

MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
General Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)
Friday, February 13, 2009

The Maine Community Development Association held a general membership meeting via teleconference on Friday, February 13, 2009. Present were:

Tony Levesque, President	Town of Fort Fairfield
Stephen Dyer, Director	Ransom Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Michael Baran	DECD – Office of Community Development
Joella R. Theriault, Secretary	Northern Maine Development Commission
Rodney Lynch, Director	City of Rockland
Mathew Eddy	Eaton Peabody Consulting Group
Darryl Sterling	Town of Richmond
Wade Hansen, Director	Town of Houlton

1. CALL TO ORDER: T. Levesque called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. REVIEW OF DECEMBER 12, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Moved by M. Eddy to approve the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by M. Baran. Motion passed unanimously.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Moved by M. Baran to table the Treasurer's Report until the next meeting; seconded by D. Sterling. Discussion: R. Harriman is not available for this meeting and MMA will not have January statement available until next week. Motion passed unanimously.
4. CORRESPONDENCE: No new correspondence to discuss. T. Levesque has been forwarding correspondence via e-mail to membership.
5. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:
 - a) Membership: As of 2/11/09, there were 24 paid members and 1 complimentary member. Following a discussion of why one MCDA member had a complimentary membership, T. Levesque agreed to follow-up on this issue. There are another 24 members who have not yet renewed their membership. M. Baran suggested that MCDA submit a membership renewal form to MMA to be added as an attachment to their e-Newsletter. Members also discussed access to MMA's website. Currently, MCDA members cannot access many topics that are password protected. M. Baran suggested that MCDA join MMA's membership and obtain a password that can be shared with all of its members.
 - b) Professional Development: J. Gulnac attended the MMA Affiliate's group meeting. MMA is considering changing the convention format; i.e. no training workshops, moving the event to Friday and Saturday, etc. All affiliate members will be surveyed; however, J. Gulnac responded that MCDA would very much want to continue its participation and

offer a training regardless. A workshop on the stimulus package is proposed at this time and details will be shared with the membership as soon as they are received.

- c) Communication: J. Theriault recently completed the October-December, 2008 issue of the newsletter and it will be made available on the website shortly. The January-March, 2009 issue is in progress. Anyone having an article on a success story should submit it as soon as possible for inclusion in the newsletter. D. Sterling will provide an article on the Town of Richmond.
- d) Advocacy: T. Levesque has spoken with the committee chairman, Dan LaPointe, and the issue is that of the economic stimulus package. The package has not yet been passed; it must go before the full House and Senate.

6. UPDATE FROM DECD-OCD: M. Baran presented the following updates:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: M. Baran submitted a notice to the legislative delegation regarding the “gaps” that is needed to fund CDBG projects. Under the 2009 CDBG Program, 15 Public Infrastructure Applications (totaling \$6.25 million) were received; 21 Letters of Intent for the Housing Assistance Program; and 20 Letters of Intent for the first round of Economic Development programs. The only program with decreased applications was the Public Facility Program. Even at last year’s rate of funding, there would be a “gap” to fund all of these applications.

If the CDBG Program receives additional funding, M. Baran recommends funding applications proportionately in all programs; particularly funding those projects that are ready to be implemented since the stimulus funding will require money to be spent in a timely manner. He also mentioned that CAP agencies stand to receive significant amounts of weatherization funds through the Department of Energy’s allotment of \$5 billion under this Act.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is scheduled to receive \$2 billion. This is in addition to the first allotment, which has not yet been expended. Maine’s proposed NSP plan has been approved by HUD, but no monies have yet been released. The HOME Program will also receive \$2 billion for tax credit gap financing. DECD met with representatives from USDA Rural Development, Drinking Water Program, Department of Environmental Protection, and Maine Department of Transportation regarding the economic stimulus package. USDA Rural Development stands to receive more grant funding than usual and increased funding in the Housing Preservation Grant Program, Rural Business Economic Grant, and Housing programs.

DECD will be receiving \$2.187 million in CDBG Disaster Recovery funds to assist the seven counties involved in the May Day Flood of 2008. These funds will be used as the

state's 15% required match to reimburse all approved FEMA/MEMA activities; particularly to assist with the elderly housing units that were lost in the Town of Fort Kent. The proposed Disaster Recovery Plan will be submitted to a public hearing prior to submission to HUD on March 14.

M. Baran also pointed out that these programs will be under careful scrutiny and recipients should carefully document that all rules and regulations have been met, particularly in the financials, bidding process, and inspection.

7. DISCUSSION ON TRAINING NEEDS/CERTIFICATION CREDITS: The June 5, 2009 meeting scheduled for Sanford has been rescheduled for June 4, 2009 in Rockland. This was necessary to accommodate MCDA members who were planning to attend the Maine Downtown Conference in Rockland on June 5. R. Lynch, M. Baran, and T. Levesque will coordinate to schedule an MCDA dinner meeting on June 4. Moved by R. Lynch that MCDA participate and sponsor the Maine Downtown Conference; seconded by D. Sterling. The vote was unanimously in favor. Moved by M. Baran and seconded by M. Eddy to change date and place of the June 5th meeting as discussed. The vote was unanimously in favor.
8. UPDATE ON LUCERNE INN RESPORT: The joint MCDA/DECD meeting at the Lucerne Inn is scheduled for Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1.
9. REPORT ON MMA CONVENTION PLANS: Refer to Item 5(B).
10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - a. Discussion on Display Booth: J. Theriault will follow-up with S. Paradis regarding the display. Updated information will be prepared for the display and submitted to members for comment prior to the next meeting date.
 - b. Change Date/Place for June 5th Meeting: Refer to Item 7 above.
11. OTHER:
 - a. Recognition of MCDA Members: Special achievement awards or plaques will be presented to the families of Charles Upton (Houlton) and Bob Dodge (Biddeford) during CDBG Appreciation Day recognizing their work in community and economic development. The obituaries will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. M. Baran represented DECD and MCDA at Mr. Dodge's funeral services.
 - b. CD Day at the Legislature: Will not be held this year.

- c. Fair Housing Proclamation: April 12 to 18, 2009 is Fair Housing week and proclamations will be submitted to each municipality for signatures. COGs and RPCs will submit proclamation, which will be provided by OCD.
- d. COSCEA Regional Conference: Due to budget constraints, state representatives are unable to travel to the regional conference and therefore it has been canceled.
- e. Brownfield Funding: Under the economic stimulus package, Brownfields will be receiving \$100 million in addition to their current funding of \$74 million. Also, OCD has submitted an application, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, for \$3 million for a revolving loan fund. The money will be made available to communities to help clean up sites.
- f. Tourism Center in Houlton: W. Hansen requested MCDA and DECD support in keeping the Houlton Tourism Center open. Plans are to close the facility. Mr. Hansen feels that this is a huge mistake because of the Canadian traffic that uses the center as a means to schedule travel plans, not only in Aroostook County but southern Maine as well. It was recommended that Houlton seek the support of the Aroostook County Tourism office and the local chambers of commerce.
- g. CD Appreciation Day: Scheduled for August 21st.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 30th and May 1st at the Lucerne Inn. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by:

Joella R. Theriault

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Secretary