, transportation, and natural resources. Through participant input early in the process, the health component was added to the principles.

Since LOSRC had adopted a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which aligned with the federal livability principles, regional partners asked the organization to take the lead applying for the funds. The grant provides funds to conduct a regional planning project focused on coordinating existing and new plans in the areas identified in the local and federal livability principles.

A consortium of local governments, organizations, and residents in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties will work together to foster economic prosperity through identification and prioritization of implementable projects and actions. The Initiative will include significant public outreach and involvement and will position the region to be economically competitive for years to come.



Work groups will be formed for each of the below focus areas to identify issues and strategies, connections with other focus areas and opportunities for collaboration.



## LOSRC's Executive Director Provides Congressional Testimony

On June 9, 2010, Executive Director Joe McKinney represented Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) at a hearing of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. This hearing focused on the views and recommendations of local government officials and regional planning professionals with respect to the federal Livable Communities Act (S. 1619).

The legislative proposal introduced by Chairman Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and 10 Senate co-sponsors would provide regional planning and project implementation funds for sustainable community and economic development initiatives. As introduced, the act primarily focused on the nations' larger cities. During his testimony, McKinney stressed the importance of including funding for small metropolitan and rural regions.

McKinney's testimony provided an overview of the regional and local planning and development activities of LOSRC and its many partners. He highlighted the regional council's Waste Reduction Partners, Brownfields redevelopment, economic development and transportation programs as examples of initiatives that would benefit from the Livable Communities Act. McKinney explained, "The Livable Communities Act would provide our region the resources needed to fully integrate and implement these individual strategies and programs into a larger cohesive vision for our area of Western North Carolina and take the next steps necessary to ensure our vision for a sustainable and economically competitive region can become a reality."

In October of 2010, LOSRC was one of 41 regions in the nation to receive Livable Communities funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Left: Patti Cameron with RSVP & VISTA volunteers that participated in Project Connect.



Above: The CarFit workshop at the "Road to Wellness" events.



Right: Foster Grandparent volunteer, Marjorie Maxwell



Left: Senior Companion volunteer, Pat Paravalos receives the "Outstanding Service Award" from the Charles George VA Medical Center.

## Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services Department connects today's over 55s with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Their contributions of knowledge and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations throughout our region.

### Programs:

**Retired Senior & Volunteer Program (RSVP)** - Connects senior volunteers with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability.

**Senior Companion Program** - Brings together senior volunteers with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple task of day-to-day living.

**Foster Grandparent Program** - Connects senior volunteers with children and young people with exceptional needs.

## Safe Driving Workshops Help Senior Adults

In the next 20 years, the number of senior adult drivers is predicted to triple in the United States. In fact, the Land-of-Sky region has the fastest growing older adult population in North Carolina. As age increases, older drivers generally become more conservative on the road. Many mature drivers modify their driving habits to match their declining capabilities. However, statistics show that older drivers are more likely than younger ones to be involved in multi-vehicle crashes, particularly at intersections.

With transportation being a top issue in the Buncombe County Aging plan, the Buncombe County Aging Coordinating Consortium, in cooperation with Volunteer Services Department and Stacie's Personal Home Care, hosted the "Road to Wellness," a four-hour safe driving workshop for senior adults.

Local law enforcement experts reviewed basic road rules and gave tips on how to reduce the risk of being in a collision. A physical therapist shared exercises that improve or maintain range of motion and muscle strength to improve driver safety. An eye doctor explained how vision changes associated with aging affect driving skills. Lastly, tips were given from local businesses on how to choose the right vehicle for maximum safety and fit, along with demonstrating specialized safety equipment that can improve safety.

The workshop was so successful in Buncombe County that it was replicated in Henderson and Madison counties with plans for the event to take place in Transylvania County in the near future.

## Senior Companion Receives Outstanding Service Award

Senior Companion Volunteer, Pat Paravalos, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award from the Charles George Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center during National Volunteer Week in April 2011. Pat was honored for her dynamic personality and volunteerism as a coffee cart hostess, facility greeter and patient escort. Since February of 2010, she has contributed 1800 hours of service which resulted in donations of more than \$17,000 that will benefit the VA Center.

Each day, Pat greeted visitors with a warm smile and a free cup of coffee. In response, many contributed money to the donation cup on the coffee cart. These donations go to the General Post Account, which is used for recognized needs at the center such as installation of flat screen TV's in patient rooms, replacing the older TV models.

Pat demonstrates dedication to Veterans by working from 7:30 AM until 5:00 PM five days a week. Pat feels she is giving back to her country by volunteering at the VA Center. Veterans and staff have named Pat "Our Hostess with the Mostess."

## Celebrating a Legacy of Volunteering

In July of 2009, the Volunteer Services Department lost a special volunteer to cancer. Marjorie Maxwell, a Foster Grandparent Program volunteer, dedicated over 10 years of service at Isaac Dickson Elementary School. Marjorie had a very special spirit and was able to form close relationships with students that others were unable to reach. She volunteered over 10,000 hours tutoring and mentoring at-risk children. Always professional, she put an emphasis on respect and manners.

In memory of Marjorie, Isaac Dickson Elementary, with assistance from the Catholic Daughters, created a foundation to assist Isaac Dickson Elementary students with special needs. To further honor her memory, Marjorie was posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Asheville City Schools Foundation during the first annual Celebration of Champions in October, 2010. Asheville City Schools Foundation also instituted the annual Marjorie Jackson Maxwell award for an exceptional volunteer in the Asheville City School system. These honors are testament to the numerous contributions Marjorie has had on our community and the Foster Grandparent Program.

## Collaborating for National Service and Remembrance Day

In 2009, President Barack Obama declared September 11<sup>th</sup> as a day of National Service and Remembrance, which honors the unprecedented spirit of unity and service that followed the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001.

Locally, the 2010 National Day of Service brought together two National Service Programs to address the needs of the homeless or those at risk of homelessness. Working side-by-side, volunteers and staff from the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) participated in Project Connect, a program of the Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative.

Each year, Project Connect brings community volunteers and providers together for one day to remove barriers for people experiencing homelessness. The project provides participants with a wide-range of services such as housing information and applications, financial assistance, HIV and pregnancy tests, vision screenings, foot care, substance abuse and mental health counseling, voter registration, haircuts, legal advice, employment and educational guidance, pet care, and bus tickets to transport people to the event and follow-up appointments.

The program successfully reached over 200 participants and had a 150% increase in the number of providers. Amy Sawyer, Homeless Initiative Coordinator, stated that they could not have done it without the efforts of over 65 volunteers, including 12 AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP Senior Corp Volunteers who worked to help more than 50 community agencies presented at the event.

**“VOLUNTEERS POLISH  
UP THE ROUGH SPOTS IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES.”**

~JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER, ALICE SANSTROM

The Volunteer Service Department is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. More than five million Americans are engaged in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and United We Serve, President Obama's national call to service initiative.

