



MCDA Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2014
11:30 a.m.

The MCDA Annual Meeting was held at Margarita's Restaurant in Augusta on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. See attendance list (Appendix A)

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Darryl Sterling, MCDA President, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

- II. **September 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** . Moved by Gail Chase and seconded by Suzie Paradis to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Tracey Steuber and seconded by Jon Edgerton to approve the financial report as presented in the Annual Report for the period ending August, 2014. Motion passed.

- IV. **Election of Officers 2014 – Nominations Committee:** Joella R. Theriault presented the slate of officers on behalf of Chairman Tony Levesque who was not available.
 - President – Darryl Sterling
 - Vice President – Gail Chase
 - Treasurer – Mathew Eddy
 - Secretary – Joella R. Theriault
 - Member at Large 2nd year – Tom Martin
 - Member at Large 2nd Year – Suzie Paradis
 - Member at Large 1st Year – Stephen Dyer
 - Member at Large 1st Year – Anne KriegBoth Stephen Dyer and Anne Krieg have been nominated to serve for another two years. Darryl Sterling called for other nominations; hearing none, Jon Edgerton moved to accept the slate of officers as presented; seconded by Suzie Paradis. Motion passed.

- V. **Awards Presentation:** There were no awards to be presented.

- VI. **Secretary's and Newsletter Report:** There was some discussion among members that it would benefit MCDA to return to a quarterly newsletter rather than the three newsletter plus one annual report format. Because of the timeline with potential grant opportunities, job openings, and keeping the newsletter pages at a minimum, Joella Theriault agreed that it would be more beneficial. Gail Chase asked if returning to the quarterly newsletter format would be more work for the Secretary. It would definitely be more work, but if members would submit articles for the newsletter, it would

make it much easier. At times, members are very forthcoming with news articles while at other times, it becomes more time consuming. Joella Theriault was asked to develop a budget for presentation to MCDA since time in developing a newsletter is no longer eligible for payment under the CDBG Technical Assistance contract or through Northern Maine Development Commission. Joella also suggested that it might be a good idea to have all MCDA members bring in their business card for display at the MCDA booth next year. This would help to put potential clients in touch with community and economic development professionals, engineers, town managers, etc. in their specific regions.

- VII. **Membership:** Stephen Dyer, Chairman, reported that membership totals 51 to date. Renewal letters for the 2015 membership year will be submitted at the end of October.
- VIII. **Remarks by DECD/OCD Staff on the CDBG Program:** Deborah Johnson, Program Manager at OCD reported that the proposed program statement for the CDBG Program would be available on their website (www.meocd.org) on Friday, October 3. A public hearing will be held on October 28, but the comment period would be open until November 7. OCD is planning on keeping the program similar to last year's program with the exception of minor changes in the economic development and micro enterprise programs. Regarding the housing assistance program, Deborah Johnson testified against a bill submitted by Sen. Troy Jackson. The bill would have removed the stipulation that only communities with a population of 3,000 or more are eligible to apply for housing assistance. The CAP agencies will contact communities who have an interest in housing rehabilitation and they will offer assistance. The goal is to get all of the CAPs doing the housing rehabilitation because of codes, lead, etc.
- IX. **Remarks on National COSCDA Conference:** The annual COSCDA Conference was held in Boston, Massachusetts. There was some discussion regarding the completion of the environmental review on line; however, HUD does not have an available budget to make this change. The HUD NOFA for the National Disaster Resilience Competition is available. Only states with counties that have experienced a Presidential Declared Disaster in 2011-2013 are eligible to apply. The State of Maine will be the applicant for this program and OCD will be the conduit to disburse funding to those eligible counties.
- X. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be via teleconference on Thursday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- XI. **Guest Speaker – Sandford (Sandy) Blitz, Co Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission:** There are seven (7) regional commissions in existence.
- a. Appalachian Regional Commission was the first commission authorized by an Act of Congress in 1965. They cover 13 states (All of West Virginia, and Parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
 - b. Delta Regional Commission was authorized in 1998 and covers 8 states – Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Tennessee.
 - c. The Denali Regional Commission covers the entire State of Alaska.
 - d. The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) was created at the same time as the Southwest Border Regional Commission and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. All were created in 2008.
 - e. Southwest Border Regional Commission covers the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas.
 - f. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission covers Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, and Florida.
 - g. The Northern Plains Regional Commission was created in 1998 and covers North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota.

