

*1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT MEETING NOTES*

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

Gilford Town Office  
47 Cherry Valley Road  
Gilford, New Hampshire  
October 25, 2012 at 3:00 PM

**Attendees:**

Dick Waitt, LRPC Commissioner..... Gilford  
Carol Pierce .....Laconia Human Relations Committee  
Carmen Lorentz, Executive Director..... Belknap County Economic Development Council  
Pat Jones, LRPC Commissioner .....Ossipee, Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council  
Jac Cuddy .....Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council  
Cyndi Paulin .....Lakes Region United Way  
Linda Harvey .....Laconia Area Community Land Trust  
Gerald Coogan, Special Projects Manager..... Lakes Region Planning Commission

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Introductions**

C. Lorentz called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05 PM and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

**MOTION:** C. Pierce moved and D. Waitt seconded to accept the August 30, 2012 meeting notes. The motion passed unanimously.

**2012 CEDS Update – Final Demographic Section .....J. Coogan**

J. Coogan reported that new information on employment, wages and the poverty level was added to the Demographic Section. Key points are:

- Decline of 3,196 private sector jobs during the 2005 to 2010 period;
- Manufacturing experienced the largest decline with a loss of 2,005 jobs, which represent 32% of all manufacturing jobs in the Lakes Region;
- Jobs in health care and social assistance increased by 475 jobs;
- Total employment decline by 6.7% in the five year period;
- Top paying jobs are in utilities, wholesale trade, professional / technical services and mining
- Highest household incomes: Moultonborough, Barnstead, Gilmanton and Hill; and
- Lowest household incomes: Ossipee, Ashland, Franklin and Northfield

**MOTION:** J. Cuddy moved and C. Pierce seconded to accept the Demographic section of the Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**2012 CEDS Update – Draft Infrastructure Chapter .....G. Coogan**

J. Coogan reported he received one comment from Pat Jones regarding the inclusion of Granite State College (GSC) in the list of educational institutions. GSC serves adult learners in Carroll County.

**MOTION:** J. Cuddy moved and C. Pierce seconded to accept the Infrastructure section of the Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**2012 CEDS Update – Final Cluster Analysis..... C. Lorentz**

C. Lorentz reported she is updating a few tables and providing points of clarification to the Cluster Analysis. A revised draft will be available in a week or so. The Committee discussed the following items:

- Decline of manufacturing jobs, concentration of low wage jobs, number / type of self-employed persons, need for education and training and lack of an educated / trained workforce;
- Manufacturing jobs are more technical and computer-based;
- Need for 600,000 new manufacturing jobs in the United States;
- The role of the LRCC and Huot Center in workforce development; and
- Robotic training and the role of the private sector in funding the program in the MWV.

**2012 CEDS Update – Draft Related Local, Regional and State Planning .....J. Coogan**

J. Coogan reviewed the section entitled Related Local, Regional and State Planning. J. Coogan stated it is important that the LRPC planning effort be consistent with planning efforts at the local, regional and state levels. LRPC can fill the “gaps” in the planning process when they exist. The following is a summary:

**State:**

- State Development Plan – NH RSA 91 – A; last completed in 2000; State Economic Development Plan may not exist;
- State functional plans: Broadband, SCORP, Transportation (DOT Ten Year Highway Plan), Environment (the NH Climate Action Plan, Water Quality Restoration Plan, Water Infrastructure Needs Assessment, Sustainability of NH’s Surface Waters, Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan among others)
- Housing – NH Housing Finance Authority; emphasis on Workforce Housing
- Energy - EESE Board and renewable energy
- Community Development – NH Community Development Finance Authority

**Regional:**

- LRPC: In response to the concern for the region’s water quality and natural resources, thirty municipalities established the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) in 1969 as a voluntary association under NH RSA 36:45. NH RSA 36:47 states the major duties of the regional planning

commission are to prepare a “plan for the development of the region” or a Regional Plan and to provide technical assistance to its member municipalities.

- An initial activity of the Lakes Regional Plan (Granite State Future) is a broad public engagement process. In preparing the Regional Plan, LRPC will follow the seven NH Livability Principles:
  1. Natural Resource Functions and Quality;
  2. Climate Change and Energy Efficiency;
  3. Community and Economic Vitality;
  4. Social Equity and Engagement;
  5. Traditional Settlement Patterns;
  6. Transportation Choices; and
  7. Housing Choices
- Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) - BCEDC, GCEDC, WEDC, MWVEC and CRDC;
- Regional Housing Coalitions Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition, the Mt. Washington Valley Housing Coalition and the Laconia Area Community Land Trust provide that service in the Lakes Region; and
- Regional Watershed Association

**Local:**

- NH RSA 674:1 states: “It shall be the duty of every planning board established under RSA 673:1 to prepare and amend from time to time a master plan to guide the development of the municipality.” NH RSA 674:2 states that two sections are required for a Master Plan: a vision statement and a land use section.
- For more than forty years, the LRPC has provided all of the 30 member municipalities, in one way or another, with assistance related to the preparation of a local Master Plan.
- Generally, local Planning Boards tend to update their Master Plan every five to ten years depending on the amount of growth they are experiencing. Lakes Region communities have been diligent in meeting this legislative requirement as all Master Plan updates in the region have been completed within the last ten years.
- LRPC has reviewed the 30 Master Plans; common themes include:
  1. Protecting and preserving the natural resources,
  2. Balancing growth and economic development;
  3. Encouraging economic diversity;
  4. Improving local roadways;
  5. Encouraging a range of housing stock w/ a note on the need for affordable or workforce housing.

J. Coogan noted that at the October 25<sup>th</sup> economic development forum in Holderness, R. McLear strongly emphasized the importance of a current Master Plan as a tool to build consensus for the type of development a municipality desires. He credited the Meredith Master Plan to leading to Mill Falls. J. Coogan requested comments from the Committee on the Draft by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Solicitation Process and Adopting Economic Development Goals .....Group**

Project solicitation process – In the past, LRPC sent a letter to the 30 municipalities requesting potential projects consistent with the economic goals and the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) project criteria. J. Coogan requested input on how the CEDS Committee would like proceed this time. The group felt the 2013 letter to Boards of Selectmen and City Council should focus on the EDA criteria (new job creation) and the types of EDA-funded projects. Potential projects should focus on infrastructure projects that advance economic development. J. Cuddy noted that potential Brownfield redevelopment projects should be explored. In the letter, the need for other funding in addition to EDA should be clear.

Regional goals from 2009 – The group felt the 2009 goals were too broad. Goals for the 2013 CEDS should be more focused. For example, include a goal on encouraging entrepreneurship by promoting the availability of various financing tools.

Public Input and Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis with regional business leaders – The group thought two breakfast SWOT sessions (say 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM) in January would be beneficial in preparing an updated SWOT and updated / more focused economic development goals. Lakes Region Listens or NH Listens can assist with the meeting facilitation. Potential meeting locations: Church Landing, Meredith, NH and Sunny Villa, NH Route 16, Ossipee, NH. After the SWOT report and the draft 2013 goals are prepared, LRPC can send the project solicitation letter out to the 30 member municipalities and then follow up as need be.

**NEXT MEETING (tentative)**

Thursday December 13, 2012 at 3:00 PM in Moultonborough or Meredith.

**ADJOURN** The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM