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MCDA Annual Meeting

The Maine Community Development Association's annual meeting was held on October 13, 2010 during the MMA Convention in Augusta. The following slate of officers was elected to service for a one-year term beginning October 13, 2010 and ending October, 2011 at the next annual meeting.

James Gulnac – President	Rodney Lynch – Vice President
Ron Harriman – Treasurer	Joella R. Theriault –Secretary
Wade Hansen, Director – Member at Large	
Steve Dyer, Director – Member at Large	

A community development funding strategies session, sponsored by MCDA, included speakers from the private, public, and regional association sectors. Noel Musson of CES, Inc. presented an overview of the private sector. Professionals from the private sector would include planners, managers, lawyers, business people, grant writers, and engineers. The role they play in community development is to provide advice on economic and community development policy, help develop strategies, administer programs and projects, and consult on specific projects. In contrast, the public sector would include economic and community development directors directly employed by a municipality. Darryl Sterling of the Town of Richmond's Economic Development Department explained his role as director. The value of a local economic and community development program can bring in tens of thousands of dollars in local funds to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding. This funding expenditure has resulted in municipal improvements throughout the community, which in turn has created jobs and private investments. Gail Chase of Kennebec Valley Council of Governments is an economic and community development manager providing services to 53 communities in the region. Councils of Governments and planning commissions receive funding from the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide CDBG technical assistance to communities within their jurisdiction. This type of assistance is crucial to smaller communities who do not have the funds to hire a private consultant or full time director to secure funds for various economic and community development projects.

Twenty-seven people attended this training session.

Office of Community Development - Updates

- ❑ **2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** Final Statement is on-line at www.meocd.org

- ❑ **2011 CDBG Application Workshops** will be held in October – dates, times and location are –

October 18, 2010	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Machias
October 19, 2010	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Saco
October 21, 2010	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Fort Fairfield
October 22, 2010	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Augusta

- ❑ **Communities for Maine's Future Program:** Gail Chase of Kennebec Valley Council of Governments and MCDA Board member is one of four panel members chosen to review applications for this program. Draft rules have been completed and applications are scheduled for early winter availability. Funding for this program is anticipated to be available in January, 2011.
- ❑ **Brownfields** Program: The Office of Community Development has been awarded \$1,000,000 in grant funding to work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) in making loans available for brownfields. Nick Hodgkins of MDEP explained that this would be a revolving loan fund (RLF) for cleanup projects such as asbestos, lead paint, oil leaks, etc. RLF loans will be made available for both public and private entities and grant funds will be made available to municipalities and nonprofit organizations. There is a 20% match for this program. MDEP will be accepting the applications for funding sometime in February, 2011.
- ❑ **Maine Downtown Center:** Roxanne Elfin, Director, is currently working with 22 communities throughout the state of Maine. The Maine Downtown Center serves as the state coordinator for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program. The Center's mission is to advance preservation-based economic development in Maine downtowns.
- ❑ **COSCD (Council of State Community Development Directors Association):** Deborah Johnson of the Office of Community Development and Suzie Paradis, Community Development Director for the Town of Madawaska and member of MCDA, attended the COSCD annual meeting, which was held in Sacramento, California. Debbie reported that Congress is looking very carefully at funding and timeliness of expenditures. Regarding the Section 3 requirements, it is anticipated that new mandates for hiring LMI contractors and employees will soon be required. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is anticipating another round of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding. While the funding is expected, there are no firm dates for applications at this time.

Funding Opportunities

- A. **Rural Community Development Initiative:** This funding opportunity is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The RCDI provides grant funds to eligible entities for the purpose of developing the capacity and ability of nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. The 2010 round of funding has a December 22, 2010 deadline. USDA anticipates funding between 21-126 applicants with maximum grant amounts that range from \$50,000 to \$300,000. The following is a list of eligible grant uses:
- Technical assistance to develop recipients' capacity and ability to undertake projects,
 - Develop the capacity of recipients to conduct community development programs,
 - Develop the capacity of recipients to conduct development initiatives,
 - Develop the capacity of recipients to increase their leveraging ability and access to alternative funding sources,
 - Develop the capacity of recipients to provide the technical assistance component for essential community facilities projects,
 - Assist recipients in completing redevelopment requirements for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects,
 - Improve recipient's organizational capacity by providing training and resource material,
 - Purchase of computers, software, etc. , limited to \$10,000,
 - Provide funds to recipients for training-related travel costs and training expenses.
- B. **Homeland Security Grant Program:** The Homeland Security Grant Program funds projects to better prepare Maine communities and Maine First Responders to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism attacks and other disaster events. Highest priority is given to projects that 1) continue all-hazards planning; 2) improve critical infrastructure protection; 3) provide WMD/Terrorism/HAZMAT response training to first responders; 4) improve interoperable communications; 5) maintain and grow the capacity of Maine Information and Analysis Center; 6) support the statewide exercise program; 7) support HAZMAT Team equipment needs; and 8) support mass care, exercise and needs. Of the \$1,584,000 available, \$69,000 will be provided to state agencies; \$977,000 to non-law enforcement entities; and \$537,000 to law enforcement entities. Applications must be submitted to county EMA offices no later than Friday, November 19, 2010.



- C. **Healthy Homes Production Program:** HUD anticipates approximately 12 awards in an amount ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 per year for three years to eligible applicants. This grant program deadline is November 8, 2010. The purpose of the grant is to identify and correct significant housing-related health and safety hazards in low-income housing.



