

**Community Guided Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2013
Caribou Inn and Convention Center**

Members Present: Doug Beaulieu, Mark Draper, Cheryl St. Peter, Bill Patterson, Kathy Mazzuchelli, Fred Corey, James May, and Sarah Medina.

Others Present: Roy Benard, Jon Gulliver, Hollie Umphrey, Robert Saucier, Shelly Mountain, Billie MacLean, Elgin Turner, Carl Sjorgen, Bill Miller, Hugh Coxe, Jay Kamm, Sigrid Houlette, Robert Clark, Stacy Benjamin, Paul Underwood, Mike Eisensmith, Jamie Francomano, Nick Lavasay, and Paul Bernier.

Welcome and Introductions

Jay Kamm, Senior Planner- NMDC, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM with a welcome and asked for introductions.

Process Paper Review

Jay then briefly presented an overview of the process paper developed in the Spring of 2013 to help guide the process.

Expectations/ Accomplishment

The Steering Committee was asked what they expected to accomplish with this project:

- Doug Beaulieu: Break the County in part (north, central, and south) and identify what activities and business opportunities were located in each. Identify what opportunities were common to all three sub-regions.
- Sarah Medina: Need to talk to leaders in various fields and what the possibility of expansion is. Also need to take into account the region's transportation systems.
- Fred Corey: Utilize the Mobilize Maine (asset based) model to review the region's natural resources, recreation opportunities and areas that are in need of protection.
- Cheryl St. Peter: Begin gathering documents for review and what areas in the region may need to be adjusted from a zoning perspective. Do not forget that the LUPC's CLUP could potentially be used as a guiding document.
- James May: Region's economy is based on natural resources and recreation. We need to identify where those facilities exist and how they play into the unorganized townships. We also need to look at transportation corridors.
- Bill Patterson: Need to look at public access and businesses located in western Aroostook County. Eager to learn and will provide NMW data that TNC may have.

- Mark Draper: Need to begin gathering baseline data of where we are and what the on-going activities are. Map areas that can “come off the table” easily and those that may be more difficult. Need to prioritize what type of data NMDC should be gathering. Believes that there is no “one size fits all” approach.
- Roy Benard (filling in for Ked Coffin): Maintain what we have and no new additional prohibitive rules and regulations.
- Kathy Mazzuchelli: Need to read and become familiar with the planning documents. Identify the constraints that are out there. Believes that the area needs to be broken into three sub-regions.

Major Projects in Region

There was a brief overview of some of the major projects on-going in the region. (This was for information only with no formal presentation). Projects discussed included:

- Fish River Concept Plan
- Mining
- Wind Energy Projects
- Transmission lines in southern Aroostook
- Spruce Budworm concerns
- Wood pellets and mill development projects in central Aroostook
- Identification of major markets in the region including Canadian and markets in Washington and Penobscot Counties.

The Committee quickly decided that Aroostook County needed to be broken into three and possibly 4 sub-regions. The group reviews a series of maps and decided to break the region into three parts. A copy of the map has been attached.

Administrative Issues

The Steering Committee discussed a number of administrative issues. There was considerable discussion concerning the nomination of a chair. Jay indicated that the group should nominate a minimum of 2 persons to be submitted to NMDC’s Executive Board for consideration. Discussion also revolved around the make-up of the chair. The committee feels that the Chair should not be an industry person, should not have ties to the CLUP or the LUPC process, should be a process person, and have the ability to effectively run meetings. Four names will be submitted to NMDC’s Executive Board:

- Doug Beaulieu
- Mark Draper
- Cheryl St. Peter
- Jim May

Meeting dates, locations, and times were discussed. The group felt that there should be regional meetings as milestones were reached, regular meetings should be held on specific days and times (suggested the second Wednesday of each month in the morning), and held in locations that were appropriate for the topic covered.

Where do we begin?

The Steering Committee listed a number of potential sources of information that should be gathered. These included.

- CLUP
- The Loring Pipeline
- Transmission lines and potential corridors
- Regional infrastructure, workforce investments, and workforce needs
- Conserved lands
- Industrial facilities
- Major planned infrastructure projects
- North Maine Woods user information
- Public Lands development and management plans
- The Nature Conservancy and information on wildlife corridors.
- Lakes Association and Land Trust information
- Agricultural information and data
- Prime soil information.
- Zones and zoning information.
- Maine Revenue Service data concerning camp lots
- Marketing information for the region
- Tourism plans

Jay will begin gathering these reports and placing it on NMDC's website for review.

Next Meeting

Jay would look into December 4 or December 11 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

Respectfully submitted

Jay Kamm, Senior Planner