

2009 MCDA ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the LAST time that I will be addressing this newsletter as President. You may be aware that I am a short timer, to be replaced at the elections at the Annual Meeting.

There has been a lot of support given to MCDA and me by everyone around the State during my term in Office and I thank everyone for that support. Hopefully my successor will experience continued support in order to maintain a viable and visible presence in the State.

However, the work is not done. All communities and agencies are going to have to work very hard to find the funding to complete projects with all the budget changes and as funding sources dry up.

Our organization, MCDA, is working extremely hard on finding ways to deliver timely information on available sources and contacts to help with this problem. At this year's convention we have chosen to present a workshop on Grant Resources and Grant Writing Tools. I am very optimistic that the workshop is going to provide useful tools to complete projects in the future.

The MMA convention is going to be in Augusta on October 7th and October 8th this year. MCDA's Workshop will begin at 9:45 a.m. on the October 8th at the Augusta Civic Center. I hope to see everyone at the convention. It should be very educational and enjoyable this year.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank DECD and their staff for all their help and the executive committee for putting up with me these last two years. I owe a special thanks to our secretary Joella Theriault who has done an outstanding job putting together the minutes and newsletters.

See you in Augusta.

Tony Levesque, MCDA President



Financial Report

October, 2008 to August, 2009

MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	
Balance Sheet	
August 31, 2009	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking Account	\$10,325
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$10,325
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balances	
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$10,325
Total Fund Balances	\$10,325
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$10,325

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2009

		BUDGET	ACTUAL MONTH	Y-T-D	% OF BUDGET REALIZED/ EXPENDED	BUDGET \$ UNREALIZED/ UNEXPENDED	MONTH	Y-T-D
	REVENUES							
40101	INTEREST INCOME	0	6	33	0%	(33)	8	42
40201	MEMBER DUES	0	0	4,600	0%	(4,600)	0	4,400
40701	SEMINARS	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0
40702	OTHER TRAINING	0	0	0	0%	0	0	6,200
	TOTAL REVENUES	0	6	4,633	0%	(4,633)	8	10,642
	EXPENDITURES							
50201	POSTAGE	0	0	59	0%	(59)	10	80
50203	PHOTOCOPIES	0	0	11	0%	(11)	1	12
50204	SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0%	0	0	4
50237	BANK SERVICES	0	12	22	0%	(22)	0	0
50291	GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS	0	500	1,450	0%	(1,450)	332	1,142
50292	SEMINARS	0	0	691	0%	(691)	0	4,573
50411	CONTRACT SERVICES-MMA	0	142	1,135	0%	(1,135)	138	1,104
50502	COSFDA CONVENTION	0	0	0	0%	0	0	(5,000)
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	0	654	3,368	0%	(3,368)	481	1,915
	NET INCOME(LOSS)	0	(648)	1,265	0%	(1,265)	(472)	8,727

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The Office of Community Development (OCD) is a division within the Department of Economic and Community Development. OCD's primary focus is the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. MCDA works closely with OCD to review changes to the CDBG proposed program statement and to offer comments regarding these changes. This year MCDA President prepared and submitted a letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development with the following comments:

- MCDA unanimously supports the elimination of the Small Business Development Center Program;
- Support for the increase in funding of the housing rehabilitation program;
- Staggering funds for all three rounds of the economic development programs;
- Support the criteria of points for second tier communities in the Downtown program;
- Oppose the 2-and-7 requirement in housing assistance applications, but support the award of bonus points for first time applicants; and
- Leave dams as an eligible activity.

CDBG funding is a key component to supporting communities and helping them compete in the global economy. The citizen participation process is a vital part of the CDBG program. OCD provides opportunities for communities to offer comments such as the public forums that were held throughout the State of Maine in July, 2009. The Final Statement and Application Workshops are scheduled during the month of October, 2009. All communities are encouraged to attend. The application deadlines for the 2010 CDBG Program are as follows and anyone wishing to apply for funding should submit their Letters of Intent or applications no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on the dates listed.