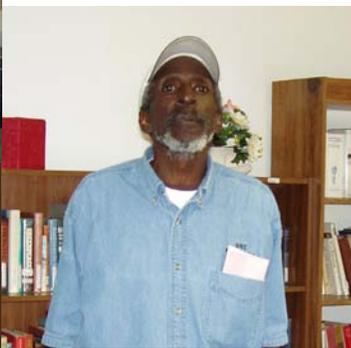
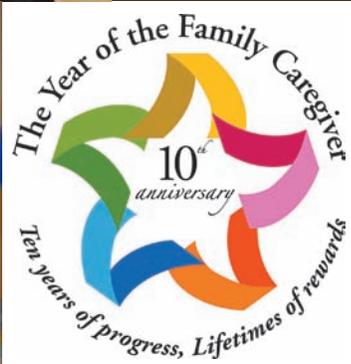




Right: Buncombe County Commissioner Carol Peterson with nursing home residents.



Above: Land-of-Sky Community Resource Connections Kick-Off  
Right: SCSEP Participant Norman McGahee



## SCSEP Participant Rises to the Top

Norman G. McGahee is a success story of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). This program provides short-term training and job placement services for older adults seeking suitable employment. SCSEP provides part-time paid work experience in community service and non-profit organizations as well as opportunities to obtain meaningful unsubsidized employment in the private sector.

Almost 60 years old, Norman is a U.S. Navy veteran and a single parent of two teenage sons. He came to SCSEP unemployed and barely making ends meet. Norman met the financial criteria, and it was evident his naval maintenance experience would be an asset to the program. His experience also made him a very good candidate for unsubsidized employment.

In March of 2010, Norman was placed at Battery Park Apartments (an apartment complex for older adults) as the Maintenance Assistant. His life was becoming more stable, and his children were doing well in school. Four months later, Norman gained full-time employment with Battery Park. Soon he was stepping up to the Maintenance Manager position to replace his boss who had decided to pursue other opportunities.

In the fall of 2010, another SCSEP participant was placed at the apartment complex as Norman's assistant. Through Norman's determination, work ethic, good nature, and dependability, this veteran is a role model for other participants in the program.

## Commissioners Support Awareness for Residents' Rights Week

In October of 2010, Buncombe County participated in its first National Long-Term Care Residents Rights Week. This annual event honors and celebrates residents living in long-term care facilities, recognizes their rich individuality, and reaffirms their rights as community members and citizens.

Commission Chairman David Gantt proclaimed the week of October 3, 2010, as Residents' Rights Week to raise awareness and promote and maintain the dignity of individuals living in area long-term care facilities. The Commissioners partnered with the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee (NHCAC) to encourage the public to participate in activities at any of the county's 109 licensed long-term care facilities. The NHCAC is a county-appointed voluntary committee which advocates for residents in skilled nursing homes.

Across the nation, individuals and advocacy groups joined together in promoting the 2010 Residents' Rights Week theme – "Defining Dining: It's About Me." The theme, chosen by The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, reinforces the need of long-term care residents to have access to healthy and diverse dining choices that the rest of us have and often take for granted. Buncombe County NHCAC members Bob DuBrul, Sonya Friedrich and Adam Banner escorted several nursing home residents to the Commissioners' presentation to witness the signing of the proclamation.

## Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) helps determine the needs of older adults and works with counties to plan services to meet those needs. The goal of providing these services is to enable older adults to live independently in their own homes.

### Programs and Services:

**Health Promotion and Disease Prevention** - Develops and supports evidence-based health promotion programs.

**Family Caregiver Support Program** - Provides information and support for family caregivers.

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** - Protects residents' rights and advocates to improve the quality of care for people in nursing and adult care homes.

**Senior Community Service Employment Program** - Job-training and employment program for older adults.

**Technical Assistance** - Provides support to agencies and persons responding to the needs of older adults.

**Senior Tar Heel Legislature** - Trains and coordinates representatives from the region.

## Business Leaders Rally Against Fraud

In 2010, there were more than 18,000 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults made to North Carolina's 100 county Departments of Social Services. In an effort to address the increasing number of victims of financial abuse, Land-of-Sky Regional Council's Area Agency on Aging partnered with Buncombe County Sheriff's Office and Buncombe County Aging Coordinating Consortium to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Financial Fraud, Scam and Exploitation Summit. Approximately 40 business leaders attended the April 2011 event, which is designed for banking and community professionals. During the Summit, the signs and indications of fraud, scams and financial exploitation were covered as well as ways in which local banks and other organizations can respond to protect their customers while still respecting confidentiality.

According to Detective John Cabe with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, "We're seeing a wide variety of financial fraud, scams, and exploitation of the disabled and elderly. It is imperative that we also place a focus on educating business people to be alert, recognize, prevent, and report these crimes before and as they are happening." The summit has become an effective educational tool and collaborative opportunity for regional business leaders to become advocates for their community members.

## Land-of-Sky CRC Comes to Life

In the summer of 2011, the Land-of-Sky Community Resource Connections (CRC) project became operational. This project is designed to provide a uniform portal of entry for all people with disabilities, elders and family members seeking information and assistance regarding available services in the community.

This federal and state initiative is intended to reduce the confusion that many have experienced in trying to find services, often resulting in making multiple telephone calls before finding help. Through formal agreements made with key aging and disability partners in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties, Land-of-Sky CRC offers a streamlined approach to accessing services.

Core functions of the CRC include:

- Information & assistance
- Options counseling
- Streamlined access to services & public funding
- Transitions partnerships with hospitals & nursing facilities
- Quality assurance & evaluation

How do people contact the CRC? There is more than one way to access the system. If someone does not know where to start, a call to United Way's 2-1-1 system will result in an appropriate, personalized transfer to the best agency for the caller. Callers may also contact their local agency directly. Key organizations in the collaborative include: Council on Aging of Buncombe County; Council on Aging for Henderson County; Madison County Department of Community Services; Transylvania County Department of Social Services; Western Highlands ACCESS; and Disability Partners.

## Celebrating Family Caregivers: Ten Years of Caring

In our society, family caregivers are the primary source of support for individuals of all ages with physical, mental, and chronic health conditions. November, 2010 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), a program that serves caregivers throughout the United States. In recognition of the vital role of caregivers, the Administration on Aging (AoA) launched a year long celebration to encourage communities across the country to support and show appreciation for family caregivers.

The Older Americans Act of 2000 established the NFCSP and authorized states to develop programs and services specifically for family caregivers. This landmark program began a new era in supporting families and extending the time that seniors and persons with disabilities could remain in their homes.

From the beginning, Land-of-Sky Regional Council's Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) has worked to develop and deliver programs and services to meet the needs of our region's caregivers. The Program offers a roadmap for caregivers by providing information and access to services, encouraging participation in support groups, and contracting funds for respite care programs. The most important service provided is respite, which offers relief to caregivers by allowing them time to care for themselves.

As the Program moves forward, partnerships and collaborations will be important to leverage resources to meet the growing need for caregiver support. One example of a successful collaboration is a recent partnership with MemoryCare and the FCSP. The two organizations worked to create the "Memory Club," a support group for people with early memory loss and their caregivers. The Club has been so well received there are now requests for a second group.

