

West Central Vermont CEDS – Strategy Committee

Friday, September 17– 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:

Regina Mahoney, CCRPC

Sam Andersen, GBIC

Whitney Coombs, GBIC

Adam Lougee, ACRPC

John Van Hoesen, ACRPC

Fred Kenney, ACEDC

Ed Bove, RRPC

Tyler Richardson, CEDRR

Sarah Pelkey, RRPC

Gavin Bodnar, CVRPC

Jamie Stewart, CVRPC

Bonnie Wanniger, CVRPC

Ken Jones, State of Vermont, ACCD

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

1. Changes/adjustment to agenda:

Regina asked for any changes to the agenda. Knowing Ken Jones had a time constraint, Regina moved Ken up to the first item on the agenda.

2. Task#5 - Economic Trends and Statewide CEDS Coronavirus Appendix

Ken Jones noted that EDA will give the State of Vermont \$1,000,000 to have the administration help coordinate the state's efforts to respond to the Coronavirus. Ken wants to ensure that this CEDS effort links directly to that funding. He wants us to focus on infrastructure. \$10,000,000 will be released today for infrastructure to support private industry. A copy of Ken's presentation is attached to the minutes.

Sam noted that the RDCs had already provided a list of infrastructure projects from each region. Fred also noted they will be creating new lists jointly with RPCs for this December. **Fred proposed that we use these regional priority lists as the beginning of our CEDS list.** Ken recognized the list exists. He also noted that the state needs additional help from this group to focus how it spends its funding better. Ken noted the state had largely four buckets of funding ACCD wants to focus on.

1. Infrastructure - Wastewater
2. Energy- \$250M over the next couple of years. Weatherization, SmartGrowth, transportation services (buses)
3. Workforce - Expand participation through support services;
4. Tourism and Recreation - EDA gave Tourism \$10,000,000 non-competitive for Outdoor Rec. largely to fight Covid Impact.

What new resources do RDCs/RPCs need to help coordinate state efforts? ACCD recognizes RPCs/RDCs are necessary to spread funding beyond the State Agencies. ACCD and VLCT (Katie Buckley) are adding new positions focusing solely on providing information about ARPA funding. Is there a similar position needed for RPCs/RDCs? Ken has no particular timeline, but wants ideas earlier rather than later.

Fred suggested that when DHCD hires its new person, one of their first tasks should be to visit RDC/RPC meetings. Ken concurred.

3. Minutes – August 20, 2021:

Regina requested a motion to adopt the previous meeting minutes. **Fred Kenney moved acceptance of the previous meeting minutes. Sam Andersen seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.**

4. Task #3 - Engagement

Regina asked how different outreach was going in each region. Jamie asked about the business survey. **Regina will check on the response rate.**

Central Vermont: Jamie also noted that he had contacted each of the three major community action organizations (CAPs) and that he was setting up meetings with each CAP agency. Jamie will meet with CV Region's CAP, he expects others to cover the CAPs in their respective regions.

Addison County: Fred stated he had contacted all his statewide agency contacts and conducted interviews. He requested extra time for people to complete the business survey, beyond the original October 15th deadline.

John noted he had sent SOARS back out with all of our advisor group for their review and comment (150 people). John also noted he had set up 8 focus group meetings. And sent the business survey to all advisors.

Chittenden: Sam noted Chittenden had had 10 individual meetings so far. Some very good meetings, particularly with the CAP agency. Also, asked for more feedback on the business survey.

Rutland: Tyler noted he had done committee work with CEDS. Will push the survey next week. More work ahead.

Amanda and Sarah have also been doing one on one outreach in Rutland.

Focus Groups: Regina noted she had set up focus groups in CCRPC.

Review of Statewide Reports: Sarah reported they had created a good list of current reports. Taylor has created a form to summarize each report so the team can synthesize consistent information for each report into the CEDS.

Workshop #2 - Distribute information on CEDS, one workshop for all four regions. The Group chose **November 18th** in the evening for its second workshop.

Website - Sara reported that the website is up and running. She encouraged all to visit it. Sara will review the website analytics prior to the next meeting and report on its use for the October meeting.

5. Task #4, Proposed CEDS Outline - Regina presented the proposed outline. **Adam suggested that in addition to the Thematic Goals and actions the Outline needed to include sector analysis, goals and action items and to tie all action items directly to the funding streams currently available as suggested by Ken.**

6. October 22, Agenda - Outreach Update and CEDS Outline and Discussion, Workshop 2 planning, update on the Website, RPC/RDC Discussion of Resources to ask ACCD to deploy.

Adjournment: Fred Kenney moved to adjourn, Sam Andersen seconded the motion. **By unanimous consent, Regina adjourned the meeting at 11:25.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee