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# Natural Resources Outreach Coalition: Coordination and Program Delivery, Stone, A

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# **NATURAL RESOURCES OUTREACH COALITION**

## **Coordination and Program Delivery**

A Final Report to

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project

Submitted by

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) program is to provide education and outreach to communities in the NH Coastal Watersheds that are dealing with the effects of growth, and looking for ways to conserve open spaces and natural resources. Program objectives to meet this goal include:

1. NROC and client communities determine natural resource concerns of the communities.
2. NROC and client communities gather community information about these concerns
3. NROC develops and client communities host community presentations about natural resource-based planning.
4. Communities receive follow up technical and educational assistance as requested.

In 2004, NROC worked with three new client communities (Chester, East Kingston and Strafford) to achieve the objectives outlined above. All three communities received NROC's *Dealing with Growth* educational presentation, customized for each community, followed by a series of follow-up meetings in each community to address issues raised in the presentation and community concerns about growth and natural resources.

At the same time, NROC continued to work with three previous NROC communities (Somersworth, Nottingham and Candia). NROC worked with a total of six communities during the funding period.

Our experiences with the NROC program led us to the following conclusions:

- a) All the program objectives stated above were met
- b) The NROC approach of an initial education presentation for all boards and the public, followed by a program of follow-up assistance over several months, has proven again to be an effective strategy to mobilize and motivate community leaders and volunteers to move forward and take action to protect priority land and water resources. The follow-up assistance and activities are key to the success of the NROC program in a community.
- c) Providing continued assistance to previous NROC communities has been valuable in helping those communities continue to forge ahead and develop a strong and informed base of public support for natural resource-based planning.
- d) Having funds available for community projects has helped to motivate communities to take action on issues they have prioritized.
- e) NROC continues to grow as an organization, with a good sense of team-play amongst its staff members. Subcommittees have formed to oversee improvements to the program, such as overhauling the NROC web page, revising the follow up strategy, etc.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) is a multi-organizational initiative providing technical and educational assistance to communities in New Hampshire's coastal watersheds dealing with the effects of growth. The NROC program offered to communities includes an initial educational public presentation, *Dealing with Growth*, followed by a series of follow-up meetings to help the community focus their goals, develop an action-oriented work plan, and provide the technical and educational assistance needed to help the community meet its goals.

NROC includes the following organizations:

- NH Department of Environmental Services
- NH Office of Energy and Planning
- NH Coastal Program
- NH Estuaries Project
- NH Fish & Game Dept – Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Rockingham Planning Commission
- Strafford Planning Commission
- Southern NH Planning Commission
- UNH Cooperative Extension

UNH Cooperative Extension provides staff support for NROC program coordination and delivery. This is accomplished through:

- Coordinating the educational and technical assistance resources of the state's major natural resource and planning organizations and agencies.
- Serving as a clearinghouse and referral agent for available resources for coastal watershed communities.
- Presenting education and technical assistance programs to communities, upon request, that emphasize both regulatory and voluntary tools for resource protection, and that illustrate the connections between natural resources, economy and community character.
- Helping community leaders to better understand their community's resources; threats to these resources; the actions necessary to sustain the resources; and then using this information as a basis for community planning and decision-making.

## 2. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Natural Resource Outreach Coalition Community Assistance Program has the following goal and objectives:

**Goal:** The primary goal of the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) is to provide technical assistance, education and outreach to communities in the NH Coastal Watersheds that are dealing with the effects of growth. This program helps communities sustain and protect natural resources and open space lands identified as critical to water quality, biodiversity and other resources identified by communities. NROC helps communities protect these resources through voluntary land conservation and land use planning and regulation.

**Program objectives to meet this goal include:**

1. Coordinate activities of participating NROC organizations and agencies to provide effective assistance to communities. .
2. Continue to work with existing NROC client communities on community implementation projects, and other assistance as requested.
3. Work with three new client communities to determine natural resource concerns of the communities and gather community information about these concerns
4. Develop, with community input, customized community presentations about natural resource-based planning.
5. Develop a program of follow-up technical and educational assistance to the needs of each of the three new client communities.

