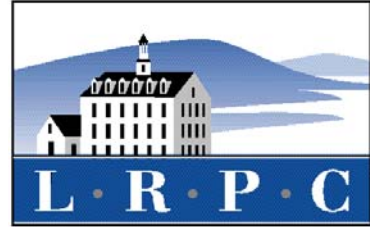


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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FOR CITY ANNUAL REPORTS LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION 2009

The Lakes Region continues to grow and evolve. As our economy and world change, so does the work we are engaged in. The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is an organization established according to state law to provide area communities and the region with the capacity to respond to and shape the pressures of change in a purposeful way. With a service area covering over 1,200 square miles in Belknap, Carroll, Grafton and Merrimack Counties, the LRPC provides a wide range of planning services to member municipalities. The Commission offers direct and support services including technical assistance, geographic information systems, transportation planning, land use, environmental planning, hazard planning and economic development. Local, state, and federal resources primarily fund the LRPC. We also maintain a regular dialogue with state agencies as a resource for the entire Lakes Region. Our overall goal is to provide support, knowledge, and leadership to the governments, businesses, and citizens of the Lakes Region.

Some of the services provided on behalf of the city of Franklin and the region in the past fiscal year are noted below:

LOCAL

- Provided local officials with information to help implement a road improvement project.
- Acquired funds from a foundation in support of preparing a Smart Growth/Natural Resources Assessment for the city. Coordinated with the NH Audubon Society to complete the project, and present a summary of findings to the planning board.
- Created the Franklin Sexual Offenders map and met with city official regarding potential changes.
- Prepared an energy presentation for the next Lakes Region Energy Alliance meeting and participated in a forest biomass webinar presented by the USDA.
- Provided copies of the NH Planning and Land Use Regulations to the city at considerable savings.

LAND USE

- Prepared master plans, capital improvement programs, local emergency operations plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and related services for several communities.
- Maintained circuit rider planning services for municipalities interested in assistance with development proposals.
- Organized and facilitated a discussion on the development of local impact fee methodologies at the Pines Community Center in Northfield.
- Contributed to the preparation of the award winning Innovative Land Use (ILU) Guidance resource document and ILU Mapper.
- Received funding from the Pardoe Foundation to conduct Smart Growth Audits (SGA) for selected communities.

- Organized and hosted three public Municipal Law Lectures, in cooperation with the NH Local Government Center: 1) Constitutional Issues in Land Use Regulations; 2) The Five Variance Criteria in the 21st Century; and 3) What Do You Do When They Stop Building? Vested Rights, Modified Approvals, Violations and Revocation.

TRANSPORTATION

- Conducted over 150 traffic and turning movement counts around the region.
- Attended and hosted the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) meeting.
- Convened many meetings of the LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to enhance local involvement in regional transportation planning and project development.
- Prepared a 2009 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Process Guide for distribution to our communities. Submitted regional transportation priorities for consideration by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT).
- Completed the NH Route 28 Corridor Safety Study, and acquired best management skills using Road Surface Management Systems (RSMS) software.

PUBLIC FACILITIES GOAL:

- Modified and improved Community Facilities standard maps. Updated maps are posted to LRPC.

HOUSING

- Drafted a process to conduct a Workforce Housing Audit to help communities determine if their planning regulations and laws are in compliance with the Workforce Housing law.
- Contributed to statewide sessions and participated on housing needs assessment methods.
- Participated in workforce housing forums with the Work Here, Live Here Committee, and the Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Continue to work with area economic development groups including Belknap County Economic Council (BCEDC), Grafton County Economic Development Council (GCEDC), Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation (FBDIC), and the Wentworth Economic Development Council (WEDCO).
- Completed the Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), A Plan for Sustainable Progress, and submitted it to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for acceptance.
- Coordinated an Economics Day for Leadership Lakes Region and co-presented the Lakes Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to attendees.
- Applied for and received a three year \$400,000 Brownfields grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The funds will be used to conduct several site assessments and environmental site characterizations.
- Completed a Phase I Lakes Region Broadband Study to determine the extent and capacity of existing broadband service.
- Planned and facilitated the third Lakes Region Energy Alliance meeting. The Alliance is a consortium of local energy committees brought together to share ideas and activity.

- Completed the 2009 Development Trends Report and distributed it to all Lakes Region municipalities and many other stakeholders.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Collaborated with other planning commissions to present water resources ordinances for the Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP) at the Fall Planning Conference.
- Received a Source Water Protection Grant contract from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to work with the Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) and several municipalities on behalf of ground water protection in the Ossipee aquifer.
- Received a notice of award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for additional Winnepesaukee watershed planning. Continue to work with several partners on the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan (LWWMP).
- Continue to represent the region at meetings of the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility to explore the ways and means the facility may encourage other communities to participate.
- Received support through the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the federal American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) to continue work on the Pemigewasset Watershed Co-occurrence Model.
- Continue to organize and coordinate two annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections a year, involving 23 member communities.

UTILITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE GOAL:

- Presented the lakesrpc.org/energy_website to partner groups, municipalities, and agencies throughout the state, as part of the Lakes Region Energy Alliance.

NATURAL HAZARDS

- Completed several Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) updates, and Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs).

REGIONAL CONCERNS

- Convened six Commission meetings that featured a range of topics, ranging from the NH Rail Transit Authority, proposed legislation, Transportation Plans/Projects, NH Water Resources Primer and Survey, and a public hearing on the roles communities should have in regulating large ground water withdrawals.
- Met with the Legislative Policy Committee of the NH Association of Regional Planning Commission (NHARPC) to review and make recommendations on over 70 bills and legislative requests.
- Conducted outreach and provided assistance at the Geographic Information System (GIS) workshops offered in Laconia. Attended 2010 Census training.
- Met with PlusTimeNH staff to discuss the possibilities for learning opportunities for high school students in the region.
- Maintain and host LRPC's website, www.lakesrpc.org, for current regional planning activities and events.