Program	Letter of Intent Due Date	Application Due Date	Budget
Administration			\$355,048
Technical Assistance Administration			\$128,524
Regional Council Technical Assistance			\$300,000
Public Facilities	December 4, 2009	January 22, 2010	\$1,300,000
Public Infrastructure	December 4, 2009	January 22, 2010	\$2,250,000
Economic Development (Round 1)	February 12, 2010	March 26, 2010	\$800,000
Economic Development (Round 2)	May 28, 2010	July 16, 2010	\$750,000
Economic Development (Round 3)	August 13, 2010	September 24, 2010	\$700,000
Downtown Revitalization	January 22, 2010	March 5, 2010	\$600,000
Maine Downtown Center			\$201,000
Community Enterprise	January 22, 2010	March 5, 2010	\$1,050,000
Housing Assistance	February 19, 2010	April 2, 2010	\$2,225,000
Home Repair Network Program			\$1,103,000
Critical Access Ramp Program			\$300,000
Public Service	March 19, 2010	April 30, 2010	\$250,000
Non-Profit Development	N/A	March 19, 2010	\$250,000
Community Planning	N/A	May 14, 2010	\$80,000
Urgent Need	N/A	Beginning on March 19, 2010	\$100,000
Interim Financing	N/A	Open – By Invitation Only	
Special Projects Matching Fund	N/A	Open – By Invitation Only	\$109,810
Development Fund	N/A	First Friday of each Month	
Total Budget			\$12,852,382

MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER PROGRAM

The Maine Community Development Association's June meeting was held at the Rustica Cucina Itali Restaurant in Rockland. The City of Rockland hosted the 9th Annual Downtown Conference on June 5, 2009. At the conference, it was announced that the City of Rockland and the Town of Sanford were added to the Main Street Maine Communities program. Kristen Cady, Program Director, for the Maine Development Foundation announced that these two communities, each with vibrant and historic downtowns, bring to ten the number of participants in this program. Other communities include; Biddeford, Saco, Bath, Gardiner, Waterville, Skowhegan, Van Buren and Eastport. Additionally, a new lighter paced program, known as the Maine Downtown Network, was launched. This program is designed to help downtown leaders understand and work with the Maine Street Four-Point Approach to downtown revitalization. Participating communities in this program include; Presque Isle, Millinocket, Bucksport, Farmington, Augusta, Lisbon, and Norway.

For more information on the Main Street Maine and Maine Downtown Network programs, please visit www.mdf.org or contact Kristen Cady, Program Director at 626-3117 or Roxanne Eflin, Program Manager at 229-9465.

DECD Commits \$300,000 to the Maine Downtown Center Program -- Community Development Block Grant monies will assist revitalizing downtowns in Maine--

Commissioner John Richardson of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) announced the Office of Community Development's two-year, \$150,000 grant commitment to the Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center program, which will provide additional funds for technical assistance to many Maine communities. Commissioner Richardson stated "community development, especially downtown revitalization, is key to supporting the state's future economic growth; one cannot happen without the other." The Maine Downtown Center will use the two \$150,000 annual grants for helping smaller communities access the dynamic programs and assistance of the Maine Street Maine Program, which helps Maine's cities and villages revitalize their downtowns to the point where they are the first choice for shopping, living, socializing, and doing business.

PINE TREE DEVELOPMENT ZONE (PTDZ)

In the Fall of 2004, eight zones were designated – Aroostook County, Androscoggin Valley, Downeast, Kennebec Valley, Midcoast, Penobscot Valley, PenQuis and Southern Maine. In 2005, additional acreage was provided for the Maine Indian Tribes. In 2006, the legislature established the Military Redevelopment Zone and a waiver for certain industrial sites thereby opening up more eligible locations.

The PTDZ program offers eligible businesses the chance to greatly reduce or virtually eliminate state taxes for up to ten years. The purpose of the program is to target industries in geographic areas with high unemployment and low wages. Eligible sectors include;

- Manufacturing
- Financial Services
- Biotechnology
- Aquaculture and marine technology
- Composite materials technology
- Environmental technology
- Advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture
- Information technology

On June 22, 2009, legislation was again passed to modify the existing PTDZ program from being limited by location to being open statewide. For questions on the PTDZ, contact your Business Development Specialist or go to the www.mainebiz.org website.

Community Development Appreciation Day and MCDA August Meeting

U.S. Representative Michael Michaud provided an update on the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The NBRC was cosponsored by Congressman Michaud in 2008. The purpose was to invest in projects that benefit the economy of the region, especially in economically distressed communities. It would create and implement regional economic development plans to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life. Infrastructure, telecommunications, health care, transportation, and business development are among the areas that the NBRC would focus on. In August, 2009, the U.S. House approved the creation of a regional commission and allocated \$3,000,000 to help with economic development in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York. Unlike other federal programs, this program would allow federal dollars to match other federal dollars.

Other topics of discussion included transportation issues, first-time homebuyer credit program, CDBG-repooling of funds, empowerment zone designation, and importance of economic development programs.