**3. METHODS/ACTIVITIES**

The work tasks to meet the above objectives included:

- Providing technical assistance to existing NROC client communities, through meetings, telephone, and e-mail.
- Developing three community project teams, comprised of NROC staff members, for the three 2004 client communities – Chester, East Kingston and Strafford.
- Meeting with the three 2004 communities to discuss natural resources issues and concerns, and to prepare for the NROC *Dealing with Growth* presentation and follow-up activities.
- Updating the NROC presentation “Dealing with Growth” for 2004, and participating in revisions to customize the presentation for each community.
- Co-hosting the public presentation with the host community.
- Coordinating follow-up technical and educational assistance to each of the three communities over the following six months.
- Working with the communities to develop a one-year work plan, and identifying goals and priorities through facilitated discussion and brainstorming.
- Assisting the communities with implementing priorities identified in the work plan, and drafting proposals for implementation grant funding.

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****OBJECTIVE 1: Coordinate activities of participating NROC organizations and agencies.**

- Coordinated quarterly meetings of coalition members to select new client communities, review work with existing client communities, discuss revisions to the NROC program, and review progress with the new 2004 communities. These meetings have proved to be a valuable forum for discussion and program improvements, foster a greater sense of team work among the NROC organizations, and have helped develop the most appropriate follow-up assistance.
- Coordinated a Facilitation Training Session for NROC staff members in July. The training session, conducted by staff from UNH Cooperative Extension’s Strengthening NH Communities Program, provided NROC staff with additional skills for leading and facilitating discussions with community groups. As a result of this training session, a subcommittee of NROC staff met to revise the Community Follow-up strategy by incorporating ideas that would enhance community participation, and result in community members becoming more involved in follow-up activities.

- Developed NROC staff teams for each of the 2004 communities. The teams for each community were responsible for Initial Planning, Customizing the *Dealing With Growth* Presentation, Presenting *Dealing With Growth*, and Follow-up Assistance.
- Coordinated NROC marketing efforts to solicit applications from communities for the 2005 NROC program. This included sending out application packets in Fall, 2004 to planning board, select board and conservation commission members in coastal watershed communities, presenting the pre-application *NROC Introductory Presentation* to prospective 2005 program applicants, and serving as the point of contact for interested communities. The Introductory Presentation was given to five communities who requested it (Deerfield, Rollinsford, Wakefield, Fremont and New Castle). The Introductory Presentation has proven again to be a helpful tool for NROC staff in selecting communities for the upcoming year.
- Applications were received from each of the five communities. Two communities, Deerfield and Wakefield, were selected for the summer and fall 2005 programs.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Continue to work with existing NROC client communities on community implementation projects, and other assistance as requested.**

- Maintained contact with the community representatives for the three 2003 communities, Candia, Nottingham and Somersworth, and tracked progress of their community implementation projects.
- Coordinated meetings with Candia and Nottingham to help them develop a well survey to use in their communities. Both communities coordinated efforts through joint meetings to develop the survey. Guidance in analyzing the results of the surveys was provided to the two communities at a joint meeting in December 2004.
- Participated in several land conservation workshops hosted by Candia as part of their implementation grant project. Two informal coffee evenings were held to educate landowners, as well as a community-wide presentation on land conservation.
- Organized and presented a land conservation options workshop in Somersworth in March, and a follow up meeting in June, 2004 to discuss next steps for a land conservation program.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Work with three new client communities to determine natural resource concerns of the communities and gather community information about these concerns**

- Coordinated preliminary NROC program planning meetings with Chester, East Kingston and Strafford three months prior to the *Dealing with Growth* public presentations in each community. The purpose of these meetings was to solicit community input through facilitated discussion about natural resources issues and concerns for incorporation into the presentation. These meetings were followed up with a second meeting to review the draft *Dealing with Growth* presentation for each community, and get community input regarding any changes they felt were necessary.

