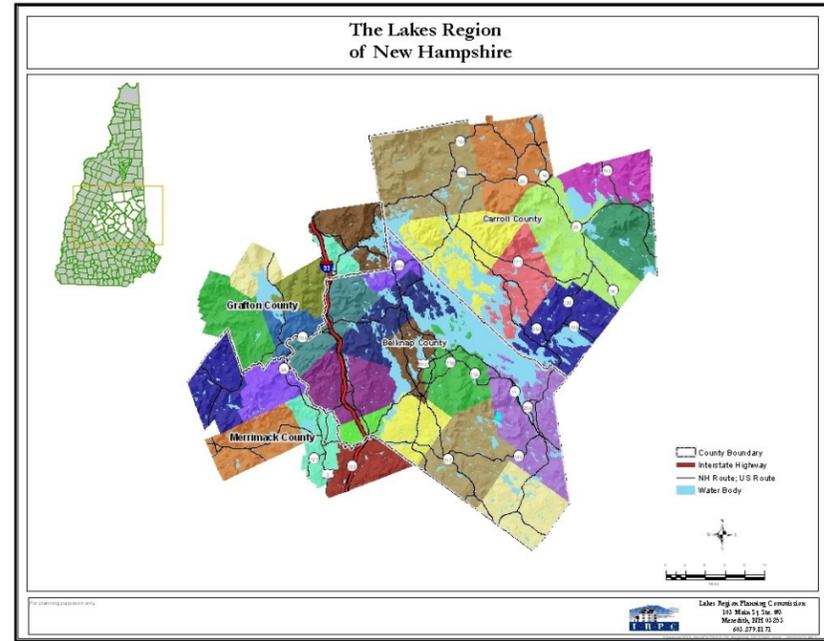


THE LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION—1200 SQUARE MILES



LRPC COMMISSIONERS—FY 15

Alexandria Janet Towse	Bristol Steve Favorite	Gilford John Ayer John Morgenstern	Meredith William Bayard Herb Vadney	Sandwich Toby Eaton
Alton Vacant	Center Harbor Maureen Criasia	Gilmanton Wayne Ogni	Moultonborough Barbara Perry Paul Punturieri	Tamworth Patricia Farley James Hidden
Andover John Cotton	Danbury Charlotte McIver	Hebron Mitch Manseau	New Hampton Dr. George Luciano	Tilton Joseph Jesseman Jonathan Scanlon
Ashland Gordon McCormack, Jr.	Effingham Theresa Swanick	Hill Vacant	Northfield Wayne Crowley Doug Read	Tuftonboro Dan Duffy Stephen Wingate
Barnstead David Kerr	Franklin Tony Giunta	Holderness Robert Snelling	Northfield Wayne Crowley Doug Read	Tuftonboro Dan Duffy Stephen Wingate
Belmont Vacant	Freedom Jean Marshall	Laconia Dean Anson, II Warren Hutchins	Ossipee Dr. Patricia Jones	Wolfeboro Roger F. Murray, III Chuck Storm Don St. Germain
Bridgewater Vacant			Sanbornton Carmine Cioffi	

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF—FY15

Jeffrey Hayes, MRP <i>Executive Director</i>	Gerald Coogan, AICP <i>Special Projects Manager</i>	Michael Izard <i>Principal Planner</i>	Barbara Sullivan <i>Bookkeeper</i>
Daniel Callister <i>Assistant Planner</i>	Rosemarie Gelinas <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	David Jeffers <i>Regional Planner</i>	Michelle Therrien <i>GIS Analyst</i>

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2014

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION



Who We Are:

The LRPC is a voluntary association of local communities that pools its resources to obtain a highly trained, professional staff to provide a wide variety of services. A twelve member Executive Board, together with the Commissioners, governs the LRPC. Operations are overseen by an executive director and implemented by professional planners, specialists, and support staff. LRPC recognizes that the foundation of regional decision-making lies within local communities.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Officers:**
Warren Hutchins (Laconia)
Chairman
Wayne Crowley (Northfield)
Vice Chairman
Patricia Farley (Tamworth)
Secretary
Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)
Treasurer
Area Commissioners:
John Ayer (Gilford)
John Cotton (Andover)
Jean Marshall (Freedom)
Robert Snelling (Holderness)

- At-Large Commissioners:**
Dean Anson, II (Laconia)
Steve Favorite (Bristol)
George Luciano (New Hampton)
Stephen Wingate (Tuftonboro)

Message from the Executive Director

It is my honor to serve as LRPC's new executive director. On behalf of myself, our Executive Board, volunteers and the staff, I want to thank our membership, partners, and friends for their generous support through this transition.