- **Transportation:** Weight limits on the interstate, Senator Collins has requested a study for limits on Maine's interstate. As it stands, the weight limit is now 80,000 lbs. for a 5-axle vehicle; the proposed change would be 97,000 lbs. with a 6-axle vehicle.
- **Empowerment Zone:** The U.S. House is hoping to get this program extended with full funding.
- **First-Time Homebuyer Program:** The \$8,000 credit for first-time homebuyers would probably be extended beyond December, 2009.
- **CDBG-Repooling:** This issue has been discussed on many occasions. MCDA members and others strongly encouraged that unused CDBG dollars be reallocated to other communities.

Several awards were presented at this event. There were three Lifetime Achievement Awards:

Charles Upton

Charles John Upton, 64, died unexpectedly Jan. 18, 2009. He was employed by the town of Houlton for more than 23 years as economic development director and grant writer. Charles was later employed as executive director of the Upper Valley Economic Development Council and grant writer for Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. He worked countless hours for the betterment of Houlton, Aroostook County and the state of Maine. He was past president of Maine Community Development Director's Association, past president of Economic Development Council of Maine, vice president of Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum, awarded recognition of accomplishment by Maine Historic Preservation Commission and named economic developer of the year by Finance Authority of Maine. Board Member Wade Hansen accepted the award on behalf of the Upton Family.



Robert Dodge

Robert G. Dodge, 63, died Tuesday afternoon on February 3, 2009. Mr. Dodge was the Biddeford Director of Economic and Community Development and the Director of the Biddeford Housing Authority. He worked in this capacity for 30 years through many different administrations. During that period of time, he also worked a couple of years for HUD. Bob was especially proud of the Mill Redevelopment Projects, the Main St. Project, the Business Parks and the Route 111 development. In earlier years he was a driving force behind neighborhood revitalizations by planting trees along Biddeford city streets and improving inner city residential neighborhoods. He was proud of Biddeford and the fact that he had a hand in improving the quality of life by applying and receiving many Federal grants and creating new jobs on behalf of the city. The award was presented to Mr. Dodge's daughter.

Nellie Goulette

"**Not a Nickel Nellie**" was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 34 years of service to the State of Maine. Nellie's last day was August 14, 2009. In addition to her Lifetime Achievement Award, MCDA President Tony Levesque presented her with an appreciation award for her contribution to the organization. Duane and Mary Walton, MCDA member and Board member, presented Nellie with a plaque made up of nickels that spelled out "NELL".



John Richardson, commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) presented the CDBG Grant Administrator of the Year award to Darryl Sterling, Economic and Community Development Director for the Town of Richmond. Mr. Sterling serves on the Midcoast Council for Business Development & Planning and the Midcoast Economic Development District. His work has resulted in the successful awards of a \$500,000 CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant for sewer line improvements; and a CDBG Economic Development Grant for \$200,000 for business expansion and creation of 7-10 new jobs. Additionally, he was instrumental in obtaining funds under the 2009 Riverfront Grant Project.

The CDBG Project of the Year Award was presented to the Town of Bucksport. Accepting the award is Debbie Fitzpatrick. The town secured funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program, USDA Rural Development, as well as local funds to implement a waterfront amenities project consisting of extending sidewalks, park benches, pond with fountain and water wheel, foot bridge, and information kiosk. Other activities included enhancing cross walks, street signage, and flower baskets.



The West Bath Historical Society has been given Maine's 2009 Governor's Award for "Community Spirit" in recognition of the organization's tireless efforts to restore the town's historic one-room school house, the Littlefield (Mill Cove District) School. Accepting the award at a ceremony on Friday, Aug 21 were: Avery Meyers, President, WBHS; Frank Roberts, architect; and Pamela Hile, West Bath Town Administrator. Presenting the plaque, on behalf of Governor Baldacci was John Richardson, Commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic & Community Development. As the award plaque reads in part, the West Bath Historical Society's efforts "to restore and continue to use this historic school house and assure that future generations can celebrate the local heritage associated with this unique structure."

ABOUT MCDA

MCDA's Purpose

To provide forums to increase awareness and foster communication relating to community development issues and concerns, and to provide education and training through workshops.

MCDA Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Association takes place at the Annual Convention of the Maine Municipal Association. Four (4) regular meetings for the General Membership and the Executive Committee are held annually throughout the State of Maine. The Executive Committee meetings are called by the President or majority of officers on an as-needed basis.

All Meetings are open to MCDA Members!