**OBJECTIVE 4: Develop, with community input, customized community presentations about natural resource-based planning.**

- Coordinated efforts to customize the *Dealing with Growth* presentation for each of the three communities. Worked with the communities to collect local photographs and data for the presentations, and presented a draft presentation to representatives from the community boards for review and input.
- Coordinated the public *Dealing with Growth* presentations in each of the three communities. Presentations were held on the following dates:
  - Chester – April 21, 2004; attended by 20 people.

- East Kingston – June 7, 2004; attended by 60 people.
- Strafford – October 6, 2003; attended by 65 people.



**OBJECTIVE 5: Develop a program of follow-up technical and educational assistance to the needs of each of the three new client communities.**

Extension staff, together with other NROC staff, planned and participated in follow-up assistance to the three 2004 communities. Specific accomplishments for each of the three communities are described below:

• **Chester (see attached work plan in Appendix A):**

Eight follow-up meetings have been held with community members to date. Around six people have been involved in these meetings. Following development of the one-year work plan and prioritizing of tasks, Education and Outreach, and developing an Open Space plan were identified as two top priorities. The group also requested help with revitalizing the Chester Strategic Land Protection Committee (SLPC). NROC staff members were assigned to work with each group, to help them each develop a focused program to address their needs. A two-part workshop, *Developing an Effective Education and Outreach Program*, was held in September and October to help the group identify Public Education and Outreach needs, to determine the target messages and audiences, and how best to deliver those messages. NROC staff met with the SLPC to help them to re-focus. Southern NH Regional Planning staff worked with NROC staff to come up with a draft outline for an Open Space Plan. As a result of these follow-up activities, the group has accomplished the following:

- Developed an outreach strategy focusing on successes with the Wason Pond conservation project, to build support for land conservation initiatives from the Chester Select Board. The group developed a powerpoint presentation and handout materials. The presentation was made to the Selectboard in October, requesting their support for and participation in the Wason Pond project
- Using the SNHPC draft, the planning board and conservation commission have developed the framework for an Open Space Plan. This will be the basis for a proposal for implementation grant funding, and will be a joint project with Southern NH Planning Commission.
- The Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees, with NROC assistance, is developing a series of public social events on the Spring Hill Farm property to help build support for land conservation efforts in Chester.

• **East Kingston (see attached work plan in Appendix B):**

Six follow-up meetings have been held with community members to date. A total of 15 -20 people have been involved in these meetings. Following development of the one-year work plan and prioritizing of tasks, four primary actions were identified: Natural Resources Inventory, Master Plan Update and Zoning Review, Preserving the Future of Farming, and Education and Outreach. The following accomplishments have resulted from these follow-up activities:

**Natural Resources Inventory:**

- Successfully applied for and received assistance from the UNH Senior Projects course for assistance with completing their NRI. The students have updated the land use map by adding recent developments onto a color aerial photograph base map using GIS. They also analyzed and interpreted information on the NH Fish and Game Department's Significant Wildlife Habitat maps for East Kingston.

**Managing Growth/Master Plan update/Zoning**

- The Planning Board successfully applied for and received an \$800 Targeted Block Grant from Rockingham Planning Commission to review and revise the Master Plan Vision Statement in 2005.
- NROC staff reviewed the EK Cluster Housing Ordinance, and made recommendations

to improve the ordinance. The Planning Board plans to propose revisions to the ordinance based on this input.

### **Preserving The Future of Farming in East Kingston**

- Completed the worksheet *Is Your Town Farm Friendly?* from the publication *Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture*, and written up the results for press releases that will be sent for publication.
- Plan a spring workshop for part time farmers (and would-be part time farmers) to show people how they can market their products, how they can make money out of their enterprise, where are the markets for local produce etc. NROC organizations will provide assistance with this program.