One of the most attractive aspects of working for LRPC is its strong sense of identity. The Lakes Region is defined by its most distinguished natural resource. This focus creates a common cause and good basis for regional action with the central question, "How do we maintain high water quality and environmental health while at the same time protecting private property values and promoting economic opportunities?"

For those of us interested in regional planning, the key is to find a balance between individuals acting in their self-interest, and groups of individuals (and towns) working together to manage a common public resource. Two well-known economic theories provide some guidance. First, we have Adam Smith's "invisible hand" which holds that the self-interested actions of individuals will lead to societal benefits in a perfect market, for sure, one of the pillars of capitalism. Then there is the "Tragedy of the Commons" metaphor which makes the argument that free access to a finite resource ultimately reduces the resource through over-exploitation.

Over the last year and through the decades, LRPC has embarked on dozens of local and regional projects and programs with a similar purpose of promoting a balance between individual opportunities and community interests, or alternatively Economic Opportunity and Environmental Stewardship. Economic Opportunity and Environmental Quality is in fact the tag line for our newly drafted regional plan (i.e., The Lakes Region Plan) which will be reviewed at the LRPC September 2014 Commission Meeting.

The Lakes Region Plan takes account of both the region's infrastructure and environmental quality needs. Infrastructure needs include but are not limited to roads, bridges, highways, safe walking routes to school, updated septic systems, water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment facilities, affordable broadband access and capacity, and hazardous waste storage facilities. Planning programs required to assist with prioritizing these infrastructure needs include but are not limited to watershed management plans, a regional transportation plan, capital improvement plans, hazard mitigation plans, and updated landuse plans and ordinances.

Looking ahead, LRPC's FY 15 schedule of work includes the culmination of the Lakes Region Plan, the Regional Broadband Plan, and an update to the regional Transportation Improvement Plan, as well as an array of other local and regional projects. As the population pressures experienced over the last several decades continue to flatten (as described in the Lakes Region Plan), LRPC will continue a shift from accommodating growth to accommodating other demographic changes and improving community resiliency.

As LRPC looks forward to FY 15 and beyond, we welcome your on-going membership, partnership, and support towards a bright future for the Lakes Region.

ANNUAL MEETING

The June 16, 2014 Annual Meeting was held at Church Landing in Meredith, with featured speaker NH Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner Jeffrey Rose. Over 95 attendees socialized, enjoyed the awards presentations and Commissioner Rose's speech. The Commissioner described his job as celebrating and preserving natural resources in a way that promotes economic development. He overviewed the four divisions of the Department: *Economic Development, Forest and Lands, State Park and Recreational Opportunities, Travel and Tourism.*

Commissioner Rose reviewed initiatives surrounding workforce development, particularly as they relate to manufacturing. A partnership with the NH Department of Employment and NH manufacturers will expose manufacturing opportunities to middle school students throughout the state, and the pilot program will commence soon. A delegation that includes Commissioner Rose and Governor Hassen will travel to Turkey to bring new export opportunities to New Hampshire businesses.



Commissioner Jeffrey Rose



The *B. Kimball Ayers Jr.* Award is given annually by the Lakes Region Planning Commission in memory of B. Kimball Ayers, Jr. who faithfully and persistently worked to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the Lakes Region. Chairman Warren Hutchins, LRPC Executive Director Jeff Hayes, and Max Stamp, Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee presented the award to **Daniel Paradis** of Bristol who has long been active with the Bristol Planning Board and the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee. (Photo from left to right: Jeffrey Hayes, LRPC Executive Director; Max Stamp, PRLAC Chair; Daniel Paradis; and Warren Hutchins, LRPC Commissioners, Chair.)

