



Maine Community Development Association

April - July 2020

Volume 16, Issue 2

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MMA's 2020 Virtual Convention

The 84th Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Convention will kick off on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 with a small audience in attendance at the Augusta Civic Center. MMA will offer a series of ZOOM-based webinars beginning October 8 through October 15, 2020. Featured Speakers at the Convention will include –

- Kristy Senatori, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission on “Lessons from Away: Planning, COVID, and One Cape Cod” from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on October 7
- Matt Lehrman, Social Prosperity Partners “From Conflict to Conversation from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. on October 7
- Dr. Liam Riordan, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Maine “The Birth of a Great State” from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on October 8
- DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew from 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. on October 8

Webinar topics offered –

| Date | Time | Webinar Topic |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| October 7, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | MMA Annual Business Meeting |
| | 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. | MMA Addresses and Awards |
| | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | 2020-21 Legislative Update |
| October 8, 2020 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Local Roads: Best Practices |
| | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Local Roads: Continued |
| October 9, 2020 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | The 2020 Election |
| | 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. | Importance of Age Friendly Communities |
| | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. | Understanding Implicit Bias |
| | 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Traditional Financing for Capital Projects |
| | October 13, 2020 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. |
| | 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. | Community Risks of Inland & Coastal Flooding |
| | October 14, 2020 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. |
| | 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. | Right to Know |
| | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. | Deep Dive into General Assistance |
| | 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Municipal Manager/Administrator Networking & Roundtable Discussion |
| October 15, 2020 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Lease/Purchase Financing for Essential Equipment |

For complete details, visit the MMA website at www.memun.org.

News from Around the State—



Galen Weibley is the new Economic and Community Development Director for the City of Presque Isle. Formally, from York County, Pennsylvania, he was selected to join the City's Departmental Leadership Team to lead the city's efforts in promoting economic growth and strategic planning for the region.

Prior to his appointment to Presque Isle, Galen served as the youngest Township Supervisor and Board Chairman in Hellam Township's 280-year history. During his elected public service, Galen gained first-hand experience leading the township with a population of 6,043 in zoning reforms that expanded business operations and created hundreds of new jobs to area residents. It was through listening to local businesses, real estate professionals, and developers that Hellam made the necessary reforms to township's zoning which resulted in the expansion of the township's tax base and fostered annual budget surpluses. Galen also has experiences as a legislative staffer for both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. These experiences aid Galen in building relationships and forging coalitions with community partners and elected officials that promote Presque Isle and Northern Maine's economic vision for the future.

Galen has a bachelor's degree in Horticultural Sciences with a minor in Policy Studies from Delaware Valley University and is an alumnus of the University of Penn State's professional Rural Urban Leadership (RULE) Program. On his free time, Galen enjoys fishing, hunting, walking with his dog, snowshoeing, and gardening.



Cary Tyson, MCDA Executive Board member, has accepted a position as the Executive Director at Portland Downtown, a nonprofit improvement district with a purpose of stimulating a vibrant and sustainable downtown community. Cary holds a

master's degree in public administration and is experienced in downtown revitalization, public service, community development and partnership-building. Prior to his new position, Cary served as the Director of

Economic and Community Development for the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. Congratulations, Cary!

On May 12, 2020, Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) Executive Director, Rich Grogan announced the hiring of Andrea Smith as its Program Director. Since 2003, Andrea served in various economic and community development positions at the State of Maine. More recently, she served as the NBRC Maine State Program Manager and Director of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Programs. Congratulations, Andrea.



On June 16, 2020 at the age of 62 former Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), **John Richardson**, passed away unexpectedly. John served in the House of Representatives and in 2005 became the 97th Speaker of the House. He served as Commissioner at DECD from 2007 to 2009. John resided in Brunswick with his wife and three children. Rest in Peace, John!

John Shea, replaces Christopher Winstead as the new Executive Director of the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council (PCEDC). He was born in Brooklyn, New York and holds degrees in Economics and Sovietology. Prior to joining PCEDC, he served as Executive Director of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC) in Middletown, Rhode Island; led a fiscal policy think-tank in Concord, NH and Head of Policy and Economic Advisor to the Government in the Falkland Islands.

WELCOME BACK Terry Ann Holden to the Office of Community Development. We are pleased that you are feeling better and that you are 100% back at work.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jennifer Peters on 24 years of service at Sunrise County Economic Council.

The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) announced that the Towns of Ashland, East Millinocket, Lincoln, Madison, and Millinocket would receive more than a million dollars in grant money. These five towns are directly impacted by mill closures. The funds will be used to redevelop projects vital for the next generation of forest economy. The grants are primarily funded by the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) and the Maine Rural Development Authority (MRDA). The funds will be administered by MDF, which staffs the FOR/Maine (Forest Opportunity Roadmap) coalition.

- **Ashland** - \$150,000 to develop a new Structural Round Timber market on the east coast based in Ashland.
- **East Millinocket** - \$210,000 to stabilize the former Great Northern Paper mill campus, including the repair of several structures
- **Lincoln** - \$185,000 to redevelop the Lincoln Paper & Tissue mill site through feasibility assessment and planning.
- **Madison** - \$400,000 to redevelop the Madison mill site through demolition of buildings for a new use of the site by GO Labs for production of wood fiber-based insulation products.
- **Millinocket** - \$216,090 for energizing the substation on the brownfield portion of the Great Northern Paper site.