As the number of people living with early memory loss continues to grow, it will become increasingly important to provide these people and their caregivers with activities and support groups.



- WRP's technical assistance team conducted energy performance measurements for **\$1.15 million** of building energy upgrade projects at 6 organizations in Region B.
- AAA staff trained 20 community providers on how to screen older adults that may be at-risk for falls. Over 150 seniors were screened during Fall Prevention Awareness Week.
- AAA staff organized and hosted 6 WNC Fall Prevention Coalition Meetings with representation for over 20 public and private organizations in the region.
- Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition (CVC) collaborated with Advanced Energy to secure a **\$500,000** grant from the State Energy Office to install 25 charging stations in the Land-of-Sky region in 2011. CVC also assisted BioWheels Responsible Transportation Solutions secure a **\$375,000** grant from the NC Green Business Fund for its Solar Supported EV Charging Station Initiative.
- WRP engineers provided on-site waste, water and energy efficiency assessments to over 200 organizations throughout WNC. Their recommendations could save a projected **\$1.4 million** in annual utility costs and reduce their carbon footprint by eliminating the equivalent of 2,430 vehicles.
- LOSRC secured **\$100,000** in funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the continuation of the Building the Clean Energy Economy (now the Evolve Energy Partnership) project. The 31-county project is designed to create quality jobs through the promotion and support of innovation in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and alternative fuel industries.
- AAA staff hosted two Guided Autobiography classes for 18 older adults, one of which was for people with early memory loss.
- AAA staff trained 10 community providers and volunteers to facilitate the Matter of Balance program, an evidence-based program that addresses the fear of falling among older adults. Over 60 older adults participated in 4 Matter of Balance classes.
- LOSRC's 2011 Pepsi Mayors' Cup Raft Race winner was the City of Hendersonville. The Council hosts this annual event to highlight the beauty and to encourage stewardship of the French Broad River.
- LOSRC hosted the 2010 Friends of the River Dinner where Leslie Winner, Executive Director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was the guest speaker. Awards were presented to the Blue Ridge Parkway, RENCI at UNCA, Richard T. Hall, John Hornstein, Katherine Taylor and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.
- Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition (CVC) partnered with other Clean Cities Coalitions in NC and SC to secure a **\$12 million** Stimulus Grant from the US Department of Energy for our Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative.
- The Living Healthy Program served over 120 people living with chronic conditions by teaching ways to take control of their health during 14 workshops. In addition, 15 community members and professionals were trained as leaders.
- LOSRC's Clean Air Campaign hosted the Annual Ozone Season Kickoff Event on March 30, 2011. The Campaign promoted the placement of Idle Reduction signs at schools throughout the region.
- FBRMPO provided **\$65,000** towards the Ecusta Rail-Trail Study, a feasibility study for an 18-mile rail-to-trail corridor from Hendersonville to Brevard.
- LOSRC assisted 8 homeowners with septic repairs through a **\$24,211** NC DENR WaDE program grant.
- LOSRC was named a Regional Center of Excellence for its green infrastructure planning with the Linking Lands and Communities project by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). LOSRC received **\$32,500** in funding from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and NARC to support outreach and training activities for the LLC project and provided 7 training workshops and 18 presentations, reaching approximately 740 people.
- LOSRC staff coordinated Active Aging Week during the last week of September 2010 with the participation of 40 regional organizations. Over 400 older adults were provided opportunities to try a new form of physical activity for free during that week.
- AAA secured **\$5,718** in funding from Duke Energy and Progress Energy which provided 362 fans and 15 air conditioners to older adults in need through the Fan/Heat Relief Program. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, the Council on Aging for Henderson County and Western Carolina Community Action – Brevard distributed these fans and air conditioners.



French Broad River



# Buncombe County

- Senior Companion Program saved the county more than **\$860,532**. 51 Senior Companion volunteers served over 47,344 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, assisted in Adult Day Care Centers and provided respite to family caregivers.
- Through the Regional Brownfields Initiative (RBI), Phase II environmental assessment funding was provided to 11 sites located in Buncombe County: the former PSNC site, Karen Cragolin Park, Swannanoa Valley Properties (former Beacon site), WNC Stockyards, ABCCM Coxe Avenue, The Old Wood Company, The Tannery (formerly Day Warehouse), Silverman, 6 Fairview Road and Eagle Market Development. Total funding is **\$300,702**.
- Foster Grandparent Program saved the county more than **\$1.3 million**. 92 Foster Grandparent volunteers served over 73,847 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children achieve their short and long-term goals.
- FBRMPO provided **\$30,000** toward the Black Mountain Town Square Study, which examined the intersection of US 70 and NC 9 for potential intersection realignment and other intersection improvements including signal timing, sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth **\$161,559** to 32 older adults placed in 15 organizations. 1 participant was placed into unsubsidized employment.
- Regional Ombudsmen provided 722 hours in response to 138 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, responded to 393 technical assistance calls and provided 19 education/training sessions. 43 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 1,064 hours and made 230 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of **\$21,546** in services to the county.
- The Buncombe County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee awarded Aston Park the first ever Quality of Life Grant of **\$500**. The competitive grant is used to encourage and support excellence in activity programming for residents in nursing homes. Aston Park used the grant money to purchase a “Sensory Enrichment Cart” as a way to offer exercise and mind stimulus to room-bound residents.
- Funds from an EPA Climate Showcase Communities grant were provided to schools in the county as part of the Reading, Riding and Retrofit program: County Schools received **\$175,000** to install high-efficiency lighting in 32 school gyms. Green Team project grants went to 6 Buncombe County schools (**\$6,000**); 8 Asheville City schools (**\$8,600**); 2 of the county’s charter schools (**\$2,000**).
- RSVP saved the county more than **\$624,519** in services to the county, with 262 volunteers giving over 34,352 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.
- The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc. received a **\$20,000** grant from the Family Caregivers Support Program to provide respite and case assistance for caregivers in the county. 28 caregivers received respite and 17 received case assistance.
- The Senior Companion Program received **\$10,000** from the Family Caregiver Support Program to provide respite. 6 caregivers received assistance.
- Park Ridge Health received funding from the Family Caregivers Support Program to provide respite for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s Disease or a related dementia in the county. **\$9,273** was used to provide respite for 11 families in the county.
- WRP conducted 48 efficiency assessments for non-profits, institutions and businesses in the county. The recommendations would save over **\$257,000** in annual utility costs, reduce water use by 9 million gallons, cut solid waste by 272,000 pounds, and conserve energy use by 2.7 million kilowatt hours per year with carbon emission reductions equivalent to 600 vehicles.
- HCCBG and county funds provided **\$2,035,474** in funding for 13 different services that helped support over 2,400 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding, 459 older adults were given nutritional meals, 41 participated in Adult Day programs, 336 received in-home health care and home repair services, 587 received financial education and counseling, 1,072 received transportation services and 333 exercise classes were provided.
- FBRMPO provided **\$62,500** towards the Buncombe County Greenways Master Plan to examine proposed greenway corridors in Buncombe County and how they will connect to the City of Asheville planned and existing greenways, as well as to other jurisdictions.