### **Marketing, Education and Outreach**

- A number of outreach materials on natural resource and land conservation were developed for the East Kingston Old Home Day in September. This event was cancelled due to bad weather - the publicity materials prepared for this event will now be used at the 2005 town meeting and other public events.
- East Kingston Web Page: A volunteer has developed an East Kingston web site that is now online at eastkingston.org. The site is getting 20-50 hits per day.
- The Selectboard approved reviving the currently defunct cable TV system for use as an outreach tool, and is looking for someone to maintain/operate the system.
- NROC staff presented the workshop *Developing an Effective Education and Outreach Strategy* in October. Attendance was low, with five people attending. The workshop went ahead anyway, with the result that the group decided to host a *Land Conservation and Estate Planning* workshop in January, 2005 to educate land owners about the benefits of conserving their land. The group's hope is to attract a broader audience by holding the workshop on a Saturday morning.

### **Strafford (see attached work plan in Appendix C):**

The enhanced NROC follow up strategy was piloted at the first Strafford Follow-up meeting. This strategy has been successful in maximizing community participation in follow-up activities. Four follow-up meetings have been held with community members to date, with around twenty people attending each of these meetings. The group identified Land Conservation, Master Plan/Zoning changes and Water Quality Monitoring as priorities in the one-year work plan. Three action groups have formed around these topics. An NROC staff person is facilitating discussions within each group. Recent work sessions with each of these groups has resulted in the following:

- **Land Conservation:** The group has worked on reviewing pertinent background information on land conservation, deciding how the group can best interface with the conservation commission on land conservation issues, and has started prioritizing lands for conservation. Another goal of this group is to go identify funding sources for land conservation in Strafford.
- **Master Plan/Zoning changes:** This group is focusing on zoning changes, and hiring a part time planning professional. The group has been energized enough that they have organized to meet on their own, several times between NROC meetings,.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** This group has focused on developing a surface water quality monitoring program. The group has reviewed maps of current monitoring locations (with assistance from the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program) and identified monitoring gaps. They are currently working on a publicity effort to solicit volunteers to participate in a spring through fall monitoring program.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- a) All the program objectives stated above were met
- b) The NROC approach of an initial education presentation for all boards and the public, followed by a program of follow-up assistance over several months, has proven again to be a most effective strategy to mobilize and motivate community leaders and volunteers to move forward and take action to protect priority land and water resources. The follow-up assistance and related activities are key to the success of the NROC program in a community.
- c) Providing continued assistance to previous NROC communities has been valuable in helping those communities continue to move forward, and develop a strong and informed base of public support for natural resource-based planning.
- d) Having funds available for community projects has helped to motivate some communities to take action on issues they have prioritized.
- e) NROC continues to grow as an organization, with a strong sense of team-work amongst its members. Subcommittees have formed to oversee the enhancement of the follow up assistance program, and overhauling the NROC web page to make it more informative and accessible.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Interest in land and water conservation in New Hampshire's coastal watersheds continues to be high, and we feel this will be sustained or increased as growth pressures in south-eastern New Hampshire continues to affect communities. Of the 42 coastal watershed communities, NROC has worked with twelve communities to date. We recommend that the NHEP continues to support community conservation efforts by providing continued support to NROC.

The NROC member organizations are committed to assisting communities with natural resource-based planning, based on successes thus far. We recommend that some funds continue to be made available to communities to enable them to implement prioritized actions, to achieve their conservation goals.

The educational needs of previous NROC communities continue to evolve, requiring more advanced levels of education and training as they continue to move ahead with their natural resource conservation programs. The NROC team will need to continue to develop appropriate educational programs based on community needs.