MCDA Newsletters

Quarterly newsletters highlighting community and economic development articles of special interest throughout the State of Maine are made available to the general membership.

Benefits to Becoming a Member. . .

- MCDA Funding Directory
- Training and Workshops
- Legislative Advocacy
- Affiliation with Other Agencies and Organizations
- Links to Funding and Business Agencies
- MCDA's ability to network with multiple partners

Who's Invited to Join????

Any person, municipality, or firm employed by or interested in economic and/or community development.

The composition of MCDA's Executive Committee and current membership offers new members an extensive knowledge base of community and economic development programs and available financial resources. The tenure and experience of this Association can provide new members with a multiple resource base on a variety of proposed projects in your community. I am/am not interested in serving on one of the following committees:

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Officer/Executive Committee

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

It is an e-mail networking list that permits you to:

- Network with colleagues
- Quickly resolve problems and seek solutions
- Seek advice or answers and get responses quickly
- Actively participate in discussions or simply monitor news or developments
- Stay involved with the organization

How does it work?

Think of it as a bulk mailing system. You send out a message for your colleagues to read and/or respond to. All messages to the list are received by everyone on the list. Messages are posted in response to yours, and everyone on the list gets to see the answers. Participation is limited to current MCDA members. Messages to the group can only be sent or received at your subscribed e-mail address. Once you are subscribed to the list, to send a message to the listserv, simply send an e-mail to: MCDA-Networking@imail.memun.org.

How do I sign up?

The MCDA list is managed by the Resource Center at MMA. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list, contact the Resource Center. The Resource Center updates the list as members join the organization or change jobs or change their e-mail address. Members should contact the ResourceCenter@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786 if changes need to be made to your list information or if you are having problems using the list.

Suggested Guidelines:

When posting messages to the list, keep in mind the following general guidelines:

- Messages should be consistent with the purposes of MCDA and its members
- Always remember that your responses to questions or inquiries are to everyone on the list.
- Respond to the individual sender, not the list if the message is not for everyone. Thank you's should not be on the list, for example.
- If replying to the list, please cut the earlier trailing messages before hitting send to reduce the size of the message.

2009 Legislative Update

Boosting Conservation and Building Maine's Energy Future

- *Passed a sweeping energy package that included funds for renewable energy, weatherization and workforce development programming in emerging green industries. Established strong and ongoing funding to weatherize Maine homes and businesses.*
- *Created a new "Efficiency Maine Trust" to provide a "one stop shop" for customers and businesses to access energy programs. Authorized \$79 million in federal economic stimulus funds in order to fund efficiency and weatherization efforts for low and middle income households as well as businesses.*
- *Created a 50 megawatt community-based renewable energy pilot program, allowing communities to create energy projects which require support from the municipality where the project will be located.*
- *Directed manufacturers to establish a safe, free recycling system in all Maine communities for fluorescent light bulbs, a first-in-the-nation law that removes harmful mercury from the environment.*
- *Added printers, digital picture frames and gaming consoles to the state's landmark e-waste recycling law.*
- *Extended the solar and wind energy rebate program from 2010 to 2015.*

New Laws Passed in 2009

A lower tax burden for Mainers, quality health care access, new civil rights and ethics laws, clean energy and the environment, creating jobs, and improving the economy.

Job Creation and the Economy

- *The Legislature passed a bond package that, if approved by the voters, will create hundreds of new jobs and invest hundreds of millions in the Maine economy for roads, working waterfronts, Land for Maine's future, research and development, higher education, conservation and state parks.*
- *Expanded the Pine Tree Development Zone benefits statewide in order to spur business growth and job creation throughout the state.*
- *Made training programs available to more workers affected by economic downturns.*
- *Created a process for homeowners to negotiate with lenders and mortgage servicers by establishing a court-supervised mediation process in foreclosure proceedings.*



MCDCA PAST PRESIDENTS

Tony Levesque	2008-
Chris Spruce	2007
Isaac Wagner	2006
Matthew Eddy	2004-2005
Peter Lyford	2002-2003
Al Smith	2000-2001
Tony Levesque	1998-1999
Scott Pierz	1996-1997
Perley Beane	1994-1995
Orman Whitcomb	1992-1993
Debbie Wyman	
Nancy Gervais	
Dan Feeney	
Arthur Faucher	
Terry McCabe	
Charles Upton	
Rick Michaud	
Laurie Windsor	
Others unknown	

If anyone has further information regarding dates served or names that may have been omitted from this list, please contact Joella R. Theriault at jtheriault@nmdc.org.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

