

## MINUTES

### Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Strategy Committee Meeting

Southern NH University  
Gilford, New Hampshire

January 27, 2010

#### Committee Members Present:

Bill Beyer, Meredith Village Savings Bank	Gerry O'Neil, Private Sector Representative
Jennifer Boulanger, BCEDC	Gary Groleau, NH Ball Bearing
Debbie Frawley-Drake, Private Sector Representative	Henry Lipman, LRGHealthcare
Alan Robichaud, Lakes Region United Way	Dick Waitt, LRPC
Linda Harvey, Laconia Area Community Land Trust	Jack Terrill, Lakes Region United Way
John Howe, NH Business Sales	Mark Edelstein, Lakes Region Community College

#### Others:

Kimon Koulet, Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC)  
Stephanie Dulac, LRPC

#### Call to Order/Acceptance of the Minutes:

J. Boulanger called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. She and K. Koulet began the meeting by introducing Stephanie Dulac, the new LRPC staff member to the group. J. Boulanger called for a motion to accept the minutes of the October 2009 meeting. The minutes were accepted as written by a unanimous vote.

#### CEDS Committee Structure:

J. Boulanger began by discussing how the CEDS Steering Committee should be organized in the future in order to maintain involvement. She reported on a discussion that she and K. Koulet had on this subject in which they came up with the idea of the subcommittee chairs forming the overall strategy committee, which would meet on a quarterly basis and as needed. The subcommittee structure would be reorganized and raised to standing committees. The steering committee would then be called a coordinating committee. The committee chairs would use the quarterly meeting as an opportunity to update the larger group on their committee's activities. 50% of the participation would still have to come from the private sector.

J. Boulanger and K. Koulet plan to send letters out to steering committee members to assess their interest in continuing on with the group. B. Beyer suggested inviting members of the BCEDC or similar groups to join the CEDS standing committees in order to increase participation.

Following a motion by B. Beyer and a second by D. Wait, the Committee then voted unanimously to accept the new standing committee / coordinating committee structure proposed by J. Boulanger and K. Koulet. Every member from the various standing committees would be invited to meet on a quarterly basis unless there is an occasion to call a special meeting. The coordinating committee, formed by the standing committee chairs, would meet more frequently and on an as-needed basis.

### **CEDS Update - Funding opportunities, CEDS approval, etc:**

K. Koulet updated the group as to the CEDS approval process: the document has verbal approval, and an email approval, but has yet to be approved by letter. K. Koulet spoke with someone from EDA today who said that if the field representative gave verbal approval, then that is good enough to apply for additional grants.

K. Koulet also spoke with the EDA area field representative regarding access to short-term planning funds to help sustain staff. He noted that LRPC Commissioners are interested in exploring the possibility of creating an Economic Development District (EDD). EDD status may provide regular funding that would be a great assistance to the CEDS efforts; e.g. meeting support, updating the CEDS, assistance to applicants, etc. G. O'Neil had the idea to form a collaboration and outreach committee to take on the outreach component of the CEDS, as many of the project successes have not been highlighted in the press. B. Beyer had the idea of asking marketing students from Plymouth State University to start promoting CEDS project successes.

An EDA workshop on the grant application process could be very helpful to community leaders. There are many projects in the CEDS that are eligible to apply for funding through EDA, i.e. Northfield Sewer and Barnstead. K. Koulet has contacted the Northfield town administrator regarding their interest to apply for an EDA Public Works grant to help pay for their sewer project. He showed the group the EDA Public Works application as an example of what it looks like.

### **Standing Committee and Project Updates:**

The NH Broadband Mapping Program has been funded and is underway. The LRPC is working with UNH and the eight other regional planning commissions to survey the community anchor institutions to assess broadband availability. The survey will be done in one month. There are three components to the project: the survey, GIS mapping, and planning. The planning component is similar to what the New Economy Committee has been doing. A press release had been released to promote the project.

