
RE: Katahdin Region Comprehensive Plan

William Harper <WHarper@emdc.org>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 2:06 PM

To: "Acote@gwi.net" <Acote@gwi.net>, "kyleleathers23@gmail.com" <kyleleathers23@gmail.com>, Vicki Rusbult <VRusbult@emdc.org>, "medway@pwless.net" <medway@pwless.net>, "michaelhmichaud@gmail.com" <michaelhmichaud@gmail.com>, "mndaigle@myfairpoint.net" <mndaigle@myfairpoint.net>, "manager@millinocket.org" <manager@millinocket.org>, "leejl98@yahoo.com" <leejl98@yahoo.com>, "cody.mcewen@maine.edu" <cody.mcewen@maine.edu>, Michael Elliott <MElliott@emdc.org>

February update!

I am sorry to say that I haven't totally completed the plan, but I have made great progress! On Tuesday or Wednesday I am going to start sending out the different phases so that everyone can read through each and make any amendments or final changes. I expect to send Phases I and II this week and Phases III and IV next week, meaning that we'll hopefully be done and ready to submit that Friday the 14th. I'll send instructions along with those phases so that we can make the revision process as quick and easy as possible.

Again, I'm so appreciative of your patience through this process and I'm hoping that – once we have all of our phases completed and submitted – we can plan a larger in-person meeting to discuss whether we accomplished what we had set out to accomplish!

Yours,

William

William T Harper, MPPM

Planner

Eastern Maine Development Corporation

40 Harlow Street, Bangor ME

207.942.6389 • emdc.org

From: William Harper

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:51 AM

To: 'Acote@gwi.net' <Acote@gwi.net>; 'kyleleathers23@gmail.com' <kyleleathers23@gmail.com>; Vicki Rusbult <VRusbult@emdc.org>; 'medway@pwless.net' <medway@pwless.net>; 'michaelhmichaud@gmail.com' <michaelhmichaud@gmail.com>; 'mndaigle@myfairpoint.net' <mndaigle@myfairpoint.net>; 'manager@millinocket.org' <manager@millinocket.org>; 'leejl98@yahoo.com' <leejl98@yahoo.com>; 'cody.mcewen@maine.edu' <cody.mcewen@maine.edu>; Michael Elliott <MElliott@emdc.org>

Subject: Katahdin Region Comprehensive Plan

Hello all,

I have been with EMDC now for six weeks and am making headway on the comprehensive plan for Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway. I'm sorry to have taken this long to send out an update, but I will save a formal introduction for when we can all meet and get down to what I've been doing. Please share this with anyone I might have overlooked or who might be interested.

Here are some highlights of what I have completed and what is still to come:

- Collected and incorporated all previous versions and individual contributions. This was a challenge as there was no clear version history, meaning many of these pieces were added manually. I am hoping that I was thorough enough to have not omitted anything. Any iterations moving forward will have version dates in the title so that we do not lose track.
- Reviewed, revised, edited, and expanded much of the text. Some sections were more complete than others were, but anything written collaboratively needs editing for consistency. I left town goals, policies, and strategies alone. Once a final version is complete, it might be useful to review them with the completed sections.
- Updated, expanded, and created visualizations for data. Some items make more sense as bar and line charts, others as tables. Many pieces of bulk data were moved to an appendix with in-text links (e.g. complete road inventories, complete tabular demographics data, etc.)
- Formatted table of contents links as well as all references and in-text hyperlinks. This makes updates, edits, and formats easier in the future. I have moved all data tables and visualizations to excel spreadsheets that are linked to the document, so any edits in those spreadsheets will automatically be carried forward in the word doc. I intend to include these with your master copies (so you all have the raw data).

What do I have left?

1. Finishing all data and visualizations, especially GIS content.
2. Writing in-text explanations of the data so that it not only makes sense contextually, but that it improves the clarity and conveys important information to *anyone* reading. (Relevant and readable.)
3. Formatting everything so that it looks nice, but also ensuring that links work, the table of contents is accurate, that references and citations are complete, etcetera.
4. Send out a final copy for your review, and any further comments or clarifications.

Right now, I am hoping that we can have a final copy for your review by the end of the month and be ready to submit soon after that. Of course, I want to ensure we are fully compliant with any listed requirements, but I also hope that this can be something we are proud of and can stand as a model for future plans.

Two bits that I will address are the **Future Land Use Plan** and a blurb on **Emergency Preparedness** (while emergency preparedness is not a stand-alone section, it is necessary for the current/future land use section... i.e. don't build in flood plains, don't build in areas prone to landslides, etc.). Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway should be exempt from a future land use plan as one of the primary requirements is that the *towns are experiencing or anticipating growth*. I can address this in the section on current land use, but I would invite elaboration from all three towns when the time comes. One aspect of this to think about is managing seasonal housing expansion... where that might occur and how it might look in the future?

The section on emergency preparedness has largely been covered in the section on public facilities... so my thinking is that I will include any map elements (flood maps, discussion of wildfire risk, unstable soils and slopes...) in the chapter on Natural Resources and reference these alongside the descriptions of fire/police/rescue resources in Public Facilities.

Thank you all for your patience as this project has unfolded. I am grateful to be a part of the process and hope that my involvement is both welcome and appreciated. That said, please feel free to voice any questions, comments, or concerns. I am a firm believer in collaborative, bottom-up planning and do not want to be seen as a technocrat or a pedant. I am also a believer in creating strong rural communities and I am sure you all share this passion!