

## Land Conservation: Vision, Values, and Priorities Project - Stakeholder Meeting #2 Meeting Summary

Convened by: Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition  
Room 102 Wishcamper Center, University of Southern Maine  
November 30, 2010; 3 – 5 p.m.

In Attendance: Nan Cumming, Patrick Corey, John Adelman, Brooks More, Bob Shafto, Claudia King, Doug Roncarati, Molly Casto, Thomas Gruber, Cyrus McCall, Will Plumley, Matt Craig, Heather True, Don Kale, Bethany Atkins, Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant, Stephen Engle, Jean-Luc Theriault, Michelle Debartolo-Stone, Kristel Sheesley (recorder).

### Process & Timeline

Molly Casto presented the proposed process and timeline to move this project forward.

There are three tiers of participants referred to in the process:

- Stakeholder Committee: Those involved in land conservation in the Presumpscot River watershed.
- Steering Committee: A subset of the broader Stakeholder Committee tasked with leading the effort.
- Community: Anyone who is interested in this effort, including those that could be affected by its outcomes.

The timeline suggested that the Winter 2010 and Spring 2011 will be focused on compiling data (e.g. GIS data, Stakeholder conservation values). Spring through Fall of 2011 will be focused on refining the regional conservation values and developing a land conservation prioritization. Winter of 2011 to early 2012 will be finalizing the prioritization, vision and maps, and developing strategies. There will be stakeholder meetings throughout the process, as well as some community input.

### Proposed Product

In an effort to determine what this Land Conservation project is working toward, Matt Craig discussed what *product/tools* may result from the effort.

Outputs from several other recent regional conservation planning efforts were reviewed:

- Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea: region-wide conservation plan
- Penobscot Valley Community Greenprint: Trust for Public Land Greenprint
- Land Conservation Plan for Maine's Piscataqua Region Watersheds: a detailed plan that included conservation focus area maps and implementation strategies
- Sagadahoc Region Rural Resources Initiative (SRRRI) – conservation blueprint

Based on lessons from these projects, we suggested an outline for a final report for this Presumpscot River Watershed Land Conservation effort.

### Discussion

The Stakeholder Committee was invited to discuss the information presented so far. Most of the discussion centered around two ideas:

- Some of the towns lack GIS capacity. Additional data and maps would be useful for individual organizations, as well as for regional level analysis.
- Whether and how to incorporate other types of interest groups like political leaders, developers, recreationalists, sportspeople, and real estate representatives. Consider how to engage these people at some stage in the process. Some envision a product coming out of this project that could serve as a tool to facilitate collaboration across different communities and organizations, while others were skeptical about the ability to do that at this stage.

## **Building from June 2010 Stakeholder Meeting: Values Summary**

A Values Summary Sheet handout compiled the themes that emerged from the small group discussions at the June 30, 2010 stakeholder meeting. These 15 Values were identified as:

1. The need for a healthy watershed and ecosystem.
2. The river's role culturally both historically and for future generations.
3. Access to local recreational opportunities.
4. The river's role in the economy and the need for sustainable development within the watershed.
5. Clean, safe water to support habitat and drinking water supplies.
6. The need for, and access to, open space, forests, riparian areas, agricultural resources, scenic viewsheds, recreational areas and wetlands.
7. An emphasis on ecosystem preservation.
8. A need for tools to assist with sustainable, smart growth oriented development.
9. Trends in alternative energies and the role and benefits of the watershed in regard to these.
10. Trends in children's health and the role the watershed can play in improving health.
11. Trails and recreational opportunities within the watershed and their ability to connect communities and provide alternative transportation choices.
12. The need to identify and share knowledge about global warming and climate change trends and their effects on the watershed.
13. The need to understand development trends and alternatives and how they effect the watershed and communities (choice, affordability).
14. Trends in demand for local food and associated land conservation opportunities.
15. The opportunity to engage and further educate the public increasing watershed awareness and support.

Stephen Engle of the Community Center for GIS took these values and attempted to portray what they might look like visually, on maps, using readily available Geographic Information Systems data layers. GIS data coverage in our value areas is limited, and much of the data we need is hard to come by, including active farmland and woodlots, community gardens, fishing and hunting areas, and scenic areas, among many others. Five large-format maps were made available for viewing and feedback:

- Water quality values
- Habitat values
- Working landscapes
- Recreational values
- Historical values

Attendees circulated around the room to view and comment on the maps to aid in their revision.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.