

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways

Annual Report for 2003

Prepared for Annual Meeting, February 16, 2004

2003, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' (MMRG) fourth year in operation, has been a very busy year. We have focused to a great degree on planning for the future and enhancing organizational stability. MMRG completed land protection projects begun in previous years and evaluated several others for future support. This year's highlights are documented in the enclosed report.



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Received \$1 Million Forest Legacy Grant

MMRG received word that it is slated to receive a very competitive \$1 million Forest Legacy Grant. The grant is planned for use toward the purchase of a conservation easement on 2,100 acres in the Moose Mountains Range - one of the last remaining blocks of unfragmented forests in southeastern New Hampshire. The grant matches 75% of the project, so MMRG will be challenged for the next year and a half to raise the match of 25%.

Expanded Farmington Greenbelt

MMRG also received a second year support from yet another competitive federal grant program, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, to continue with the development of a trail system in the downtown Farmington Greenbelt. Program consultant Margaret Watkins will continue to assist with trail system planning and land acquisition related to the Farmington Downtown Greenbelt.

A key component of the Farmington Greenbelt project successfully closed this fall with the protection of 43 acres along the Pokomoonshine Brook. A federal grant awarded to MMRG from the Land & Water Conservation Fund helped make this collaboration between Pike Industries, Boys & Girls Club, the Town of Farmington and MMRG a success.

Preserved Wakefield Farm

With a grant from a private donor, MMRG purchased the historic 108-acre Gage Hill Farm in Wakefield and placed a conservation easement on the property with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. MMRG then donated the protected property to the Town of Wakefield to be used for hiking, skiing, nature study, and as an outdoor classroom. The property features an extensive network of woodland trails, vernal pools, and habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Completed 3-Year Wetlands Project

MMRG is wrapping up an intensive three-year project funded by New Hampshire Estuaries Project and New Hampshire Outreach Coalition, both managed by New Hampshire's Office of Energy and Planning. This past October, MMRG hosted a gathering of municipal leaders from our six member towns to share information with them about the products that MMRG has put together and these products can be used. The products include a detailed Wetlands Evaluation Report specific to each MMRG town, a user-friendly wetlands handbook, and two hours of professional time with Wetlands Scientist Nancy Rendall. The estimated value of all these products and services is in excess of \$150,000 as a result of the combination of grant funding and donated professional and volunteer time.

A related project funded by the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition allowed MMRG to produce Digitized Tax Maps and a natural resource survey for each of the six towns. MMRG will present these products to its member communities during February and March in both paper and electronic formats.

Developed Maps

MMRG produced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps for those towns that requested it for local natural resources planning purposes. These services are a natural extension of the suite of natural resource maps and digitized parcel data delivered to towns in previous years. MMRG continues to expand its in-house GIS capacity.

Organized Trail Party

MMRG organized its first major fund raising event, Hoof and Wheeze, on a beautiful October day at Branch Hill Farm. We raised more than \$2,000, but more importantly, we raised awareness of the value of open space for recreational use. We were joined by several partners who helped make the day a success, including Wentworth Hunt, which organized a trail ride, and nationally known adventure writer Todd Balf, who took several mountain bikers on a demanding loop over the top of Teneriffe Mountain. Live music was donated by the ever-funky Soul Junket, and a mock subdivision was created adjacent to conservation land by Portsmouth eco-artist Tim Gaudreau. It was a great family day that we hope to repeat every year.

Developed Five-Year Strategic Plan

With funding from the Partnership for Effective Non-profits, the MMRG Board of Directors formalized planning that will achieve the membership's vision with a five-year Strategic Plan. The plan was developed over several months with the assistance of consultant Charles Levesque of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions. Among the fifty-eight goals and strategies developed was a new target of 10,000 protected acres within the MMRG region by 2009. Our strategic plan also identified the greatest challenge we face: acquiring funding adequate to realize our organizational goals.

UNH graduate students from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics conducted a comprehensive audit of MMRG's organizational practices and methods. A full report included praise for the MMRG organizational methods as well as recommendations for improvements that the Board folded into the Strategic Plan.

Hired New Executive Director

A grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation enabled MMRG to hire Joyce El Kouarti as the organization's part-time executive director. Joyce has exceptional credentials, having worked for several nonprofits organizations and personally helped to facilitate the protection of more than 250 acres in Dover. She currently serves on the Dover Conservation Commission and as Chairman of the Dover Open Lands Committee. She brings a great deal of both professional and volunteer experience to MMRG, and we're excited to have her with us. Former executive director Brad Anderson, who deserves much of the credit for MMRG's 2003 successes, will remain active on MMRG's Board of Directors.

Financial Summary for 2003

MMRG has had a modestly successful year of fundraising and financial management, with most expenses offset by revenues:

Income	
4000 · Contributed support	
4010 · Contributions/Donations	11,223.50
4110 · Donated pro services - GAAP	11,777.00
4120 · Donated other serv - non-GAAP	707.50
4230 · Private Grants	15,000.00
4430 · Fundraising revenue	2,044.62
4530 · Government Grants	<u>7,889.46</u>
	48,642.08
Total 4000 · Contributed support	
5000 · Earned revenues	
5200 · Grant Admin. Fees	362.34
5210 · Membership dues	1,735.00
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	<u>813.47</u>
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	<u>2,910.81</u>
	\$51,552.89
Total Income	
Expenses	
7200 - Salaries & Related expenses	
	4,166.65
7500 · Professional/Consultant Fees	42,379.40
8100 · Non-personnel expenses	1,440.68
8300 · Travel & meetings expenses	847.26
8500 · Misc expenses	2,426.60
8600 · Business expenses	<u>539.00</u>
	\$51,799.59
Total Expense	

There are two items that this financial report does not convey:

1. The anticipated \$1,000,000 in Forest Legacy Grant Program funds to be applied to lands in the Moose Mountains
2. Approximately \$58,000 worth of volunteer time that the Board of Directors have invested in making MMRG stronger, planning for its future, and working within the community to aid conservation outcomes to happen