



Steering Committee Meeting  
October 24, 2012, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

**FINAL Meeting Summary**

1. Breakfast and Networking
2. Call to Order & Introductions  
Penrose Jackson, ECOS Co-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 8:30 and welcome Sandy Miller, ECOS CO-Chair, who led the activities of the morning.
3. Quick Review of Project Status & Documenting Efforts  
Sandy welcomed Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director, to the podium. Charlie confirmed the phases of the ECOS process and identified that the current phase is both the implementation of the priorities and developing the ECOS Plan. He asked participants to document their efforts in terms of who they communicated with about ECOS and how much time they have spent. Charlie informed the Steering Committee that he and Michele Boomhower, MPO Director, will be scheduling meetings with Selectboards to discuss the ECOS Plan process and priorities for implementation. He asked committee members to inform staff if they want to participate in these meetings. A schedule of these meetings was also available at the table.
4. Approval of July 25, 2012 Meeting Summary  
Sandy asked for a motion and second on the approval of the July 25, 2012 meeting summary. Jim Dudley, Town of Shelburne, moved. Catherine McMains, Town of Jericho, seconded. Vote: motion carried.
5. Endorse ECOS Grant Funding Recommendations – ACTION (attached) –  
Sandy welcomed Regina Mahony, CCRPC Senior Planner, to the podium to review the process for approving the ECOS grant funding recommendations. Regina informed the Committee that CCRPC received 55 applications totaling about \$2.5 million. She said that it was tough to make the selection for only funding \$280,000. Regina identified who served on the Review Committee and acknowledged that there were people on the Review Committee who submitted applications. She assured the Steering Committee that nobody reviewed their own project as the process was broken down into 4 sub-groups. Regina also talked about how the ECOS scoring criteria did not result in major differences between great projects and okay projects. So the selection of projects evolved to pick projects that represent each of the ECOS topic areas more evenly. Regina informed the Committee that the details of each project are available if people want more information on the recommended projects awarded funding.

Regina asked for a motion and a second on the approval of the recommendation for awarding the ECOS funding. Joe Spiedel, UVM, moved. Meredith Birkett, CCTA, seconded. Vote: motion carried.

Irene Wrenner, Town of Essex, identified that the list ECOS grant projects does not specifically include an energy project. She added that energy underscores everything we do (housing, transportation, and jobs). She is sorry that energy isn't more represented in this list. Regina responded that the South Burlington's Pathway to Sustainability project has a strong energy component.

## 6. Public Engagement

Sandy invited Andy Grayson, CCCRPC Outreach Coordinator, to the podium to explain the public engagement effort. Andy directed the Committee's attention to the mural hanging on the wall. This mural combines all the murals that were done at the 4 ice cream socials that happened around the County. It is a good visual representation of what the public thinks is important.

Andy also talked about the engagement done with the immigrant community. The immigrant community's issues match the issues that we have identified related to affordable housing, education, and good transportation.

Andy gave a recap of the Champlain Valley Fair effort. We received 462 comments and had conversations with people we would not have otherwise. It was a rich experience and people appreciated the opportunity to offer their comments on a variety of cross-cutting issues.

Andy also explained that the Fire House Gallery Exhibit provided exposure to Burlington City Arts for the people that were attracted to this project through other engagement efforts.

Andy informed the Committee that the traveling ECOS kiosk is going to start in November to open up the ECOS process and comment period to the wider public. It is a traveling exhibition that will be taken to public events to make people aware of the project and to ask for their comments on the Plan. The comments will be collected through our public engagement tool available on the ECOS website. Andy mentioned that a list of instructions for accessing and using this tool will be available.

Jen Green, City of Burlington, asked if the Kiosk needs to be staffed. Her concern is that people will dismiss it if there is nobody there to engage with. Andy said that for specific events, yes, it will be possible to staff. Jane Hemstetter, AHS, asked if she can have a smaller print out of the ECOS mural for her office. Sandy asked how successful were we at reaching a diverse group of people. Andy said that all our engagement efforts and the feedback received represent a snapshot of the populations that we spoke with. She acknowledged that given the time and budget for this project we did a good job of including people of diverse backgrounds. The ECOS mural attests to this; as well as the quantification of the comments collected. Doreen added that compared to the BTV Project, this project had 1/5 of the budget and was rich and paid attention to the



breadth of the issues; and the ECOS Kiosk is that ongoing ECOS conversation and people tend to engage at the end of a process. Kate McCarthy, VNRC, asked if regional planning made sense to people in the community. Andy said that some of the comments acknowledged that Chittenden County is planned well and services are available here not elsewhere as a result of this planning. People also appreciated the opportunity to give their comments. Jim Dudley, Town of Shelburne, asked staff to look at the way people interact and comment on the web. Sarah Osaba, CCRPC Equity Coordinator, also added that she has been talking with over 500 people who are foreign born, youth and low income. When she meets with people she explains that our place looks the way it does because of the planning process. She said that people are concerned with how things will change as a result of the ECOS process. Andrea Morgante, Town of Hinesburg, observed that individuals want engagement. She offered the idea of CCRPC representatives staffing the kiosk to engage with community members on the ECOS Plan that they would not otherwise. She said that this is very important because the ECOS Plan is the Regional Plan and CCRPC needs to embrace it. Sandy added to this by saying that municipalities don't have communications experts and often times communication falls on the shoulders of the department heads who don't have the expertise or the time. Sandy feels that municipalities are behind the times in addressing constituents especially people under age 30 and immigrant population.

