

Whatever happened to that Eastern Shore strategic planning report?

As previous issues of The Eastern Shore Cooperator have reported, a new, non-governmental economic development **network** has been established (the Eastern HRM Region Communities Economic Development Network) for the Eastern Shore, including the Musquodoboit Valley area of Halifax Municipality. This bottom-up initiative was the result of very lively and constructive public conversation about a positive future for the Eastern Shore and its communities which took place on March 29, 2014 in Oyster Pond.

From that March meeting a strategic plan for the “Eastern HRM Region” was developed for the geographic area from Lawrencetown/Porter’s Lake in the west to Ecum Secum in the east, and the Musquodoboit Valley to the north. The plan includes a wealth of ideas and suggestions for the economic, social and sustainable development of Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley communities. It was evident from the proceedings that there is a shared appreciation for the Eastern Shore as a distinct area within the broader municipality and that Eastern Shore communities want to collaborate on, and participate in, the future development of their “region”.

The steering committee set up to follow-up on the plan is composed of the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Community Association, Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association, Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society and the Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs.

It meets monthly to develop ways to implement elements of the plan. A decision-making process and terms of reference has been developed with the help of HRM Volunteer Services and Greater Halifax Partnership. Three priority areas have been identified from those in the March report: rural transportation; internet and cellular coverage; and, the Bay of Islands tourism development project.

If your organization would like to participate in this Network or if you have any questions, please contact RWebb@greaterhalifax.com

To track the progress of the Network steering committee and see the March 2014 report go to:

<http://www.greaterhalifax.com/en/home/ourprograms/communityeconomicdevelopment/EasternHRM.aspx>

- The Steering Committee, Eastern HRM Region Communities Economic Development Network