

# Midcoast Economic Development Steering Committee

## Meeting Summary

August 16th, 2023

8:30-9:30

1. Election of chairs. Sally Costello and Julie Hashem are stepping up to the role of co-chairs, as their towns have different perspectives and are at opposite ends of the region. They will run the meetings from hereon out.
2. Charlotte Nutt presented the data dig
  - Master spreadsheet of data collected so far
  - Data is meant to fit into current categories of demographic, housing, and employment/economic analyses, but this will be expanded for next meeting
  - As part of the analysis, there also was interest in:
    - Data on unemployed workforce and their family demographics
    - Data on daycare needs/shortages
    - Industry trends by region and subregion (where are we losing jobs? What are the growth areas? Would be great to be able to get from this the importance of (and opportunities within) the marine economy, the outdoor economy, manufacturing, services.
  - Data dig will continue
3. Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Mathew will outline facilitation plans for the advisory committee meeting – in collaboration with Julie and Sally
  - There should be a balance between a guided conversation and space for input
4. More thought is needed on communications – for this process, what we need from our communities, and what we need from stakeholders
  - Using the MCOG newsletter is a good way to reach town officials
  - Social media is a good way to reach the general public but this is not MCOG's goal
  - We could think about a web page to drive people to for more info, and to look at materials as we go
  - More thought is needed on the rest
5. For next meeting, MCOG staff will provide an example report and an outline of the potential analysis, consistent with the categories and information wish list agreed to at the July meeting.
  - a. **Economic conditions:** New business starts and closures, retail sales, imports and exports, location quotients that compare the size of your industries and sectors to those of typical communities your size, shift-share analysis that shows how industries are growing and declining compared to one another
  - b. **Population characteristics:** Population size and growth, age, educational attainment
  - c. **Labor force characteristics:** Labor force participation, unemployment, wages, incomes, occupations, skills, commuting trends, productivity

- d. **Physical conditions:** Land use, zoning, land values, condition of buildings, vacancy rates, building activity, parking facilities, condition and capacity of infrastructure, air and water quality
- e. **Business climate:** Community attitudes, labor relations, business taxes and regulations, level and quality of municipal services, workforce training, access to and cost of capital, public and private infrastructure
- f. **Knowledge-based resources:** Federal labs, science and research parks, industry incubators, colleges and universities, technical training schools
- g. **Quality of life:** Housing availability, public services, education system, crime rate, cultural and recreational activities, parks and other natural amenities