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CEDS Lakes Region Update

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

March 2010

CEDS PROJECTS TAKING FLIGHT

Gunstock Expansion and Redevelopment

Gunstock Mountain Resort seeks to redevelop a winter skiing and summer camping facility into a four-season resort with an expanded equestrian center, a new aquatics center, and a residential village. In mid-2009 Gunstock Mountain Resort commissioned a Master Plan update to incorporate a Mountain Plan, a Multi-Season Recreation Plan, and a Base Lands Development Concept while recognizing the mountain upgrading that has occurred since the 2006 Master Plan. The Multi-Season Recreation Plan will set a strategy for expanding and improving the choices for guests (winter and summer), better utilizing existing infrastructure and increasing resort revenue opportunities. The ultimate goal of the project is to establish Gunstock Mountain Resort as a year-round regional destination with the diverse activities and facilities expected by today's consumers and that are in line with Gunstock Mountain Resort's vision and operational philosophy. Legislation has been passed supporting the proposed uses of the Gunstock property as outlined in the "Gunstock Reborn" plan.

Barnstead District Heating

The Town of Barnstead is investigating the potential use of excess energy created when Lakes Region Pellet's 5-megawatt Wellons boiler is recommissioned and fueled by waste pellets. It is believed that the boiler will provide sufficient energy to heat the entire pellet manufacturing facility as well as to dissipate excess into a district heating system for Barnstead neighborhoods and municipal buildings located near the pellet company. A district heating system requires a low-cost heat source and a hot water distribution system designed to eventually serve every building in a particular community and possible surrounding areas. A few district heating systems exist in New Hampshire. Concord Steam supplies heat to many Concord buildings using biomass wood chips as does the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH. Several college campuses, such as the University of New Hampshire in Durham and Plymouth State University, have centralized district heating systems, currently using fossil fuels.

LRGHealthcare Expansion

In December 2009, LRGHealthcare broke ground for an 87,000 square foot patient care addition at the Lakes Region General Hospital campus in Laconia. The patient care addition is being constructed between the existing hospital facility and the Medical Office Building and will connect the two buildings. The construction and renovation will add a new 15-bed Intensive Care Unit and a five-bed Progressive Care Unit. It will also increase the size of the Eldercare Unit from 13 beds to 20 beds. In addition to the clinical and non-clinical needs outlined in the plan and in order for LRGH to realize this plan in delivering quality, affordable and accessible healthcare, several infrastructure investments are needed. One such improvement is a new Emergency Power Capacity Plan. In order to ensure emergency power capacity both now and in the future, the plan provides for the build-out of four new generators utilizing a closed-transition switching system. This state-of-the-art system will prevent even the slightest interruption of power during patient care delivery and will provide the level of air filtration needed to ensure the highest level of infection control.



In late spring 2009, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) accepted "Lakes Region Plan for Sustainable Progress: A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy." This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document was the result of months of research and preparation by Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), the Belknap County Economic Development Council (BCEDC), and the Lakes Region CEDS Committee. The CEDS documents all the projects that the Strategy Committee had identified as significant for the region in line with the identified strategic goals. The CEDS report includes special analysis of industry clusters, a SWOT analysis, a Lakes Region environmental profile, a study of Lakes Region infrastructure, an analysis of demographics, a definition of regional expectations, and project summaries and scoring.

The document is available for review on-line at www.lakesrpc.org/CEDS.

CEDS PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

Lakes Region Employers/Schools Alliance

This collaboration between locals schools and employers works to educate and fill the need for a trained workforce to the benefit of both employees and employers.

New Economy Technology Plan

An immediate goal is to identify, aggregate, and address regional demand for broadband and various technologies.

Harriman Hill/Eastern Lakes Housing Coalition (ELHC)

This project is a conservation/cluster workforce housing development of modest homes in a village setting within walking distance to Wolfeboro's shopping and recreational facilities. This project is comprised of 48 rental units and 20 home-ownership units. All state and local approvals and permits have been secured; financing is being arranged. ELHC has engaged Laconia Area Community Land Trust (LACL) as the general partner to realize this important community asset.

Lakes Region Brownfields Assessment Program

The purpose is to return sites that may be compromised by hazardous substances or contaminants to viable, productive reuse. An environmental consultant will be hired to perform Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments.

Sampling of Tributaries of Lake Winnepesaukee

This is a key element in ongoing efforts to create a watershed management plan for the state's largest water body. Water samples are collected and analyzed by plan partners from the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association, North Country Resource Conservation and Development, the University of New Hampshire, and Plymouth State University Center for the Environment and incorporated into a statewide database maintained by the NH Department of Environmental Services.

SUB-COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL?

Realizing that we are all connected to each other and what impacts one of us impacts all of us, *social capital* is about how we maximize the resources we already have to meet current and future needs. For example: What would be the impact on local businesses if our regional mental health center should close down? What is the economic impact on our region if the state cut funds to the community college? What happens to our local healthcare infrastructure if home health services were eliminated?

Answers to these and other critical questions may not be easily found but are all reasons why we need to come together, look across our own fences, and see if our neighbor needs help. We all have resources. We all know things and can do things. How and when we share these assets is what social capital is all about.

