

Appendix F: REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

As a very small rural community, the town of Whitneyville actively coordinates with neighboring communities on a broad range of issues. This appendix summarizes regional coordination efforts undertaken by the town of Whitneyville for shared resources and facilities, including but not limited to public facilities, transportation facilities and recreation; and reproduces recommended policies and strategies for continued regional coordination from relevant sections of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Whitneyville works actively with neighboring towns in order to be able to provide quality public facilities and services that the town would not be able to provide on its own. Notably, regional coordination efforts include participation in the Machias Bay Transfer Station (for solid waste); use of a shared salt and sand pile and coordination for road maintenance and plowing contracts with Marshfield (transportation); and contract fire, EMS and policing services (public safety) through regional partners.

Policies and strategies that address regional coordination for the delivery of public facilities and services are reproduced below.

Goal: Whitneyville 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.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will efficiently meet identified public facility and service needs.	Whitneyville will request a review of the governance structure for the Machias Bay Area Transfer Station that would include greater participation of member towns in the budget development process.	Selectmen	Short term (1 -2 years)
	Whitneyville will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Marshfield that formalizes the agreement between the two communities regarding use of the shared salt and sand facility.	Selectmen	Immediate

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.

The town of Whitneyville currently works closely with the Department of Environmental Protection and neighboring communities on issues pertaining to water quality in the Machias River. The town has identified additional strategies for enhanced regional coordination, including consultation with relevant state agencies and neighboring communities in the development of land use ordinances and other municipal regulations. Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to natural resources are reproduced below.

Goal: Whitneyville will protect and preserve the natural resources on which its economy and quality of life depend.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will coordinate with neighboring communities and state agencies to protect shared critical natural resources.	Whitneyville will participate in regional planning, management and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical natural resources.	Selectmen	On-going
Whitneyville will protect significant surface water resources and drinking water resources from pollution and improve water quality where needed.	Whitneyville will continue to work with the DEP and private leach field owners to identify malfunctioning septic systems, particularly those located near streams and wetlands, and to seek grants through the Small Communities Grant Program to improve or replace malfunctioning systems.	Code Enforcement Officer	Ongoing
Whitneyville will participate in appropriate regional programs to preserve and protect the local water resources.	Whitneyville will participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect, and, where warranted, improve water quality.	Selectmen	On-going

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

The town of Whitneyville promotes regional coordination of economic development efforts in Washington County through participation with organizations that promote economic development in the region (Sunrise County Economic Council, Washington County Council of Governments, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Incubator without Walls, et cetera).

Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to employment and the economy are reproduced below.

Goal: Promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and the overall well being of Whitneyville.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will support economic development efforts with a focus on revitalization of the village and job creation in Whitneyville and nearby communities.	Develop an action plan to identify means of dealing with abandoned and unkempt properties as part of a village revitalization plan.	Selectmen	Immediate
Whitneyville will coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development.	Continue to participate in regional economic development efforts through Sunrise County Economic Council, Washington County Council of Governments, Machias Chamber of Commerce and other organizations that promote economic development in the area.	Selectmen	Ongoing

HOUSING

To date, Whitneyville has not participated in regional efforts to address issues of housing affordability. Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to housing are reproduced below.

Goal: Whitneyville will encourage affordable, decent housing options for its residents.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will support the efforts of the regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.	Whitneyville will continue to support the efforts of Washington Hancock Community Agency and other regional organizations to address affordable housing and substandard housing issues.	Selectmen	On-going

TRANSPORTATION

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

With regard to the maintenance of the local roads network, Whitneyville coordinates with the town of Marshfield on shared salt and sand purchasing and on winter plowing.

Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to transportation are reproduced below.

Goal: Whitneyville 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
Whitneyville will prioritize community and regional needs associated with safe, efficient, and optimal use of transportation systems.	Whitneyville will continue to participate in regional transportation planning efforts facilitated by Maine DOT, WCCOG and other groups interested in improving regional coordination of transportation.	Selectmen	On-going
Whitneyville will meet the diverse transportation needs of residents (including children, the elderly and the disabled) and through travelers by providing a safe, efficient, and adequate transportation network for all users (motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists).	When state roads require reconstruction or repair, Whitneyville will request that shoulders be added to improve public safety, particularly along identified segment of Route 192 and Route 1A.	Selectmen	As needed

FISCAL CAPACITY

The town of Whitneyville has participated in a number of regional projects coordinated through WCCOG. Whitneyville also coordinates with neighboring communities on shared purchasing (salt and sand) and participation in inter-local public facilities (Machias Bay Transfer Station, fire and EMS coverage). Whitneyville will continue to support efforts to increase cost savings and efficiencies by working with neighboring communities to plan for and finance shared or adjacent capital investments.

Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to fiscal capacity are reproduced below.

Goal: Whitneyville 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
Whitneyville will finance public facilities and services in a cost effective manner and reduce Maine’s tax burden by staying within LD 1 spending limits.	Whitneyville will continue to 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

The future land use districts as outlined in the Future Land Use Plan are in line with Future Land Use Plans and Land Use Ordinances in applicable surrounding communities. (Marshfield does not currently have an approved Comprehensive Plan). The town participates 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. Policies and strategies that address regional coordination with regard to land use are reproduced below.

Goal: To encourage growth and development in appropriate areas of Whitneyville while protecting the town’s character and making efficient use of public services.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will continue to co-operate with neighboring communities and coordinate Whitneyville’s land 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)