



General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2009
Teleconference

1. **Call to Order** by J. Gulnac, President at 10:11 .m.

Present were:

Jim Gulnac, President	Town of Sanford
Mike Baran	DECD Program Manager
Joella R. Theriault, Secretary	Northern Maine Development Commission
Gail Chase, Director	Kennebec Valley Council of Government
Rodney Lynch, Vice President	City of Rockland
Steve Dyer, Director	Ransom Environmental Engineering
Tony Levesque, Immediate Past President	Town of Fort Fairfield
Dan LaPointe, Member	Town of Van Buren
Al Smith, Member	City of Bath
Mike Bush	Eastern Maine Development Corporation

2. **Review of the October 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** Moved by M. Baran to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by T. Levesque. Motion passed with no opposition.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** T. Levesque reported on the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2009 as follows:

Revenues to Date	\$9,839
Expenditures to Date	\$9,734
Net Income	\$105
Fund Balance	\$9,165

4. **Establishing a Calendar:**

February 12, 2010	General Membership (Teleconference)
April 29 and 30, 2010	Joint Meeting with DECD at the Lucerne Inn
June 11, 2010	General Membership Meeting in Sanford
August 20, 2010	Joint Meeting with DECD at CDBG Appreciation Day - Augusta
October 6 and 7, 2010	MMA Convention

5. Establishing the Committees for 2010:

Membership	Professional Development	Financial	Communication	Advocacy	Nominations
Steve Dyer (Chair) Tony Levesque Suzie Paradis	Rodney Lynch (Chair) Joella Theriault Tony Levesque Steve Dyer Wade Hanson Mike Bush Mathew Eddy	Ron Harriman (Chair) And Executive Committee and Immediate Past President	Joella Theriault (Chair) Mike Baran Gail Chase Mary Walton Tony Levesque	Dan LaPointe (Chair) Al Smith Tony Levesque Ron Harriman Noel Musson	Al Smith (Chair) Tony Levesque Darryl Sterling Dan LaPointe

COSFDA Liaison/Representative: To be determined at a subsequent meeting

- 6. Discussion of Membership Recruitment/Retention/Professional Identification:** Looking at a certification program that would “add initials to our names”. This would give MCDA members a certain level of professionalism.

S. Dyer reported that the Plus One Campaign fell short on membership attempts to double membership. Discussion ensued on developing a letter and possibly submitting it to each municipality. This letter should have graphics and bullets highlighting successful projects. It was reported that many individuals in the community development profession don’t even know that MCDA exists. M. Baran will schedule a meeting sometime in December with the Communications and Membership committee members to draft a letter.

- 7. Discussion on Member Services from MMA:** MMA provides MCDA with website hosting, meeting spaces, processing dues, bookkeeping services, and Board business. The fee for MMA services this year has increased by 2% over last year’s fee (2009 fee: \$1,703 and 2010 fee: \$1,737.06). Moved by M. Baran to approve the 2010 fee; seconded by T. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8. Discussion on possible workshops with or without M.A.P. (Maine Association of Planners):** J. Gulnac mentioned a possible workshop regarding Brownfields. A Brownfields conference will be held in Augusta sometime this spring and information from this conference could be brought back to the organization during the June meeting in Sanford. J. Gulnac also recognized R. Lynch’s work at the MMA Convention and would entertain holding two more workshops during the year. Any member having ideas for workshops should contact R. Lynch.

M. Baran urged MCDA to consider a couple of ideas and present them at the February meeting - 1) What is community development and 2) plot a strategy for the “Communities for Maine’s Future”; a combination of Land for Maine’s Future, Riverfront Community Development, and MITF programs.

9. Other:

- a. **Maine Rural Partners:** Mike Bush requested MCDA's interest in becoming a sponsor of the "Realizing Maine's Worth" report that was recently completed. Our sponsorship would provide us with a ¼ page ad, include our logo, recognition at the unveiling of the report, and our name would be included on the banner at the release event. This is a good opportunity for MCDA to gain recognition as an organization. Moved by M. Baran to provide \$500 to Maine Rural Partners; seconded by R. Lynch. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **CDBG News:**
 - i. The Office of Community Development does not have a budget for the 2010 CDBG program; they are operating on a continuing resolution. M. Baran reported that indications are there will be an increase in the number of applications received for public facility/public infrastructure because municipalities are desperate for money.
 - ii. Gov. Baldacci has ordered immediate budget cuts. The State has a \$400,000,000 budget shortfall.
 - iii. John Richardson, Commissioner of DECD, has resigned his position and will be running for governor. Thaxter Trafton will be the acting commissioner for the next year.
 - iv. Mike Baran was welcomed back to work by the BRED committee. He was congratulated for his work and given recognition by the committee.
 - v. R. Lynch reported on the COSCDA annual conference he attended in Harrisburg, PA. He thanked MCDA for allowing him to attend on their behalf. Harrisburg is a lovely well laid out historical city with deep ties to the Civil War and post Civil War era. R. Lynch sent Mike Baran's regards and his apology for not being able to attend the annual conference. The single biggest item discussed at the meeting was the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding and regulations. Most everyone in attendance was either a state or federal agency representative, except for R. Lynch. R. Lynch came away from the conference with a better appreciation of our State agency staff at the Office of Community Development. Also, COSCDA has an outstanding and friendly staff. The 2010 conference will be held in California near Lake Tahoe in September and the 2011 conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa in September.

Moved by S. Dyer to adjourn the meeting; seconded by M. Baran. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. To join this teleconference, please call 1-888-899-7785 and use the passcode 449240.

Respectfully submitted,

Joella R. Theriault
MCDA Secretary

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