

GPCOG Steering Committee Minutes
August 18, 2010
12:00 p.m. at GPCOG

In attendance: Gordon Billington, President, Standish; Tom Blake, South Portland; Pat Finnigan, Portland; Tony Plante, Windham

Staff: Neal Allen, Maddy Adams, Ann Thompson

1. **Welcome.** Gordon Billington opened the meeting at 12:15 and welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes: Steering Committee meeting of April 28, 2010.** *Tom Blake moved approval of the April 28, 2010 minutes. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.*
3. **Review: Steering Committee Retreat of June 23, 2010.**
The Committee reviewed the key items that were discussed at their June 23, 2010 retreat. These were: (1) the Annual Meeting; (2) GPCOG-Cumberland County; and (3) GPCOG Strategic Plan. The modifications to the Annual Meeting were viewed favorably – i.e., holding the meeting in May at noon with a speaker.

With respect to the GPCOG-Cumberland County discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to seek two or more meetings with the County Commissioners to discuss how the two organizations can best leverage their resources in an effort to avoid duplication, maximize efficiency, and build on the collaborative efforts that are in place. This would include clarification of the appropriate roles of each on various issues. Staff was directed to work with County staff in setting up a meeting this fall with the Commissioners to begin this discussion.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, Neal reviewed proposed modifications that were highlighted on the existing plan. The Committee recommended a few changes including the addition of GPCOG's Sustainability Principles and the need to clarify the respective roles of GPCOG and Cumberland County. Lacking such clarification, the Committee felt that the potential for duplication of efforts is an external weakness.

The Committee identified the following goals:

- Formal MOU with County
- Lakes Region Comp Plan
- HUD sustainable communities regional planning grant
- Energy will be a major focus for some of the staff
- Transportation planning is ongoing
- Economic development – we have additional funds to strengthen our capacity to provide services to our municipalities and businesses.

4. **Restructuring of Maine's Economic Development District.** There are a number of boundary issues that Maine's Economic Development Districts and the DECD believe should be addressed. Working with Alan Brigham of EDA, and with DECD, it was suggested that one proposal be developed for Governor Baldacci's support that would then be submitted to EDA. That is what we have done and that process is being followed. As proposed, there would be one new EDD and that would be SMRPC. SMEDD would be GPCOG's EDD. DECD will submit

the package to the Governor's office over the next month and get it to the EDA this fall. Neal stated that the proposal needs GPCOG to reaffirm its support for the restructuring of SMEDD. *Tony moved and Pat seconded reaffirmation of support of GPCOG for the restructuring of SMEDD resulting in GPCOG and SMRPC being designated as separate EDDs. All were in favor of the motion.*

5. **Briefing: HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.** Conceptually it is a good idea because it brings together HUD, DOT and EPA. The Notice of Financial Availability (NOFA) was finally issued June 24th. Neal said that this has been the most challenging exercise that he's been a party to. It is all about sustainability and tying economic development with land use and transportation. The application allowed for just twenty-five pages of narrative to answer some very complex questions. An amazing group of people has been working on this grant. The NOFA requires the establishment of a consortium of partners; we have over 20 groups to date that have agreed to be on the consortium. The MPO planning areas for PACTS and KACTS is what we are using as our geographic area. It goes from Kittery to the Town of Brunswick and includes the Brunswick Redevelopment Authority. We can seek a \$2 million grant with a 20% match. HUD wants to see a plan that includes a clear path to implementation. This has definitely strengthened COG's leadership role; we have a lot of people engaged. We are the lead applicant so we would have administrative and fiscal responsibility. Aaron Shapiro, Cumberland County's CDBG Director, has been designated Project Leader and Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant would be the Program Manager. This is a good example of how COG and the County can work together. The consortium is the governing body.
6. **Other Business.** None.
7. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.