Buncombe County Courthouse



- RSVP saved the County more than **\$477,334** with 194 volunteers giving over 26,256 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.
- Through the Regional Brownfields Initiative (RBI), Phase II environmental assessment funding was provided to the City of Hendersonville for the Southside Gateway Park project. A Phase II environmental assessment sub-grant in the amount of **\$37,972** provides the City with a “No Further Action” letter from the NC Department of Environmental Resources.
- The Family Caregiver Support Program provided **\$15,000** for respite and **\$4,100** for case assistance for caregivers in the county. Contracts for respite services were awarded to Pardee Pavilion and Mountain Home Care. Council on Aging for Henderson County received funding for case assistance. 8 caregivers received respite and 7 received case assistance.
- Foster Grandparent Program saved the county more than **\$106,389**. 8 Foster Grandparent volunteers served over 5,852 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children achieve their short and long-term goals.
- Completed a **\$250,000** CDBG Housing Development grant for the infrastructure and development of 14 Habitat for Humanity homes within the Shuey Knolls neighborhood.
- CDBG Small Business and Entrepreneurial Assistance administered a **\$200,000** grant to extend sewer lines 2,000 feet to enable the expansion of the Warm Company facility. This allowed for the creation of 8 new jobs and retention of 20 jobs.
- CDBG Small Cities Community Revitalization program awarded a **\$850,000** grant to the county to support the Talley Drive neighborhood project. This provided the clearance and replacement of 4 homes, the rehabilitation of 2 homes, and infrastructure improvements.
- Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth **\$35,290** to 8 older adults placed in 3 organizations.
- The WRP team worked with 11 businesses and institutions in the county to present strategies to reduce solid waste generation by 1.9 million pounds and save **\$4,500** in annual energy utility costs.
- Senior Companion Program saved the county more than **\$147,349**. 15 Senior Companion volunteers served over 8,105 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, assisted in Adult Day Care Centers and provided respite to family caregivers.
- Regional Ombudsmen provided 98 hours in response to 41 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, responded to 181 technical assistance calls and provided 14 education/training sessions. 24 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 1,189 hours and made 126 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of **\$24,077** in services to the county.
- HCCBG and county funds provided **\$753,676** in funding for 15 different services that helped support over 700 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding, 444 older adults were given nutritional meals, 16 participated in Adult Day programs, 121 received in-home health care and home repair services, and 157 received transportation services.
- Park Ridge Health expended **\$5,932** of their funding to provide respite for 12 caregivers in the county.
- WRP volunteers piloted a water efficiency program for businesses within the City of Hendersonville. They assisted 2 manufacturing facilities to identify 300,000 gallons per year of water savings with nearly **\$3,000** of annual cost savings.



Henderson County Courthouse



- The Madison County Department of Community Services received **\$8,000** from the Family Caregiver Support Program for caregiver respite. 10 caregivers received respite.
- RSVP saved the county more than **\$26,833** with 16 volunteers giving over 1,476 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.
- CDBG Small Cities Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Grant program administered and implemented a **\$400,000** grant for the rehabilitation of 2 housing units; relocation (on same property site) 2 housing units; clearance of 2 deteriorated housing units and complete emergency repairs for 7 housing units.
- Regional Ombudsmen provided 5 hours in response to 4 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, responded to 28 technical assistance calls and provided 1 education/training session. 9 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 468 hours and made 22 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of **\$9,477** in services to the county.
- A **\$144,718** Department of Commerce grant was used for energy efficiency upgrades. The grant was used for energy efficiency upgrades in municipal building within the Towns of Mars Hill and Marshall, and the county.
- LOSRC administered grants and loans from Appalachian Regional Commission, NC Rural Center, Department of Commerce, Community Investment and Assistance, USDA-RD Drought Recovery in the amount of **\$2,000,000** for water system interconnection between the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Weaverville and **\$2,150,000** for Town of Marshall water tank, wells and water system improvements.
- Senior Companion Program saved the county more than **\$275,591**. 13 Senior Companion volunteers served over 15,159 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes and assisted at congregate meal sites.
- LOSRC administered grants and loans from Appalachian Regional Commission, NC Rural Center, USDA-RD Drought Recovery in the amount of **\$1,000,000** for water system improvements for the Town of Marshall and **\$2,000,000** for Town of Mars Hill main transmission line repairs and replacement.
- North Carolina Crime Control’s Hurricane Recovery program awarded a **\$309,500** grant to the Town of Marshall for stormwater system improvements.
- HCCBG and county funds provided **\$229,270** in funding for 9 different services that helped support over 200 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding, 371 older adults were given nutritional meals, 40 received in-home health care and home repair services, and 198 received transportation services.
- Madison County Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee members, with help from Mars Hill Baptist Church, Beacon Outreach and Ross Young at Mount Sheba Baptist Church, donated and delivered clothing, sweaters, radios, yarn and more to 28 residents in long-term care facilities in December 2010.
- Park Ridge Health expended their **\$1,603** funds from the Family Caregivers Support Program to provide respite for 2 caregivers in the county.
- WRP volunteers provided assistance to 6 local governments and businesses in the county, recommending **\$23,000** in annual utility cost savings through energy efficiency improvements.
- Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth **\$15,947** to 3 older adults placed in 2 organizations.



Madison County Courthouse



- CDBG Housing Development program awarded a **\$250,000** grant for the Cottages at Brevard. The grant will provide infrastructure improvements, including the installation of approximately 1,335 feet of water lines, approximately 1,240 feet of sewer lines and roadway improvements, in support of the creation of 48 affordable rental housing units for residents aged 55 and older.
- The Senior Companion Program saved the county more than **\$120,533**. 5 Senior Companion volunteers served over 6,630 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, provided assistance at KOALA Adult Day Care and respite to family caregivers.
- Regional Ombudsmen provided 50 hours in response to 8 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, responded to 28 technical assistance calls and provided 3 education/training sessions. 8 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 59 hours and made 14 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of **\$1,195** in services to the county.
- Funding through the Regional Brownfields Initiative (RBI) in the amount of **\$24,675** was granted to the City of Brevard for a Phase II environmental assessment at the City's Driver Training Facility site. The City received a "No Further Action" letter from the NC Department of Environmental Resources which allows the site to be redeveloped.
- Foster Grandparent Program saved the county more than **\$30,961**. 2 Foster Grandparent volunteers served over 1,703 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children achieve their short and long-term goals.
- CDBG Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance awarded a **\$250,000** grant to upgrade 2 small manufacturing facilities that help support the creation of 10 new jobs.
- CDBG Building Reuse awarded a **\$216,000** grant for building reuse to Gaia Herbs, which has led to the creation of 6 new jobs.
- CDBG Housing Development program awarded a **\$250,000** grant to the City of Brevard to provide infrastructure improvements in support of the Broad River Terrace Housing Development. This included installation of 1,364 feet of water lines, 814 feet of sewer lines, flood and drainage improvements, which helped create 62 affordable rental-housing units.
- RSVP saved the county more than **\$158,311** with 100 volunteers giving over 8,708 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.
- Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth **\$18,535** to 4 older adults placed in 4 organizations.
- WRP volunteers conducted on-site energy efficiency assessments at 5 non-profit and government buildings and 1 manufacturer in the county. Over **\$8,700** per years of annual utility cost savings were identified for clients through energy efficiency measures.
- HCCBG and county funds provided **\$156,442** in funding for 12 different services that helped support over 300 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding, 121 older adults were given nutritional meals, 25 participated in Adult Day programs, 134 received in-home health care and home repair services, and 65 received transportation services.
- Transylvania Community Hospital Home Care received **\$16,000** to be used for both in-home respite and adult day respite at KOALA. 13 caregivers received in-home respite and 4 received adult day respite.
- Park Ridge Health expended **\$3,193** of their funding to provide respite for 9 families caring for someone with dementia in the county.