The Committee discussed the ECOS mural. Sandy asked how we make it come alive. Jane said that the poster is very engaging and eye catching for youth. Penrose said that it really matches the conversation at Fletcher Allen doctors are having on social determinants of health. Doreen added that the poster is a kind of currency of the ECOS Process and we can add a slogan "In Sustainability We Trust". Jen Green said that we need to reach the under 30's as well as the under 13 because this is their future we are planning for.

#### 7. Review Discussion Draft ECOS Plan

Charlie led the discussion on the Draft ECOS Plan. Charlie thanked everyone who participated in the public engagement component. He reiterated that the conversation at the fair was multi-sector and that is really important to this process to involve kids, so that we can ensure that they will be able to find jobs, affordable housing, and have access to transportation in the future.

Charlie provided a summary of chapter 2 of the ECOS Plan. He said that many things in the County are going well, but there is a list of high priority concerns at the end of the chapter. He said that we don't just want to highlight our problems, we want to focus on the actions that will make a positive difference in achieving our goals. Charlie reviewed the list of concerns by broad topic area. He identified that education outcomes are missing from the education strategy.

Charlie asked the Steering Committee for comments on the list of concerns.

Doreen reflected on the absence of arts and culture in the list of concerns. Also the access to the creative economy is important. Andrea recommended that visual connections be made among the list of concerns to help people understand the interconnectedness. Tim Wimpey, CVOEO, asked for fair housing and accessibility to be added to the Built Environment list.

Charlie identified each of the strategies and actions from chapter 3. He told the Committee that this is how we can have a shared vision and plan for moving forward. We have seven strategies that will guide us in having a multi-sector conversation. Charlie reviewed each of the seven strategies. He identified that an economic strategy may be missing from the list. He asked the Committee to provide comments on whether the list of strategies and actions cover what needs to be accomplished in a 5 year time frame.

Martha Maksym, United Way, agreed that we need a specific economic strategy. This strategy may be connected to other strategies and may also repeat actions but that just highlights the need for it. There was general agreement that an economic strategy is needed.

Jim Fay, CWD, asked if the RPC agrees with Act 138 to create a utility to manage stormwater statewide. Should this be run at the County level? Do we need a policy that supports this? Charlie said that this issue is about watershed issues and goes beyond the county boundaries. But the ECOS Plan is the place to have a conversation about this issue.

Sarah Carpenter, VHFA, voiced a concern that the action on multi-jurisdictional services does not characterize the need enough. Andrea Morgante, Town of Hinesburg, said that related to governance systems, we need to enforce existing laws and broaden the public doctrine related to water. Also she said that river system planning is about erosional hazards not just flooding. She also agreed that we need to promote creativity, arts, and culture in our education system because employers are looking for creative individuals. Martha Maksym, United Way, added that the Partnership for Change in Burlington and Winooski is looking at what skillset kids should have in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She also asked if we want to weigh in on education governance.

Michele Boomhower, MPO Director, asked for input from the Committee with more expertise on restorative justice.

Jane Hemstetter, AHS, acknowledged what Martha said about the education system but we need to do more work on this before we engage in conversation.

Sarah Carpenter, VHFA, suggested that re-entry housing and job training need to be included in all policies.



Heather Danis, VDH, is concerned that people will gloss over the topic areas that are new to the ECOS Plan. She asked how we connect new ideas so that that people will pay attention. Charlie responded that we are going to add icons to show the interrelationships and connections among the topics.

Sandy added that restorative justice is a priority for public safety officials but that municipal government officials are wary of it because of funding uncertainty. We need to be clear and mindful of who can do this best. He also spoke to the government consolidation issues and said that rarely is it addressed at the municipal level.

Martha said that if restorative justice is done right we should see a decrease of people in the system. Sarah agreed by saying that if people are offered services at an early age they are more likely to stay out of the criminal justice system. Suzanne added that restorative justice survivors need services as well to get back into the community. Jane said that restorative justice has a relationship with neighbors.

Heather said that we need to do more thinking to make these social community connections to planning. What is the local action that communities can take to support a tobacco and drug free community? Smoke free ordinances are controversial whereas more agreement happens around protecting the youth.

Charlie talked about the specific projects municipalities are doing. He asked the Committee to consider how holistic is the plan? What are the projects that are priorities for you to help us meet these goals and strategies in the next 5 years? The annual indicator report will measure how we are doing going forward. Charlie said the ECOS Plan can be thought of as a county coordination plan.

#### Next Steps/Engagement Efforts

Regina identified the next steps.

- a. Edits to Discussion Draft ECOS Plan to Regina by tomorrow morning – 10/25/12
- b. November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – CCRPC Annual Planning Conference
- c. Spread the Word for Public Comments – early November to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- d. Let us know if you would like the ECOS travelling art exhibit to visit you
- e. Attend Selectboard/City Council discussions in November and December
- f. January meeting -
  - Review and recommend 1<sup>st</sup> Draft ECOS Plan to CCRPC and GBIC
  - MOU agreements for Collective Impact Actions and Indicator Report

10:00      Adjournment - **Next Meeting: January 23, 2012 from 8am to 10am**