Awards of Excellence were presented to the *City of Laconia* for its bio retention system, installed near Paugus Bay, which captures and cleans runoff water of 80 to 90 percent of its hydrocarbons and 70 to 80 percent of its nutrients. Luke Powell, assistant director of Public Works for Laconia, who headed up the project, accepted the award on behalf of the city and said that one of the major challenges for all communities in the area is working with an aging and undersized infrastructure. (Photo by Roger Amsden, Laconia Daily Sun. From left to right: Jeffrey Hayes, LRPC Executive Director; Luke Powell, Laconia Assistant DPW Director; and Warren Hutchins, LRPC Commissioners, Chair.)



Stephen Wingate accepted an **Award of Excellence** on behalf of the *Tuftonboro Conservation Commission* for sponsoring a town-wide private well sampling event which involved 122 homes in its first round of testing and 183 in a second round. The testing results inform property owners what elements are present in their wells samples and recommendations are made for treating the conditions identified. Stephen Wingate accepted the award on the Town's behalf and expressed his thanks for the recognition, and cautioned that residents of New Hampshire with a private well have a 20% chance that their water will have long term health effects.

WHAT WE DO

The **Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC)** is established according to state law (NH RSA 36) to provide area communities with the opportunity to prepare a coordinated plan of development for the region. With a service area covering over 1,200 square miles in Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Merrimack Counties, the LRPC also provides a wide range of planning services to member municipalities. We address regional issues which are beyond the capability of individual towns to address, yet affect all communities within the region. Our services include technical assistance, geographic information systems, transportation planning, land use, environmental planning, hazard planning, and economic development. Federal, local, and state resources primarily fund the LRPC. Fiscal discipline and responsible planning can help deliver effective and efficient public investments that provide a foundation for community well-being. An overall objective is to be an innovative and reliable partner in this process.

Burnham & Malmborg

Professional Association
Certified Public Accountants
155 Manchester Street
Concord New Hampshire 03301
(603) 225-7600

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Commissioners
Lakes Region Planning Commission
Meredith, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Lakes Region Planning Commission which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of resources and expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimate made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

