**“letter of #”. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

In addition to the Policies and Strategies of all other chapters in a municipal Comprehensive Plan the following Regional Coordination Polices can be adapted to any Washington County municipality

Regional Coordination policies follow in the areas of:

* Public Facilities and Services
* Fiscal Capacity
* Housing
* Energy Use and Production
* Economic Development
* Recreation
* Transportation
* Natural Resources
* Healthy Communities
* Adaptation to Climate Change (with several policies that affect the other areas)
* Land Use

NOTE: Resources to assist municipalities with the template regional coordination policies provided below are available on the web site of the Washington County Council of Governments and the GROWashington-Aroostook regional planning initiative; links to specific portions of those sites are provided under topic areas below.

| **Regional Coordination** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Implementation Strategy** | **Responsible Part(ies)** | **Timeframe** |
| **Public Facilities and Services** | | | |
| The city/town will cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible. | [town name] will continue to cooperate with neighboring communities to:   1. seek funding for upgrading or replacing inadequate well and septic systems and reducing overboard discharge 2. support mutual aid agreements in emergency response 3. provide solid waste and recycling options that improve service and lower cost | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
|  | [town name] will stay current with planning and emergency response to pandemic diseases through its regional mutual aid agreements. | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
|  | The town will seek out cooperative means of reducing regional administrative costs for the school district and delivery of public services. | Selectmen  City/Town Council  School Board | On-going |
| **Fiscal Capacity** | | | |
| Finance public facilities and services in a cost effective manner. | Work with neighboring communities and WCCOG to plan for and finance shared or adjacent capital investments to increase cost savings and efficiencies. | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
| **Housing** | | | |
| Pursue programs and grants that can assist in ensuring that at least 10% of new residential development meets the definition of affordable housing. | Participate in programs, grants and projects for the construction of subsidized housing whether within the town or the region including grants to homeowners for improvements to energy efficiency, habitability, etc | Selectmen  City/Town Council | Immediate |
|  | Explore and utilize the opportunities, technologies and permitting requirements for sewage treatment systems to address waste disposal needs within already developed areas. See: Decentralized Wastewater Systems – A Resource Manual for Municipal Officials and Developers (<http://gro-wa.org/wastewater-resource-manual>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  WCCOG | Immediate |
| Encourage and support the regional efforts to address affordable and workforce housing needs. | Support the efforts of WHCA and other organization to create safe, decent workforce housing opportunity in Washington County (<http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  WHCA | Ongoing |
| **Energy Use and Production (local and regional policies)** | | | |
| Facilitate employment opportunities that minimize the need for automobile trips, such as live/work, telecommuting, satellite work centers, and home occupations, in addition to mixed-use development strategies. | Allow and encourage creation of studios and workspaces for artists, craftspeople, and other professionals, and encourage low-impact self-employment and home occupations, where they will be compatible with existing neighborhood character. | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  Planning Board | Immediate |
|  | Encourage businesses and public agencies to offer telecommuting as a work alternative, and allow corporate satellite work centers near housing concentrations to enable residents who are employees of out-of-county businesses to reduce their commutes. | Selectmen  City/Town Council | Immediate |
| Facilitate workforce development opportunities in renewable energy and thermal efficiency of commercial and residential structures | Encourage regional educational and technical training in renewable energy use and production and in construction trades that achieve thermal efficiency improvements. | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCC, SCEC | Immediate |
| Reduce total and per-capita nonrenewable energy waste and peak electricity demand through energy efficiency and conservation. | Integrate energy efficiency and conservation requirements that exceed State standards into the development review and building permit process and in to all municipal functions.  Insert link to models | Planning Board | Immediate |
|  | Offer incentives such as expedited permit processing, reduced fees, and technical assistance to encourage energy efficiency technology and practices. Insert link to models | Planning Board | Immediate |
|  | Provide information, marketing, training, and education to support energy efficiency and energy conservation to property owners, development professionals, schools, and special districts.  See <http://gro-wa.org/washington-county-energy-planning>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCC, SCEC, WCCOG |  |
| Explore regional and countywide collaborations among local governments, special districts, and other public organizations to share resources, achieve economies of scale, and develop plans and programs that are optimized on a regional scale. | Evaluate and implement opportunities for supporting new programs and promoting sustainable energy practices through financing mechanisms (e.g., pooled project financing, low-interest loans, other local government joint ventures, and State funds earmarked for energy efficiency and renewables). | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCC, SCEC, WCCOG |  |
|  | Monitor and support State and federal legislation that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. | Selectmen  City/Town Council |  |
|  | Review and ensure that adequate low-income weatherization programs are being implemented and all available State and federal funds and programs are being used to the fullest extent possible. Provide information, training, and technical assistance to owners and tenants who may have incentives for implementing energy efficiency in low-income rental properties.  See program summaries here: <http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing-in-washington-county> | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  WCCOG; WHCA |  |
