

Draft MEETING NOTES
Lakes Region Plan Advisory Committee (LRPAC)
Committee Meeting

Huot Technical Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room
345 Union Ave.,
Laconia, New Hampshire
June 26, 2013 at 2:00 PM

Attendees:

John Cotton LRPC Commissioner, Town of Andover
Jean Marshall LRPC Commissioner, Town of Freedom
Robert Snelling LRPC Commissioner, Town of Holderness
Warren Hutchins LRPC Commissioner, Vice Chair, LRPC, City of Laconia
Joseph JessemanLRPC Commissioner, Town of Tilton
Davis Kerr LRPC Commissioner, Town of Barnstead
Carol PierceRegional Leadership Team, City of Laconia
Nancy WrightMoultonborough
Rosemary LandryMeredith
Kimon Koulet, Executive Director..... Lakes Region Planning Commission
Gerald Coogan, Special Projects Manager..... Lakes Region Planning Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Introductions

K. Koulet called the meeting to order at approximately 2:10 PM and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

Proposed Lakes Region Plan ProcessK. Koulet

K. Koulet presented a Power Point on the Granite State Future (GSF) process. Highlights include:

- The nine RPCs, with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission as the lead, received a \$3.3 M HUD competitive Sustainability Grant to prepare individual Regional Plans;
- Preliminary work included early involvement of many state agencies, non-profit organizations and the Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)
- The NH Livability Principles were reviewed and will be incorporated into the planning process; and
- Each RPC has flexibility as to how it prepares its Regional Plan.

The role of the LRPAC is to guide the development of the Lakes Region Plan by reviewing draft planning documents, offering comments and providing observations on plan components. The Committee represents the interests of the 28 towns and 2 cities in the Lakes Region. G. Coogan distributed and discussed the Lakes Region Plan outline (attached) which has four major elements: 1) Vision for the Lakes Region; 2) Telling the Lakes Region Story; 3) Prioritized Implementation of Regional Projects; and 4) Technical Plan components:

- Housing:
 - Housing Needs Assessment
 - Fair Housing and Equity Assessment
- Transportation
- Water Infrastructure (*Utility and Public Service*)
- Environment (*Natural Resources, Water Resources, Recreation*)
- Economic Development
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change Impacts
- Energy Efficiency and Green Building (*Community Facilities, Energy*)

G. Coogan distributed the Lakes Region Plan timeline with key dates being June 30, 2014 (submittal of the draft Lakes Region Plan to NRPC) and November 24, 2014 (LRPC Commissioners adopt the Lakes Region). As each plan component and work product are prepared, the staff will forward a draft to the LRPAC for review and comment.

G. Coogan reviewed the Granite State Future Web Site: <http://granitestatefuture.org/> with the Committee and emphasized the online map communication tool. J. Cotton noted this website should not be confused with Granite State Futures website. As plan components are completed, they will be posted on the GSF website.

Proposed Plan ComponentsGroup

G. Coogan briefly reviewed the following plan components:

- Housing: Needs Assessment and Fair Housing & Equity Assessment
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Water Infrastructure
- Environment
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Energy Efficiency and Green Building
- Scenario Planning

R. Snelling inquired about how education fits into the process. G. Coogan responded that for planning purposes, education was best handled in the economic development component. He noted the Huot Center is an example of the education / economic development connection. Members engaged in a philosophical discussion regarding the education process and facilities. All agreed that education is a challenging topic. G. Coogan

discussed Scenario Planning which involves the use of computer program such as Community Viz with certain planning assumptions such as population growth (high, medium and low).

G. Coogan reviewed the Housing component outline (attached) and noted the relationship between housing cost and personal income and the affordability of housing. W. Hutchins noted that information from the regional plan components will be useful for local Master Plans. R. Snelling noted that Housing Recommendations were identified as “optional.” To be a credible planning document, he strongly felt that recommendations were critical. All agreed. One role of the LRPAC is to properly vet the recommendations. J. Jesseman noted the need for affordable housing. G. Coogan reviewed the Economic Development outline (attached) and noted much of the information is included in the 2013 CEDS.

Other Discussion on the PlanGroup

K. Koulet noted the tentative meeting dates are on the 4th Wednesday of every other month and that the staff will strive to e-mail draft documents to the LRPAC one week in advance. R. Snelling prefers a date certain as his calendar fills up. G. Coogan advised that flexibility is needed as the Lakes Region Plan will require a significant work commitment from the staff and some documents may not be ready seven days prior to the specified date. G. Coogan requested comments on both outlines by July 3rd. The group agreed on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 AM in September, November, January, March May and June, while noting there may be changes.

Selection of Committee Chair and Vice ChairGroup

The group selected Jean Marshall as Chair and Robert Snelling as Vice Chair. J. Marshall encouraged Committee member to call (539.3638) or e-mail (jean@marshallstudio.net) to discuss items if they wish. She also encouraged the staff to send sections of planning documents out early for review if appropriate.

Public Comment

R. Landry discussed LRPAC working with the NH Legislature on the plan and R. Snelling noted that as documents are prepared, and, if some require Legislative input, the LRPC will share the document with the appropriate Legislator or Committee. She noted she became aware of today’s meeting on Tuesday and suggested advance notification for future meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.