

THE LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION



LRPC COMMISSIONERS—FY 14

<u>Alexandria</u> Janet Towse	<u>Bristol</u> Steve Favorite	<u>Gilford</u> Scott Dunn John Morgenstern	<u>Meredith</u> William Bayard Herb Vadney	<u>Sandwich</u> Toby Eaton
<u>Alton</u> Robert Daniels	<u>Center Harbor</u> Maureen Criasia Mae Williams	<u>Gilmanton</u> Stanley O. Bean, Jr.	<u>Moultonborough</u> Herbert Farnham Barbara Perry	<u>Tamworth</u> Patricia Farley Karen McNiff
<u>Andover</u> John Cotton	<u>Danbury</u> Charlotte McIver	<u>Hebron</u> Mitch Manseau	<u>New Hampton</u> Dr. George Luciano	<u>Tilton</u> Joseph Jesseman
<u>Ashland</u> Gordon McCormack, Jr.	<u>Effingham</u> George Bull Theresa Swanick	<u>Hill</u> Vacant	<u>Northfield</u> Wayne Crowley Doug Read	<u>Tuftonboro</u> Dan Duffy Stephen Wingate
<u>Barnstead</u> David Kerr	<u>Franklin</u> Vacant	<u>Holderness</u> Robert Snelling	<u>Ossipee</u> Dr. Patricia Jones Roger terKuile	<u>Wolfeboro</u> Roger F. Murray, III Chuck Storm Don St. Germain
<u>Belmont</u> Vacant	<u>Freedom</u> Jean Marshall	<u>Laconia</u> Dean Anson, II Warren Hutchins	<u>Sanbornton</u> Carmine Cioffi	

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF—FY14

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

ANNUAL REPORT

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

September 2013



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

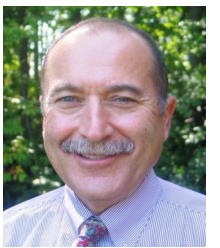
- Officers:**
Stanley Bean, Jr. (Gilmanton)
 Chairman
Warren Hutchins (Laconia)
 Vice Chairman
Patricia Farley (Tamworth)
 Secretary
Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)
 Treasurer
Area Commissioners:
John Cotton (Andover)
Herb Farnham (Moultonborough)
Jean Marshall (Freedom)
Robert Snelling (Holderness)

- At-Large Commissioners:**
Dean Anson, II (Laconia)
Wayne Crowley (Northfield)
Steve Favorite (Bristol)
George Luciano (New Hampton)

Plan to Achieve and Succeed

Dear Reader,

The Lakes Region has a rich heritage: it has communities, large and small, that have contributed to New Hampshire's growth and status as one of the best places to live in the United States. Its lakes, rivers, mountains, and forests form a landscape that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Its independent communities also understand the importance of shared responsibility and interdependence.



Kimon Koulet
Executive Director

Before us lies the future. Will the Lakes Region build on its heritage, enhancing the lives of Lakes Region residents and make our communities strong, attractive, vibrant places to live, work, and play? We know tomorrow will be dramatically different than today. If it is to be better, coordinated local and regional planning will help to assure it is. As the planning adage goes, if we fail to plan, we plan to fail.

It has been a privilege to serve the Lakes Region for nearly 30 years and I have witnessed numerous changes: physical, economic, cultural, and political. From the tourism renaissance in Meredith to the sprawling regional shopping complex at Tilton Junction, significant alteration of the landscape has occurred. Broad state and regional plans may help portray the kind of society we want though, smaller, local community plans often make their contribution in ways that are more meaningful to its residents. While another comprehensive watershed management plan for our largest lake waits to occur, several smaller watershed plans have emerged as communities and watershed associations have taken the lead to ensure that local water supplies are adequate for drinking and recreation. What was once a one-day four town household hazardous waste collection has morphed into a twice a year twenty-four community summer tradition to cleanup the environment, and the creation of a permanent household hazardous product facility in Wolfeboro. Where funding for regional transportation planning was nearly non-existent, the LRPC now has an essential role in the statewide process to improve our roads and promote multi-modes of travel. We just completed the region's second comprehensive economic development strategy. Countless other local and regional plans have stirred the imagination, and led to numerous incremental steps in our communities that reflect our heritage as well as our attitude and political will about the type of place we want to enjoy in the future.

