



**Granite State Future**  
**Statewide Advisory Committee Meeting**  
August 30, 2012 | 1:30 – 3:30 PM  
NH Local Government Center  
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301

**Agenda**

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Project Overview and Updates**
  - a. Statewide Research Process
    - i. Technical Advisory Subcommittees' Research
    - ii. Role of the Policy Committee
  - b. Regional Planning Process
  - c. Program Website
  - d. Communications and Outreach Process
- 3. Existing Trends and Conditions Discussion of Priorities**
  - a. Issues and Opportunities
  - b. Existing Resources
  - c. Existing Statewide Policies, Goals, and Questions
  - d. Baseline Conditions
- 4. Committee Membership**
  - a. Who's missing?
  - b. Election of a Chair
- 5. Next Meeting – November 29, 2012, Local Government Center**
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Public Comments and Questions (10 min.)**





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**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance**

Glenn Coppelman, Community Development Finance Authority  
Tim Fortier, NH Municipal Association  
Ben Frost, NH Housing 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  
Terry Smith, NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance  
David Preece, Southern NH Planning Commission  
Cliff Sinnott, Rockingham Planning Commission  
Christine Walker, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

**Staff**

Jen Czysz, Nashua Regional Planning Commission  
Kerrie Diers, Nashua Regional Planning Commission

**Guests**

Carrianna Keniston, Governor's Office  
Ian McSweeney, Russell Foundation, Southern NH Planning Commission

**1. Introductions**

All meeting attendees introduced themselves and K. Diers set the stage for meeting rules of procedure. All committee meetings are open to the public and while not public hearings will allow for public comments and questions at the end of the meeting. Committee rules of procedure were distributed to all attendees.

## 2. Project Overview and Updates

J. Czynsz gave an overview of the project which is progressing along in Phase 1 – statewide research and coordination. Currently, through the Technical Advisory Subcommittees (TASCs) subject matter experts are pulling together key resources, existing policies and goals from these existing resources, and existing baseline conditions for use and consideration of each of the regional planning commissions. This will give all 9 regions a common foundation and suite of resources as they begin the process of developing their individual plans. The goal is for all 9 RPCs to use a consistent methodology and data to allow plans to be comparable across regions and towns. Then, each region will determine how the data and resources relate to their region and communities.

At the regional level, each commission is setting up its outreach. As part of that, we have a website to launch next week as an input tool to allow citizens to have their voice heard, particularly those who might not be able to come to a meeting or attend an outreach event. Much of the planned outreach is having booths at different events like Old Home Days- going out to public gatherings. Also, each of the RPCs comment boxes distributed in their regions. A Facebook page has been set up that you can "like," additional efforts could include e-newsletters. C. Walker described the many events Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC has been coordinating and K. Peterson gave an example of VT Public Radio offering gift certificate in exchange for participation.

The committee discussed its role and that it is to discuss current policy, not make it. C. Walker noted that it is important that it be clear that the statewide efforts and research results are recommendations and that each of the regional plans will start with their individual communities and master plans. . There is a wealth of information at the state level to help inform decisions, but these are local decisions.

Given the committee's role, it decided that a more appropriate name for the committee is the Statewide Advisory Committee, not Policy Committee.

## 3. Existing Trends and Conditions Discussion of Priorities

J. Czynsz reviewed the consolidated draft work of the TASCs. The process started with the kickoff event in May that included a brainstorming session with the livability principles and identifying issues about opportunities. Look for things that are missing. The matrix represents work to date of the technical advisory committees. Each focused on different areas and points the Advisory Committee was asked to help with a larger brainstorming exercise.

Committee members were asked to think about 2 questions in preparation for the brainstorming segment of the meeting:

- What one statewide policy, goal, or recommendation from an existing resource, plan or other document is most important for the RPCs to consider in their regional plans?
- What one statistic, chart or graph depicts the most important existing trend or condition that the RPCs should consider in their regional plans?

What are some of the most important things that the regional commissions should know as we begin our work? Steve Norton did a State of the State at the May kickoff, what else should be thinking about?

Ideas of existing policies, goals, general recommendations and baseline conditions and statistics identified during the brainstorming session overwhelmingly cited demographic changes as one of the greatest issues to be considered. The full list of ideas identified included:

- Review Governor Gregg's 1991 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission report and compare how we look different today.
- Demographic Shifts – refer to Ken Johnson's, Carsey Institute, recent report on the 2010 Census. Note that the aging is because younger people are not coming here, rest of us are getting older. Changes in ethnicity, poverty and age.
- 2009 Civic Health Index by the Carsey Institute looked at citizen participation in communities. Will be doing it again to get another picture.
- Changing climate and emergency management influence how we place ourselves and shape future land use patterns. Need to look at impact on community infrastructure that could be significant. Example from the Town of Lyme Emergency Management Director was that the town population of 1,500 has a volunteer emergency management director and 3,000 culverts in need of assessment to review their potential associated risk.
- NH like all other states needs to do more with less – where are opportunities to achieve efficiency and where is the point of no longer being able to provide basic services? How does this impact towns, the state, etc?
- Food Supply – NH obtains 95% of its food from outside of NH, worst rate in the country. What is our goal for the future? Department of Agriculture has useful statistics.
- Last State Development Plan prepared in 1998-1999 under Governor Shaheen and was predominantly focused on economic development. A baseline would be important as a resource.
- Aging transportation and infrastructure is a huge issue and has significant impacts on the economy and ability to get goods to markets, etc.
- Water infrastructure – drinking and wastewater are invisible and their rates are the lowest of any utility in NH, therefore are largely ignored. Water is a basic human need. Underfunding infrastructure maintenance and improvements will cause an increase in water rates.
- EPA report notes that approximately 2.3 billion is needed for drinking water, wastewater, storm water infrastructure.
- The 11 State Transportation and Climate Initiative has prepared various indicators, statistics and goals that look at the effects of land use and how we use our landscape.
- Goal – land use planning that is integrated, specifically resulting in efficient land use and development patterns that reduce energy use, support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, and maintain a viable working landscape.
- Community Center Areas in NH were mapped in approximately 2005 and analyzed using data from the 2000 Census to understand our communities. This GIS analysis should be reviewed again using 2010 Census data and compare change over the decade as a tool to understand the impact of land use policies. Data layers include key destinations such as courts, schools, stores, etc., all put in a single data layer.
- Acres of impervious cover per person is currently being used by the Piscataqua Estuary Project in the coastal watershed area to gauge the impact of land use policies on development, and ultimately water quality. Would be valuable to have this measure statewide.
- Other GIS based mapping efforts included the Natural Services Network of the Jordan Institute and partners, which is a compilation of existing GIS natural resource data layers identifying areas that contribute key supporting functions and benefits to benefit mankind. One of the data layer