Economic and Community Development Resources

Federal

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
www.hud.gov

USDA Rural Development
www.rurdev.usda.gov

U.S. Small Business Administration
www.sbaonline.sba.gov

State

Maine Department of Economic and
Community Development
www.meocd.org

USDA Rural Development in Maine
www.rurdev.usda.gov/me

Small Business Development Centers
www.mainesbdc.org

ALPHA ONE
www.alphaone.now.com

Maine State Housing Authority
www.mainehousing.org

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
www.ceimaine.org

Finance Authority of Maine
www.famemaine.com

**2009 MMA Convention
Augusta Civic Center
Augusta, Maine
Maine Community Development Association's Agenda
(co-sponsored by Maine Association of Planners)**

Thursday, October 8, 2009

9:45 to 10:4 a.m.	Grant Opportunities for Municipalities
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Tools for Writing Effective Grants
11:45 – 1:15 p.m.	MCDA Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions by Tony Levesque, President, MCDA
2. Election of Officers
3. Review of August 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Correspondence
 - a. Update from DECD/OCD and COSCDA Conference
 - b. Next Meeting

Grant Funding Opportunities for Municipalities: The Maine Community Development Association and the Maine Association of Planners will jointly sponsor two workshops at the Maine Municipal Association Convention in the Augusta Civic Center on Thursday, October 8, 2009 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Grant Funding Opportunities for Municipalities and from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Tools for Writing Effective Grants. Opportunities session Mick Rogers, Grants Program Manager, Department of Conservation, will speak on Recreation Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund; Dan Stewart, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, Maine DOT will speak on the Quality Community Program and Safe Routes to School; Mike Baran, Director of Office of Community Development, DECD and Terry Stevens, Program Development Manager, OCD, will speak on Community Development Block Grants; and Ronald Lambert, Director of Community Programs, USDA Rural Development will speak on community facilities grants and loans and stimulus package funding. The panel moderator will be Rodney Lynch, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Rockland.

Grant Writing Tools Workshop: Jamie Francomano, City Planner, City of Presque Isle will make a presentation on GIS; Ann Matlack, Assistant to the Rockland City Manager will speak on conducting community wide and neighborhood income surveys; and Zack Steel, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will be making a Community Viz presentation. Community Viz™ is an advanced GIS-based, decision support system for community planning and design applications that provides an interactive, real-time 3D environment. It is designed to help both citizens and professionals alike in understanding and developing plans and policies for their community. The panel moderator will be James Gulnac, AICP, Planning and Community Development Director, Town of Sanford.

**Maine Community
Development
Association**

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9486

(207) 623-8428 or
1-800-452-8786

www.maineecda.org

**MCDA Subcommittee
Members:**

Advocacy

Daniel LaPointe (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Ron Harriman
Al Smith

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Mike Baran
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt
Tony Levesque

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Jim Gulnac (Chair)
Joella R. Theriault
Rodney Lynch
Steve Dyer
Wade Hanson
Mathew Eddy

Membership

Steve Dyer (Co-Chair)
Jim Gulnac (Co-Chair)
Suzie Paradis
Tony Levesque

Nomination

Al Smith (Chair)
Wade Hanson
Paul Bernier

2007-2008 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Tony Levesque
Town of Fort Fairfield
P.O. Box 350
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742
(207) 472-3800
Term Expires: October, 2009

Vice President:

James Gulnac
Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073
(207) 324-9150
Term Expires: October, 2009

Treasurer:

Ron Harriman
Ron Harriman Associates
31 Central Street, Suite 208
Bangor, ME 04401
1-800-648-8335
Term Expires: October, 2009

Secretary:

Joella R. Theriault
Northern Maine Development Commission
11 West Main Street, Suite 104
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 834-5298
Term Expires: October, 2009

Past President:

Christopher Spruce
Island Housing Trust
P.O. Box 851
Mount Desert, ME 04660
(207) 288-4496
Term Expires: October, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Walton, City of Caribou
25 High Street
Caribou, ME 04736
(207) 493-3324
Term Expires: October, 2009

Rodney Lynch, City of Rockland
270 Pleasant Street
Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 594-0306
Term Expires: October, 2009

Wade Hanson, Town of Houlton
21 Water Street
Houlton, ME 04730
(207) 532-7111
Term Expires: October, 2010

Steve Dyer
Ransom Environmental Consult.
400 Commercial Street, Suite 404
Portland, ME 04102
(207) 772-2891
Term Expires: October, 2010