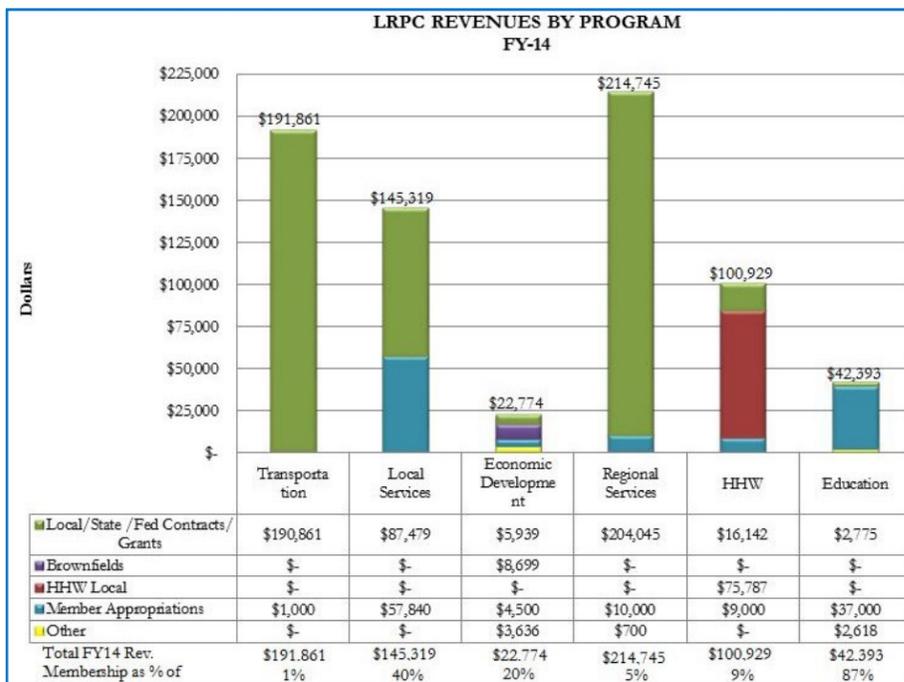
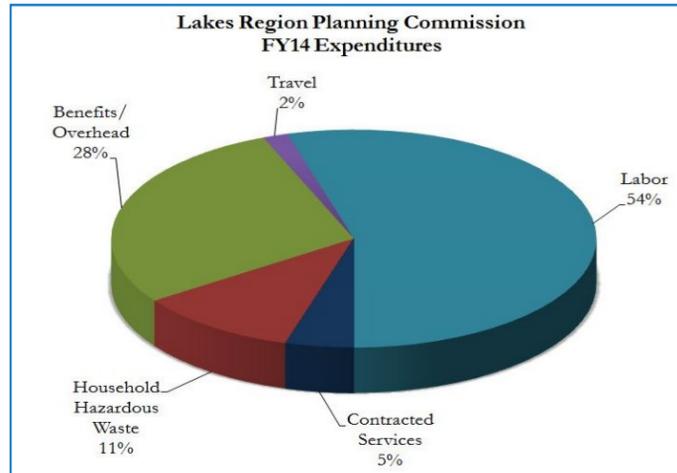
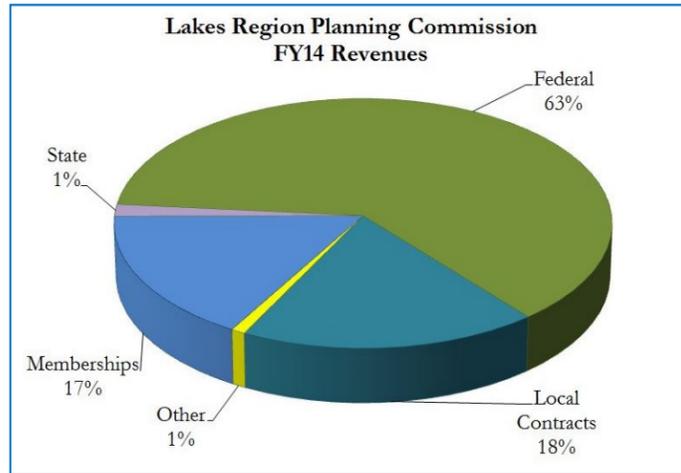
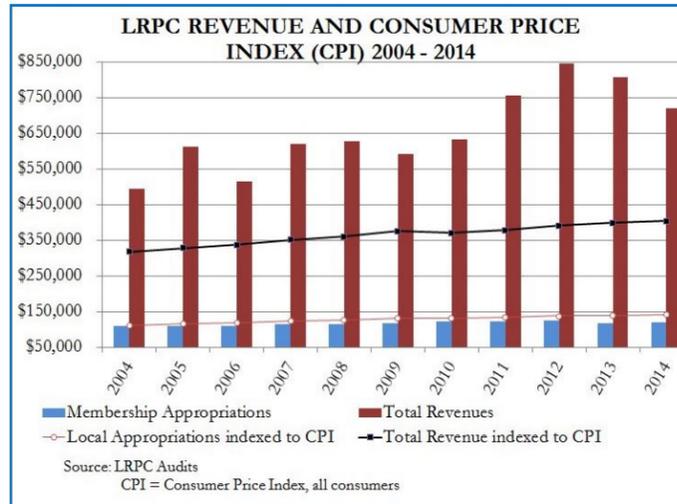
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lakes Region Planning Commission as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its fund balances and its cash flows for then year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Burnham & Malmborg

Concord, New Hampshire
August 29, 2014

FY15 Budget

The charts below show the distribution of actual revenues and expenditures from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Every membership dollar leveraged nearly *seven dollars* in contracts, grants, and other income.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission's services are organized around six program areas: Regional Services, Local Services, Household Hazardous Waste, Transportation, Economic Development, and Education/Resources. Examples of each are described below.

Regional Services

From the beginning, the Planning Commission has focused on a variety of challenges from conserving and protecting the region's natural resources to planning for modern infrastructure. Our focus on these issues remains undiminished today.

