

West Central Vermont CEDS – Strategy Committee

Friday, December 16, 2022– 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Present:

Taylor Newton, CCRPC
Darren Schibler, CCRPC
Sam Andersen, GBIC
Alex Demoly, GBIC
Adam Lougee, ACRPC
Hannah Andrew, ACRPC
Fred Kenney, ACEDC
Dana Hanley, ACEDC
Devon Neary, RRPC
Tyler Richardson, CEDRR
John Ignatowski, CVRPC
Jamie Stewart, CVEDC
Melissa Bounty, CVEDC

Taylor kicked off the meeting by welcoming everyone at about 10:03 a.m.

1. Changes/adjustment to agenda:

Taylor asked for any changes to the agenda. Hearing none proposed, he continued.

2. Minutes – November 18, 2022:

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

3. Subgrant Agreements

Taylor noted that subgrant agreements are almost done..

4. Task #3 – Engagement

a. Feedback on second draft

Taylor is waiting for feedback on VPOC Network and will bring the CEDS to CCRPC's equity advisory committee in December / January. Fred is still working to find a date to meet with his subcommittee and hopes to have a meeting in January. Melissa did not expect changes from CVEDC.

Jon is still gathering feedback from CVRPC. Taylor requested that feedback be consolidated from the board, rather than from individuals. Jon apologized for this and indicated that this might be due to lack of faith in the review process from a few individuals; to address this Jon plans to take minutes from meetings to provide to CVRPC. Jon indicated that majority of the Board should be supportive and there have been some good changes.

Taylor reminded everybody of the comment deadline of Friday, January 13th so that review of all comments can be done at the Strategy Committee's January 20th meeting. Final edits addressing comments can be finalized at the February meeting. Sam asked and Taylor clarified that the entirety of the CEDS can still be approved by EDA even if CVRPC does not vote to support. Taylor noted that some feedback received by RPCs on the CEDS may not be able to be included in the final CEDS, but may instead be addressed in each of the regional plans.

5. Task #4 - Develop CEDS and Evaluation Framework

a. Dashboard Progress

Hannah provided a walkthrough of the draft dashboard and will send out a link to request feedback from the Strategy Committee. She noted that the data are complete, but she needs to add language to help navigate the dashboard and explanations / disclaimers for the data (for instance, the dashboard defaults to showing averages for all data). Strategy Committee members advocated for very clear and prominent disclaimers on the data.

Housing tab: Hannah asked for specific feedback data sources for housing authorizations (or rather “permits issued” as recommended by the committee). Taylor noted that this has been a significant data gap that he would like RPCs to start collecting going forward, and wondered whether it should be left off the dashboard until there is sufficient data to display. Jamie suggested that it remain in the dashboard as long as it tells a reasonably accurate story, and the margin of error is reasonable for ACS data.

Equity tabs: Hannah noted that the Business Ownership by Race and Ethnicity needs some disclaimers because the data can be skewed (margin of error is high, and respondents can select multiple ethnic categories), but the overall story is still clear. Jamie suggested drawing comparisons between the business owner population to the entire population as a better measure of progress. Fred suggested doing the same for gender. Darren noted that the two equity tabs should be renamed so that it’s clear that one relates to income, and the other relates to business ownership.

Economy tab: no feedback at this time.

Broadband tab: the dashboard can filter for all towns, but for the county filter only the CEDS counties are included.

The Strategy Committee greatly appreciated Hannah’s work, and Jamie specifically appreciated that the dashboard was redesigned to be readable for the colorblind. The dashboard will be embedded in the CEDS website with some cover language, and each RPC can link to it as well as the main CEDS website.

6. Task #5 – Economic Trends and Statewide CEDS Coronavirus Appendix (ACCD)

Taylor has not had time to follow up with ACCD regarding a staff to replace Ken. Jamie noted that there is a new employee on board who is doing Ken’s work. Sam asked whether this person should attend the Strategy Committee meetings, but Taylor noted that technically their work with the CEDS is relatively completed.

7. Task #1 – CEDS and Partnership Planning

No update from Adam on the draft EDD documents. At Jamie’s question, Taylor clarified that the EDA approval of the CEDS comes first (roughly June / July), and the EDD can then be discussed in summer.

8. Upcoming Meetings

Reminder: draft comments on the CEDS document due January 13th. The second / final draft is posted to the website.

Friday, January 20 at 10 AM

Friday, February 17 at 10 AM

9. Adjournment - Fred Kenney moved to adjourn, Jamie Stewart seconded the motion. By unanimous consent, Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:39.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Schibler