Transylvania County Courthouse

## A Tribute to Joe Connolly

On May 31, 2011, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) lost a dear friend and coworker when Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director Joe Connolly passed away after battling cancer for three years. Joe had a tremendous impact on our region and will be missed by all those who knew him.

Joe moved to Asheville from Rochester, New York, and began working with area non-profits when he became Director of the WNC Aids Project in 1993. He later became Director of the Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter in 1998, where he supported the development of Project Care for caregiver respite. In 2005, Joe continued his dedication to elder services when he became LOSRC's AAA Director in 2005.

One of Joe's achievements as AAA Director was to assist Madison County to become part of the United Way's 2-1-1 resource system, and the creation of Silvermont Senior Center in Brevard. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the development of Community Resource Connections (CRC) which provides easier access to resources for those in need.

A caring man with a sense of humor, Joe was a constant supporter for the AAA program and the Land-of-Sky region. He inspired coworkers with his dedication and strength as an advocate for older adults in Western North Carolina.

In tribute to Joe's memory, LOSRC has established a memorial garden at our offices to honor his legacy.



**“JOE TOUCHED THE LIVES OF SO MANY IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.”**

**~JOE MCKINNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## LOSRC Promotes Staff Volunteerism

Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) encourages its employees to volunteer to enrich their lives and the community. LOSRC supports this commitment by allowing staff members to have time off from work in which they are encouraged to volunteer in our region. Employees may take up to four hours of earned annual leave and LOSRC matches them with four hours of administrative leave. This gives employees eight hours to volunteer at any organization or cause of their choice.

In the past year, staff members have participated in diverse activities across our region.

Some of the organizations include:

- Area schools systems – Senior Project Judge and Test Proctor
- Area Non-Profits – Board Member
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- American Red Cross – LOSRC blood drive
- Habitat for Humanity – Women Build Project
- Rotary Club - Make-A-Difference Project
- Asheville Green Works
- Operation Toasty Toes
- American Cancer Society – Bark for Life
- Asheville Homeless Coalition – Project Connect



Top Left: Erica Anderson, Bonnie Smith, Carol McLimans, Rose Sabo, Holly Bullman and Kate O'Hara volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity's 2010 National Women Build Week.

Top Right: Patti Cameron volunteers at the American Cancer Society's Bark for Life of Asheville.



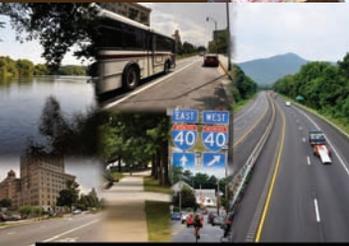


**Renewable Energy**    **Building Efficiency**    **Clean Vehicles**

Above: Building a Clean Energy Economy in WNC, now the Evolve Energy Partnership.



Top: Stakeholders view maps of areas along the French Broad River at an AARRC event.



Left: The French Broad River MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was finalized in September 2010.

Below: Gaia Herbs receives support to help expand their business.



## LOSRC Bolsters Forest-Based Businesses

During a time when most furniture manufacturing companies in Western North Carolina (WNC) have collapsed, one small business in Leicester is growing and has hired eleven skilled furniture-makers to meet the demand for their services. Bryan Fore, of Furniture Specialties, Inc. says the grant they received from the WNC Forest Products Cooperative Marketing Project (Forest Project) bolstered their success.

In December of 2010, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) was awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant in the amount of \$1.974 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service - Southern Research Station to implement the Forest Project. LOSRC and five partner organizations solicited proposals in March, 2010, and small businesses throughout the 18 western counties responded with 61 highly competitive proposals requesting over \$4.7 million. As a result, 15 WNC businesses received grants to expand into new product lines, improve marketing, and provide workforce training.

Over 160 positions have been retained or created for un- or underemployed forest-based workers through this project. Not only have positions been created, but these businesses have been enabled to purchase timber and non-timber forest products directly from landowners, handcrafters, local sawyers, artisans, and gleaners. This project has stimulated tangible business expansion and diversity in a challenging economic climate.

Collaborating organizations include: U.S. Forest Service, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Southern Forest Network, and NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Division of Forest Resources.

## Local Government Services

The Local Government Services Department provides an array of planning, development, grant writing, facilitation and project management services to our member governments. They also coordinate and manage regional economic, community development, and environmental projects.

- Specialities:**
- Growth Management** - land use, water quality/quantity, working lands, cultural and historic sites, conservation, waste/recycling.
- Transportation** - urban and rural, transit, bike and pedestrian, greenways, roads, rail, air quality.
- Housing** - rehabilitation, affordable, green built.
- Energy** - renewable, efficiency, alternative fuels.
- Brownfields** - assessment, cleanup, redevelopment.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
- Waste Reduction Partners** - industrial, institutional and commercial waste reduction, energy efficiency.

"This has been a win-win partnership with LOSRC and WNC communities. LOSRC has now distributed stimulus funds to help 15 businesses across the region, which has created over 160 jobs of un- or underemployed forest producers," said former USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station Director Jim Reaves. "I believe these projects will help jumpstart the forest products industry and the economy of WNC."



Participants take a tour of Hickory Nut Gap Farm (left) and Appalachian Designs (right) during the NADO Peer Exchange.

## 25 Year Transportation Plan Completed

Long-range visioning is a critical component of the planning process which generates an integrated multi-modal transportation system. In order to ensure efficient and strategic programming of federal expenditures, metropolitan planning organizations engage in a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This planning process considers the needs and desires of the local community and is required by the Federal Highway Administration. In September of 2010, Land-of-Sky Regional Council's French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) completed their LRTP that spans from 2010 to 2035 and included Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson Counties. This plan addresses all surface modes of transportation, including highways, railways, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as well as connections to aviation.

The FBRMPO received state-level recognition for the sustainability elements provided in the Climate Change and Environmental Analysis chapters in the LRTP that utilized data provided by the Asheville Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) office, a state-wide research arm of the University of North Carolina's educational system. Members of the public were engaged at local events and surveys were conducted online. A Citizen Advisory Committee for the LRTP was created to ensure citizen input.

## NADO Selects LOSRC for Peer Exchange

In May 2011, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) was selected by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to host a national Peer Exchange that highlighted our region's success in sustainable development practices. The event focused on LOSRC's efforts to integrate land use, transportation planning, environmental issues and economic development strategies in the region's diverse rural and urban communities.

Participants included transportation, economic development and planning professionals from across the nation who shared models and noteworthy practices for integrating livability goals into economic development and transportation plans. LOSRC staff focused on the region's water and air initiatives, land conservation, clean energy, brownfields, and working lands.

As part of the event, specific regional and local initiatives were highlighted through a tour of a few of the region's small local businesses, such as Hickory Nut Gap Farm, Appalachian Designs, Burnt Shirt Wood Products and The Boggs Collective. The group also heard a presentation from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) and visited the Asheville River Arts District.

On the last day of the exchange Asheville Mayor Terry M. Bellamy led a roundtable discussion about how regions can play a role in promoting successful sustainable development. She attributed the success of Land-of-Sky Regional Council to increased communication of staff activities to the LOSRC Board and local governments.

"We were very excited to have NADO select our region for a Peer Exchange visit. It was a true honor to have other Regional Councils from all across the nation come to the Land-of-Sky region to see how we impact our communities," said Joe McKinney, LOSRC Executive Director.

## Revitalizing <sup>86</sup>Between the Bridges<sup>89</sup>

For many years, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) has partnered with the City of Asheville to help revitalize the River Arts District through our Regional Brownfields Initiative (RBI). The RBI program identifies former industrial or commercial sites where future reuse is affected by real or perceived environmental issues. Once these properties are adopted into the program, LOSRC assists communities to make them market-ready and attractive to potential developers.

RBI is one of two high impact programs in the district; the other is the River Arts District Transportation Improvement Project (RADTIP). In order to align these two projects with the work of the Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission (AARRC), the city developed a unified visioning process called Between the Bridges, which began in March, 2011.

Between the Bridges seeks to maintain momentum and focus on the revitalization of 90 acres of riverfront property between Smokey Park and RiverLink bridges. To achieve this goal, opportunities and challenges to sustainable redevelopment must be identified. As a kick-off, the AARRC hosted a series of activities for stakeholders within the focus area to integrate their visions.

Partners of this "Vision to Action" project include federal, state, and local officials, the Environmental Protection Agency, Housing & Urban Development, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and city and regional planning agencies.

AARRC hopes to duplicate the Between the Bridges visioning process for other areas of the River Arts District, tailoring it to meet specific needs of each area poised for redevelopment.



## LOSRC Helps Shape the Future of Clean Energy in WNC

Driven by entrepreneurial innovation and a unique mix of regional assets, Western North Carolina (WNC) is experiencing an emergence of a clean energy economy. Clean energy presents a tremendous opportunity for our region, including biofuels, solar power, and sustainable building practices. The Building a Clean Energy Economy in WNC (now the Evolve Energy Partnership) initiative, a coalition of key public and private sector stakeholders is uniting our region's leadership behind a common vision. Land-of-Sky Regional Council, in partnership with AdvantageWest, administers this project. The Evolve Energy Partnership's goals are to grow clean energy business, keep valuable energy dollars within our region, hedge against volatile energy costs, and accelerate clean energy innovation, while improving the region's environmental quality and economic vitality.

In February of 2011, over 100 representatives of businesses, governments, colleges and universities, nonprofits and other organizations from throughout the 31-county project area met with AngelouEconomics, a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in renewable energy. The meeting was part of a cluster analysis study conducted to assess WNC's existing clean energy business sectors and identify trends, strengths and opportunities. The findings of the 6-month study, drafted in June, also explore links to the global energy marketplace and recommend supportive public policies.

As a result of the cluster analysis study, which identified over 400 companies, and with the guidance of the project's Leadership Group, the effort will continue with a series of targeted implementation strategies in coordination with the launch of a regional clean energy brand, marketing, and outreach campaign.

## Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for Madison County's Future

In the spring of 2011, the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization (LOS RPO) finalized the Madison County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). This long-range plan allows counties to communicate their large scale transportation needs to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). CTP's are completed in conjunction with NCDOT and allow municipalities to plan for the future. Local elected officials, and staff of NCDOT, Madison County and LOSRPO, worked in partnership to complete the plan through a two-year planning process. Funding for CTP studies are provided by NCDOT.

Strained transportation dollars cause projects to face greater levels of scrutiny. Such plans allow local areas to quantify and examine the needs of their transportation system. In the future, highway projects will only be considered for funding if they are included in a CTP, which makes them eligible for funding.

Project recommendations were multi-modal - including bicycles, pedestrians, transit, rail and highways. The process utilized a steering committee whose membership ranged from school and local officials to emergency service providers. Former Madison County Commissioner Eddie Fox, who was also a previous Land-of-Sky Executive Committee member and Chair, served on the steering committee. Public involvement efforts included placing surveys in the electric bills of Madison County residents, holding open houses in each town and attending local festivals and fairs. With the completion of this plan, each county of the LOSRPO has completed the CTP process. The county's plan was formally adopted by the North Carolina Board of Transportation in June of 2011.

## Gaia Herbs Grows During Economic Downturn

Since 1986 Gaia Herbs has established itself as the leading grower and producer of Certified Organic (COG) herbs and herbal products at its state of the art operations facility just south of the City of Brevard, which adjoins their farm. Gaia's commitment to certified organic herbs ensures strength, purity, and efficacy of their herbal products. At its facilities and farm, Gaia Herbs strives to produce pure plant medicines of exceptional quality and purity while enriching the ecology of the earth and the health and harmony of the people that use phyto-medicines. Their process ensures that products are manufactured to the very highest Federal Drug Administration's guidelines and U.S. Department of Agriculture's certified organic quality standards.

Gaia's success was reflected in their need for an additional warehouse and order fulfillment space. Land-of-Sky Regional Council supported their need by applying for a grant to fund their growth. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Building Reuse Program, assisted by the Transylvania County Commissioners, secured a \$216,000 zero-interest loan to up-fit a vacant building for Gaia Herbs located on Railroad Avenue in Brevard. The space now provides them with raw materials storage, bottled finished goods material storage and computerized order fulfillment.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce Small Cities CDBG Building Reuse program is administered through the Commerce Finance Center under the Economic Development funding category. Eligible applicants must be a local government in conjunction with a private for-profit business that proposes to restore a vacant building to economic use resulting in the creation or retention of permanent full-time jobs by the project company. The Gaia Herbs project created six full-time positions.



## LOSRC Helps Plug-In Electric Vehicles

High-speed plug-in electric vehicles are increasing in numbers in our region and Land-of-Sky Regional Council is working to build the needed infrastructure for public use. The Land-of-Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition (CVC) has formed an Asheville-Area Electric Vehicles (EV) Committee to develop a strategy to promote EVs and install a network of charging stations across the five-county metro area.

