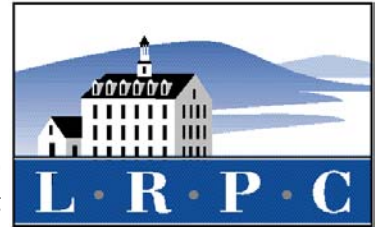


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING

Historic Belknap Mill
 Laconia, NH
 January 25, 2010

PRESIDING: Robert Snelling, Chairman **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM

QUORUM: Yes **COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 8

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan McLaughlin, Alexandria
 John Cotton, Andover
 Phyllis Taylor, Danbury
 Scott Dunn, Gilford
 Richard Wait, Gilford
 Todd Elgin, Holderness
 Warren Hutchins, Laconia
 William Bayard, Meredith
 Herbert Vadney, Meredith
 Wayne Crowley, Northfield
 Doug Read, Northfield

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Herlihy, NH Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS); Patricia Tarpey, North Country Resource Conservation & Development Area Council (NCRC&D); Belmont: Alan Robichaud; Laconia: Dean Anson, Dick Higgins; Meredith: Ed Touhey, Colette Worsman; Moultonborough: Jim Leitermun, Bob Patenaude, Nancy Wright. LRPC: Kimon Koulet, Erica Anderson, David Jeffers, Marie Gelinias; and other interested parties.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Robert Snelling called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members. He asked for a motion for those present to declare a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, a motion was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/Hutchins*

2 Minutes of December 16, 2009 Commission Meeting

Chairman Robert Snelling asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 23, 2009 meeting. There being none, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. *M/S/P Hutchins/Waitt*

R. Snelling introduced W. Hutchins who provided an update on the Lake Winnepesaukee speed limit law. He thanked those in support of the speed limit law of 45 miles per hour

during the day and 25 miles per hour at night. Last year was the first year it was implemented and statistics show it was very safe. He asked those in attendance to spread the word in their communities to make the law permanent.

3. A State Model for Coordinated Transit Planning

R. Snelling introduced Patrick Herlihy, Transportation Coordinator, NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), who said the Governor's Task Force on Transportation was created two years ago to find a solution to community transportation.

P. Herlihy said the State Coordinating Council (SCC) for Community Transportation is responsible for coordinating shared ride transportation options within New Hampshire, setting statewide coordination policies for community transportation, establishing community transportation regions, encouraging development of regional coordination councils, and assisting regional coordination councils with regional transportation brokers. The SCC is empowered to approve or reject brokers selected by regional councils. A Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) consists of regional providers, local sponsors, planning commission staff, and other stakeholders. They work with brokers to develop a process that works best for the region, and provide feedback to the SCC.

Current transportation challenges include lack of community access and limited or no choices for transportation services. Only 34 of the 234 communities in the state offer some fixed route bus service. He added there is a growing need for transit among older non-drivers, youth under 16, and people with disabilities. The goal is to find and use resources to coordinate services for easier access and improved efficiencies, streamline funding and reporting at the state and local levels, and take a decentralized approach by being responsive to regional capacity and local differences.

The Regional Transportation Coordinators (RTC) will operate a regional transportation brokerage, and schedule and arrange rides through its network of providers, sign contracts with providers and funding agencies, and handle data collection, billing, and reporting functions. The RTC will be responsible for assuring quality service from its providers and expanding services as developed by the RCC.

Benefits of the proposed statewide coordination oversight structure include building upon existing regional efforts around the state and streamlining management function. Existing regional efforts include the Grafton/Coos RCC; the Carroll County Transit Project, and the Belknap-Merrimack Stakeholder Group, part of an emerging RCC.

A service provider would purchase vehicles with funding available from NHDOT. The state envisions ten RCCs, and P. Herlihy will be working with each RCC regarding by-laws and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A service provider would deal with only one RCC. RPCs would be members of an advisory board overseeing what the RCCs do, and assist with getting the program up and running, and evaluating the program to see what changes need to be made.

He addressed questions about user fees and scheduling of routes. The Carroll County routes will include a deviated fixed route system with a commuter route between Ossipee and

Laconia. These routes will be available to the general public. D. Waitt asked if a senior cannot drive and has no physical limitations, what would they need to do to get transportation? P. Herlihy recommended they call the Call Center. There are funded transportation services for the elderly through H&HS.

