

PART FF WORKING GROUP
SPO Reorganization
Room 110, 19 Union Street, Augusta

July 26, 2011
Minutes

Members present: David Emery, Chair, Patricia Aho, Hon. David Bowles, Darryl Brown, Betsy Fitzgerald, Bruce Fitzgerald, Denise Garland, Linwood Higgins, Patrick Keliher, John Morris, and Jeanne Paquette

Staff: Tony Van Den Bossche, Jody Harris, Linda LaPlante

Governor's Office: Jonathan Nass

Public present: Avery Day, Pierce Atwood; Ed Barrett, Quality of Place Council; Tom Abello, The Nature Conservancy; Jeff Romano, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Rebekah Metzler, Kennebec Journal; Pete Didisheim, NRCM; Sally Stodwell, Maine Audubon; Representative Brad Moulton; Dan Lajoie, MECEP; Gerald Weinand, Dirigo Blue; Bob Thompson, AVCOG; Representative Andrea Boland.

- I. David Emery, Chair, opened the meeting and had the members and public introduce themselves.
- II. Darryl Brown reviewed Part FF of the FY 2012-13 budget, explaining who the members were and why. He brought attention to Sec. FF-2, stating that the working group will have to submit its recommendations no later than December 1, 2011 to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.
 - II-A. John Nass of the Governor's office, outlined the Guiding Principles of the reorganization of the State Planning Office.
 1. The Executive Office is a management entity. Programs left in the executive office should support the management of state-wide government.
 2. The reorganization process should examine each program currently residing in the State Planning Office and determine if that function belongs in state government or somewhere else.
 3. Programs that should be run by state government and provide real service and value to the people of Maine should be moved to an agency where efficiencies and synergies might be obtained.
 4. The end product should result in smaller state government.
- III. Darryl Brown reviewed the SPO organization chart showing funding sources, positions that were permanently eliminated, and current vacancies. The vacant Public Service Executive I position

has been filled by Richard Swanson, Jr. He will begin on August 1, 2011 and his focus will be the reorganization of SPO. Tony Van Den Bossche will update the org chart, with funding source, for the next meeting.

- IV. Need to decide what functions of SPO are and which agency these functions should be moved to. Have to figure out the legal issues, conflict of interest, benefits and overlap of SPO positions. Tony will provide a breakdown of Federal funding and grants at SPO and to whom they are awarded, and break down of Land for Maine's Future bond funds remaining, cash on hand, bonds authorized but unissued.
 - a. Maine Commission for Community Services
 - b. Office of Energy Independence and Security – Will probably stay at Governor's Office
 - c. Waste Management and Recycling – State owns 2 landfills; Juniper Ridge in Old Town and Carpenter Ridge in Lincoln; maybe a third, Dolby III in Millinocket
 - d. Code Enforcement
 - e. Floodplain Management – mapping mostly done out of state and Darryl would like in-state companies to do this.
 - f. Maine Coastal Program – almost all Federal funded; shares personnel with other agencies
 - g. Land Use Planning
 - h. Land for Maine's Future – SPO provides support for the LMF Board; project management; administration of funds; tracks funds. Tony will provide a chart showing where the money is.
 - i. Policy and Management – 5B – Final base team of SPO; 4 – 6 positions to remain
 - j. Economics and Demographics – Look at ways to put all economists together
- V. Goals to be met by December 1, 2011 – Will need to prepare legislation for the reorganization of all functions within SPO. 5B – Final structure to include 4 – 6 senior policy management and administrative staff. This team will pursue streamlining and efficiency throughout all of State Government.
- VI. TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
- VII. Need to decide where to move the entities to and to look at other functions provided by SPO, for example – Land and Water Resource Council, Regulatory Fairness Board, Quality of Place, Broad, Land Use Mediation, Intergovernmental Review, and find out other places SPO is mentioned in statute.

VIII. At our next meeting all members are to bring a one page summary of their thoughts and recommendations. After one or two more meetings a mark-up document will be put together, a draft of proposal to work from. Individual members need to focus on programs that will impact their areas.

- a. Patricia Aho, DEP – Coastal Program, LMF, Land Use team
- b. Bill Beradsley, DOC –
- c. Hon. David Bowles – Coastal Program and Land Use Team
- d. Darryl Brown – Final base team
- e. David Emery , DAFS –
- f. Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington County Manager – All of them!
- g. Bruce Fitzgerald, MEMA – Floodplain, MCCS, possibly energy
- h. Denise Garland, DECD – Economic and Community Development, Land Use Planning
- i. Linwood Higgins, DOL – Economics and Demographics, MCCS
- j. Pat Keliher, DMR – Coastal Program, LMF, Land Use Team
- k. John Morris, Public Safety –
- l. Jeanne Paquette, DOL – Overall policy people, Quality of Place

IX. Comments from the public

- a. Peter Didisheim, NRCM; Team will Need to focus on the functions and services of the State Planning Office. Read 2010 report.
- b. Representative Brad Moulton – 6 thoughts
 - i. In favor of Office of Policy and Management
 - ii. Natural Resource Council. MCCS is needed – Relocation of services – concerned that in the process of reorganization there may be a loss of funding and policy side would move south
 - iii. In favor of the Land Use Planning - allocate to RPC funded – Don't lose statewide focus
 - iv. Opposed to CEO going to Public Safety, instead to Health Engineering or DECD
 - v. Look at LURC

- vi. Take some extra time to focus
 - c. Representative Boland - As you look at issues, take time to know about them before you shift to someplace else; ex; Broadband
 - d. Sally Stockwell, Maine Audubon – Look at the programs with a state-wide prospective. Value the work SPO does
- X. Next meeting – TBA; will take place during the week of August 22 – 26.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda C. LaPlante