New EV cars include the Nissan LEAF all-electric vehicle with a 100-mile range and the Chevy Volt extended range electric vehicle that runs on its battery for 35 miles before switching to a gas-electric hybrid mode. It has an extended range of 379 miles. In 2011, Ford released its latest model of the Transit Connect, a light commercial vehicle, and Toyota is expected to offer a plug-in Prius model in 2012.

Advanced Energy and Progress Energy have provided technical guidance and conducted three training workshops over the past year. City and county governments and private businesses are involved and are proposing sites for public access charging stations. Charging stations are currently located at Biltmore Park.

The CVC partnered with Advanced Energy to secure a grant from the State Energy Office to cost-share the installation of 25 Level II charging stations in the region (charging time is 2-8 hours). Site selection is underway and systems should be in place by the fall of 2011.

The Eaton Corporation's plant in Arden is manufacturing charging systems for distribution across the United States. Land-of-Sky CVC is investigating the prospect of using solar Photovoltaic and other forms of renewable energy to provide or offset the power used in charging EVs in the region.

## Promoting Reading, Riding and Retrofit In Our Schools

In 2010, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) partnered with Asheville-Buncombe Sustainable Community Initiative (ABSCI) and other local organizations to acquire funding to support Reading, Riding and Retrofit (RRR). RRR is a vision of Asheville Buncombe HUB and ABSCI to encourage, promote and support environmental sustainability projects in all schools in Buncombe County. Schools are in an ideal position to lead and teach sustainability because they cut across socio-economic boundaries and touch almost everyone within a community.

To help launch the initiative, LOSRC was awarded a \$499,500 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Showcase Communities program, one of 25 projects funded across the U.S. to demonstrate innovative community-based projects that can achieve reduction in greenhouse gas emission.

A primary focus area of this grant is on retrofitting schools to significantly reduce energy use and related costs. The majority of the funding is allocated to Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, Francine Delany New School for Children, Evergreen Charter School, and Artspace Charter School. Energy saving upgrades include gym and classroom lighting improvements, point-of-use hot water heaters, insulation improvements, and HVAC control systems. Future plans under consideration include a solar hot water heater and energy demand controls.

The grant also supports "Green Teams," the development of environmental leadership groups comprised of students and teachers. Students are identifying solutions related to waste reduction and energy use. In one example, students examine the cycle of food production by creating a school garden where they learn about water conservation, composting, and the multiple benefits of growing their own food. Students share their findings and lessons learned with other students, staff, families, and the wider community.



Left: James Brazell, of Asheville, an 84-year-old retired Texaco executive, recently purchased one of the first Chevy Volts in Western North Carolina.



Right: Oakley Elementary Green Team create a school garden as part of RRR.



# LOSRC Staff

## Area Agency on Aging



**Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom:**

Joe Connolly - Area Agency on Aging Director\*  
 Barbara Hinshaw - Lead Regional Ombudsman  
 Brenda DelaCruz - SCSEP Job Developer, AAA Project Assistant  
 Carol McLimans - Family Caregiver Resource Specialist,  
 Interim AAA Director\*  
 Christina Giles - AAA Project Assistant  
 Jennifer Atkinson - SCSEP Coordinator  
 Lee Ann Smith - Regional Ombudsman  
 Linda Kendall Fields - CRC Coordinator  
 Margaret Stanley - Aging Program Specialist  
 Pat Hilgendorf - Caregiver Program Special Projects Coordinator  
 Rebecca Chaplin - Aging Program Specialist  
 Terry Collins - Regional Ombudsman

## Volunteer Services



**Pictured Left to Right:**

LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Volunteer Services  
 Brenda DelaCruz - Volunteer Services Project Assistant  
 Patti Cameron - RSVP Lead Coordinator  
 Stacy Friesland - Foster Grandparent Manager  
 Tracy Ash - Senior Companion Manager  
 Vicki Jennigs - RSVP Coordinator\*

## Finance



**Pictured Left to Right:**

Peggy Barnes - Finance Officer  
 Amber Spanton - Budget Analyst  
 Sherry Christenson - Accounting Specialist  
 Rose Sabo - Accounting Specialist  
 Wanda Clark - Accounting Assistant

## Local Government Services



**Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom:**

Ron Townley - Director, Local Government Services  
 A Sarac - LGS Project Assistant  
 Bill Eaker - Environmental Services Manager  
 Brian Taylor - Regional Planner, Clean Energy / Solid Waste  
 Carrie Runser-Turner - Senior Planner, Livable Communities  
 Dee Hanak - WRP Office Manager  
 Denese Ballew - Regional Planner, LEAP  
 Erica Anderson - Regional Planner, Working Lands  
 Holly Bullman - Regional Planner, Brownfields / Solid Waste\*  
 John Connell - Housing Specialist  
 Jon Beck - GIS Planner  
 Karen Kiehna - Senior Planner, Housing  
 Kate O'Hara - Senior Planner, Brownfields Program Manager  
 Kristin Peppel - Conservation Planning Consultant  
 Linda Giltz - Regional Planner, Land Use / Growth Management  
 Lyuba Zuyeva - Transportation Planner, MPO  
 Natalie Murdock - Transportation Planner, RPO  
 Patrick Harper - Regional Planner, Energy  
 Paul Black - MPO Director  
 Russ Jordon - Energy Program Manager, WRP  
 Terry Albrecht - Director of Waste Reduction Partners (NCDENR)  
 Tom Elmore - Working Lands Planning Coordinator / Consultant  
 Tracy Wahl - Brownfields Project Manager (NC DENR)