Former president Dwight Eisenhower once said that the plan is nothing, planning is everything. There is truth to that. For example, if you think that the sidewalks in Gilford village, advocated by school-aged children, or the cleanliness of our lakes and rivers, or the preservation of village squares in places like Hebron or Sandwich, or the connecting trails between Laconia to Danbury, or the downtown revitalization in process in Bristol all occur by chance, please guess again. Planning is at its most elegant when positive changes seem naturally occurring, often through the steadfast work and community involvement with local planning boards and the LRPC.

Town and regional planning have proven to be valuable community and regional processes year after year. In today's highly competitive, nano-second world, it is easy to become distracted. We need to stay focused on where our future lies. We, the people, receive the government and the rules from those we elect and appoint. My observation is that good government and planning result from visionary leadership and persistent, selfless service over many years; with many people sharing common goals and a willingness to make things happen. As my tenure as executive director draws to a close, I encourage you to remain engaged for the well-being of your community. If you are so inclined, take the next step and help your friends and neighbors living in the next town over or across the lake; there is where regionalism lives and where your stewardship is prized. We have much to be grateful for, and more importantly, much more to do. Best wishes meeting tomorrow's challenges...Go Lakes Region!

ANNUAL MEETING

The June 24, 2013 Annual Meeting was held at Church Landing in Meredith, with NH Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Thomas Burack as our featured speaker. Over 150 attendees socialized, enjoyed the awards and his presentation about the environment and the state's economy, noting that much of the local economy is directly related to water quality. Commissioner Burack identified two challenges for New Hampshire's future well-being: adapting to and mitigating climate change and addressing the effects of changing land use and development on the state's natural resources. In the not too distant future, scientists expect a significant rise in temperatures, and some of the warning signs are already visible. Indicators such as erratic precipitation, more severe storms, higher temperatures, less snowfall, earlier lake ice-out dates and a shortened spring run-off period have already been seen. He ended by saying the good news is that the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes have been improving in recent years due to the efforts of the state, municipalities, watershed associations, and local volunteers.



Tom Burack
Commissioner, NHDES



Barbara Perry, LRPC Treasurer, (left)
with Christopher Conrod (right).

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 Stanley Bean, Jr. and Treasurer Barbara Perry presented the award to **Christopher Conrod** of Tamworth, who was recognized for many environmental contributions. He has been a major contributor to planning and land conservation for over 25 years. He was praised for his knowledge of the region, research and technical skills, commitment to the protection of natural resources, and his capacity to articulate arguments on behalf of conservation initiatives that have ensured their success. He was also the co-author of the 1991 revised Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance, the validity of which was upheld by the NH Supreme Court when it was challenged by a developer.



James Walker, Don Foudriat,
and Peter Karagianis

LRPC *Awards of Excellence* were presented to the Lakes Region Clean Waters Association founding members **Donald Foudriat, Peter Karagianis, Esther Peters, and James Walker** for over 40 years of distinguished citizen leadership protecting our public waters. The LRCWA, currently disbanded, was pivotal in the cleanup of Lake Winnisquam in the 1970s. In 1975, the LRCWA received an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its accomplishments that led to the construction of the sewage treatment facility in Franklin.



Esther Peters

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 & Malmberg
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 Lakes Region Planning Commission as of June 30, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of resources and expenses and changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Information for the year ended June 30, 2012, is presented for comparative purposes only and was extracted from financial statements presented by fund for that year, on which an unqualified opinion dated September 5, 2012, was expressed.

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 our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

