

Livelihood/Commerce Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of December 6, 2007, 3:30 pm, MVC Offices

Present

Members of the Core: John Abrams (Chair), Steve Bernier, Sherm Goldstein, Sandy Ray, Linda Sibley

MVC Staff: Mark London, Christine Flynn (part)

1. December 1 Workshop With the Steering Committee and Work Group Cores

The workshop went very well, lots of work got done, forty people sorted through 44 promising initiatives including establishing their priorities. The overall principles and goals, drafted a year ago, have stood the test of time. There was support for most proposals. There were several questions about the eco-cultural tourism proposals; Linda proposed an alternative wording.

2. New Core Members

Sherm, Mark, and Christine had met and prepared a matrix of existing and possible new members, analyzing them by category and town, in an effort to seek the best possible range and balance. The categories are:

- Economic Sectors – Accommodations, Retail/Food, Trades/Landscaping, Finance/Insurance, Health/Social, Real Estate, Construction/Building/Development, Farming/Fishing, Professional/Technical, Arts/Entertainment/Recreation, Other,
- Economist,
- Chamber of Commerce and Business Associations,
- Town Boards,
- Seasonal Residents.

It was agreed to invite Sherry Purdy and Warren Doty to join the Core. We'll continue to think about other people, communicating by e-mail, and aim to invite a few more. We should present the list of proposed new Core members to the Steering Committee in January. This process will also identify people who could be invited to join the Work Group.

New members will be asked to read all the background material, to meet staff, and to ask questions at the first meeting with the new members.

We should continue to hold meetings on specific topics, such as fishing, farming, health, and invite guests to those meetings.

3. Ryan/Shuman Meeting

It was agreed that we would aim for a half-day working session, discussing the Economic Profile as well as the draft materials of the second phase of his study. Michael Shuman will be asked to participate via video-conference.

Although the working session is most important to members of the Core, it was agreed that there would also be a more public session to explain the Economic Profile. This will be organized in a manner similar to Michael Shuman's visit, when he had a working session with the Core and Steering Committee, followed by a well-attended public session. However, it would be preferable to do this in reverse order, with the public presentation of the information first, and the working session afterwards. That way, John would not have to repeat his presentation for the smaller group, and the smaller group would benefit from hearing questions raised at the public meeting. Since the public meeting should be in the evening, John could arrive in the afternoon, make a presentation that evening, and then have the working session with the Work Group the following morning. In addition to the Core and other members of the Work Group, we should invite 5 to 10 people to the working session, asking them to read the profile first.

John Abrams had learned that both John Ryan and Michael Shuman are available on Monday, March 3. He will inquire as to whether John would be available for a presentation on the evening of the 3rd, and both of them would be available for a working session on Tuesday morning, the 4th.

As for Ryan's Economic Profile, the aim is not to rewrite it so it is the committee's report. This is a consultant's study and should be clearly identified as such, noting that the opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Work Group or Steering Committee. We should, however, do our best to ensure that it is clear and that there are no errors. John is preparing a revised draft, which should be circulated before the end of the year. We will try to resolve any additional questions and concerns via e-mail in January, so the document is finalized and released in January.

4. Synthesis Document

Comments should be given to Mark by December 31, so he can issue a new working copy early in January.

5. Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the regular meeting date would be changed to Tuesdays, still at 3:30 pm, to make it easier for the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce to attend.

Notes prepared by Mark London