



**MCDA General Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The MCDA General Membership Meeting was held via teleconference call on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

Present were:

Gail Chase, MCDA President  
Mathew Eddy, MCDA Treasurer  
Tracey Steuber, MCDA Member, Town of Lisbon  
Tom Martin, MCDA Director, Hancock County Planning Commission  
Rodney Lynch, MCDA Past President, Town of Thomaston  
Nancy Ketch, MCDA Member, Town of Houlton  
Tony Levesque, MCDA Member, Town of Fort Fairfield  
Scott LaFlamme, MCDA Member, City of Bath  
Robin Beck, MCDA Member, Maine Rural Partners  
Jennifer Peters, MCDA Member, Sunrise County Economic Council  
Deb Johnson, MCDA Member, DECD Office of Community Development Director

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Gail Chase, MCDA President, called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.
2. **October 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Tom Martin and seconded by Scott Grover to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.
3. **Deborah Johnson, Director, Office of Community Development, DECD:** Deb spoke a little bit about the Public Hearing in Augusta on Friday, November 6, 2015, regarding the non-funding proposal for the Proposed 2016 Program Statement (DR). As of to date the Downtown Revitalization is still in the statement program, however there are no monies attached to the fund. It is still unclear on funding and where those funds would come from. It's being discussed on transferring the DR funds over to a new initiative, "Safe Neighborhoods" to help aid with the high rise of heroin addiction in Maine.

Scott LaFlamme said he went to the public hearing and thought the support was very good. The CDBG office will continue to take statements until Saturday, November 14.

The DECD Office is working with the Maine Downtown Foundation to secure funding at least until July 20, 2016.

It was also discussed that Senator Susan Collins is part of the Block Grant Programs in Washington and it might be good for us to contact that office.

4. **Maine Made Display:** Deb also reported that Tammy did an outstanding job working with Bangor International Airport on their Maine Made display. Check it out the next time you're at the airport.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Matt Eddy reported that financials were on target. The fund balance was down a bit due to paying out bills. I didn't recall a motion made and second to accept treasurer's report.
6. **Subcommittee Reports:**
  - a. **Membership:** Steve Dyer is asking for someone else to take over as chair to the membership committee as he would like to focus and spearhead the Professional Development Committee.  
  
Membership notices were sent out for payment. If you have not paid your 2016 membership dues, please do so.
  - b. **Professional Development:** No report.
  - c. **Communications/Newsletter:** Joella Theriault was absent. Deb Johnson asked if the board resolved the issue of paying for the newsletter. The answer was yes.

Gail Chase said we need information from the communities for the newsletter. She also would like to have the same information that is sent to Joella Theriault be sent to her. Gail would also like to have Joella send the newsletter to the executive committee for review before sending it out to all members.

Deb Johnson would like to reach out to **all members** when you reply to a message sent, please make sure you are not replying to the whole group unless it is meant for them. Retype the individual name in the **to:** line. By doing this it will eliminate the multiple emails back and forth.

Scott LaFlamme said he would be willing to help work on the website upgrade and wanted to know what the cost would be. There is money in the budget for a website upgrade. Gail Chase wasn't sure if we could change the website or not as it was hosted through MMA. Scott will follow-up with MMA regarding their control of the site and will make changes appropriate to meet our needs. Gail asked if there were other committees to help us with our work to make changes and move things forward.

Scott asked who he should follow-up with regarding communications. The process would be to send information to Joella, Scott, Tony and cc: Gail.

7. **Survey:** Gail Chase suggested we do an outreach to current and new members for a survey regarding upcoming training and meeting topics.

8. **Other:**

Steve Dyer suggested we have a couple of meetings in person so we can have face-to-face instead of all teleconferences. Other members feel it is important as well.

Deb Johnson said she would be willing to host an upcoming meeting at the DECD Community Development Office.

Tony Levesque feels the Executive Committee should meet in Augusta before the January 14 Conference Call meeting. Tony is concerned with travel budgets it may be difficult to some to participate in face-to-face meetings.

Gail Chase suggested having a conference call meeting every two months on the second Thursday.

Deb asked to look at the membership for where people are located and schedule face-to-face meetings so people can get it on their calendars.

Steve Dyer will establish a committee.

Jennifer Peters is willing to host the annual meeting in Eastport in August, 2016. Suggested topic: "What are some challenges in Eastport and how communities can learn from it."

Deb Johnson said she could book the conference room for the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Gail Chase will speak with Steve Dyer first on the membership and where people are located. There should be an executive meeting first due to new members.

Deb Johnson has offered to help Gail Chase on the survey if needed.

Tony Levesque suggested doing a retreat.

9. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Tony Levesque and seconded by Tom Martin to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by,

Tracey K. Steuber  
MCDA Secretary Pro Tem