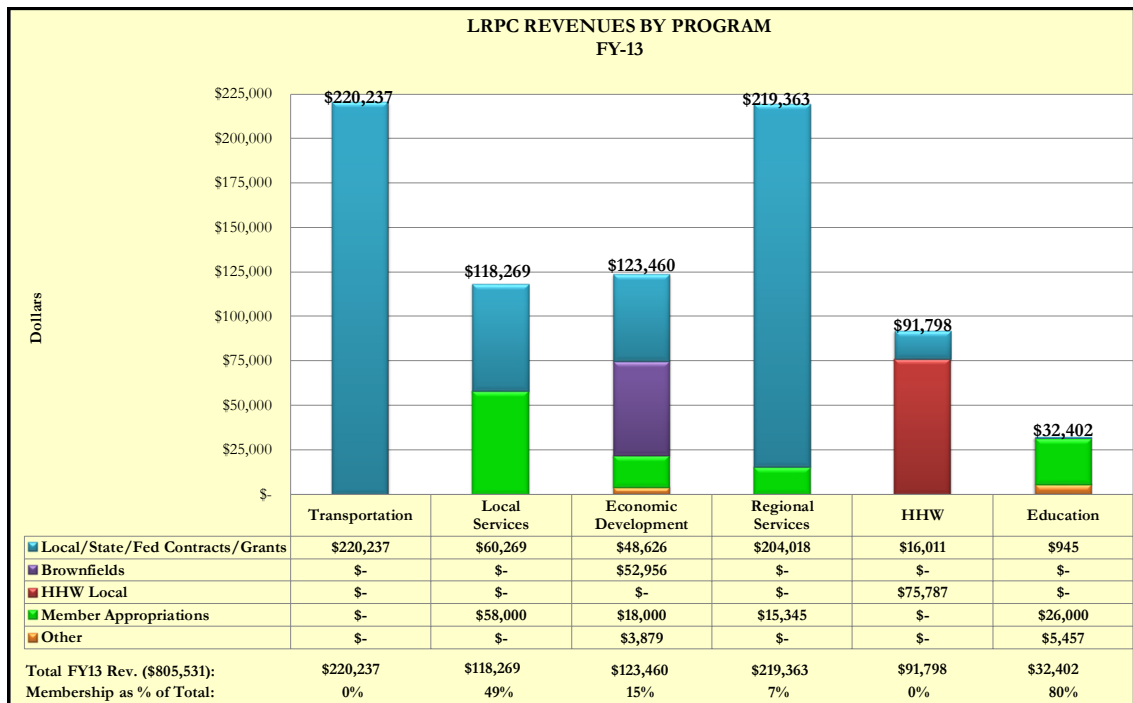
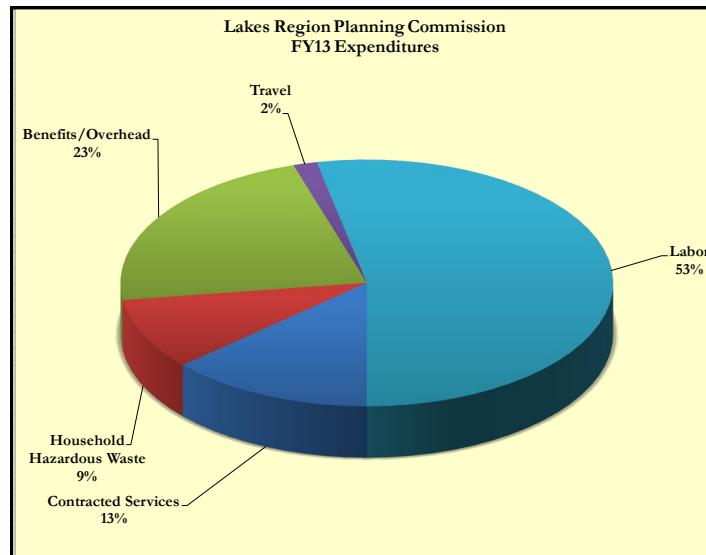
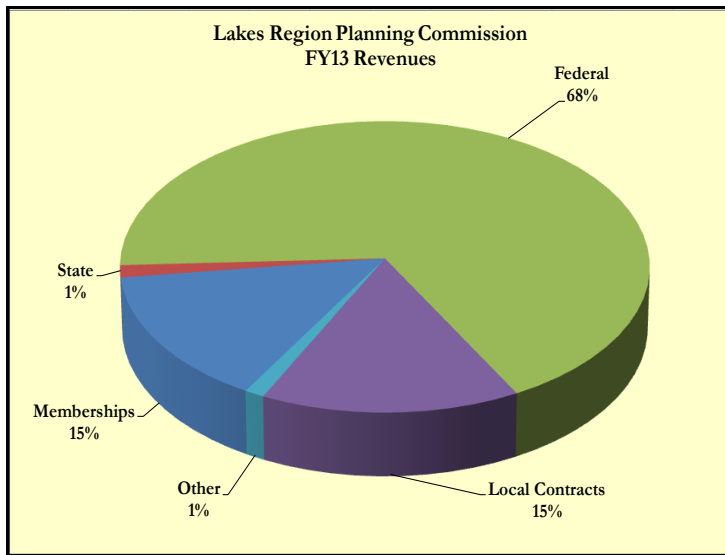
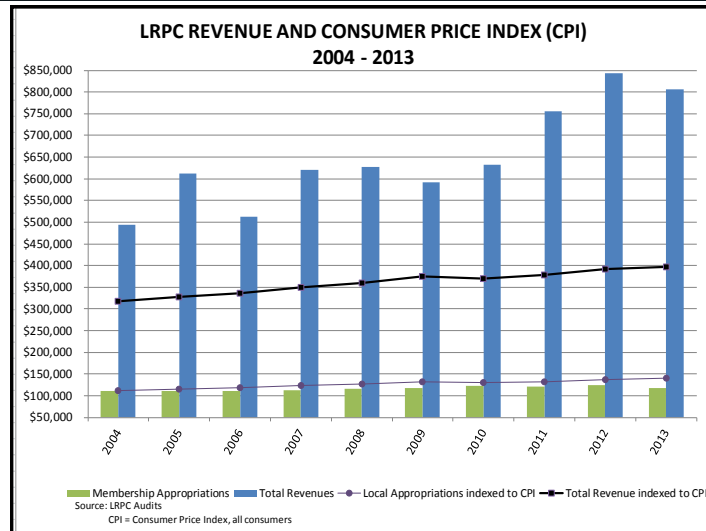
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lakes Region Planning Commission, as of June 30, 2013 and 2012, and the results of its operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained on pages 8 through 11 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Burnham & Malmberg
Concord, New Hampshire
August 29, 2013