In cooperation with the NH Office of Energy and Planning, the NH Department of Environmental Services, the University of New Hampshire, our regional watershed associations, and local communities, the bulk of our current Regional Services are as follows:

- * Watershed Protection;
- * Stormwater Management;
- * Commercial, Industrial, and Residential Development Trends;
- * High-speed Broadband Planning;
- * River Corridor Management Plans;
- * Regional Planning.

Regional Services FY15:

Our anticipated activities in FY15 shall continue or expand recently completed work. In FY15, the LRPC plans to:

- * Complete the Comprehensive draft of the Lakes Region Plan in accordance with NHRSA 36;
- * Produce an updated Regional Development Trends of commercial and industrial permitting;
- * Continue the Broadband Stakeholders Group and draft a regional broadband plan;
- * Participate in the Suncook River Fluvial Erosion Hazard Study;
- * Further Develop the Winnepesaukee Gateway website;
- * Assist Regional Watershed Associations
- * Complete a Regional Broadband Plan with updated Broadband coverage maps.

Local Services

Local technical assistance continues to be a mainstay of our activities. As communities continue to face important questions about how best to plan for their future, we are available to:

- * Prepare Local Master Plans and Capital Improvement Plans;
- * Assist with innovative planning tools such as impact fees, steep slope ordinances, stormwater management, site plan review, etc.
- * Prepare and update Hazard Mitigation Plans in cooperation with NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management;
- * Offer guidance on preparing or amending zoning ordinances, and subdivision and site plan review regulations;
- * Assist local planning and zoning boards and conservation commissions with the review of development proposals through our Circuit Rider program;
- * Create and produce a variety of attractive and useful maps.

Local Services FY15:

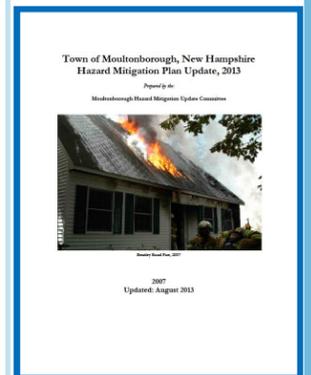
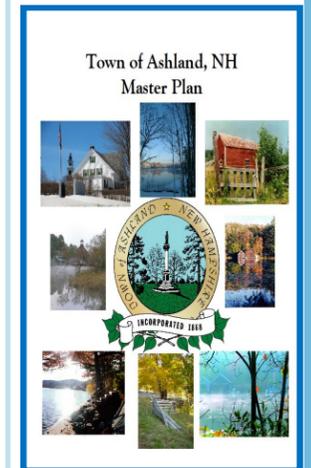
In FY15, we shall continue to work with and support our members, as needed. We intend to:

- * Continue Circuit Rider assistance to enrolled communities;
- * Prepare Hazard Mitigation Plans for submission to FEMA.
- * Produce maps on request using our Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- * Continue technical planning assistance via phone, internet, and in person;
- * Conduct Alton Mapping Services;
- * Assist Bristol with a Master Plan update;
- * Perform Smart Growth implementation in Laconia.



LRPC VISION STATEMENT

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is recognized as the leader in providing a balanced approach to planning throughout the region. Interactions between the communities and the LRPC are effective in representing the region to the state and federal organizations.



Household Hazardous Waste

The annual Lakes Region Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections are a highly anticipated Lakes Region summer tradition. Initiated by LRPC in 1986, the clean ups are supported by our member communities, with supplemental funding from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

In 2002, the LRPC provided seed funding to the town of Wolfeboro to construct the Lakes Region Permanent Household Hazardous Product Facility which has progressed to six monthly May through October collections. In 2013, founding members Alton and Wolfeboro were joined by Tuftonboro, more communities are welcome to inquire about membership.

This summer, a decade-high 1,819 households from 24 communities participated and disposed over 35 tons of HHW. Sixty percent (60%) responded that they would like to see medicine collections added in the future. Please check our website at <http://www.lakesrpc.org/servicehhw.asp> for details.

Household Hazardous Waste FY15:

- * LRPC shall begin preparations for the summer 2015 household hazardous waste collections. This will include education and outreach along with exploring additional cost-effective methods for communities to dispose of hazardous waste.