## Administrative Services

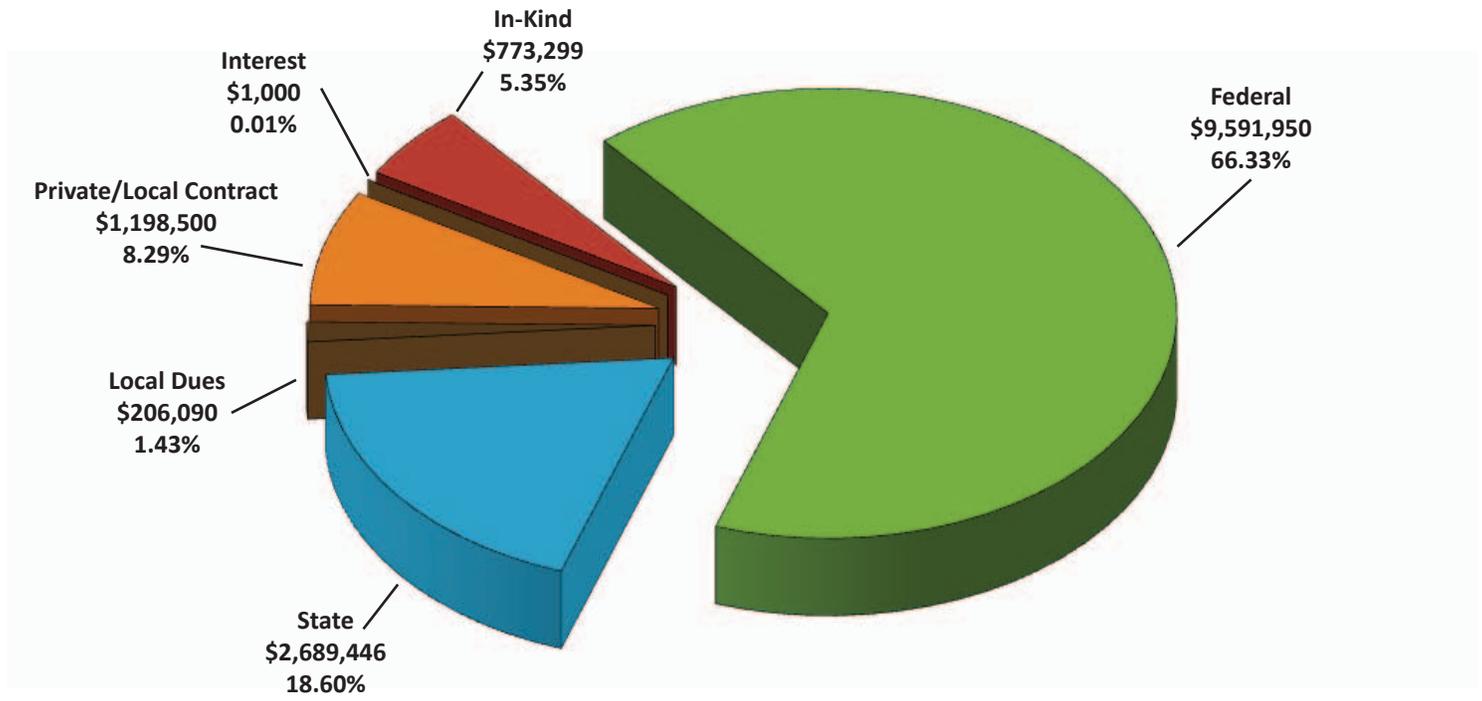


**Pictured Left to Right:**

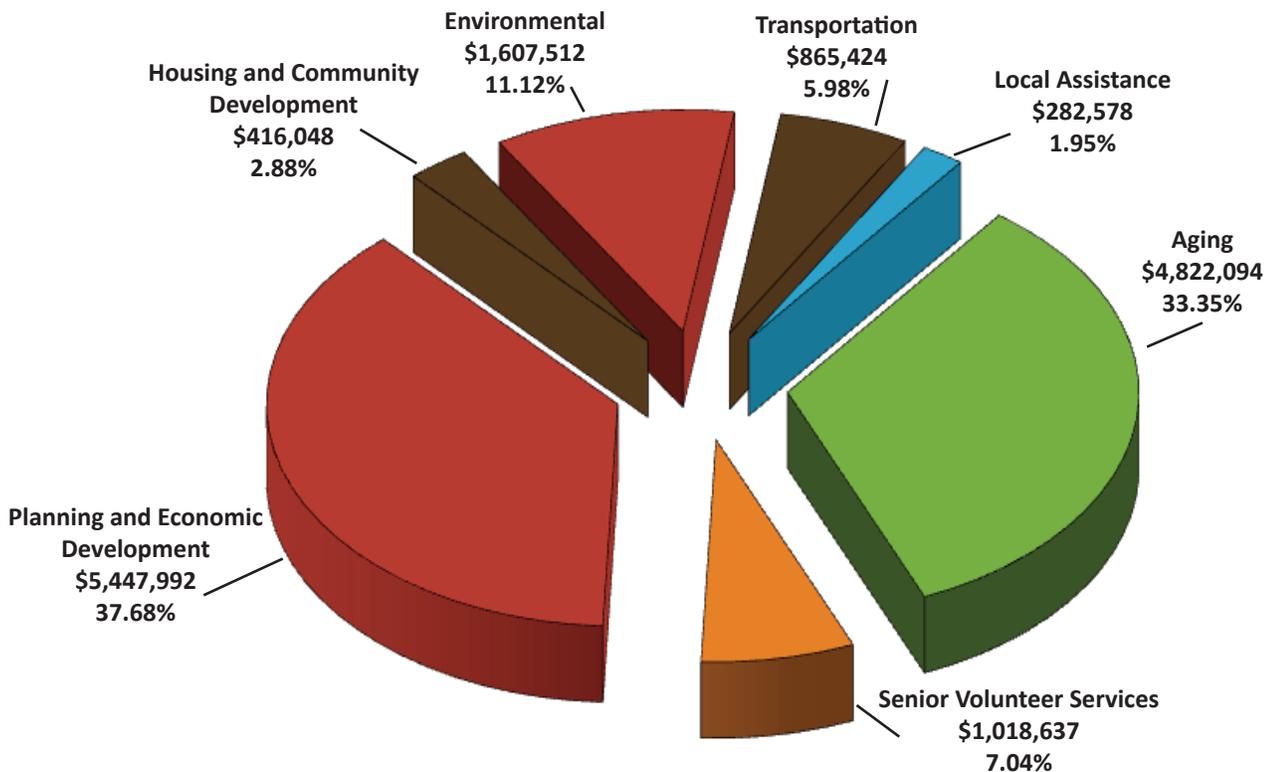
Joe McKinney - Executive Director  
 Danna Harrell-Stansbury - Director of Marketing & Administration  
 Bonnie Smith - Administrative Services Assistant  
 Brenda DelaCruz - Administrative Services Assistant\*  
 Brett Satz - Information Systems Specialist  
 Christina Giles - Communication Specialist  
 Janice Payne - Administrative Services Assistant  
 Michelle Barber - Clerk to Council, Administrative & Marketing Coordinator

\*With department for part of the Fiscal Year

## FY 2011 Revenues by Source\* \$14,460,285



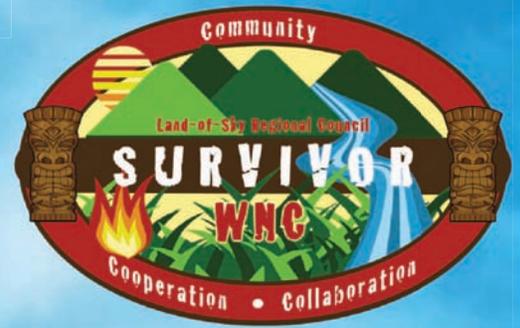
## FY 2011 Expenditures by Function\* \$14,460,285



\*Does not include Revenue from Other Sources or Expenditures Used for Non-Program Purposes, in the amount of \$169,600. Revenue from Other Sources was used for Upfit of Office Space.

# Land-of-Sky Regional Council

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Asheville, NC 28806  
Phone: 828-251-6622  
Fax: 828-251-6353  
www.landofsky.org



## Mission Statement

Work with local governments, the Region's leadership, state and federal agencies, service providers, and volunteers to foster desirable social, economic, cultural and ecological conditions in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties.

Lending Our Support to the Region's Communities