involves agriculture soil, though it doesn't indicate that the land is actually being used. The I-93 Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) looked at what percent of the NSN that is developed and protected; this analysis can be easily replicated statewide to understand existing land cover. Forest Society and the Nature Conservancy are also doing similar analyses to focus land conservation efforts. They're doing lower Merrimack (Concord to MASS), plus what's already done with Seacoast and Lakes Region, and Quabbin to Cardigan, much of the state is done, plus, CT River Valley.

- Of the Livability Principles, Traditional Settlement Patterns is most relevant to all other planning areas including housing choice and affordability, natural resources because it minimizes use of undeveloped land, water quality because compact design has less impact on and less impervious coverage, community centers, energy through transportation and efficiency. But for some, this is viewed as a diminution of property rights for people. Must be clear that traditional settlement patterns is not a mandate but a choice for individuals and communities if they so choose. Preliminary visual preference surveys by UVLSRPC have found that people prefer traditional, compact residential development when presented at eye-level, street view, but dislike this pattern of development when presented from an aerial perspective.
- Some great data coming out of DHHS re: health disparities around obesity and chronic disease that are occurring in rural areas and high deprivation urban neighborhoods. UNH Carsey Institute has also released policy briefs looking at food deserts across the state. Overlays of higher levels of poverty. Particularly Coos County and individual neighborhoods in Manchester where there are high occurrences of obesity and chronic disease.
- In the Upper Valley, 6% of population can walk to a food source. 26% can bike. Others must drive. Level of what's there and costs are prohibitive. The numbers of children having health and obesity issues is growing in NH.
- Focus on assets to build from to help make implementation feasible, versus wide-open "what do we need," which can create unrealistic expectations. What are local assets of regional significance?
- Regional plans should either look to existing Comprehensive Economic Development Plans or take advantage of the opportunity that the two plans can be accomplished as one single plan and process, reducing cost of planning.
- Food appears to be missing from the livability principles. Where does it fit in? Perhaps through traditional settlement patterns in conversation of zoning; transportation as how do you get to the store and food to market; natural resources given the need for land for farming. Joanne Burke and the UNH Sustainability Institute doing a NH study on food security (GIS data layer available).
- There is an inverse relationship between land use and body mass index (see research of Lawrence Frank).
- Demographic changes in Manchester and other communities that are centers for refugee resettlement and immigration are a lightning rod, but carry real concerns for how communities provide adequate services.
- Rockingham county is slated to have an extremely high projected increase in the share of the population over the age of 65. This creates an increased demand for transportation options, transit, and emergency services.
- Fiscal health of our communities to provide services? Opportunities for cost sharing?
- Rental markets so tight in bigger communities and pushing low income populations to renting in small towns that are not prepared to provide services. Ultimately that call for services goes to

the Governor's office from residents in emergency situations and don't have heating fuel in winter. Town welfare officers must be part of the plan and haven't been in the past.

- Need to change our approach and look at where dependencies exist.
- Need to look at the resiliency of our communities and ability to do less with less. How do we work with fewer resources and provide essential services?
- Look at outmigration rates amongst different age cohorts. Migration trends are indicative of current quality of life and will have a future impact on the state.
- Economy and jobs must play a central focus in the planning process. The current state of the economy creates fear and ultimately a lack of trust. Need to ask what is the role of government? Vital to make to connection between land use, the economy and jobs.
- [Union Leader article on August 30<sup>th</sup>](#) stated that "NH has lost more jobs to China than any other state, 2.94% of total workforce."

#### **4. Committee Membership**

The Committee discussed who was missing from the table. Suggestions included a member of the business community, elected officials, and local representation.

Mark Sanborn volunteered to serve as the committee chair, with the understanding that staff support would be provided by NRPC. The committee agreed to have M. Sanborn serve as chair.

#### **5. Next Meeting – November 29, 2012, Local Government Center**

Future meetings will occur quarterly on the last Thursday of the month (November, February, May, and August). The next meeting will be held on November 29, 2012, 1:30 PM at the Local Government Center (location pending confirmation of meeting space).

#### **6. Other Business**

B. Mallory described the work of organizing the various listening sessions to occur in the state and the process of building support.

There was no other business to come before the committee.

#### **7. Public Comments and Questions**

There were no members of the public present or questions posed during the public comment and question period.