**Northern
Maine
Development
Commission**

Featured Story: In a press release issued on October 14, 2010, HUD

announced awards of nearly \$100,000,000 in new grants to promote smarter and sustainable planning for jobs and economic growth. HUD's new *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program* is part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities initiative. A total of 45 regional areas received funding through this new initiative, which is intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation. These grants brings the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) together to ensure that the agencies' policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together. This interagency collaboration gets better results for communities and uses taxpayer money more efficiently.

Northern Maine Development Commission was awarded \$800,000 to develop a ***Washington & Aroostook Counties Regional Plan for Sustainable Development***. This plan will serve as a comprehensive plan for the Washington-Aroostook region as well as multi-municipal plans for identified sub regions within the two-county area. The plan will include and integrate planning efforts for Washington and Aroostook County in the areas of housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments.

I. Housing: A housing profile will be developed that will identify the supply of all affordable housing types located within a ½ mile radius of high capacity transit service. The housing element will provide for the housing needs of the region's present and future population. Providing choice in housing types and costs is an integral component of the proposed plan in order to meet the changing needs of the area's older residents as well as the smaller family households. The plan will develop recommendations that will include lot size data; proximity to primary services such as healthcare; food service etc. and will examine new housing types that complement the sub-region's traditional architecture while promoting energy efficiency and green technology.

II. Environmental: The environmental element of the plan will evaluate the water and waste water infrastructure needs of the two-county region and review alternative solutions to the rural needs of both counties. The plan shall outline the regulations, incentives and other legislative options

available to municipalities to encourage sustainable growth within the sub regions. A future land use map will be developed using GIS technology that depicts where different types of uses should be located based on current available infrastructure. The plan will also evaluate a regional conservation easement program that could be established at the County level to purchase and protect farmland and other natural resource areas located in the two-county region.

III. Transportation: The proposed plan will review existing travel modes and identify improvements that promote the safe and effective transportation of people and commodities in the region. Recommendations will be developed that support lessening congestion and increasing traffic flow and safety. Existing highway and local roads will be reviewed utilizing existing data to identify improvements that could be made in areas such as highway shoulders for non-motorized uses; the development of bicycle networks; and provisions for identifying and connecting existing street patterns and sidewalk networks in sub region villages. Finally, the transportation element will explore and recommend where feasible, public transit service to serve and connect high employment centers or other identified areas where people need to access frequently and in higher volumes.

IV. Socio-Economic & Economic Opportunity: The socio-economic element will provide an analysis of population and demographic data relevant to the needs of the region. Employment status; persistent unemployment patterns; income levels; poverty rates and educational attainment by location/population will be examined and recommendation developed for capacity building and partnering with one stop career centers; community colleges; universities; and other service providers in the two-county region where applicable to explore opportunities. The economic opportunity component will include sector based analysis on occupations; commute times; identification of the major employment centers in both counties; and the further development of public and private partnerships. The ultimate goal of the economic element will be to provide the region's elected officials and policy makers with the right information to increase the competitive position of the entire Northeast Maine region.

Upcoming Workshops

- ✓ May 5 and 6, 2011 2011 MCDA/OCD Retreat at the Lucerne Inn
- ✓ TBA Rehabilitation Technician Training Workshop
- ✓ TBA Federal Labor Standards Training Workshop

For more information on these workshops, visit www.meocd.org

CITY OF ROCKLAND

MCDA Vice President, Rodney Lynch, is the city of Rockland's Community Development Director. Mr. Lynch thanked staff of DECD's Office of Community Development for a \$10,000 CDBG Community Planning grant to update the town's downtown revitalization plan. As a result, the City of Rockland was awarded a "Plan of the Year" award through the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association. For more information, please visit www.ci.rockland.me.us.

According to the December issue of the Maine Municipal Association's Maine Townsman, Rockland Community Development Director, Rodney Lynch, will retire in 2011 after more than 13 years with the coastal city. Lynch is credited with helping the city win \$4.5 million in grants and raising another \$1.2 million in private investment. Lynch, a Navy veteran, hopes to continue working with the city staff on development projects in some capacity. He is a former town manager for Bethel and Norridgewock, among other posts, over a 35-year professional career.

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.

MCDA Newsletters

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO

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

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

Membership

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

MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

SEE NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER FOR COMPLETE LISTING

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

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

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

Maine Community Development Association

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

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

MCDCA Subcommittee

Members:

Advocacy

Daniel LaPointe (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Ron Harriman
Al Smith
Jamie Francomano

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Mike Baran
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Jim Gulnac (Chair)
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
Tony Levesque

2010-2011 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

James Q. Gulnac, AICP

Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073-3589
(207) 324-9150

Term Expires: October, 2011

Vice President:

Rodney Lynch

City of Rockland
270 Pleasant Street
Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 594-0306

Term Expires: October, 2011

Treasurer:

Ron Harriman

Ron Harriman Associates
61 Main Street, Suite 62
Bangor, ME 04401
1-800-648-8335

Term Expires: October, 2011

Secretary:

Joella R. Theriault

Northern Maine Development Commission
11 West Main Street, Suite 104
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 834-5298

Term Expires: October, 2011

Past President:

Tony Levesque

Town of Fort Fairfield
18 Community Center Drive
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742
(207) 472-3805

Term Expires: October, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS

Wade Hanson

Town of Houlton
21 Water Street
404 Houlton, ME 04730
(207) 532-7111

Term Expires: October, 2011

Gail Chase

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments
17 Main Street
Fairfield, ME 04937-1119
(207) 453-4258

Term Expires: October, 2012

Steve Dyer

Ransom Environmental Consult.
400 Commercial Street, Suite
Portland, ME 04102
(207) 772-2891

Term Expires: October, 2011

Darryl Sterling

Town of Richmond
26 Gardiner Street
Richmond, ME 04357-0159
(207) 737-4305

Term Expires: October, 2012