FY13 Budget

The charts below show the distribution of actual revenues and expenditures from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. 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, and 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 FY14:

Our anticipated activities in FY14 shall continue or expand recently completed work. In FY14, the LRPC plans to:

- * Complete the Center Harbor Bay subwatershed management plan;
- * Produce an updated Regional Development Trends of commercial and industrial permitting;
- * Complete a comprehensive draft of the Lakes Region Plan;
- * Continue the Broadband Stakeholders Group and draft a regional broadband plan;
- * Participate in the Suncook River Fluvial Erosion Hazard Study.

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.

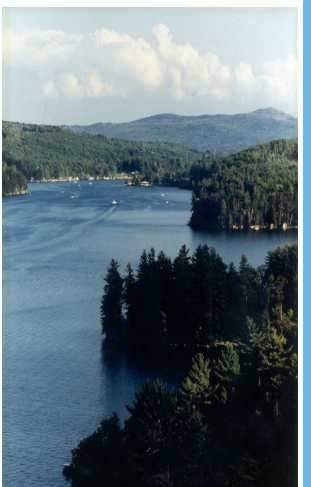
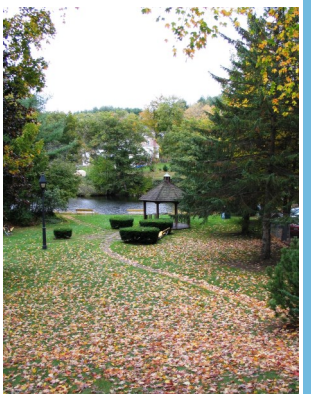
Local Services FY14:

In FY14, 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 up to eight communities;
- * Produce maps on request using our Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- * Continue technical planning assistance via phone, internet, and in person;
- * Conduct a Smart Growth Assessment for Alton, with support from the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation;
- * Prepare a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan for Northfield;
- * Assist Bristol with a community planning survey;
- * Work with Sanbornton to help develop opportunities for workforce housing;
- * Continue to support the development of Ashland's master plan.

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.



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 spring-fall collections. In 2013, founding members Alton and Wolfeboro were joined by Tuftonboro, more communities are welcome to inquire about membership.

This summer, approximately 1,669 households from 24 communities participated and disposed over 20,000 gallons of HHW. About 2/3 of this year's participants believe that the Lakes Region would benefit from a second permanent facility, and 74% responded that they would like to see medicine collections added in the future. Please check our website at http://www.lakesrpc.org/service_hhw.asp for details.

Household Hazardous Waste FY14:

- * LRPC shall begin preparations for the summer 2014 household hazardous waste collections. One of our first steps was the release of a Request for Proposals this summer to find a qualified firm to manage future collections.



Household Hazardous Waste Collections 2013



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 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;



NH Route 140 Corridor Study

- * 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.

In addition to the above, this past year saw the completion of the comprehensive NH Route 140 Corridor Study from Tilton to Alton. We also developed a proposal to provide outreach for the Regional Coordinating Councils, that guide public transit assistance in the region.

Transportation FY14:

In FY14, 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;
- * Draft a Regional Transportation Chapter for the Lakes Region Plan.

Economic Development

Much of 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.



Restored Mills



Scenic Views

Economic Development FY14:

In FY14, the LRPC has completed a draft update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. The report was prepared with considerable guidance from our area economic development councils, and was funded in part by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), NH Electric Coop, and the LRPC.

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 assessments of vacant and underutilized sites due to concerns about environmental contamination. After an environmental consultant is hired, the LRPC and Brownfields Advisory Committee shall identify sites having good potential for redevelopment, and offer environmental assessments.

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



Agriculture



Tourism

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 FY14

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.