

GPCOG Executive Committee Minutes
September 15, 2010 Meeting
12:00 p.m. at GPCOG

In attendance: Gordon Billington, President, Standish; Roger Bondeson, PROP; Cathy Breen, Falmouth; Dick Brobst, North Yarmouth; Peter Crichton, Cumberland County; Colleen Hilton, Westbrook; Mike Reynolds, Raymond; Carl Winslow, Yarmouth; Rachael Weyand, Portland Trails; Dick Wood, RC&D; Barbara York, Casco

Members absent: Bridgton, Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Harrison, Long Island, Naples, New Gloucester, Portland, Pownal, Scarborough, Sebago, South Portland, West Bath, and Windham

GPCOG Staff: Neal Allen; Maddy Adams; Eben Marsh

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Gordy Billington, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Introductions were made, with each person saying something they are proud of in their community.
2. **Minutes: Executive Committee meeting of May 12, 2010.** *Colleen Hilton moved approval of the May 12, 2010 minutes. Dick Wood seconded the motion and all were in favor.*
3. **Steering Committee Retreat** – included with Agenda Item 4 below.
4. **Strategic Plan 2006 – Updates.** Neal provided background. The Sustainability Principles have been added to the Strategic Plan. Several effective working relationships have been added under Strengths on page 6. Limited land use funding had been listed under weaknesses but we have been more creative in utilizing the funds we have and leveraging of other resources, so that has been removed. We have established a letter of credit to help with the agency's cash flow so the cash flow item under Weaknesses was also removed. The need to clarify roles/responsibilities with Cumberland County was listed as a threat but in the context of concerns regarding possible duplication of efforts and the need to more clearly define roles and responsibilities. Both organizations have competent staff and are working together in a number of areas. To that end, discussions with the County Commissioners and the Steering Committee are being planned.

Mobilize Maine is a statewide initiative to identify common assets that can be linked to economic development. We have received \$37,500 from DECD to provide economic development services to our members and the private sector. Page 12, we conducted a survey last year to determine if our members would be interested in purchasing energy efficient products through our Cooperative Services Division.

Dick Wood moved approval of the updated Strategic Plan and the goals established by the Steering Committee. Dick Brobst seconded the motion and all were in favor.

5. **Strengthening meeting participation.** Neal reported that COG recently purchased some state of the art conference calling equipment. We used it yesterday at an IMS meeting and it worked well. Neal proposed having the vendor come in to do a presentation. Gordy said he would be interested in seeing how the technology works. This would be used to encourage participation by some of our members who have difficulty attending meetings; we want to still have as many people present at the meetings as possible. Committee members agreed that face to face contact is important. Colleen mentioned that she works with some statewide organizations and she has seen more and more people using the call-in method but you take the risk of losing the face to face. It is nice to have the option. The Committee thought it was worth trying out. We will target

those communities that haven't been attending the meetings. Colleen suggested having some Executive Committee members call other members to see why they are not attending the meetings. Several committee members volunteered to contact other Executive Committee representatives.

6. Reports.

- a. HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.** We had two months to develop the application and it has been submitted. The feds have brought HUD and DOT together under the Sustainable Communities program. The area covered in our application is from the Kittery area to Brunswick including the Midcoast Redevelopment Authority. Twenty-six partners have signed on. If we get the grant, we will seek to include more partners. The grant amount can go up to \$2 million. There was a 20% match requirement and we came up with \$1.5 million in local/state match. The Turnpike and MaineDOT were very helpful. COG is the lead applicant. Aaron Shapiro was designated as the overall Project Leader. The grant was built around the theme of trend versus choice. The goal would be to develop a compact similar perhaps to the Denver Mile High Compact. Regardless of the outcome, the exercise was well worth the effort because the relationship building was excellent. In response to HUD requirements, we used the KACTS and PACTS planning areas as the basis of our geographic area. If awarded, there is a 90-day period in which to draw up a contract with HUD.
- b. Lakes Region Comprehensive Plan Initiative.** Neal and Rebecca met with Frye Island this summer and they will also be participating in this initiative. The first meeting of the design team will happen in October. Bridgton, Naples, Casco, Raymond, Standish, Frye Island and maybe Windham will be participating. The outcome will be the development of a comprehensive regional plan for the Lakes Region. MaineDOT and SPO are active partners in the process.
- c. City of South Portland Sustainability Resolution.** Neal distributed a handout of South Portland's Resolution. South Portland approved a resolution adopting a sustainable South Portland which includes a paragraph about GPCOG's Sustainability Principles. We will get this out to our members.
- d. Energy Issues – Including Energy Reduction Handbook.** We have been working with the Energy Working Group in the development of a County-wide energy plan. We hosted an Efficiency Maine PACE Workshop. We are working with four towns on energy template grants. We hosted two fellows through Clean Air-Cool Planet and one of them developed the Maine Energy Reduction Handbook for municipalities.
- e. DECD Support.** Caroline Paras will be providing business development assistance through a \$37,500 contract with DECD. DECD decided that the support should be provided on a regional level.
- f. Economic Development Districts.** Currently GPCOG and SMRPC form SMEDD. We have been trying to become two separate districts so that we can each better serve our regions. Together with all of Maine's Regional Planning Agencies, we are submitting a request through the state to EDA to make a series of adjustments to the EDD boundaries, one of which would form an SMRPC-EDD and GPCOG-EDD. Governor Baldacci is on board with this. The State will submit the proposal to EDA in late September.
- g. GO Maine.** GO Maine has recently received awards for marketing and outreach. This Friday we will be having a retreat with our funding partners to see where we are with the program.
- h. Other.** Odyssey 2010, which is a national event showcasing alternative transportation technology, will be happening on October 15th. Maine Clean Communities is partnering with SMCC on this.

7. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.