Building Employees: Though the individual projects have been moving forward, the overall group has started to dissipate. The group has not met in a long time. There has been some collaboration on energy related projects between NH Ball Bearing and M. Edelstein to set up an internship program. J. Boulanger shared with them some funding opportunities through the Community Development Finance Authority for energy related projects.

Live Here Work Here Housing: The group has not met since the last CEDS strategy committee meeting, although they plan to meet soon. The Land Trust closed on a project in Meredith and opened bidding on a project in Tilton. G. O'Neil suggested that these projects be included in the CEDS.

Social Capital and Cultural Heritage: Alan Robichaud of The Lakes Region United Way joined the group on January 1st and helped to update the Logic Model and bring his expertise to the committee. They are working to develop a vision for the future and what the definition of healthy communities means.

H. Lipman brought up the current budget issues that NH social programs are currently facing - they are on the chopping block for NH to close the gap in the budget deficit. There is a proposal now to develop gaming as a source of revenue for these programs.

The United Way is hosting a series of gambling workshops throughout the state so that community members can learn more and discuss the issue. There is going to be an all-day forum in Laconia on February 13 to explore the issue at length. It will not be a debate, but more of a discussion.

There was a discussion as to what the CEDS can do - should the CEDS committee take a stance on the gambling issue? J. Terrill asked if the committee could take a position on issues such as gambling. J. Boulanger stated that the CEDS is a plan and we can influence the discussion one way or another by providing information to the community so that they can make informed decisions.

The Social Capital Committee will work to decide the CEDS position or non-position on the gambling issue and will bring it back to the greater CEDS committee. The group plans to call a special meeting to discuss it further.

Sustainability - Energy and the Natural Environment: The group has met twice since the last meeting. Josh Arnold from GALA gave a status update of the Ossipee Grange Hall Project. The next meeting of the Lakes Region Energy Alliance will take place at the new Forest Service Headquarters in Campton where there will be a tour of the building. J. Boulanger will email G. O'Neil and Chris Williams the funding opportunities information from the Community Development Finance Authority for energy related projects. The group has been talking about conducting outreach to involve more economic development organizations in the CEDS.

J. Boulanger updated the group on the Barnstead project. The company is currently in the process of being sold. BCEDC has met with the potential buyers and they are familiar with the CEDS process. J. Boulanger will update the group once the process moves forward.

### **CEDS Update Process**

K. Koulet described the update process of the CEDS to include the Barnstead and HVAC projects. He went over the changes/additions that S. Dulac made to Chapters 6 and 7 and the Logic Model tables.

The CEDS committee stayed later to rate the two new projects in the Project Evaluation Form. The outcome will be distributed to the rest of the CEDS committee for approval. D. Frawley-Drake made a motion, seconded by J. Boulanger in favor of the steering committee making a recommendation to the full committee to accept the project evaluation ratings. Those present unanimously agreed.

### **Other:**

B. Beyer said he would contact Plymouth State University to see if they can provide some marketing student interns to help promote the CEDS.

J. Boulanger, K. Koulet and Lynn O Callahan put together an outline for the CEDS Newsletter. More information is needed for individual projects. J. Boulanger will email the newsletter out to everyone so that those who know about the individual projects can give a brief description of them. B. Beyer suggested that the last page be used to highlight the Social Capital Committee's work with

the gaming issue or the current predicament that many of the state's social programs are facing. J. Boulanger said that the page could be used to highlight the work of any of the standing committees. She also suggested that the last page be used to list funding opportunities for the CEDS projects or give examples of projects that have received EDA funding. The newsletter should be finalized by the BCEDC meeting on March 26. B. Beyer will help J. Boulanger with the content of the newsletter and the meeting.

As J. Boulanger is stepping down as chairperson, those present decided that there should be a rotating chairperson who would organize the meetings for the group. G. O'Neil will take the first rotation as chairperson of the CEDS committee.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2010.