

Preserving America	1
Northern Border Regional Commission	2
ConnectME Authority	2
Community Development Block Grant Program	3
-2008 Certification Classes	3
- 2008 CDBG Appreciation Day	3
-Critical Access Ramp Program	3
MCDA Subcommittee Members	4
MCDA Membership Information	5

MCDA OFFICERS:

Tony Levesque, President
Town of Fort Fairfield

James Gulnac, Vice President
Town of Sanford

Ron Harriman, Treasurer
Ron Harriman Associates

Joella R. Theriault, Secretary
Northern Maine Development Commission

Directors:

Mary Walton, City of Caribou
Rodney Lynch, City of Rockland
Don Keiser, Town of Houlton
Steve Dyer, Ransom Environmental Consultants, Inc.



Preserving America

The Maine Community Development Association's June meeting was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fort Fairfield. Guest Speaker was Diana Huot, HUD Operations Specialist, who presented the Preserve America

Initiative. Communities may participate in this initiative in order to protect and celebrate its history. The benefits of a community, neighborhood, or tribe being designated as a Preserve America Community are eligibility for Preserve America grants, certificate of recognition, and official notification of designation to State tourism offices and visitor bureaus. The designation allows participants to use its historic assets for economic development and community revitalization. It also encourages people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism.

Applicants interested in this initiative must apply for designation at specified due dates, which are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Once a designation has been received, the designee may apply for Preserve America funds that range between \$20,000 and \$250,000. The FY08 budget was established at nearly \$7.5 million; however, the FY09 budget has not yet been determined. Application due dates for funding are Round One: December 12 and Round Two: June 30.

The FY08 First Round Awards were made to the following:

- ✓ CT: Wethersfield
- ✓ MA: N/A
- ✓ ME: Portland and Saco
- ✓ NH: N/A
- ✓ RI: East Providence
- ✓ VT: N/A

For more information, log on to www.preserveamerica.gov

Northern Border Regional Commission

Congressman Michael Michaud cosponsored a bill to establish the Northern Border Regional Commission under the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007. On June 18, 2008 the House voted to override the President's second veto of this bill known as the "Farm Bill". This bill will invest \$30 million per year in federal resources in economic development and job creation projects in the most economically distressed area of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. The bill will become law once both chambers override the President's veto.

The Need Counties along the northern border from Maine through New York have a greater percentage of population living in poverty. Median household income is more than \$6,500 below the national average and unemployment through layoffs is persistent. The population has only grown by 0.6% between 1990 and 2000 while the U.S. population overall rose by 13.25% showing significant out-migration and loss of young people.

Purpose The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) would 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.

Administration The commission is comprised of the four governors or their designees of the four state region, plus a federal Co-Chair. No project could be undertaken that is not in a state plan and states maintain control over deciding what can be undertaken within their borders. The affirmative vote of the Co-Chair plus a majority of the governors is needed for any decision – this ensures federal oversight and regional consensus. At the same time, project development comes from local economic development districts, so local planning and on-the-ground experts are involved in shaping the focus of the commission's efforts.

Authorization of Appropriations The commission is authorized at \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Northern Border Regional Commission Counties

- *Maine:* Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo and Washington
- *New Hampshire:* Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan
- *Vermont:* Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans
- *New York:* Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence.

ConnectME Authority

On June 9, Governor John E. Baldacci and ConnectME Authority announced that applications are now available for the second round of its grant program to expand Mainers' access to broadband service. More than \$1.5 million is expected to be available; nearly twice what was available for the first round. The grants will continue to be targeted

to areas of the State that have no form of broadband or high-speed internet service available. The application form is available on the ConnectME website (<http://www.maine.gov/connectme/>). The filing deadline for the application is July 18, 2008. The Authority hopes to make funding commitments within two weeks of the submittals.



