

MINUTES

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

Southern NH University
Gilford, New Hampshire

May 27, 2009

Committee Members Present:

Jennifer Boulanger, BCEDC	John Howe, The Citizen of Laconia
Bill Beyer, Meredith Village Savings Bank	Henry Lipman, LRGH
Carol Cantin, Belknap/Merrimack Counties CAP	Mark Scarano, GCEDC
Debbie Frawley-Drake, Lakes Region Linen	Jack Terrill, Lakes Region United Way
Mark Edelstein, NH Community Technical College	Dick Waitt, LRPC

Others:

Michael Tardiff, LRPC

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Boulanger at 4:15pm. The minutes of the March 31, 2009 CEDS Committee meeting were then accepted by a unanimous vote of the committee.

CEDS Status Report, etc.

Jennifer Boulanger informed the committee that the draft CEDS had not yet been received by the EDA regional office in Philadelphia for their review. The document has again been sent to the EDA office by the NH State EDA representative. She noted that she had followed up to determine the status of the EDA review because there were several project proponents that were interested in applying for EDA funding once the CEDS review was completed, and related to the committee that EDA representatives had then told her to go ahead and contact the EDA regarding potential funding for projects while the EDA review of the CEDS was underway. She noted that she would follow up with the EDA shortly regarding the CEDS document review.

Discussion then ensued regarding the upcoming meeting scheduled for the following morning with Rep. Carol Shea-Porter. J. Boulanger noted that it should be a goal of the meeting to come up with a list of key topics to discuss with Rep. Shea-Porter, and the best way to this would be to develop a list from the individual committee reports.

CEDS Subcommittee Reports

Bill Beyer reported on the recent work of the Live Here Work Here - Housing subcommittee. He said the subcommittee has been meeting regularly, and the overarching idea of the group is to work to effectively communicate the merits of workforce housing in 2-3 local communities. He asked the CEDS Committee for their assistance in reaching out to Planning Board members, planners and administrators to move forward the work of the subcommittee. He also noted that Linda Harvey had been assisting the subcommittee and had been a great help. He noted that she was interested in joining the CEDS Committee.

Carol Cantin provided an update on the work of the Building Employees subcommittee. She stated that the previous week Gary Groleau and a representative of ___ Plastics had received an award at the Laconia School Board meeting for their work with the Huot Center. She noted that at the time of the completion of the CEDS draft document the subcommittee had not been sure of the availability of matching funds for a proposal to secure additional equipment for the Huot Center. At this time there are matching funds available, and now they can move forward but need to amend their project summary in the CEDS to note that matching funds are available. J. Boulanger said that the subcommittee should do so. Mike Tardiff said it was reasonable to make the change at this time and he could provide assistance in changing the form in the online version of the CEDS document. J. Boulanger offered to assist C. Cantin in determining the EDA program that the subcommittee would be seeking to utilize.

No members of the Sustainability-Energy and the Natural Environment subcommittee were available to make a report on recent activities.

The Social Capital and Cultural Heritage subcommittee update was provided by Debbie Frawley-Drake. She noted that there is an opportunity to have a staff person available to work on social capital issues through the United Way. She then stated that the subcommittee needs new members to assist with all the work that the subcommittee is and can be doing, perhaps people not normally engaged in projects such as the CEDS.

Henry Lipman began the New Economy subcommittee report by stating that a proposed redundant fiber route between Laconia and Franklin had been submitted to DRED as a proposed project. He noted that it had also been submitted as a potential federal appropriation. H. Lipman noted that he feels there is a need for funding for broadband-related mapping and coordination activities that could be undertaken by the LRPC, which is consistent with the recommendations of the state broadband plan. He noted that there a large number of small businesses that could be helped with the availability of improved broadband infrastructure. He then further noted that the state broadband plan envisions the planning commissions as the entity that pulls together business demand information in a region, and the Lakes Region can use funding to begin this process.

The CEDS Committee members who will attend will emphasize the results of the New Economy's committee broadband planning effort, and a summary of the recommendations would be made available to Rep. Shea-Porters' staff.

Assessing How We Get Things Done

J. Boulanger stated that the CEDS Committee should be thinking about the eventual update of the CEDS, despite the delay in the review of the draft document. She noted that there was a required annual review of the plan, and asked the individual subcommittees to be prepared in October to discuss the performance measures logic model worksheets and recommend any adjustments/additions to the CEDS project

proposals. B. Beyer stated that it should be a goal of the subcommittees to review their individual logic worksheets for the July CEDS meeting.

District Status for Lakes Region: On the Radar

J. Boulanger noted that she would like to postpone the discussion of potential Economic Development district status until the next CEDS meeting as Kimon Koulet was not able to attend the CEDS meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Other Business

C. Cantin asked how the CEDS Committee can move forward to further educate people in the region about the CEDS effort. She noted the need for a public forum or regional meetings to improve our outreach. H. Lipman stated that an approved plan will open up avenues for funding, and people in the region are starting to realize it.

The need for additional CEDS members was discussed. B. Beyer recommended the formation of a 3 person subcommittee to develop CEDS membership. H. Lipman noted that there is a need for additional staffing resources to support the volunteer efforts by the CEDS Committee.

Following a motion by John Howe and a second by Henry Lipman, the CEDS Committee then voted unanimously to approve Linda Harvey, Doug Holmes and Peggy Selig as CEDS Committee members.

H. Lipman then recommended that CEDS committee members contact existing CEDS members that had not been attending regularly to discern their interest in continuing their participation in the CEDS process. M. Tardiff will coordinate with J. Boulanger on that process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date of the CEDS Committee will be on a date to be announced in July at Southern NH University.