# APPENDIX A

## PROPOSED ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN AND TIME LINE FOR FOLLOWUP TO THE CHESTER “DEALING WITH GROWTH” PRESENTATION

**Revised** – June 1, 2004

**Red = prioritized tasks for NROC assistance**

TASKS		2004	2004	2004	2004/5	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter		
<b>CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO REACH AND EDUCATE CITIZENS</b>							
1.	Conduct a brief survey at town voting and town meeting to get community input re: which actions to manage growth, and which resources are important to them.	T completed				Maureen Lein & others	UNHCE (Julia Peterson, Amanda Stone)
2.	Participate in the NROC workshop <i>Developing an Effective Education and Outreach campaign</i> <b>Tuesday August 3, 2004, 7-9pm, Chester Town Offices</b>		X scheduled			CCC, CPB, SLPC	UNHCE (Julia Peterson, Amanda Stone) NHDES (Barbara Macmillan)
3.	Develop and implement a public education and outreach strategy to build community support for land conservation, and to encourage more public involvement in conservation planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build community and landowner support for land conservation.</li> <li>• Outreach to developers</li> <li>• Involve school students and teachers</li> <li>• Involve the recreation commission</li> <li>• Coordinate with the committee for the Arbor Foundation’s Tree City program</li> </ul>		X	X	X	CCC, SLPC	UNHCE (Julia Peterson, Amanda Stone, Frank Mitchell, Phil Auger) NHDES (Barbara Macmillan)
4.	Publicize the uses and benefits of conservation lands to Chester residents (see also Conservation/Open Space plan below).		X	X	X	SLPC, CCC	
5.	Educate landowners about land conservation benefits.		X	X	X	SLPC, CCC	UNHCE (Phil Auger, Frank Mitchell)

TASKS		2004	2004	2004	2004/5	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter		
<b>DEVELOP A PLAN TO IDENTIFY, PRIORITIZE AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACES</b>							
1.	Revitalize the Strategic Land Protection Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit additional members</li> <li>Refocus, evaluate goals and develop a targeted workplan</li> </ul>	X	X	X		SLPC	UNHCE (Frank Mitchell)
2.	Use the natural resources inventory and tax maps to review what is already protected, and start to prioritize additional areas for conservation.	X	X	X		SLPC, CCC	UNHCE (Phil Auger, Frank Mitchell)
3.	Update/redo the survey of owners of large parcels >10 acres (originally conducted by the SLPC in 1997). Have a student intern (UNH or Antioch) work on this survey.	X	X			SLPC, CCC	UNHCE staff
4.	Develop a strategy for following up with landowners after the survey is completed		X	X	X	SLPC, CCC	UNHCE (Phil Auger, Frank Mitchell)
5.	Publicize the uses and benefits of conservation lands to Chester residents		X	X	X	SLPC, CCC	
6.	Develop a strategy for a second bond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and Outreach</li> <li>Other grants that could be leveraged</li> <li>Use SLPC priorities for conservation</li> </ul>			X	X	SLPC, CCC, CPB	UNHCE (Phil Auger, Frank Mitchell)
7.	Use other voluntary stewardship opportunities to work with landowners, e.g. UNHCE Coverts volunteers.		X	X	X	SLPC, CCC	UNHCE
8.	Develop an open space plan for Chester Southern NH PC has funds to begin working on this.		X	X		CPB, CCC, SLPC, Selectboard	SNHPC
<b>ENSURE A BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT</b>							
1.	Review historic patterns of development on the landscape to look for trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look into having a student intern take this on as a project</li> </ul>		X	X	X	CPB	SNHPC

TASKS		2004	2004	2004	2004/5	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter		
2.	Use overlay of tax map parcels and natural resources inventory maps (see also task 3 in Natural Resources/ Conservation/Open Space Plan) as a basis for zoning and regulatory changes to support conservation objectives		X	X	X	CPB, CCC, SLPC	UNHCE, NHDES, SNHPC
3.	Build community and landowner support for overall plan for conservation and development (see also tasks 3 and 5 in Education and Outreach)					CPB, CCC, SLPC	UNHCE (Phil Auger, Frank Mitchell)
4.	Consider developing new local regulations, e.g. setbacks, zoning changes, conservation subdivision, etc.		X	X	X	CPB	NH OEP, SNHPC
5.	Get developers involved early on and find common ground		X	X	X	CPB, CCC, SLPC	
6.	Get updates from ERLAC re: watershed management plan and bring to SLPC for consideration		X	X	X	SLPC	
7.	Check DES data on potential pollution sources (SPNHF water resources map, DES website)		X	X	X	CPB, CCC, SLPC	NH DES

