

REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Comprehensive planning recognizes the importance of regional cooperation and coordination. The land uses in one community can impact another community, particularly when that land use is located near the boundaries of the town. The Medomak River and Town of Washington border Union to the west. The Town of Waldoboro borders Union to the southwest. The Town of Warren borders Union to the south (including Seven Tree Pond, St. George River and Crawford Pond). The Town of Rockport borders Union to the east. The Town of Appleton borders Union to the northeast (including Sennebec Pond and the St. George River), as does the Town of Hope (including Lermond Pond). Union and its residents are dependent upon the region, especially the service center communities of Rockland and Waldoboro, for commercial goods and services, medical services and employment opportunities. Although more distant, Augusta also provides employment and shopping for some Union residents.

It is imperative for safety, security, environmental and economic reasons including cost savings for Union to coordinate and cooperate with federal, state, county, regional and local municipal governments and organizations as much as possible.

State Requirement

Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §4326(4), a regional coordination program must be pursued with other communities to manage shared resources and facilities, including but not limited to lakes, rivers, aquifers, and transportation facilities. The plan must identify any shared resources and facilities, describe any conflicts with neighboring communities' policies and strategies pertaining to shared resources and facilities and describe what approaches the community will take to coordinate management of shared resource and facilities. In addition, the plan must include a summary of regional coordination efforts from all applicable topic areas.

Municipal Comprehensive Plans and Ordinances

Neighboring Rockport and Waldoboro have adopted comprehensive plans that are consistent with state law, while Appleton, Hope, Warren and Washington have not, as shown in the following table.

Community	Comprehensive Plan Adoption/Amendment Date	Consistent with State laws
Appleton	Yes 2007	No
Hope	Yes 1991	No
Rockport	Yes 2004	Yes (State findings 9/13/2004)
Waldoboro	Yes 1998, Amended 2005	Yes (State findings 10/8/1997)
Warren	Yes 1991	No
Washington	Yes 2005	No

All surrounding towns have shoreland zoning ordinances. Hope, Rockport, Waldoboro and Washington have adopted zoning beyond shoreland zones as well. Surrounding towns have site plan review provisions, subdivision ordinances and floodplain management, among other ordinances. The bordering zoning districts are generally complementary with one another.

Summary of Current Regional Coordination

The following is a list of inter-municipal and regional efforts in which Union participates:

- Ambulance service mutual aid agreements with Northeast, Warren and Waldoboro Ambulance services to provide back up, and depending on who is closest to the scene.
- [Animal Control \(Appleton, Hope, Union.\)](#)
- Emergency dispatch through the Knox County Regional Communications Center.
- Fire and rescue participation in a mutual aid program with Appleton, Hope, Warren and Washington.
- Municipal solid waste disposal and recycling through an inter-local agreement with [the Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization \(through Knox County, in cooperation with Lincoln and Waldo Counties\)](#). Through membership in the Municipal Review Committee, which serves 187 Maine municipalities, municipal solid waste has been transported to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, L.P. (PERC) waste-to-energy facility in Orrington.
- Police protection through a contract with the Knox County Sheriff's Department.
- Public education as a member of RSU 40, which serves Friendship, Union, Waldoboro, Warren, and Washington.
- Public transportation services through Coastal Trans, Inc. (CTI) is a non-profit subsidiary of the Methodist Conference Home, Inc. CTI is a State of Maine designated Regional Transportation Provider. Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP) will take over these services in mid-2016. They offer disabled and low-income residents transportation for medical appointments, and limited demand response service for the general public in the region.
- Regional emergency training and disaster planning through the Knox County Emergency Management Agency.
- Sand and salt countywide bidding process for winter road usage.
- [ADD as appropriate](#)

For more information, please see the Public Facilities and Services Chapter.

Regionally Provided Public Services

As noted above, key public services are provided on a regional basis. Police service is furnished by Knox County. The Fire Department and Ambulance/EMS participate in regional mutual aid programs. Medical service is primarily provided by the Penobscot Bay Medical Center in Rockport and --- in ---. Public education is provided through RSU 40, which serves five municipalities. See the Public Facilities and Services Chapter. For the limited regional transportation services available, see the Transportation Chapter.

Shared Natural Resources

Union shares these waterbodies with principally residential and recreational uses: Medomak River with the Town of Washington, Seven Tree Pond, St. George River and Crawford Pond with the Town of Warren, Sennebec Pond and the St. George River with Appleton, and Lermond Pond with Hope. All surrounding communities have shoreland zoning ordinances in effect. An effort to coordinate shoreland zoning further, beyond state requirements might be warranted to enhance shared natural resources that support the local economy and protect the health of residents and of wildlife. See the Water Resources Chapter and Land Use Chapter.

Most residents depend upon wells for drinking water and some groundwater resources. Accordingly, cooperation on the review of any large-scale development proposals that could affect this resource should be shared between Union and neighboring communities. See the Water Resources Chapter and Land Use Chapter.

Regional Economy

Many Union residents depend upon the regional economy for their livelihoods. The service centers of Rockland and Waldoboro meet some of the needs of residents that are not provided within the Town itself. Union shares with other towns within commuting distance the effects of regional economic activities. See the Economy Chapter for more information.

Regional Policies from the other chapters of this comprehensive plan

- *To cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources.* See the Water Resources Chapter.
- *To coordinate the community's land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.* See the Land Use Chapter, Future Land Use Plan.
- *To coordinate with neighboring communities and regional and state resource agencies to protect shared critical natural resources.* See the Natural Resources Chapter.
- *To coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development.* See the Economy Chapter.
- *To encourage and support the efforts of the regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.* See the Housing Chapter.
- *To prioritize community and regional needs associated with safe, efficient, and optimal use of transportation systems.* See the Transportation Chapter.
- *To coordinate the community's land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.* See the Land Use Chapter, Future Land Use Plan.

Regional Strategies from the other chapters of this comprehensive plan

Regional: Strategies	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
(1) <i>Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality.</i>	See the Water Resources Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(2) <i>Initiate and/or participate in inter-local and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources.</i>	See the Natural Resources Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(3) <i>Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans.</i>	See the Agriculture and Forest Resources Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(4) <i>Support implementation of local and regional harbor and bay management plans.</i>	Not applicable.	
(5) <i>If appropriate, assign responsibility and provide financial support for economic development activities to the proper entity (e.g., a local economic development committee, a local representative to a regional economic development organization, the community's economic development director, a regional economic development initiative, or other) and Participate in any regional economic development planning efforts.</i>	See the Economy Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(6) <i>Create or continue to support a community affordable/workforce housing committee and/or regional affordable housing coalition and Support the efforts of local and regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.</i>	See the Housing Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(7) <i>Initiate or actively participate in regional and state transportation efforts</i>	See the Transportation Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	
(8) <i>Explore options for regional delivery of local services.</i>	See the Public Facilities and Services Chapter for specific strategies, responsibilities, and timeframes.	