|  | Work with local commercial, industrial, and agricultural operations to identify opportunities for energy efficiency in the storage, transport, refrigeration, and other processing of commodities. | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCOG; WC:OC |  |
| Utilize local renewable energy resources, and shift imported energy to renewable resources. | Preserve opportunities for development of renewable energy resources. Work with forest products industry and Land Trusts with Forest Legacy conservation or comparable easements. | Selectmen  City/Town Council |  |
|  | Integrate technically and financially feasible renewable energy requirements into development and building standards. Insert link to model codes | Selectmen  City/Town Council; Planning Board; WCCOG |  |
|  | Facilitate renewable technologies through streamlined planning and development rules, codes, processing, and other incentives. Insert link to model codes | Selectmen  City/Town Council; Planning Board; WCCOG |  |
|  | Provide information, marketing, training, and education to support renewable resource use. Insert link to model codes | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCOG |  |
| **Regional Economic Development** | | | |
| The city/town will participate in regional organizations that provide technical assistance and information about business support and regional economic development opportunities. | Continue municipal participation in regional economic and community development organizations including Washington County Development Authority, Sunrise County Economic Council, Washington County Council of Governments, Washington Hancock Community Agency; Northern Maine Development Commission | Selectmen  City/Town Council directly, or through appointment of others | Immediate |
|  | The city/town of [city/town name] will participate in the Washington County Brownfields Assessment Program through participation on the regional advisory committee, recommendation of sites for assessment and assistance with redevelopment planning. (see <http://www.wccogbrownfields.com/>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council directly, or through appointment of others | Immediate or Ongoing |
|  | The city/town of [city/town name] will participate in the planning, promotion and sustaining of regional tourism initiatives such as the Bold Coast Scenic Byway and related regional initiatives see <https://boldcoastplan.wordpress.com/>) . | Selectmen  City/Town Council directly, or through appointment of others | Immediate or Ongoing |
| Coordinate the city’s/town’s land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts. | Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies; use the on-line Planners mapping tools to facilitate sharing of information; see: <http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps> | Selectmen  City/Town Council, Planning Board | Ongoing |
| Advocate for infrastructure improvements to enhance the economic competitiveness of [town name] and Washington County. | Advocate for improvements to State highways, airports, seaports, rail corridors and telecommunication facilities to enhance the regional economy. See <http://gro-wa.org/washington-county-strategic-investments> | Selectmen  City/Town Council | Ongoing |
| **Regional Recreation** | | | |
| Support the maintenance and improvement of the city’s/town’s snowmobile & ATV trails. | Support planning for and management of the Down East Sunrise Trail and other regional trail networks. | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  Sunrise Trail Coalition; [ ] Snowmobile Association | On-going |
| **Regional Transportation** | | | |
| [town name] will cooperate in the development of regional transportation policy. | [town name] will participate actively in regional transportation meetings and policy development on corridors of regional economic significance; see Corridor Planning initiatives on WCCOG web site here: <http://www.wccog.net/corridor-planning.htm> | Selectmen  City/Town Council;  WCCOG | On-going |
|  | The city/town will advocate in regional and state meetings for reconstruction of Route ## in [town name]. | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
| Support multi-modal (rail to port) connectivity to the deep water Port of Eastport | The city/town of [town name] supports use of any portion of the Calais Branch corridor for rail service, if and when it is feasible, to relieve freight truck traffic on regional roads. | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
|  | The city/town of [town name] will support initiatives to connect the deep water port of Eastport to the international rail system including trans-loading facilities or other routing alternatives (see: <http://gro-wa.org/rail-port-connectivity>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council |  |
| Ensure transportation facilities meet the needs of all residents by providing a safe, efficient and adequate transportation network for all types of users (motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists). | Work with MDOT, regional employers and other interested parties to expand ride-share, carpool and other alternative transportation options through GoMaine! or other appropriate programs (see: <http://gro-wa.org/access-cost-in-washington-county.htm>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council | On-going |
| **Natural Resources** | | | |
| Protect shared critical habitats. | Cooperate with neighboring city/towns in the designation of critical resource areas where they cross municipal boundaries. Use Planners maps provided here: <http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm> | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Planning Board | On-going |
| To promote the use of best management practices for timber harvesting and agricultural production. | Consult with the Maine Forest Service District Forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices. | Planning Board | On-going |
|  | Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices. | Planning Board | On-going |
| Ensure that water quality is sufficient to provide for the protection and propagation of fish, and wildlife and provide for recreation in and on the water. | Expand water quality-testing programs for the city’s/town’s lakes, rivers and streams. Give the highest priority to those water bodies most important for recreation and for fisheries and wildlife. | DEP  Volunteer  Program;  [-----------] Watershed Council;  [-----------] Watershed Association | On-going |
|  | Continue dialogue and exchange of information on watershed planning issues with neighboring communities. | Planning Board/  WCCOG  [-----------] Watershed Council(s) | On-going |
