

Appendix H. REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

The Town of Machiasport actively coordinates with neighboring communities on a broad range of issues. This appendix summarized regional coordination efforts undertaken by the Town of Machiasport for shared resources and facilities, including but not limited to lakes, rivers, aquifers, and transportation facilities; and reproduces recommended policies and strategies for continue regional coordination from relevant sections of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

REGIONAL COORDINATION EFFORTS

As a rural community, community life in Machiasport both affects and is affected by what happens in neighboring communities where Machiasport residents shop, play and find employment. In addition Machiasport shares responsibility for management of natural resources, including rivers and bays with neighboring communities.

PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The Town of Machiasport already engages in a high degree of regional coordination with regards to public facilities and services.

With regard to public safety, the Town contracts with Maine State Police and the County Sheriff for police protection Machias Ambulance for emergency medical services. The Machiasport Volunteer Fire Department has automatic mutual aid agreements with several neighboring communities; and participating in regional emergency planning efforts through the Washington County Emergency Management Agency.

With regards to education, the Town of Machiasport is part of Union 134; and participates in planning and coordination of educational services. The Town of Machiasport has also partnered with neighboring communities on a variety of other efforts (including cooperative buying and sharing resources) to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

Goal: *Machiasport will plan for, finance and maintain an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate current and projected needs through the development, adaptation and implementation of a capital improvement program.*

Goal: *Machiasport will seek to make available a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all citizens, including access to public waters.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Support the maintenance and improvement of the Town’s snowmobile & ATV trails.	Support planning for and management of the Down East Sunrise Trail.	Selectmen / Sunrise Trail Coalition	On-going

PUBLIC FACILITIES, RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE, cont'd			
Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
	Explore development of snow-mobile, ATV and/or hiking trails that may feed into the Sunrise Trail.	Selectmen / Snowmobile and ATV Clubs	Medium-term
Ensure that Machiasport residents have access to culture facilities and events.	Negotiate arrangement with the Board of Porter Memorial Library to provide library services and memberships to Machiasport residents.	Selectmen	Short-term
Provide adequate waste disposal for the citizens of Machiasport.	Work with The Bay Area Transfer Station or other appropriate parties to explore the options for a municipal recycling station in Machiasport.	Selectmen	Short-Term
	Work with neighboring communities to improve household solid waste disposal.	Selectmen	On-going.
Ensure that police, fire and ambulance services are adequate.	Continue to coordinate regional ambulance services.	Selectmen	On-going
	Continue to participate in the regional approach to emergency response for hazardous materials and chemicals spills.	Fire & Police Departments/ Wash Co.	On-going
The Town will cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Continue to provide 24 hour emergency services and support grant funding efforts for facility improvements and staff.	Selectmen; Office of the Harbor Master	Short term

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural resources chapter identifies a number of shared natural resources that require regional coordination for effective management. Most notably these include Essential and Significant Wildlife Habitat, high-value areas for agriculture and forestry, and the Mill River.

The Town of Machiasport currently works with DEP, and neighboring communities on issues pertaining to water quality. The town has identified additional strategies for enhance regional coordination, including consultation with relevant state agencies and neighboring communities in the development of land use ordinances and other municipal regulations.

Goal: *Machiasport will safeguard its forest resources from development which threatens those resources and to preserve marginal open space whenever possible.*

Goal: *Machiasport will protect the quality and manage the quantity of the Town's water resources, watersheds and the Larabee Heath.*

Goal: *Machiasport will pursue the clean-up of the Howard Mountain water contamination and/or a suitable source of potable water for affected residents.*

Goal: *Machiasport will protect the Town's other critical natural resources including wildlife, offshore islands, scenic vistas, and other unique natural areas.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
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
Cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources.	Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality.	Selectmen; WCCOG; Planning Board	On-going
Coordinate with neighboring communities and regional and state resource agencies to protect shared critical natural resources.	Initiate and/or participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical natural resources.	Selectmen; WCCOG	On-going

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

The Town of Machiasport promotes regional coordination of economic development efforts in Washington County through support of the Washington County Development Authority and Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; and participating and/or coordinating with other organizations that promote economic development in the region (Sunrise County Economic Council, Washington County Council of Governments, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Incubators without Walls, et cetera).

