

West Central Vermont CEDS – Strategy Committee

Friday, July 16 – 10 AM to 12 PM

Please join the meeting by clicking:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062316313>

For those who would prefer to join by phone or those without a microphone on your computer, please dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

Meeting ID: 820 6231 6313

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,82062316313#

Present:

Taylor Newton, CCRPC
Regina Mahoney, CCRPC
Sam Andersen, GBIC
Whitney Coombs, GBIC
Adam Lougee, ACRPC
John Van Hoesen, ACRPC
Amanda O'Connor, RRPC
Ed Bove, RRPC
Tyler Richardson, REDC
Sarah Pelkey, RRPC
Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC
Jamie Stewart, CVEDC
Ken Jones, State of Vermont, ACCD

Taylor kicked off the meeting by welcoming everyone at about 10:02 a.m.

1. Changes/adjustment to agenda:

Taylor asked for any changes to the agenda. Hearing no additions, Taylor proceeded to the next item of business.

2. Minutes – June 18, 2021:

Taylor requested a motion to adopt the previous meeting minutes. **Jamie Stewart moved acceptance of the previous meeting minutes. Tyler Richardson seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.**

3. Task #3 SWOT SOAR Analysis June Meetings– Sarah Pelkey and Amanda O'Connor

Amanda presented the results of the SOAR analysis based on individual regional SOARS from the June meeting. She pointed out some regional differences and requested some guidance from the group. She noted that she had not incorporated Central Vermont's work because she was waiting for Central Vermont to review its work prior to incorporating it.

Childcare: **Amanda will reconcile the SOAR so it includes childcare for all regions and also focuses on teens and adults across all regions.**

Broadband: - **Broadband remains an issue in all areas. More need in rural portions of all areas.**

Access to NE markets: Is access to NE markets a strength or opportunity? Jamie Stewart stated that our location constitutes **both a strength and opportunity**. He used the aviation industry as an example. We have a strong aviation industry and an opportunity to grow because we are on the transportation corridor between Boston and Montreal. Sam added proximity to both Montreal and Boston are a growth sector. Providing a gateway to Canadian companies to the US constitutes a strong advantage.

Regional Marketing interest: Rutland is very engaged in marketing it as a place for people to move and grow. Addison is also engaged. Chittenden is less active, but still needs workers. Taylor suggested the need for workforce as an opportunity.

Recreational Opportunities: This is rated as a strong business opportunity in both Addison and Rutland, less so in Chittenden, but mentioned in the quality of life category. **Sam confirmed that the outdoor recreation industry is important in Chittenden.**

Water/wastewater: This should be included as an aspiration for villages in all areas and as a strength for urban areas.

Access to Public Lands: This should be included as **an aspiration to enhance access to waterfront in most places. Strength for many other areas.**

Land Use and Natural Resources: **This section needs work for all areas. Please build out and get back to Amanda. All areas have considerable access to natural resources, we can continue to build it as a strength.** All areas have a lot of intact villages and a general lack of sprawl, we should aspire to build on those strengths and enhance and grow existing villages.

The Strategy Committee agreed to aspire to create a strong and diverse rural economy based on open spaces, raw and value added agricultural products, forestry products and recreational opportunities. The Strategy Committee agree to build community scale (local) access to outdoor recreation by improving town forests, recreational fields, and waterfront access in areas walkable from population centers (villages).

Equity: The Strategy Committee agreed to think about how to directly address equity as a goal in the CEDS. **Please send ideas to Amanda.**

4. Engagement

Taylor presented Chittenden's proposed outline for additional outreach. It includes:

- a. An employer survey;
- b. A review of other outreach activities from similar, recent statewide planning efforts;
- c. Focus groups with underrepresented communities - Chittenden identified 6 potential groups;
- d. Meetings trade groups statewide and sub-regionally;
- e. A second workshop.

CCRPC will share the existing employer survey with the RDCs for them to streamline the survey. CCRPC will also share its Survey Monkey account with RDCs. Sam will lead the group and have the work completed by the end of August so we can send the survey prior to the September strategy Committee meeting. Survey will stay open for 14 days. RDCs (Fred Kenney) will produce a 1 page summary of the survey results with help from the other RDCs and provide it for the October meeting.

Please see the attached list and choose those methods best suited to your region. **We have a lot of money in engagement for each sub-region and partner, so we need to do it.**

Ken Jones volunteered to send information culled from certain statewide reports by August 10th. Taylor and Sarah will build upon Ken's work.

Focus Groups:

- CCRPC and GBIC will organize BIPOC Business owners.
- CVRPC will lead organize the Women owned businesses focus group.
- RDCs will organize college senior and high school tech program focus groups.
- CVRPC will organize a focus group for Disability NGOs or individuals.
- CVEDC will organize a focus group related to our Community Action Orgs that serve low-income populations.

Each region will hold at least 5 individual meetings with stakeholder groups specific to their region. Additional stakeholder meetings will be held with statewide orgs. Taylor will create a list of statewide orgs and assign people to outreach from each.

The RDCs shall be in charge of putting together the second workshop. They shall shoot for EARLY November.

[August Agenda and Next Steps](#)

Taylor scheduled the next meeting for Friday, August 20th from 10:00 – 12:00. Agenda items will include:

Ken Jones ACCD Update

Website update - Amanda

[Adjournment:](#)

Jamie Stewart moved to adjourn, Amanda O'Connor seconded the motion. By unanimous consent, Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:46.