

**NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL  
CEDS Committee Meeting  
In Person and Virtual Meeting  
Boy's and Girl's Club of the North Country  
2572 Rte 302, Lisbon, NH 03585  
October 24, 2024  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Angela Cleveland called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

**2. Attendance (V = Virtual)**

Members Present:

Michelle Beaudin, Miguel Moralez (V), Benoit Lamontagne, Jason Achmoody (V), Tim Josephson, Allan Reetz (V), Steve Fortier, Erin Talcott, Chuck Henderson (V), Ben Amsden, Sandy Brackett, Stephanie Weiner, Chris Thayer, Sarah Waring (V).

Staff Present:

Glenn Coppelman, Angela Cleveland, and Taylor Roy

**3. NCC: Presentation (NH Outdoor Tourism Overview; Taylor Roy)**

Taylor Roy discussed data results from the 2024 Outdoor Industry Tourism Report. New Hampshire overall has 30,000 outdoor recreation jobs and contributed \$3.3 billion in economic contribution. Over 50% of businesses are in the Northern NH region. Taylor further emphasized the number of retail, rental, and repair recreation businesses in the Great North Woods and White Mountains Region. It is important to recognize the vast number of resources our communities have and how it contributes to New Hampshire's economy.

**4. AMC: Presentation (Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development in the North Country: Chris Thayer)**

Chris Thayer has been working for AMC for 35 years. He discussed the opportunities and projects they've been a part of. AMC has partnerships with other NH outdoor groups, municipalities, and more. They are the oldest recreation conservation group in the country. AMC maintains 18,000 miles of trails across their region which includes 260 miles of the Appalachian trails. They lead thousands of outdoor recreation and conservation education activities. They have multiple land holdings where the land is used sustainably and forested appropriately. Trail recreation management employs both professional trail crews, Ameri Corp workers, and volunteers. We also partner with JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) in the

City of Berlin. They have trail training for those looking to get into the field professionally or just to volunteer. The AMC has assisted in many NH projects including Privy project in the WMNF, Lancaster Heritage Trail, Rumney rocks, Franconia loops trail, and much more. Trail work is intended to sustain and stabilize the resource not to make hikes easier. AMC offers competitive wages for trail crews. There are 8 huts along the Appalachian trail, back country campsites, hiker shuttle, guided adventures, visitor centers etc. We are looking to diversify outdoor equity so people from all different backgrounds can enjoy the outdoors. There are more than 175,000 people hiking per year in the region. There are about 180 search and rescue calls per year. Since Covid-19 (2020) outdoor recreation sites like trails and roadside parking are often overwhelmed especially during peak foliage and holiday weekends. Resources in the region and state agencies like DOT and Emergency Services are strained during these times due to high traffic on the highway and side roads. Outdoor recreation should be in community conversations because it is important to the future of our state economy and preservation. Outdoor recreation has become so prominent that seasonal jobs are turning to full-time. Housing is also a core issue for our employees. Younger generations of workers are finding it hard to find available and affordable housing. One solution in Colorado has been found to work where they create workforce housing on federal lands for outdoor recreation workers. For example, a ski resort-built workforce housing on unused federal land next to the resort. The hike Safe program money is used to support the search and rescue crews along with hunting licenses.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

August 22, 2024 Minutes: Motion to approve by Tim Josephson. Second by Steve Fortier. Approved unanimously.

## **6. CEDS Amendment Update and Priority Projects List**

The updated CEDS Amendment (Industry) was approved by the North Country Council Board of Directors on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Angela stated they have a list of priority projects and are looking for more if anyone has some on the horizon.

The December 26<sup>th</sup> CEDS meeting was moved to December 19<sup>th</sup> from 11-1pm.

## **7. Participant Share Out**

The meeting ended with participant “introductions” and share out.

**Erin Talcott (BGC)** Taylor Caswell was instrumental to us receiving 1.9 million for early childcare renovations. We’re continuing to spread the word about the work that we do and how important it is. If you know anyone who is interested send them my way. We are fully licensed and there are limited places in Coos County for childcare.

**Steve Fortier (BEA)** November 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having the Econ Forum at Manchester Community College. We're working on a Rural Economic Development Strategy roadmap and will be created by the team to engage people around the state.

**Michelle Beaudin (GRDC)** is focused on their Microenterprise Program and is looking to connect with 40 small businesses in the area with five or fewer employees to provide them with direct grants for equipment and expert consultants. Secondly our Family Childcare Pilot Program is reaching out to family providers and offering them resources. This program will be running until September of 2025. We are continuing conversations about ADU financing (revolving loan fund) for those looking to build.

**Tim Josephson (UVLSRPC)** we're in the process of doing our regional plan, currently in the outreach phase. Many towns are looking for master plan assistance. One of the struggles is getting people in town to think regionally. The state of NH is so small that we need to think about more towns than just our community. Some people just state they simply don't want more housing.

**Alan Reetz (Hanover Food Co-op)** November 7<sup>th</sup> we'll be hosting a farmer's school meeting and they'll visit Edgewater Farmers and Lebanon Co-op. This is to help and understand what retail success looks like for farmers.

**Glenn Coppelman (North Country Council, Carroll County Broadband, CEDC)** CEDC Hat: Their executive director stepped down and they have two candidates going through the interview process.

**Ben Amsden (NHCF)** shared that donor engagement is ramping up and the end of the year community grants program is winding down. Upper Connecticut River Mitigation enhancement fund project will be opening in a couple weeks. This would include dam removal and land acquisition.

**Angela Cleveland (North Country Council)** North Country Council is updating the Regional Plan and would love if you or anyone you know will take the survey. We will ramp up outreach after the elections are over. The Ageing Workforce presentation has been moved to October 30<sup>th</sup>. Employer assisted housing grants are at a standstill and AHEAD will help us re-brand this project. We want people to tell us what employer housing looks like to them and what THEY need.

## **8. Adjourn**

Angela Cleveland declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.