Household Hazardous Waste Collections 2014



Transportation

In partnership with the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, LRPC has been committed to improving the regional transportation system for over 25 years. Among our typical services, we:

- * Conduct annual traffic counts and road inventories;
- * Maintain an extensive database of traffic-related information;
- * Facilitate and prepare regional transportation plans and studies that inform the NH Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan;
- * Assist communities with Safe Routes to School, bike paths, intersection improvements, and advocacy for local and regional transportation needs;
- * Encourage public involvement, primarily through an active Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of local representatives and public meetings.
- * Provide technical assistance to regional transit providers.



Transportation FY15:

In FY15, the LRPC shall focus on the various tasks in the biennial transportation program with the DOT. Among other activities, the LRPC intends to:

- * Conduct annual traffic counts at approximately 150 locations around the region;
- * Assist communities with road safety management systems analysis;
- * Coordinate and conduct meetings of the regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee;
- * Complete a Travel Demand Management Plan;
- * Conduct substantial work on the Lakes Region Scenic Byway;
- * Provide staff assistance to two public transportation groups: the Carroll County Regional Coordinating Council, and the Mid State Regional Coordinating Council;
- * Update a Regional Transportation Chapter for the Lakes Region Plan.
- * Develop and launch a Regional Transportation resources webpage.
- * Begin piloting a regional asset management inventory.



Economic Development

The region's early heritage includes agriculture and the industrial mills that were built during the 1800's. Today tourism, medical care, retail businesses, social services, as well as advanced manufacturing drive the local economy. To facilitate the potential reuse of lands and buildings and to actively engage in improving the regional economy, the LRPC has: regular interactions with representatives from local economic development organizations; maintains and supports a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and convenes forums on development issues affecting the region.



Belmont Mill



Scenic Views



Agriculture



Tourism



Economic Development FY15:

In FY15, the LRPC will seek Economic Development District status through the U.S. Department of Commerce. This will make the Lakes Region eligible to apply for U.S. Economic Development Administration public works and technical assistance funding based on projects included in the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy completed by LRPC in FY14.

LRPC's Brownfields Program received a boost from a new three-year \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist Lakes Region communities with 8 to 10 assessments of vacant and underutilized sites due to concerns about environmental contamination. The LRPC, Credere Associates, and Brownfields Advisory Committee shall identify sites having good potential for redevelopment, and offer environmental assessments.

The LRPC shall also continue to work with area economic development organizations, and pursue relevant opportunities with EDA.

Education/Resources

The LRPC convenes a number of informative workshops and meetings, and offers a wealth of online, phone, and library information from knowledgeable staff and published resources. For example, we:

- * Host Citizen Education Workshops on issues of local and regional importance, e.g. housing, water quality, law lecture series, economics, etc.
- * Maintain a digital and traditional library of significant planning documents from air quality to zoning.
- * Prepare strategic planning reports such as demographic studies, build-out analyses, and attitude surveys, etc.
- * Offer facilitation and consensus building on pressing local and regional issues.
- * Provide access to LRPC resources through our website www.lakesrpc.org.
- * Conduct six commission meetings each year, featuring a different topic of interest.

Education/Resources FY15

A fundamental service of the Commission is the collection and dissemination of current, timely, and reliable information to our cities and towns. While information technology has dramatically changed the way we process and report information, our steadfast commitment to educate, inform, and converse with local officials and the public on local, and regional planning topics and legislation remains. From the preparation of maps using geographic information systems to review of new zoning amendments, the LRPC staff is available to serve our members. LRPC also convenes at least six Commission meetings a year; co-hosts the annual law lectures; and provides professional staff to answer questions from our communities. Timely access to information services and trained planners remains a focus and core strength of the LRPC, and will continue into the future.

MISSION

The Lakes Region Planning Commission serves the communities of the Lakes Region. Our mission is to provide effective planning, in order to achieve and sustain a quality environment, a dynamic economy, and local cultural values by supporting community efforts through leadership, education, technical assistance, information, advocacy, coordination and responsive representation.