

Presumpscot Land Conservation Vision, Values, and Priorities

Joint PRWC/VVP Steering Committee – meeting notes

9/23/2010 at GPCOG.

In attendance: Matt Craig (recorder), Diane Gould, Rebeccah Schaffer-Tousignant, Will Plumley, Brooks More, Richard Curtis.

Agenda: 3 agenda items were circulated via email prior to the meeting:

- Next steps for developing draft VVP coming out of 6/30 meeting
- Public forum planning
- CCGIS & GIS work

Following our last meeting, Matt and Rebeccah looked at the flip chart data from the 6/30 SH meeting and grouped the data by themes. Rebeccah's approach was to group by themes within each question, and focus on consistent themes that 'rose to the top'. Matt grouped into the categories of vision, values, priorities, recommendations, and strategies, and took a comprehensive approach, listing each unique concept. Some clear themes emerged, but both RS & MC agreed that the broad nature of the 6/30 questions produced broad responses, and additional input from the SHs would be needed to truly develop draft vision, values, priorities, etc.

I. 6/30 Data Grouping/developing draft VVP

Discussion about how to develop draft vision, values, and priorities. Rebeccah suggested that we could develop an online survey to refine the VVP.

MC believes it is premature to hold public forums if we do not have solid vision, values, and priorities developed by the SHs. We shouldn't ask the public to identify priorities before the SHs have that opportunity. Brooks is fine with open ended meeting with public but if we are talking about VVP, we may be putting the cart before the horse.

Will – what about a public meeting with same format as the original meeting. Brooks concerned that we wouldn't gain much from this approach unless we are very specific.

Will – wants Stephen Engle involved for his experience. He has experience working with the information he gets from those questions and shepherding a process forward. Several times in this meeting, we came back to the need to consult Stephen on both process and data development.

Rebeccah – question. What is the expectation of the stakeholders? Perhaps we want to go to the public first. Why do we need public input? Ans. – buy-in.

Brooks – public meetings take a lot of energy. If we wait too much longer, we are going to lose SH's. If we don't have another SH meeting within another month and a half. Let's focus on getting SH meetings going more regularly and doing data collection and mapping, and then go to the public down the road.

Diane – expectation that something would happen fairly soon with a product and next steps. Some kind of report with next steps. Share groupings with SH's. What's your reaction? Let's take it the next step.

Brooks – developing a vision would be premature.

Will – we need to be able to tell SH's what we want them to do. (WP – “come and participate” but that may not be enough for some people). RS – what is the time commitment expectation.

WP – he sees the 6/30 meeting as being like an ‘immersion meeting’. Usually immersions are followed by “immersion report”. A transcript of flipcharts at back of report; at the front of report – summary written by professional. Something that they can read through that includes charts or graphs. Additional questions that came up. Here's where we are in the process. Here's some initial direction on values. RS has prepared similar reports.

Discussion to clarify the role of Steering Committee and SHs. BM posed the question, *What are the roles of the SC & the SH?* Is the SC determining the process and the SHs are an advisory group, or is the SH the driver, with the SC doing work on behalf and with guidance from the SC? Group agreed that SH is the primary group, which directs the SC. Therefore, next SH meeting needs to make this clear by posing straw process, etc. to the SH for them to respond to.

NEXT STEPS:

- Matt will contact Stephen Engle to arrange a meeting prior to the 9/28 PRLT meeting in Gorham. Stephen will provide guidance about process as well as data collection and presentation, and the role of GIS. Meeting to start at 6:00 (pending Stephen approval) and last ½ hour.
- SC will schedule next meeting. Matt will send a Doodle poll for dates.

SC will convene the SH in November – date TBD. Topics to cover:

- Here's our process going forward – are you OK with it? Bring a straw.
- Here's our organizational structure
- Here's our process outline going forward.
- Here's a dummy product.
- We've met with CCGIS, here are the data we're going to collect

A week before the November meeting (at least), SHs will receive a ‘packet’ of materials to review prior to the meeting, including:

- ‘Immersion report’/write up from 6/30 meeting, including processed flip chart data, etc. Rebecca will pull this together.
- A one page project summary, including project background, who is involved, where is it, etc. Matt will pull this together.

- Articulate roles and organizational structure... SH's, SC, public; expectations (meetings). Brooks will pull this together
- Project schedule (revised). Will will revise existing schedule.
- Outline of the process Will
- Dummy final product, based on 9/9 minutes. Matt will put this together.

The SC members assigned these tasks will work on these items in October. All materials will be circulated for review and input to the entire SC.