

Organization

The ETMD was incorporated as a non-profit organization under the Maine Nonprofit Act in March 2001 by the municipalities of Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, North Berwick, Wells, Kennebunk, Arundel, Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, Scarborough and South Portland and one non-profit, the Eastern Trail Alliance. According to our research this is the first venture of its type in Maine and in the Nation; although trails exist all over the country, they are usually within one governmental boundary. The ETMD is governed by a board of directors comprised of one voting member from each municipality and three voting members from the Eastern Trail Alliance (representing the user groups). It is because of this that a municipality is not simply a supporter or outside agency, but a governing part of the ETMD. In other words, the municipalities incorporated this organization to act on their behalf to develop and operate the Eastern Trail and have direct say, through their representative, as to how it is run.

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Rationale

In the exploration stage of the Eastern Trail it was determined by working with user groups and the municipalities that while the trail was desirable it was not possible for one municipality to carry the burden of cost or management. Several other options such as county management and state management were explored, but were rejected as not feasible. Another option was for each municipality to take responsibility for the section of trail within their boundary. This was dismissed as not practical because it would not insure uniform standards for construction, maintenance and operation. This process led to the creation of the ETMD. Success is the primary reason for continuing the ETMD, it has been told repeatedly by federal, state, business and charitable entities that the reason each is willing to work with or contribute substantial resources to is that the ETMD is a coalition of 12 municipalities; proof of strength in numbers.

Mission

The mission of the ETMD is to mobilize communities and resources to accomplish three primary goals:

1. Construction of the off-road trail
2. Operation and management of the trail
3. Maintenance of the trail

Each goal has a subset of objectives that must be accomplished in order to successfully meet each goal.

Funding

The ETMD requires two types of funding to accomplish its mission. **Construction funding** (materials, engineering, contractors, etc) generally comes from federal and state transportation funding streams. **Administrative funding** (operation, maintenance, planning, construction management, etc) comes from an annual fee paid by each member of the ETMD. Additional administrative funds often come from grants and donations. While each funding stream is unique in source and purpose, both are contingent upon the other. The ETMD, for example, would not be able to keep a federal award to construct a project if it did not have the administrative funds available to plan and manage the project.

Collaboration

The ETMD is a highly collaborative effort that has brought together all of the efforts that have occurred thus far on the development of the trail. Partnerships include the 12 municipal members, The Eastern Trail Alliance, The Maine Department of Transportation, The Maine Turnpike Authority, Senator Collins, Senator Snowe, Congressman Allen, local representatives from the Maine Senate and House, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission; The East Coast Greenway Alliance, The Bicycle Coalition of Maine, public utility companies, charitable foundations, local business communities, private donors and many more.