



# Maine Community Development Association

Welcome and introductions-Jen Peters; President  
Call to order 10:02 pm April 11, 2024

**Attendance:** Jen Peters- Sunrise County Economic Council, Kristen Henry-NMDC, Kathy White- Piscataquis County Economic Council, Robyn Stanicki- City of Bangor, Darryl Sterling- Economic Development Consultant, Jessie Cyr- KVCOG, Nancy Ketch- Houlton, Elizabeth Ouellette- City of Bangor, Max Johnstone-Midcoast Council of Governments, Tony Levesque-Fort Fairfield, Deborah Johnson- Director OCD, Scott LaFlamme- Town of Yarmouth, James Rather- SMPDC, Stephen Dyer- Engineer, Tammy Knight-Maine OCD

Changes and/or additions to the agenda  
No changes or additions to the agenda.

Approval of January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

***Motion- Darryl Sterling,***

***Second- Nancy Ketch***

***Discussion- with amendment of the adjourn time from 1:05 pm to 11:05 am.***  
***Passes***

Treasurers Report

Approval of September 2023 Financials

Discussion: There is an unknown miscellaneous charge for \$538.50 that will be researched and followed up on by Stephen Dyer and Jen Peters.

***Tabled***

DECD Update

Deborah Johnson- OCD

1. The update on the 2024 Program indicates that the Public Infrastructure phase has been completed. Projects that are ready will be awarded, while those not yet ready will be saved for consideration next year. This approach aims to streamline the process and prevent applicants from having to reapply.
2. Additionally, it was noted that Congress has passed a budget, and we are now awaiting the allocation of funds from HUD. Should be funded by August.
3. Regarding Public Infrastructure for Housing, there has been oversaturation for over two years, leading to a decision to not hold a competition next year. Despite the saturation, the quality of projects remains high.
4. Community are reminded that Community Enterprise grants are due April 12th.
5. Looking ahead to 2025, there are plans to begin a five-year consolidated plan in collaboration with Maine Housing. This will involve conducting state forums both jointly and separately. There may also be an in-person public forum to outline the next five years. An in-person CDBG 101 session is also being considered for June, possibly in Augusta. The aim is to increase participation

from Technical Assistance (TA) providers and offer more training opportunities, such as environmental and Davis-Bacon reviews, either through external consultants or internal resources.

6. A documentary on grassroots campaigns impacting community resilience was referenced, leading to the creation of a resiliency webpage by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Links to this page will be shared on the List Serv.
7. There was a suggestion to combine CDBG training with the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) barbecue event.
8. Feedback was provided on programmatic agreements for the Environmental Review (ER) process. The Office of Community Development (OCD) was invited to hold public meetings in Bangor to support the consolidated plan.
9. Concerns were raised about communities voting down affordable housing projects, as this could jeopardize future funding. Discussion ensued about addressing exclusionary practices that go against HUD guidelines.

#### Subcommittee(s)

##### a. Membership – Tracey Desjardins, Chair

Tony provided an update on membership, indicating that there are currently 30 paid members, with two new additions from Wiscasset and Saco. It was noted that there have been issues with DECD not paying dues for some memberships, which prompted discussion on the need to address this with the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Tammy clarified that the delay was due to MMA billing issues.

Questions were raised regarding the number of Technical Assistance (TA) providers on the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) membership list, with 10 providers listed, of which only three have paid dues. It was suggested that if DECD continues paying dues in the future, a new process may need to be established for next year.

Tony agreed to compile a list of unpaid dues for this year and send out reminder notices. It was decided that Tammy, Jen, and Tony would coordinate a call with MMA to resolve the billing issues.

##### b. Professional Development – EJ Roach, Chair

It was noted that there were no updates to report. As a potential initiative, it was suggested to consider organizing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) roadshow to provide assistance for communities. Jen offered to assist with connections related to this effort.

Tony proposed that the committee convene to discuss potential connections and strategies for moving forward with the EPA roadshow concept.

##### c. Communications: Kristen Henry

###### Newsletter & Website –

It was decided to resend the latest newsletter to all MCDA members with the aim of encouraging increased engagement for future activities. Members are urged to review the newsletter for important updates, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement within the MCDA network.

##### d. Nomination – Tony Levesque, Chair

It was discussed that the upcoming meeting will likely require a full slate of officers. No specific actions were identified except for filling the current vacancy. It was noted that Scott LaFlamme will transition off at some point due to a new position.

Other Business

- Vote to fill Galen Weibley's term as Member at Large: Kathy White or nominations from the floor.

There were no nominations from the floor.

**First- Scott LaFlamme**

**Second Darryl Sterling**

**All in favor!**

Adjourn- 11:02 am

***Motion- Jessie Cyr***

***Second- Tammy Knight***

***Discussion- None***

***Vote- None***