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

🌟 *2008 CDBG Certification Classes*

Classes will be held on July 16 and 17 at the Augusta City Hall, 16 Cony Street, Augusta. The 2-day long session will present a detailed look at the major compliance areas of the CDBG program. Passing the examination qualifies an attendee to receive a certificate as a "Certified CDBG Administrator". The cost of the 2-day session is \$175 and is an eligible CDBG administrative expenditure.

🌟 *2008 CDBG Appreciation Day*

CDBG Appreciation Day is scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2008 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. For directions, click on <http://pinetreestatearboretum.org/pages/directions.php>

🌟 *Michael D. Baran, Interim Program Director*



Mike Baran replaced Orman Whitcomb as the Interim Program Director in the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Community Development. Mike has worked as a Project Manager and Technical Assistance Director for the Community Development Block Grant Program for many years. As a member of MCDA, Mike Baran works closely with the organization towards the betterment of all community and economic development efforts.

🌟 *Critical Ramp Access Project*

The Town of Fort Fairfield, in partnership with the Office of Community Development, sponsored the Critical Ramp Access Project. ALPHA ONE's "Critical Access" program was started to help Mainers with disabilities gain access to and from their homes. Too often, individuals that require a wheelchair or walker cannot attend medical and rehabilitation appointments, cannot get to the store, and are unable to get out into the community because they lack a ramp. They become increasingly isolated.

Brad Strause, ALPHA ONE Project Manager, discovered that other states were constructing ramps in sections. This would allow an individual to disassemble the ramps and move them to another location when they moved.

DECD's Office of Community Development helped develop a fabrication area where ramp components could be built off site, transported to a storage area and then taken to a site where trained contractors would install the ramp. AmeriCorps and Youthbuild of Lewiston became involved and built 8 ramps. DECD provided funding for 12 ramps and Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) provided funding for another 6 ramps. Plans are underway to develop critical access centers in Bangor and Presque Isle

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

(Check www.meocd.org for dates)

- ▶ 2008 CDBG Certification Classes July 16th and 17th at Augusta City Hall
- ▶ 2008 CDBG Appreciation Day August 22nd at Pine Tree State Arboretum
- ▶ 2008 COSCDA Convention September 14th at Williamsburg, VA
- ▶ 2008 MMA Convention October 8th at

(Check www.coscda.gov for more information)

MCDA Subcommittee Members:

Advocacy Committee

Christopher Spruce, Island Housing Trust (Chair)
Chris Shrum, Eastern Maine Development Corp
Ryan Pelletier, Town of St. Agatha
Al Smith, City of Bath

Communications Committee

Mary Walton, City of Caribou (Chair)
Mike Baran, Office of Community Development
Don Keiser, Town of Houlton
Joella R. Theriault, NMDC

Finance Committee

Ron Harriman, Ron Harriman Associates (Chair)
Christopher Spruce, Island Housing Trust
James Gulnac, Town of Sanford
Joella R. Theriault, NMDC
Mary Walton, City of Caribou
Rodney Lynch, City of Rockland
Don Keiser, Town of Houlton
Steve Dyer, Ransom Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Professional Development Committee

James Gulnac, Town of Sanford (Chair)
Mathew Eddy, Town of Brunswick
Joella R. Theriault, NMDC
Christopher Spruce, Island Housing Trust

Membership/Organizational Development Committee

Steve Dyer, Ransom Environmental Consultants, Inc. (Chair)
Tony Levesque, Town of Fort Fairfield
Mike Baran, Office of Community Development
Al Smith, City of Bath

2008 DECD/COSCDA Representative

James Gulnac, Town of Sanford

Maine Community Development Association

60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
(207) 623-8428

MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

A Professional organization promoting economic and community development in Maine.

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!

If you would like to become an MCDA member, please contact us:

**Maine Community
Development Association**

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9486
(207) 623-8428 or
1-800-452-8786

Annual Membership Fee is \$100.00

Please make checks payable to:

**MAINE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

MEMBERSHIP:

- Individual
- Municipal
- Firm

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