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

CCC Chester Conservation Commission  
 SLPC Strategic Land Protection Committee  
 CPB Chester Planning Board  
 SNHPC Southern NH Planning Commission

UNHCE UNH Cooperative Extension  
 NH OEP NH Office of Energy and Planning  
 DES NH Dept. of Environmental Services

## APPENDIX B

### PROPOSED ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN AND TIME LINE FOR FOLLOWUP TO THE EAST KINGSTON “DEALING WITH GROWTH” PRESENTATION

**DRAFT** – July 22, 2004

**Red = prioritized tasks for NROC assistance**

TASKS		2004	2004	2004/5	2004	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring		
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY</b>							
1.	<p>Review existing natural resources maps, and identify any gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the land use map.</li> <li>• Identify areas with habitats for rare species</li> <li>• The farm-friendly assessment would generate additional information for the NRI.</li> <li>• Site-specific inventories are needed for prioritized parcels.</li> <li>• Need a written NRI</li> </ul>	X				EKCC with input from EKPB and interested residents	UNHCE, RPC
2.	<p>Establish goals and purpose of natural resources inventory, what questions need to be answered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas with most valuable natural features, and areas that minimize the impacts of development.</li> <li>• Analyse and interpret NRI maps</li> </ul>	X	X			EKCC with input from EKPB and interested residents	UNHCE, RPC
3.	<p>Investigate student intern assistance to create a written report for the natural resources inventory that incorporates the information from the various maps (e.g. UNH Senior Projects course)</p>	X	X			EKCC with and interested residents	UNHCE

TASKS		2004	2004	2004/5	2004	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring		
<b>MANAGING GROWTH (MASTER PLAN/ZONING)</b>							
1.	<p>Identify and review best practices for minimizing the impact of development for specific topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine statutory authority (RSAs) and limits on what the planning board can and cannot require in terms of managing development to better protect natural resources.</li> <li>Find examples of different approaches, such as overlay districts for specific purposes.</li> <li>Review existing conservation/cluster subdivision ordinance to see if it can be made more effective. Review examples of similar ordinances from other communities.</li> <li>Possibly develop a warrant article for spring to implement specific zoning changes, if necessary.</li> </ul>	X	X			EKPB and interested volunteers	RPC, NHDES
2.	<p>Explore the village development concept as part of the Master Plan efforts to update East Kingston's vision for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host a presentation by RPC on village development at a Planning Board meeting and conduct a community discussion session.</li> <li>Locate an example of village development with a community the same size as East Kingston</li> <li>Identify places in the community where the village concept could work.</li> </ul>		X	X	X	EKPB	RPC, NHDES



TASKS		2004	2004	2004/5	2004	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring		
3.	<p>Conduct a farm-friendly assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a group/subcommittee of volunteers to work on this.</li> <li>Conduct a community forum</li> </ul>		X	X	X	EKPB, EKCC, Farm-Friendly subcommittee	UNHCE
4.	<p>Form a Master Plan Committee that includes board representatives and interested citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get more information on how such subcommittees have functioned in other communities and what rules apply.</li> <li>Form a Committee.</li> <li>Work with Marketing Committee to communicate with residents about the Master Plan Process.</li> </ul>		X			EKPB, EKCC, EKSB, EKZB, Interested Volunteers	RPC
5.	<p>Communicate with the community about revising goals and objectives and vision for East Kingston in the Master Plan. Include education on potential alternative approaches for better managing development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold a public forum to review the Housing chapter of the Master Plan and discuss forming a Committee for the next component – Updating the Vision and Goals</li> </ul>		X			EKPB	RPC
<b>LAND CONSERVATION</b>							
1.	<p>Use the Natural Resources Inventory to identify and prioritize resources of interest, and to refine current conservation priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site-specific inventories are needed for prioritized parcels.</li> <li>Need a written NRI</li> </ul>	X	X			EKCC, Open Space Committee	UNHCE

