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Memorandum

To: LUPC Commissioners
From: Samantha Horn, Planning Manager
Ben Godsoe, Senior Planner
Date: August 1, 2018
Re: Adjacency Review update: Summer, 2018

At the August 8, 2018 Commission meeting, staff will provide an update about the ongoing review of the adjacency principle, summarize comments received so far during the rulemaking process, and talk about next steps.

The Commission has received a wide range of comments from people following the adjacency review process. Comments received up until July 31, 2018 have been posted to the website and are available for your review. This memo contains a guide to public comment documents on the web (including links), as well as a summary, which is attached.

It may be premature at this point for the Commission to make a final policy decision about the proposed changes to the application of the adjacency principle. Commenters have provided valuable feedback and identified ways in which the proposal could be changed. In response to specific concerns raised by some commenters, staff are actively seeking additional feedback from stakeholders this summer. After gathering additional input, staff will return to the Commission to share what we learn, suggest updates to the proposal, and learn from Commissioners what updates they think are important.

Adjacency outreach: summer, 2018

This summer, staff are doing additional outreach and seeking feedback, from anyone who wants to participate, about the proposed rule revisions related to application of the adjacency principle. Based on comments received so far, staff are particularly trying to get feedback from municipal and county officials, folks engaged in regional economic development efforts, and recreational and guiding organizations. A number of these groups gave feedback at the research stage, and there appears to be significant interest now in meetings to review the details of the current proposal. This will help supplement feedback previously provided by land owners and a range of environmental organizations.

Below are bullets describing meetings that already occurred or are coming up:

- **Outreach to municipalities and counties.** Staff met with representatives of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). MMA has agreed to assist the Commission in reaching out to municipalities about review of the adjacency principle. On July 24, 2018, MMA sent materials explaining the adjacency rulemaking to municipal officials, and asked them to indicate if they would attend a meeting to provide feedback directly. Staff will follow up with municipalities that express an interest in meeting.

Staff gave a presentation to the Millinocket Town Council on July 12, 2018 ([see video recording](#)), and are scheduled to present to the Select Board in Greenville on August 15th and to the Aroostook County Commissioners on September 19th. There may be additional requests by towns or counties for Commission staff to come and give a presentation about this topic, and we're happy to do that where there is interest.

- **Regional meetings.** In addition to discussions with municipal and county officials, staff are also trying to get feedback from folks working on regional economic development strategies, such as the ongoing efforts in the Moosehead Lake and Katahdin regions. Toward this end, staff are working with the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, and Katahdin Revitalization to host regional information sessions in Greenville and Millinocket. The meeting in Greenville is scheduled for August 15th. Dates are still being worked out for the meeting in the Katahdin region, but we anticipate that it will take place in August or early September.
- **Outreach to guides and recreation organizations.** On July 17th, staff met with the Maine Professional Guides Association, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Rangeley Region Sports and Guides Association, Maine Wilderness Guides Organization (MWGO), and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. By request, staff will follow up this meeting with a presentation to the MWGO board of directors on August 7, 2018.
- **Additional outreach.** Staff have also followed up in person or by phone with other individuals and organizations that have provided comments in this process, and will continue to seek feedback from anyone who wants to participate.

Guide to public comments on the website

The Commission's website includes all comments that have been submitted up to July 31, 2018. Because there have been extensive public comments in the review process so far, written comments have been posted on the website in groups (described in more detail below). The public comment period is currently set to end on September 24, 2018. However, to accommodate additional outreach to stakeholders this summer, at the Commission's regular business meeting in September staff will recommend that the Commission consider extending the comment period. The recommendation will include a proposed schedule that also takes into account the rulemaking process for the subdivision standards, which are an important companion to the adjacency rulemaking.

Comments about proposed rule revisions:

- [Comments submitted between May 30, 2018, and June 15, 2018](#)
- [Audio recording of the public hearing held on June 20;](#)
- [Written comments submitted between June 16, 2018 and June 21, 2018](#)
- [Written comments submitted between June 22, 2018 and July 6, 2018](#)
- [Written comments submitted between July 7, 2018 and July 31, 2018](#)

Other comments received during process:

- [Written comments about the proposed planning framework and general policy direction, submitted between August 11, 2017, and September 1, 2017;](#)
- [Audio recording of comment opportunity at the Commission Meeting on August 9, 2017 \(no longer on website but available by request\);](#)
- [Comments about proposed conceptual changes to application of the adjacency principle, submitted between April 11, 2018, and May 30, 2018; and](#)
- [Audio recording of comment opportunity at the Commission Meeting on April 11, 2018.](#)

Attachments (1):

1. Summary of public comments by topic