

**2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT MEETING NOTES**

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

Meredith Community Center  
Meredith, New Hampshire  
August 30, 2012 at 3:00 PM

**Attendees:**

Denise Roy-Palmer, Executive Director..... Wentworth Economic Development Corporation  
Dick Waitt, LRPC Commissioner..... Gilford  
Rick DeMark .....North Country Resource Conservation and Development Project  
Scott Kalicki .....Lakes Region Community College  
Carol Pierce .....Laconia Human Relations Committee  
Jeannie Forrester ..... NH State Senator  
Carmen Lorentz, Executive Director..... Belknap County Economic Development Council  
Kimon Koulet, Executive Director ..... Lakes Region Planning Commission  
Gerald Coogan, Special Projects Manager..... Lakes Region Planning Commission

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Introductions**

C. Lorentz called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 pm and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

D. Roy-Palmer stated that Charles Wibel is a member of the Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee and not WEDCO. The Committee accepted the June 28, 2012 meeting notes with the correction.

**2012 CEDS Update – Final Resources and Environment Section .....K. Koulet**

K. Koulet reported that LRPC received one comment on the draft document. K. Koulet suggested “conditional acceptance” of the draft with the understanding additional comments may be received.

**MOTION:** D. Roy-Palmer moved and D. Waitt seconded to conditionally accept the Resources and Environment section of the Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

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

See attached outline. K. Koulet suggested additional data be included regarding income and information on refuges and immigrants. C. Pierce discussed immigration and resettlement issues in Laconia. R. DeMark discussed septic system replacements in Meredith and around Meredith neck. K. Koulet requested that all comments be received by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

See attached outline. K. Koulet mentioned additional information on natural gas supply (now provided by Liberty). S. Kalicki mentioned the importance of broadband and how LRCC provides 30 online college course and the community college system provides over 200 online courses. G. Coogan reviewed preliminary LR economic development themes (attached). C. Lorentz stated this can be the basis for a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. K. Koulet requested that all comments be received by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**2012 Lakes Region Cluster Analysis..... C. Lorentz**

C. Lorentz discussed this report at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and provided the following highlights:

- Loss of private sector jobs in the last 5 years;
- 9.2% loss of manufacturing jobs for LR; 5.7% loss of manufacturing jobs for US;
- Management forecasts – will be difficult to replace retiring workers;
- LRCC providing training on “soft skills”
- Perception of LR dependence on tourism and 2<sup>nd</sup> homes; strong manufacturing base;
- Professional technical sector (accounting, consulting, computer service) is growing.

C. Lorentz described the economic development process as an on-going effort to make the community a more attractive place for new investment. All expressed satisfaction with the report. Final comments should be forwarded to C. Lorentz for consideration prior to the next meeting.

**Overview of the Granite State Future (GSF) Project .....K. Koulet**

K. Koulet reviewed the GSF: Lakes Region project which is a major regional planning effort being undertaken in coordination with the other eight other regional planning commissions. GSF:LR involves a major public participation effort with “listening boxes”, attendance at local and regional events (i. e. Laconia Multicultural Day on September 8<sup>th</sup>, Sandwich Fair) and listening meetings in the fall, winter and spring. J. Forrester said she received some push back from a few individuals who mentioned the “UN’s Agenda 21” policy and the HUD sustainability initiative. All agreed LRPC should be positive based on its past accomplishments and move forward.

**Community conservations for economic development .....Group**

The group discussed the outreach effort and letter to Town and City Planners, Town Administrator regarding solicitation of potential projects for inclusion in the CEDS. D. Waitt suggested getting local businesses and manufacturing involved. Regional meetings involving both NH Listens, LR Listens and the Carsey Institute of UNH should include discussions of both CEDS and GSF:LR. The SWOT session could occur in the January / February 2013 time frame.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday October 25, 2012 at 3:00 PM in Gilford.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM