



MCDA General Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2015
10:00 a.m.

The MCDA General Membership Meeting was held via teleconference call on Thursday, July 9, 2015.

Present were:

Gail Chase, MCDA Vice President

Tom Martin, MCDA Director

Joella R. Theriault, MCDA Secretary

Tony Levesque, MCDA Member, Town of Fort Fairfield

Deborah Johnson, MCDA Member, Office of Community Development

Rodney Lynch, MCDA Past President

Steve Dyer, MCDA Director

Scott Laflamme, MCDA Member, City of Bath

Glen Ohlund, MCDA Member, TD Bank

Rodney Lynch, MCDA Past President

Jennifer Peters, MCDA Member, Sunrise County Economic Council

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Gail Chase, MCDA Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.
- II. **May 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Tom Martin and seconded by Tony Levesque to approve the minutes with the notation that Items 6, 7, and 8 were not completed and no action taken on those items. Motion passed.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Tony Levesque and seconded by Scott Laflamme to accept the Financial Report dated May, 2015. Motion passed.
- IV. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership:** Steve Dyer reported that a renewal letter was submitted by MMA to all MCDA members last month. As of this date, the membership remains at 49. Discussion included a) a recommendation that Mike Baran be made an honorary member of this organization; b) acknowledgement and thanks to Jim Gulnac, who will soon be retiring, for his commitment to the organization; and c) sending a card of condolence to Darryl Sterling for the passing of his mother. Joella Theriault will send out a get well card to Mike Baran and a condolence card to Darryl Sterling. Plaques and recognition for Mike Baran and Jim Gulnac will be presented at the annual meeting in October.
 - b. **Professional Development:** There was some discussion on the organization's purpose – who are we serving; who is the audience we are trying to serve; etc. The organization was established as a community and economic association established to provide advocacy to members. Tony Levesque described the purpose as two-fold:

- 1) Help ourselves to become better at our jobs and
- 2) Promote the organization as a beneficial resource to community development professionals.

There was also discussion on updating the 1999 funding directory. Although this may be a good idea, frequent funding changes from federal and state resources would make a directory outdated and impractical. Listing foundations as a source of alternative funding in a MCDA directory would be unfair to COGs and RPCs who must pay for such listings.

The Professional Development Committee will develop and send out a survey to all members requesting such information as what community and economic development topics would be of greatest value to them, what type of service could MCDA provide that is not currently being provided, etc.

- c. **Communications/Newsletter:** Joella Theriault is working on the next Quarterly Newsletter and asked for newsletter articles. Glen Ohlund submitted an article on TD Charitable Foundation's request for applications on its "Housing for Everyone" grant competition and Deborah Johnson submitted the 2016 HUD Public Forum notice for July 27 (in Augusta) and July 28 (in Presque Isle). Joella will finalize the newsletter and submit to the membership sometime during the week of July 13.

V. Remarks by DECD/OCD Staff on the CDBG Program: Deborah Johnson reported on the following:

- a. \$750,000 is the new threshold for the Single Audit Act; formerly \$500,000.
- b. 2016 CDBG Program is flat funded, no cuts anticipated from the 2015 budget amount. The Fed HOME budget has been cut by 2/3, but the CDBG budget has not been cut, which sends out a strong message that the program is strongly supported.
- c. All 2015 CDBG funds have been allocated.
- d. No major changes to the 2016 Program Statement is anticipated, but changes could occur following comments at the public forums.

VI. MCDA Action Plan, Commitment and Priorities: The results of the survey will provide the information needed for MCDA to prepare an action plan. The President will work with the Executive Board to identify commitments, priorities, and an action plan.

VII. MCDA Presence at MMA Convention, October 7 and 8: Discussion on providing a community and/or economic development seminar at the MMA Convention versus a guest speaker at our annual meeting resulted in the continuation of having a guest speaker available at the annual meeting. It was suggested that we put more effort in an MCDA booth display in order to get more people interested in joining the organization. The President and Professional Development committee will begin the planning of selecting a guest speaker for the annual meeting based on the survey results from our membership regarding topics of interest. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8 at Margarita's Restaurant.

VIII. Establishing Meeting Dates: The next regularly scheduled meeting is for Thursday, September 10; however, based on the amount of work to be accomplished prior to the MCDA Annual Meeting, the President will be consulted and a meeting in August will be scheduled in the near future.

Motion by Tony Levesque and seconded by Steve Dyer to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Submitted by,

Joella R. Theriault
MCDA Secretary

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