



Central/Southern NH Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Strategy Committee Meeting Meeting Notes

*Central NH Regional Planning Commission
Horseshoe Pond Place Community Center
26 Commercial Street, Concord, NH 03301
July 11, 2018- 6:00 PM*

In attendance: Harry Wright, Town of Bradford
Thomas Clow, Town of Weare
Laura Buono, Town of Hillsborough
Ed Carroll, Town of New Boston
Stan Brehm, Town of Chichester
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke
David Pierce, Town of Goffstown
Melanie Sanuth, City of Manchester
Chris Trovato, Town of Henniker
Tony Puntin, Puntin Engineering, Inc.
Cam Prolman, SNHPC
Matt Monahan, CNHRPC
Joanne Cassulo, CNHRPC

- I. Introductions: The meeting opened at 6:05 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and Matt Monahan reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Matt briefly reviewed the agenda items from the last meeting on November 29, 2017 and emphasized that the focus of tonight's meeting is the draft CEDS plan.
- II. Draft Plan: Report on Results of the Project Selection Subcommittee: Cam Prolman provided an overview of the subcommittee's work that took place over four meetings. The subcommittee reviewed all 19 submitted projects as well as the 39 projects (eliminating any that were completed) from the last CEDS plan. They were scored based on the same scale used in 2014. As the goals and objectives were not revised substantially, the subcommittee elected to use the same 24 point scale used in 2014. The projects are ranked by category – Education, Energy, Transportation, Sewer and Water, Municipal Studies, Recreation and Other. Questions that were raised included the process for submitting amended projects or new ones going forward. One suggestion that received favorable comments was that there could be an annual addendum to the CEDS through a subcommittee that meets annually to review new or amended projects. Other comments included the suggestion that documentation of any success stories from the last CEDS could be included as an appendix to the plan; another related to the cost estimates shown as TBD and how that impacts the ranking, with the response making note that the project's readiness score would be lower.

- III. Draft Plan: Goals and Objectives: Matt Monahan reviewed the goals and objectives, noting that there were only minor revisions to them as the subcommittee felt that bringing them forward would create a level platform to rank the new projects as well as the ones from the previous CEDS plan. Minor revisions that were made included new objectives that responded to the updated SWOT analysis; they included a new objective on housing supply and one on access to sector specific skills training. Matt reviewed each of the six goals and the accompanying objectives. Comments focused on the objective under goal 4 (Identify support for implementing the CEDS) that focused on exploring an economic developments district feasibility and possibilities. There was consensus that the language should be changed to be more action oriented so it was agreed to substitute “pursue” for “explore.”

There was some follow-up discussion on the benefits of establishing an EDD. Some noted benefits include established funding from EDA to update future CEDS and the advantage of not having to justify needs criteria for any projects that move forward to application for EDA funding. Having Manchester now incorporated into the CEDS region makes designation of the region as an EDD more likely to be approved by EDA.

Finally, there were comments related to the challenge of reviewing submitted projects that have differing levels of quality. A recommendation for future project reviews was made to set some minimum standards and to work with applicants to improve submissions so that it is easier to rank projects.

- IV. Next Steps: Matt reviewed the timeline going forward. Revisions to the CEDS plan will be made based on comments from this evening and a new draft will be sent to the Committee by Friday, the 13th and the comment period will start shortly after. There was discussion on the 30 day comment period and how that should be noticed. Matt said he will check on the process from 2014 but there was recollection that each municipality officially noticed the CEDS plan’s availability for comment as well as each RPC.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.