TASKS		2004	2004	2004/5	2004	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring		
2.	Identify additional resources available, and look for additional funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve willing volunteers to help with the effort</li> <li>Continue to build public awareness and support for land conservation</li> <li>Explore forming an Open Space Committee to support land conservation efforts</li> <li>Develop public/private partnerships with conservation interests</li> </ul>	X	X			EKCC	
3.	Prepare a written conservation plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to look into funding needed and funding sources, and sources of assistance.</li> </ul>		X	X	X	EKCC	UNHCE
4.	Develop budgets and funding sources for conservation projects and stewardship.		X	X	X	EKCC, Open Space Committee	UNHCE
5.	Engage in education and outreach to landowners, voters and municipal officials.		X	X	X	EKCC, Marketing subcommittee, Open Space Committee	UNHCE, NH DES

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

EKCC East Kingston Conservation Commission  
EKPB East Kingston Planning Board  
EKSB East Kingston Select Board

RPC Rockingham Planning Commission  
UNHCE UNH Cooperative Extension  
NHDES NH Dept. of Environmental Services

**EAST KINGSTON NROC PROGRAM**  
**UPDATED SUMMARY OF ACTION STEPS AND TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2005 (November, 2004)**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TASKS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>OTHER HELP</b>
<b>Master Plan Revisions – Vision and Goals/Objectives chapter</b>	Working with Rockingham Planning Commission 1. Decide on a process to revise the Vision and Goals/Objectives chapter of the Master Plan. 2. Determine the best approach for public meetings, and associated publicity/outreach	Planning Board, led by Chair Roby Day	Rockingham Planning Commission
<b>Write up a report on the natural resources inventory</b>	1. Using the GIS maps, write up the NRI in a format that could be incorporated as a chapter in the future Master Plan update, as well as being a reference document for use by all boards. 2. Decide who will write the report – the conservation commission? UNH Senior Project Students? Hire a consultant?	Conservation Commission, led by Chair, Larry Smith	UNH Senior Project Course – apply for Fall, 2005 semester.
<b>Host a Land Conservation and Estate Planning Workshop</b> to educate landowners about the benefits and mechanics of putting their land in a conservation easement.	1. Confirm meeting date with presenters Phil Auger and Charlie Tucker (Amanda Stone, UNHCE will help with this). Suggested dates for this workshop were Saturday January 22 or Saturday January 29. 2. Reserve meeting location. 3. Decide whether or not to supply food at this event, e.g. breakfast (need someone to organize food, help serve it, can cons comm. fund food and beverages?) 4. Send personalized letters to owners of large parcels inviting them to attend the workshop. 5. Develop a plan to advertise the workshop to the rest of the community.	Conservation Commission, led by Chair, Larry Smith	UNH Cooperative Extension staff
<b>Ongoing Marketing, Education and Outreach</b> to take the natural resources protection/managing growth message to the community-at-large	1. Write and post press releases on all natural resources and managing growth related activities on the web site, the newsletter, and the Carriage Towne News. 2. Develop a video of East Kingston to help build support for land conservation	John Burton Conservation Commission Planning Board, Select Board & other community volunteers  Chris Murphy?	
<b>Develop a program to sustain agricultural practices in East Kingston:</b>	1. Set up a meeting with Nada Haddad to help put the program together (including speakers) and develop an appropriate format.	Conservation Commission and others interested in helping out with this	UNH Cooperative Extension, Rockingham County

ACTION	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	OTHER HELP
<p><b>Host a public event</b> in the spring focused on people who want to farm part-time (or who are already part-time farmers), and others interested/involved in agriculture in town.</p> <p>Topics to include: How can part-time farmers market their products, how can they make money out of their enterprise, where is the market today and where is it going, where are the markets for local produce</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Set a date for the event</li> <li>3. Decide on and reserve a meeting location to hold the event (all or part of the event at a local farm?)</li> <li>4. Solicit additional help to organize the event, if needed</li> <li>5. Invite speakers</li> <li>6. Develop a plan to market and publicize the event; and develop publicity materials</li> <li>7. Consider doing a <b>Beginning Farmers</b> program as a follow up to this event</li> <li>8. As additional follow-up, consider doing something similar to UNH Cooperative Extension (Rockingham County) Open Farm Days on a town-wide level for the public.</li> </ol>	<p>Jim Nupp, Bob Moore, Marilyn Bott</p>	<p>office</p>
<p><b>Publicize Farm Friendly Survey Results</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send press releases publicizing the results of the survey to the Carriage Towne News, the East Kingston Newsletter, the East Kingston web site, and other media outlets.</li> <li>2. Meet with the planning board to communicate the results of the study (and also provide them with a written summary).</li> <li>3. Write up the results for incorporation into the next update of the Master Plan (future land use section, and natural resources inventory section)., &amp; identify recommendations for sustaining the future of farming in East Kingston</li> <li>4. As follow up to the <b>Farm Friendly</b> survey, consider completing consider completing the companion worksheet <b>Developing an Agricultural Profile in Your Town</b> in the Appendices section of the resource book <i>Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture</i> (looks at types of farms, size of farms, markets for products, potential loss of farmland, etc.).</li> </ol>	<p>Conservation Commission and others interested.</p> <p>Larry Smith, Bob Moore</p>	



TASKS		2004	2005	2005	2005	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
		Fall/ winter	Winter	Spring	Summer		
<b>WATER QUALITY MONITORING</b>							
<p><u>Priority #1: Develop a surface water quality monitoring program.</u>            Coordinate monitoring efforts with the Isinglass River Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research current and past monitoring efforts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isinglass River water quality monitoring</li> <li>○ Mohawk River</li> <li>○ NH Fish &amp; Game data</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review maps of current monitoring and identify water bodies to be monitored</li> <li>• Develop the framework for the water quality monitoring program</li> <li>• Develop a Strafford Monitoring Group (solicit Strafford residents interested in being part of this program).</li> <li>• Implement water quality monitoring program</li> </ul>		X  X X	  X X	   X	    X		UNH Cooperative Extension staff (Amanda Stone, Jeff Schloss)  NH Coastal Program staff (Sally Soule)
<p><u>Priority #2: Public education about where to dispose of household chemical waste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place educational materials at the Strafford Recycling Center ( The Rochester Facility has educational materials that could be used in Strafford).</li> <li>• News articles concerning safe disposal (how and where)</li> </ul>			X  X				

TASKS	2004	2005	2005	2005	Responsibility * see end of table	NROC Staff Assistance
	Fall/ winter	Winter	Spring	Summer		
<b>MANAGING GROWTH</b>						
<u>Top Priorities:</u> 1. Immediate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gather data/educate ourselves</li> <li>o How to handle growth</li> <li>o Variable zoning – impacts on property owners</li> </ul> 2. Review of zoning ordinances, subdivision and siteplan regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Examine model ordinances in comparable towns</li> </ul> 3. March 2005 Warrant article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hire part-time Planning professional</li> <li>o Review applications               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Process - charged to applicant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	X	X	X			Strafford RPC (Cynthia Copeland) Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Steve Miller)

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

SCC      Strafford Conservation Commission

CPB      Strafford Planning Board

IRLAC    Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee

UNHCE   UNH Cooperative Extension

SRPC    Strafford Regional Planning Commission

GPNBERR   Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve