



**Granite State Future
Statewide Advisory Committee Meeting**

August 22, 2013 | 1:30 – 3:30 PM
NH Local Government Center
Concord, NH

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Joanne Cassulo, NH Office of Energy and Planning
Cynthia Copeland, Strafford Regional Planning
Commission
Glenn Coppelman, Community Development Finance
Authority
Terry Johnson, HEAL
Bruce Mallory, UNH Carsey Institute, NH Listens
Van McLeod, Department of Cultural Resources
Kevin Peterson, NH Charitable Foundation
Carolyn Russell, NH Department of Environmental
Services
Mark Sanborn, NH Department of Transportation
Michael Tardiff, Central NH Regional Planning
Commission

Members Not Present

Deborah Avery, Business Resource Center, NH Det of
Resources and Economic Development
Vacant, NH Municipal Association
Ben Frost, NH Housing Finance Authority
Terry Smith, NH Department of Health and Human
Services, Division of Family Assistance
Jeff Hayes, North Country Council

Guests

Vicki Quiram, NH Department of Environmental
Services

Staff

Jen Czysz, Nashua Regional Planning Commission

The meeting convened at 1:35 PM.

1. Statewide Needs Assessments and Research

NH Listens – Communities of Interest and Communities of Place

B. Mallory gave an overview of the completed NH Listens Communities of Interest and Communities of Place sessions conducted in the first half of this year. NH Listens and UNH Cooperative Extension are collaboratively working to finalize the report out from the series of presentations. The report will be complete in the weeks to come. Additionally, he reviewed some of the common themes heard throughout the sessions.

V. McLeod recommended presenting the final report and findings at a future NH State Agency Commissioners meeting. He offered to place it on a future agenda when the report is available.

K. Peterson asked if there were any Communities of Interest they were not able to reach. B. Mallory noted that Native Americans were not easy to connect with. V. McLeod noted there is a commission through the Department of Cultural Resources that he could place NH Listens in contact with.

K. Peterson also inquired about the sample size and comparability of questions asked during listening sessions relative to the UNH Survey. B. Mallory noted that the over 600 persons participating in the listening session process is the most they have engaged through a single series of sessions, however, cannot be considered a scientific sample. While there are similarities between questions posed in the listening sessions and the UNH Survey, the response type was different, open dialogue versus limited multiple choice, rendering the two final reports not comparable. However, when considered with other reports and studies, common themes and interests will start to emerge.

J. Cassulo noted that the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan also conducted a series of Listening Sessions with NH Listens and may provide additional insight, particularly relative to the interests of youth and young adults.

V. McLeod asked what the future opportunities are for input and recommended using the PEG cable access system where programs and recordings of interest can get picked up nationally. It would be worth conducting a live broadcast from one location and allow people to call or email in questions to be responded to on air.

J. Czysz shared recent results from the collective RPC outreach efforts. In particular there are:

- Fill out a survey card – virtual or comment cards in the listening boxes ~2,145 searchable responses/entries;
- Online forum with 215 of pins and comments placed on the maps statewide, and an additional 80 comments in the topic based comments;
- My Granite State Future Blog - 11 articles by RPCs and 4 by Statewide partners – sharing ideas across the state;
- 128 regional publicly noticed events, meetings, workshops;
- 138 smaller focus groups and strategic outreach events held with stakeholder groups in each of the regions;
- With approximately 4,225 people attending these combined 266 events.

UNH Survey Center – Comprehensive Survey

J. Czysz gave a brief overview of the UNH Survey Center's recently conducted survey. The survey included nearly 3,000 participants statewide with an overall 2.2% margin of error. Individual regions chose to conduct oversampling with a regional margin of error of approximately 5%. UNH is currently in the process of completing the final results tabulation and reports which should be released in the next 1-2 months.

Much of the dialogue was centered on the one question that asked participants to rank their top priority for public investment by topic: environment, economic development, transportation, housing, etc. While it is interesting to know how they rank against each other, it was important to recognize that none truly operate in a silo or vacuum and we must acknowledge the interconnections between functional plan topics and efforts.

Committee members suggested to following programs with integrated review processes that may provide ideas for RPCs when developing cross topic integrated prioritized implementation ranking systems:

- NH's LCHIP grant program and
- Prevention Institute's Collaboration Multiplier.