| Protect drinking water quality | Coordinate protection measures with adjoining municipalities where regionally significant aquifers and/or public water supplies cross municipal boundaries; see information on Planners Maps here: <http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm> | Planning Board/  WCCOG | On-going |
| **Healthy Communities** | | | |
| Pursue municipal options to increase opportunities for access to physical activity | Adopt “Complete Streets” policies that encourage inter-connection of streets and construction/rehabilitation of sidewalks and road shoulders as development is constructed, and as municipal streets and highways are improved. The Best Complete Streets Polices of 201 (including one recognized nationally from Portland ME) can be downloaded here: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/cs-2012-policy-analysis.pdf> | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Planning Board | Short Term |
|  | Adopt local Bicycle and Pedestrian plans and walkability assessments; see WCCOG web site for bike-ped plans for multiple municipalities in Washington County here: <http://www.wccog.net/bikepedplanning.htm> | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Planning Board,  Washington County Council of Governments | Immediate |
| Support local food system initiatives to improve access to healthy food | Support local farmer’s markets, food pantries and community meals sites, and other retail opportunities to obtain locally grown foods; see Washington County local food resources here: <http://gro-wa.org/wcfood.htm> | Selectmen  City/Town Council, WCCOG; WC:OC | Immediate |
|  | Engage in local/regional Community Food Councils (<http://gro-wa.org/food-system-planning.htm>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Washington County: One Community | Immediate |
|  | Support Farm to School programs that link schools with local food production and consumption (<http://gro-wa.org/downeast-farm-to-school.htm>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Washington County Farm to School | Immediate |
| Support wellness, youth and community programs that encourage healthy eating, physical activity and access to health care. | Engage with Washington County: One Community, the designated healthy Maine Partnership, to adopt policies in municipal offices and schools on worksite wellness, nutrition, screening for preventable disease, school health care and youth programming. (see <http://gro-wa.org/being-active-in-washington-county.htm>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council,  Washington County: One Community | Immediate |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Adaptation to Climate change** | | | |
| (for Coastal towns) Plan for evacuation in the event of significant flooding associated with storm surge | Train all emergency responders in the use of on-line storm surge scenario mapping (<http://www.gro-wa.org/washington-county-climate-change-response>) | Selectmen  City/Town Council; local/county Emergency Management | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Coordinate with local and county emergency managers to identify evacuation routes and shelter locations pre-storm and to pre-position emergency response equipment to areas that may be cut-off during storm surge | Selectmen  City/Town Council; local/county Emergency Management | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Coordinate with WCCOG and UMM/GIS Service Center on mapping of housebound, elderly and vulnerable residents (maintain confidentiality of data); mapping of regional and local shelters, available generators | local/county Emergency Management  WCCOG; UMM GIS Service Center | Immediate and on-going |
| (for Coastal towns) Evaluate and plan for replacement of infrastructure vulnerable to destruction due to storm surge | Use storm surge scenarios mapping to evaluate soundness of road substructure in areas mapped for inundation to reduce complete road wash-out as storm waters recede (<http://gro-wa.org/washington-county-climate-change-response.htm>) | local/county Emergency Management  WCCOG; UMM GIS Service Center | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Assemble culvert inventory (location, capacity, age, soundness) in areas where storm surge and inland floodwaters may overwhelm and destroy infrastructure (causing road wash-out) | Road Commissioner; Selectmen  City/Town Council | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Prioritize capital investment needed to repair/replace infrastructure most vulnerable to causing road wash-out during/after storm surge events | Road Commissioner; Selectmen  City/Town Council | Immediate and on-going |
| Evaluate relocation of infrastructure needed during significant coastal or inland flood events | Relocate sand and salt piles to location outside of storm surge and flood prone areas; consider location relative to potential road wash-outs | Road Commissioner | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Evaluate structural soundness and flood inundation protection for wastewater facilities and drinking water supply infrastructure | Road Commissioner | Immediate and on-going |
| Limit new construction or expansion in flood prone areas | Adopt construction codes for coastal properties | Planning Board; WCCOG | Short Term |
| Evaluate and expand stormwater retention capacity | Maintain wetlands and floodplains to absorb flood waters particularly near areas of critical infrastructure | Planning Board; | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Incorporate on-site stormwater retention in Site Plan review and new development to the maximum extent feasible | Planning Board; | Immediate and on-going |
| Plan for public heath impacts of extreme weather | Identify local/regional shelters for warming (in winter) and cooling (in extreme heat) | Selectmen  City/Town Council; local/county Emergency Management | Immediate and on-going |
|  | Distribute information about boil water advisories and pest borne illnesses especially Lyme Disease in English, Spanish and Passamaquoddy | Selectmen  City/Town Council; local/county Emergency Management; Mano en Mano; Passamaquoddy Tribes | Immediate |
| **Land Use** | | | |
| Continue to co-operate with neighboring communities and coordinate [town name]’s land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts. | Continue serving on regional planning agencies and organizations including the Washington County Council of Governments. | Selectmen  City/Town Council; WCCOG | On-going |
|  | Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory (acquisition, et cetera) strategies. | Selectmen  City/Town Council; Planning Board; Unorganized Territories | Immediate and on-going |