

**NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL
CEDS Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
December 15, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ POSTINGS

Glenn Coppelman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. No challenges were made to the validity of the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Peter Corey, Michelle Beaudin, Steve Fortier, Kyla Brustin, Tuesday Perkins, Benoit Lamontage, Sonya Salanti, Ben Amsden

Staff Present:

Glenn Coppelman, Cathlin Lord, Stacey Doll

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 15, 2023 Minutes: Motion to approve by Peter Corey. Second by Steve Fortier.
Approved unanimously.

November 17, 2023 Minutes: Correction by Michelle Beaudin- Navigator Program ended as of 11/30/2023 and the lenders round table was targeting lenders in this area.

Motion to approve with the amendment by Michelle Beaudin. Second by Kyla Brustin.

Two abstentions, six in favor. Motion carries.

4. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

5. NEW BUSINESS

Stacey Doll gave a update presentation on work focused on Building Economic & Community Resiliency through Collective Impact Collaboration. Continued work has been largely focused on building collective impact collaborations and climate resiliency throughout the region.

Cathlin Lord provided a presentation that covered data updates for the 2023 CEDS documents. The presentation included highlights in data changes and what data has not been updated due to various reasons. There was a brief discussion on

45 whether or not the committee may want to contract out in the future to once again
46 obtain these unavailable data points.

47
48 Stacey Doll gave a presentation and overview of the Performance Metrics that are
49 to be included in the 2023 CEDS document update. The EDA now requires CEDS
50 documents to establish Performance Metrics to gauge progress and success of
51 implementation.

52 Benoit Lamontagne starts the discussion regarding the performance metrics. Benoit
53 expresses concern that the metrics does not cover an important topic, which the
54 north country is weak in, its commercial and industrial facilities.

55 Discussion continues how to make the needed changes to the performance metrics
56 to address this concern. Stacey recommends passing the CEDS update with an
57 addendum where the documented will be updated in the new year, as this keep the
58 CEDS in compliance with the funding requirements.

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60 Motion with addendum is made to approve the 2023 CEDS document update by
61 Erica Canales.

62 Approved unanimously.

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64 The remainder of the meeting was used for participant share-out on topics of
65 importance and interest to the group:

66
67 **Peter Corey (NCIC)** updated the group on NCIC's partnership with New Hampshire
68 Community Loan Fund, which is on track to become official on January 17, 2024.
69 With this partnership there will not be any changes to the programs or services that
70 are currently provided through NCIC. Spaces are currently being explored to
71 potentially open an office space in Littleton.

72
73 **Ben Amsden (NH Charitable Foundation)** discussed how he is focused on
74 wrapping up the Community Grants Program. This year they had approximately 230
75 applications, had a success rate of about 65 percent, and in total, granted out
76 around \$2.7 million of unrestricted operating funds to 53 organizations. Eighteen of
77 these organizations were in the North Country, totaling about \$300,000.

78
79 **Chuck Henderson (Senator Shaheen's office)** brought up the Lagoon Space
80 near the paper mill in Gorham to have large industrial spaces along with incubator
81 spaces. Chuck also finds it necessary that for life sciences there is a strong
82 connection to an education facility, which is not available in the Berlin community.

83
84 **Erica Canales (CEDC)** provided an update on their new workforce housing revolve
85 fund that has been recently approved to launch. This is a partnership with several
86 state agencies and Tillitson that will hopefully become a 3-million-dollar fund for
87 Coos County. CEDC also recently received award of an NRBC grant for their new
88 Lean In program and AmeriCorps workforce development planning effort.

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90 **Michelle Beaudin (GRDC)** stated that GRDC is focusing on wrapping up the
91 Navigator program and shifting to their Enterprise clients.
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6. ADJOURN

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Glenn Coppelman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

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