The CEDS Social Capital Committee will be prompting individuals and organizations to engage in efforts that motivate and inspire collaboration across community sectors. In today's constantly changing environments and economies, it's difficult to remove oneself from the day-to-day fray of keeping a household or business afloat. In a series of activities and events over the next year, the committee hopes to engage people in rethinking "business as usual" and spark dialogue and outcomes that, through joint efforts, paint a vibrant future for Belknap County. The committee will use a variety of tools to bring people together to address real issues impacting life in the Lakes Region.

Social Capital is an important element that contributes to the strength and health of our community. It crosses all sectors large and small. It is how people, places, and things merge to get things done for the betterment of all. It is where we achieve greater gains through mutual endeavors. If you think you have an idea that can change the way business is done, that is more economical, more environmentally friendly, or is more advantageous to partner with others, we want to hear from you. Call Alan Robichaud at 524-6864, Ext. 100, or Committee Chair Debbie Frawley Drake at 524-0506.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to lead the federal economic development agenda. EDA's mission is to advance the economic revitalization of communities and regions suffering from economic distress by making grant-based investments to attract private capital investment and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs. EDA investments are focused on locally developed, regionally based economic development initiatives that achieve a high return on taxpayer investment and directly contribute to economic growth. Visit www.eda.gov/AboutEDA/Programs.xml

Public Works and Economic Development Program

Public Works and Economic Development investments help support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, redevelop brownfield sites, and provide eco-industrial development.

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning, and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. This program is designed to respond flexibly to pressing economic recovery issues and is well suited to help address challenges faced by U.S. regions and communities.

Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is aimed at helping to create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities [cities, counties, or other political subdivisions of a state or a consortium of political subdivisions of a state, including District Organizations of Economic Development Districts (EDDs)] that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program

EDA administers the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program through a national network of eleven Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services.

Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund

EDA's Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund (GCCMIF) was established to strengthen the linkages between economic development and environmental quality. The purpose and mission of the GCCMIF is to finance projects that foster economic development by advancing the green economy in distressed communities. The GCCMIF supports projects that create jobs through, and increase private capital investment in, efforts to limit the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and protect natural systems.

University Center Economic Development Program

The University Center Economic Development Program is a partnership between the Federal government and academia that helps to make the varied and vast resources of universities available to economic development communities.

Local Technical Assistance

The Local Technical Assistance Program helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in economically distressed regions from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues.



Fundamentally transforming the foundations of the economy is the biggest contribution we can make towards building a sustainable future. The current economic crisis may be painful, but it will be nothing compared with the crises we will face if we continue to grow in a way that threatens the life-support systems on which we rely.

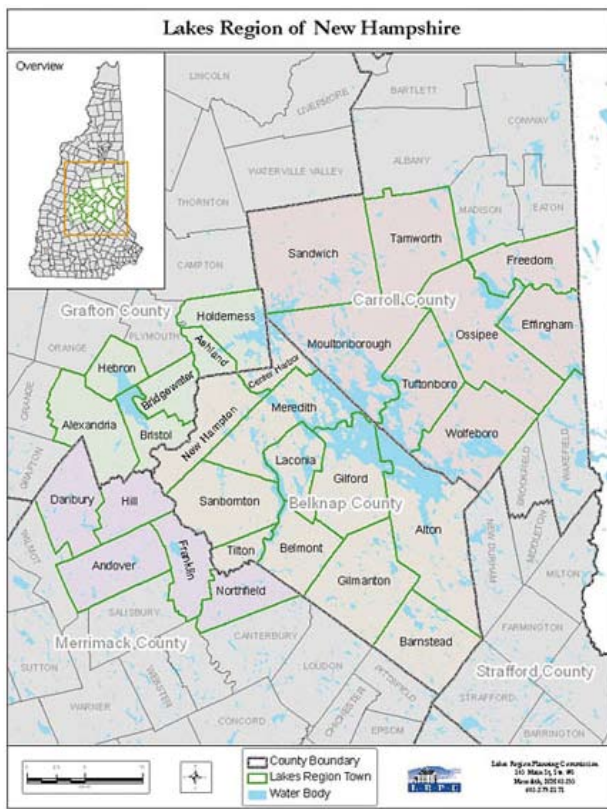
Jonathon Porritt
Chair, Sustainable
Development Commission

For additional information, please call either LRPC at 603-279-8171 or the BCEDC at 603-524-3057.

C E D S Lakes Region Update

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Lakes Region Planning Commission
103 Main Street, Suite #3
Meredith, NH 03253



THE LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION (LRPC) is a non-profit, voluntary association of local communities that pool their resources to obtain a highly trained professional staff to provide a wide variety of services to serve the people of the Lakes Region. Our mission is to provide a quality environment, to increase economic opportunity, and to encourage cultural development by supporting local efforts with education, technical assistance, information, advocacy, and responsive representation. The LRPC also provides services that meet the changing conditions and demands of our communities. Technical assistance is available for issues ranging from air quality to zoning. Mapping now includes automatic geographic information systems (GIS). The LRPC also represents and coordinates the region on major land use, environmental, and transportation planning efforts.

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