The Board of Directors for NBRC is made up of Sandy and the four (4) governors of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. The Commission is funded 50% through the federal government and 50% through the four states. The NBRC was created in 2008 and has been reauthorized in 2013 for another 5 years until 2018. It is important to note that the Commission has been reauthorized but not necessarily funded. The commission covers 36 counties in four states. In Maine, 12 of the 16 counties are part of the commission. The goal is to alleviate long-term economic distress. There are 4 economic distress factors – transportation and basic infrastructure, job skills training and entrepreneurial development, comprehensive strategy development, advanced technologies and telecommunications, sustainable energy solutions -- and a 5th was added (workforce development) this past year. The Commission cannot contribute more than 50% of a project's cost, but this can be extended to 80% in a distressed county and up to 90% for regional projects in a distressed area.

In the past, only CDBG funds could match other federal programs, but now the NBRC can also match. NBRC do joint projects with EDA and DOT. The states do the scoring and they must give extra points for developing the transportation infrastructure of the region, developing the basic public infrastructure of the region, and developing the telecommunications infrastructure of the region.

In the first four years, NBRC received \$1.5 million, which included funding for office expenditures and two grants per state. Last year, each state received five grants instead of two for a total of \$4.7 million. Announcements for the programs are issued in February/March of each year. Legislation drafted requires that the economic development districts process applications, which are then reviewed by the state (Maine's representative is Brian Whitney). States score the applications in accordance with their priorities. The Governor of the states then send a letter to Sandy listing the order of priorities. The economic development districts submit copies of all applications to Sandy at the same time that they are sent to the state. Sandy reads each application to assure that they are eligible.

When asked if unsuccessful communities could receive feedback on their applications, Sandy responded that they do not provide feedback. Additionally, applicants are not notified when their applications are deemed ineligible. The lack of notification could impact the applicants who are awaiting for confirmation on the status of their NBRC applications because they could miss out on other funding opportunities. Sandy indicated that he could and would notify applicants that are found to be ineligible. This past year, 25 applications were received from Maine and only 5 were funded. In most cases, the application is a good one, but there is just not enough funding. Applications having a regional impact however are more favorably considered for funding. Another concern was that applicants are sometimes confused because of the differences in priority between NBRC and the state. According to Sandy, he only reads the applications to assure that they are eligible, states score the applications based on their priorities. This is acceptable as long as 40% of the funds meet the primary objectives of NBRC, which are developing transportation infrastructure in the region, developing the basic public infrastructure in the region, and developing the telecommunications infrastructure in the region. Another concern was that applicants who are not successful are not notified. NBRC does not notify unsuccessful applicants.

XII.Adjourn: Moved by Deborah Johnson and seconded by Jon Edgerton to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Joella R. Theriault

Joella R. Theriault
MCDA Secretary

MCDA ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2014

Joella R. Theriault
 Henryann Nolden OGD
 JONATHAN EDGERTON W-P
 DEBORAH JOHNSON DECD
 Kelley Race TRC
 TRACEY STEUBER Town of Lisbro
 Amber Smith DECD
 Suzie Paradis Town of Madawaska / St Agatha / Frenchville
 Stephen Dyer Ranson Consulting
 Glen Ohland TD Bank
 Jeff Howard T of Stowbrogan
 Darryl Sterling Econ. Com. Dev. Consultant
 SANDY BLITZ NBRC
 Mary Ellen Barnes Lincoln County Regional Planning
 Rodney Lyoch CONSULTANT Thomaston / Kingfield
 Jeff O'Connell KVCOC
 Lucretia Smith Town of Brunswick