Goal: *Machiasport will promote an economic climate that increases the number of jobs available locally.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Actively support and participate in an appropriate State and Regional Economic and Business programs which enhance the Town’s economic well-being and increase job opportunities for local residents.	Continue municipal participation in regional economic and community development organizations including Washington County Development Authority, Sunrise County Economic Council, Washington County Council of Governments, <i>et al.</i>	Selectmen	On-going
	Appoint a Town “point person” to advocate on the Town’s behalf on issues regarding state policy (notably as it affects the prison and school consolidation).	Selectmen	Immediate

MARINE RESOURCES

Marine resources are particularly important to Machiasport’s economy and heritage. The marine waters on which healthy fisheries depend are by their nature shared resources in need of regional coordination for effective management.

To date, the Town of Machiasport has not participated in an integrated “Bay Management” approach to marine resources. However, the Town does informal promote regional coordination through communication with neighboring communities and responsible state agencies regarding marine resources issues as they arise. Water quality is one issue within the broader category of marine resources for which the Town of Machiasport sees a particular need to enhance regional coordination. The Town supports efforts by the Town of Machias to remediate sewer outflow issues at the Machias Water Treatment Plant; and supports working with landowners, the DEP and neighboring communities to eliminate over-board discharges and non-point source pollution.

Goal: *Machiasport will preserve for future generations the marine resources that are vital to Town ecology, support local fisheries, and contribute significantly to the Town’s heritage and quality of life.*

HOUSING

To date, Machiasport has not participated in regional efforts to address issues of housing affordability. The Comprehensive Plan Update establishes policies direct the Town to support ongoing efforts to address affordable issues in the region.

Goal: *Machiasport will encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for its residents.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
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	Immediate
	Seek the assistance of regional and state agencies in the opportunities, technologies and permitting requirements for sewage treatment systems to address waste disposal needs within already developed areas.	Selectmen	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.	Selectmen	Ongoing

TRANSPORTATION

The Town of Machiasport currently in regional transportation planning efforts through the Washington County Council of Governments; and promotes integration of transportation planning with CEDS (Community Economic Development Strategy).

In addition to the specific policy listed below, a number of policies identified in the Transportation and Land Use Chapters promote access management.

Goal: *Machiasport will encourage, promote and develop efficient and safe transportation facilities that will accommodate our town’s anticipated growth and economic development.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
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.	Selectmen	On-going
Cooperate in the development of regional transportation policy.	The town will participate in CEDS (Community Economic Development Strategy) Transportation sub-committee policy committee.	Selectmen	On-going

FISCAL CAPACITY

The Town of Machiasport has participated in a number of regional projects coordinated through WCCOG as well as a number of *ad hoc* efforts to coordinate municipal purchasing. Machiasport will continue to support effects to increase cost savings and efficiencies by working with neighboring communities to plan for and finance shared or adjacent capital investments.

Goal: *Machiasport will plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
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	On-going

LAND USE

As noted in the Land Use chapter, municipal land use regulation in Machiasport is limited. However, the Town does participate in a number of regional organizations and will continue to participate in these organizations and seek input from neighboring communities as it develops ordinances to implement recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Goal: *To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of Machiasport while protecting the Town’s character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development of sprawl.*

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Continue to co-operate neighboring communities and coordinate Machiasport’s; and use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.	Continue serving in regional groups and organizations including the Sunrise County Economic Council and the Washington County Council of Governments.	Selectmen	On-going
	Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory (acquisition, et cetera) strategies.	Selectmen	Immediate (1-2 years)