

Public Participation Plan for the Community Guided Planning and Zoning Effort

In an effort to increase public input for the Community Guided Planning and Zoning project, Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) proposes the following plan.

Audience

The following are the intended audience at each of the public meetings. We will judge the effectiveness on having a reasonable process and outcome, not on number of people who participate.

- General public
- Municipal officials
- Natural Resource Professionals
- Environmental groups
- Major employers
- Tribes
- Interested Parties List
- Others as deemed necessary by the Steering Committee

Advertising for each meeting will include utilization of local media sources, email, website announcements, direct telephone calls, and letters.

Locations

NMDC will sponsor 4 subregional meetings in an effort to obtain public input. Each meeting will be in the evening from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Meeting locations include:

Houlton/Island Falls
Caribou/Presque Isle
Fort Kent/Frenchville
Ashland/Portage Lake

Desired Outcomes

As outlined in the June 19, 2013 Process Document, the committee should seek and respond to public input at key stages in the process. We must provide opportunities for a broad spectrum of residents, property owners, and interested parties to participate as well as allow for a respectful consideration of divergent views.

The CGPZ effort will seek public input at:

- **Meeting #1-** The beginning of the process. Mainly allowing the public to brainstorm to consider and raise concerns that should be addressed in the planning process.
- **Meeting #2-** Key meetings when decisions are to be made on a particular area or resource or when broad outlines of strategies are decided upon.
- **Meeting #3-** Final public comments on recommendations to be decided on. **Must be completed while there is still a chance for the Committee to make final adjustments.**

Timeline

Meeting #1- Late February-early March 2014
Meetings #2 and - TBD as milestones are met.

Interested Parties List

NMDC maintains an “Interested Parties” list with approximately 220 contacts located throughout the region and state. Public meeting announcements will be emailed to this distribution list one month (with a two week reminder) before each public meeting. (This list also receives notification of all regularly scheduled meetings as well as agendas).

NMDC Web Page

NMDC maintains a website and has created a webpage for the Community Guided Planning and Zoning effort (<http://www.nmdc.org/planning/CGPZ.html>). Documents have been added to that as they become available. Announcements of public meetings will be placed on this web page.

Social Media

NMDC will place all public meeting announcements on our FaceBook page.

Email Notifications and Newsletters

NMDC develops and distributes email newsletters on a weekly (Notes from APP/NMDC) and monthly (Community Bridges). The weekly newsletter is emailed to approximately 540 addresses (business, industry, and interested parties) while the monthly newsletter is emailed and mailed to all communities in Aroostook and Washington Counties. In total there are approximately 600 in this distribution list. Public meeting announcements will be added to those newsletters when appropriate.

Printed Meeting Announcements

Printed meeting announcements will be provided to all local media sources (print and television) one month prior to key events and activities. Print media includes the four weekly and one daily newspapers in southern, central, and northern Aroostook County. Television includes announcement on “County Calendar” on WAGM-TV.