Carbon Solutions NE – Climate Change Impact Assessments

J. Czysz gave an overview of the northern and southern NH climate assessment's being conducted by Carbon Solutions NH out of UNH. Drafts are near completion and will follow the same model as the Great Bay Climate Assessment. Once the drafts are finalized, Dr. C. Wake will present the findings in Hanover, Keene, and two other locations to be determined in northern and southern NH.

J. Cassulo noted that there are two related upcoming efforts, a newly formed Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission and FEMA is remapping the seacoast and will release new Flood Insurance Rate Maps later this fall. V. Quiram also noted that the NH Department of Health and Human Services is also launching a climate study looking at health and infrastructure impacts.

NHHFA – Housing Needs and Preferences Study

J. Czysz gave an overview the recently launched Housing Needs and Preferences Study to be conducted by the NH Center for Public Policy Studies and Applied Economic Research for NH Housing. The study will update the housing needs data model, conduct a study of housing preferences to better understand shifting demand for younger and older households, and study assisted living needs. Focus groups will be conducted during September and October with preliminary findings expected in November and a complete draft in December of 2013. K. Peterson asked if the RPCs directly use the state Housing Needs Assessment. J. Czysz noted that yes, the RPCs will use the same source data and methodology to analyze housing needs and projected demand.

J. Czysz noted that the project consultants are still formulating the final set of focus group questions and are interested in suggested question that would be helpful to pose. C. Copeland and V. McLeod both noted that it would be useful to ask what populations are looking for in terms of communication systems capacities in homes and access to internet and phone service options and how that affect housing choices.

BIA – Statewide Strategic Economic Development Plan

J. Czysz noted that the Business and Industry Association is also simultaneously developing a statewide economic development plan to be released this fall. G. Coppelman noted that the focus groups for this effort have now concluded and they are in the process of tabulating results. Intent is for this plan to be more for the Association to guide their own organizational plan. K. Peterson noted that input has been narrow and limited for some focus groups, depending on the topic.

2. Plan Implementation

J. Czysz noted that the planning efforts are now approaching their mid-point and the studies mentioned today and several others are all nearing completion. This leads to the next phase in the process to develop recommendations and begin to look at how state, regional and local organizations can collaborate to lend support to one another and make each other's implementation efforts go further with less.

Some points for consideration and future discussion include:

- How can we collaborate in the future?
- Are there existing case study ideas for RPCs?
- How can we formalizing communication channels between RPCs and state agencies?
- Are there recommendations for state, regional, and local efforts to act on identified statewide needs?
- What resources are available to help support implementation?

The committee proceeded to discuss the best means to hold such conversations and who needs to be at the table. The final consensus was this would be an ideal conversation to be held at the TASC level, with RPCs coming directly to the TASC with ideas for discussion with the end goal of identifying common recommendations and priorities across the state. That said, some of the TASCs need to be reinvigorated. The best means to do so would be to host a full day event to “unveil” outreach and research findings including the NH Listens Reports, the UNH Survey Center Report, the Climate Change Impact Assessments, and RPC outreach findings. Presentations would be conducted during the morning with a break for lunch. The afternoon would be devoted to individual TASC meetings to begin discussing implementation actions and potential for collaboration.

M. Sanborn advised that the RPCs and TASCs will need to have a clear vision of what the plans will be used for and who will be responsible for any subsequent action. J. Cassulo also recommended that once the plans were formulated they should be presented to those state agencies that issue grant funds as a way to advise on what local priorities are to help direct funding toward priorities. V. McLeod also noted that the plans can be used to set a consistent message and communication mechanism statewide.

The committee also discussed available resources for implementation. While resources are dwindling it might be helpful to compile those that do exist into a single document. J. Cassulo and C. Russell noted that Rockingham Planning Commission prepared a list of such resources as part of the CTAP planning process. C. Russell also noted that through CTAP there were “roadmaps” to planning action prepared for some towns in southern NH.

3. Next Meeting

The committee decided to not hold the next quarterly meeting on November 21st, even though the next regularly scheduled meeting would be on Thanksgiving. Instead, the committee recommended holding the full day statewide convening on a day to be determined in the first half of November. J. Czysz will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the most convenient date for committee members and potential speakers.

4. Other Business

M. Sanborn announced that this would be his last meeting as chair and representing the NH Department of Transportation as he will be moving on to a new position. The committee discussed a potential successor to serve as chair. A motion was made by K. Peterson and seconded by G. Copleman to select B. Frost to serve as chair, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, no public comments, and no participants for the Business Leaders Roundtable conversation the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.