P. Herlihy said there is not a lot of data available regarding transportation needs in the regions. They are going to be reviewing existing services for coordination opportunities. There is a need to develop minimum provider operator standards to be part of the network. There is also a need to integrate and promote the volunteer-driver program to a 5010 program for the elderly and disabled. An attendee asked if there is anything that will help volunteer organizations in the absence of a transit system, and will any funding be provided? P. Herlihy said volunteers may be reimbursed up to \$0.41 per mile to help promote volunteerism.

4. **Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan (LWWMP): An Overview**

R. Snelling introduced K. Koulet, LRPC Executive Director, who said in 2007, a group discussed how best to move forward with the Lake Winnepesaukee management plan. He noted partners include the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association (LWWA), North Country Resource Conservation and Development Council (NCRC&D), University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension, Plymouth State University (PSU) Center for the Environment. Seed money was obtained from a NH Department of Environmental Services 319 grant, and support was solicited with assistance from U.S. Senator Gregg that resulted in a NOAA grant to expand the scope and provide the capacity to the project. Part of this funding will be utilized to develop an interactive GIS website.

K. Koulet then introduced Dean Anson, President of LWWA, who said his organization is the steward of the lake, by providing education, outreach, and assistance with fundraising. The responsibility of the organization is to preserve water quality and to continue enjoying the lakes and surrounding areas. He introduced Erica Anderson, LRPC Senior Planner and Patricia Tarpey, NCRC&D Program Manager.

E. Anderson said the NH Lakes Association, DES, and other partners conducted a statewide study that found if there is a perceived decline in water quality, it may result in a \$51 million economic impact to the state in lost jobs and revenues. The current focus of the Winnepesaukee watershed plan is on phosphorous, which is the limiting nutrient regarding the health of the lake. Phosphorous is only a small portion in terms of water quality. The watershed management plan will focus on several factors such as the landscape, agriculture, developed land, forested land, and habitat areas.

She added that Lake Winnepesaukee is the largest lake in New Hampshire and a significant asset for tourism, as well as the primary economic force of the region. The watershed, however, lacks a comprehensive management plan to protect the environmental quality and scenic beauty. It is in need of a strong, coordinated, and effective organizational voice committed to advocacy, outreach, and education. She said the LWWA, LRPC, NCRC&D, UNH, Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD), and watershed municipalities are partnering to build a unique subwatershed approach to create an effective, sustainable planning and implementation process using state-of-the-art information systems.

E. Anderson then introduced Patricia Tarpey from NCRCO to discuss the water quality analysis. P. Tarpey explained the current focus is on phosphorous since plant life needs it to grow in freshwater systems. Additional phosphorous speeds up the aging process, which mainly comes from human actions. The historical phosphorous median is 4.9 parts per billion (ppb) prior to 1998. From 1998 to 2008, the summer total phosphorous value is 6.0 ppb. Currently, the phosphorous levels are being evaluated for the management plan. NHDES recently released a new phosphorus standard that states oligotrophic (low productivity) lakes should not exceed 8 ppb. She addressed questions of why NHDES considers 8 ppb a standard, and at what point algae blooms. She said that NHDES wants communities to come together to set their own water quality goals regarding the management plan. She said a number depends on a number of factors such as sun, nutrients, depth, etc.

P. Tarpey said they use the STEPL model, required by the EPA for 319 grantees, to assist in determining phosphorus loading by land use category. LRPC completed a 2009 version of the land use-land cover map for the three communities based on 2006 and 2008 aerial photography. This map generates specific land use categories that were then put into three main categories: forested, urban, and agriculture. The results are entered into another model that predicts the in-lake phosphorous levels for each basin, based on an annual loading coming off the land into the lake.

There was some discussion on the plan and water quality data completed to date. P. Tarpey was asked about which best management practices are used to decrease phosphorus to lakes. She responded there are many, and which one works best depends on site characteristics, cost, and removal efficiency. One of the simplest that seems to work well are vegetated buffers. There was also discussion surrounding pH levels of the lake and P. Tarpey noted most levels are within current state standards.

R. Snelling noted the Water Quality Advisory Group may want to look into fire retardants and pharmaceuticals to broaden its scope other than nutrients. K. Koulet said for the LWWMP to be successful, it must be completed, implemented, tested, revised, and updated. Considerable participation is needed.

6. **Other Business**

K. Koulet said the next commission meeting is scheduled for March 29 at 6 PM. The focus will be on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection with a panel from the Lakes Region Household Waste Product Facility (LRHWPF), Clean Harbors, and the NH HHW program.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.