New Staff Appointments at the Office of Community Development:



Following 12 years as an anchor/reporter at WGME-TV in Portland, Doug Ray started working for the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) as a Legislative Liaison and Communications Director in 2011. Ray was responsible for testifying before the Maine Legislature on a variety of bills impacting Maine’s economy and DECD. In 2018, Ray served as Acting Director of the Office of Business Development, working directly with businesses looking to grow and prosper throughout Maine. In 2019, Ray transitioned to OCD helping Maine businesses and communities navigate the process of applying for and successfully administering CDBG.



Brianne Hasty attended the University of Southern Maine and has a degree in Communication. She has been employed by the State of Maine since 2009, starting out at the State Planning Office and overseeing the Code Enforcement Training and Certification Program. Brianne transitioned to the Office of Community Development in 2012 and moved into the role of Development Program Manager in 2019. She lives in the Gardiner area with her husband and son.

Maine Economic Development Strategy Plan

The State’s 10-year economic development plan could not have anticipated the COVID-19 pandemic. To address the economic future of Maine’s businesses, the 40-member committee that helped develop Maine’s 10-year plan was split into six (6) subcommittees, as follows –

- Manufacturing and Natural Resources Subcommittee is chaired by Larry Shaw, CEO of MMG Insurance
- Hospitality, Tourism and Retail is chaired by Bob Montgomery-Rice, CEO and President of Bangor Savings Bank
- Education and Workforce, chaired by Jim Herbert, President of University of New England
- Infrastructure is chaired by Susan Corbett, founder and Director of National Digital Equity Center
- Innovation, by Betsy Bremann, CEO of Coastal Enterprise, Inc.
- Health Care, Nonprofits, and Childcare, by Bill Burke, Chair of MaineHealth Board of Trustees

These subcommittee members are tasked with looking at barriers to success; what’s stopping people and organizations from re-engaging with the economy and identify opportunities to get back on the growth plan.

Restarting Maine's Economy

On May 8, Governor Janet Mills announced “Restarting Maine’s Economy” Plan. The Plan to reopen will be accomplished in three stages. See the table below:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Stage 1 - May | Construction, Drive-in Theaters, Health Care Services, Personal Services (barber shops and hair salons, dog grooming), Outdoor Recreation (golf courses, guided outdoor activities, guided boating, some State parks and Historic sites, except for coastal sites, state-owned public lands trails, real estate, and religious gatherings) May 11 - Retail Stores, Outdoor fitness classes of fewer than 10 people, 1-on-1 fitness instruction for counties that have few COVID-19 cases; May 18 - Restaurants (for dine-in service and outdoor dining in 10 of 16 counties) and wilderness campsites and sporting camps |
| Stage 2 - June | Outdoor Recreation (campgrounds/RV Parks for Maine, NH, and VT residents only beginning June 26), day camps and summer recreation, State park campgrounds, coastal state parks and community sports; public gatherings (large gatherings, public and community buildings, museums), restaurants (open for dine-in services in all counties; lodging (open to ME, VT, and NH residents on June 17 - all other out-of-state residents open on June 26); bars and tasting rooms (outdoor service only); retail businesses in all counties |
| Stage 3 - July- August | Bars & Tasting Rooms for indoor service has been postponed, overnight charter boats, excursions of fewer than 50 people, overnight summer camps; spas, massage facilities, barbering and cosmetology |

In order to open, businesses must commit to complying with requirements of prevention checklists, which are available at www.maine.gov/decd/checklists/general-guidance.

Jobs & Classifieds

Code Enforcement Officer

The Town of Brunswick’s Planning and Development Department is accepting applications for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Employment application and position description in available on-line at www.brunswickme.org. Applications are accepted until the position is filled.

City Planner

The City of Rockland seeks a full time Planner. A complete job description and an application can be found on the City’s website at <https://rocklandmaine.gov/municipal/employment>. This position is open until filled.

Town Manager

The Town of Corinth seeks qualified candidates for the position of a Town Manager. If interested submit a resume and cover letter by Thursday, August 20, 2020 to Director of Personnel Services/Labor Relations by email at PersonnelServices@memun.org; by fax at (207) 624-0118; or by mail at Director of Personnel/Labor Relations, Maine Municipal Association, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

City Planner

The City of Saco seeks to fill the position of City Planner. If interested, please contact Denise Clavette, Director of Planning and Economic Development at (207) 282-3487. For complete details, visit the www.sacomaine.org/careers website.

Director of Code Enforcement

The City of Saco is also searching for a Director of Code Enforcement. A complete job description and application is

available at www.sacomaine.org/careers. Please call Bryan Kaenrath, City Administrator at (207) 282-4191.

Municipal Administrator

The Monhegan Plantation seeks a Municipal Administrator. Send resume, cover letter, and hourly wage request to monheganplantationjobs@gmail.com.

Town Planner

The Town of Kennebunk has an open position for Town Planner. The position will remain open until filled. Interested candidates must submit a resume, cover letter, and employment application to: Human Resources Department by email at jobs@kennebunkmaine.us or mail to Town of Kennebunk, 1 Summer Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

President and CEO

Loring Development Authority of Maine is searching for a candidate to replace retiring Carl Flora as President and CEO of LDA. Mail resume, cover letter, and references to Loring Development Authority of Maine, Attention: CEO Search Committee, 154 Development Drive, Suite F, Limestone, ME 04750. Submit questions to LDA@loring.org.

The Maine Rural Water Association seeks applicants for the position of **Human Resource Manager**. Send cover letter, resume, and salary history to: Kirsten Hebert, Director, Maine Rural Water Association at P.O. Box 263, Richmond, ME 04357 or to recruit@mainerwa.org by August 28.

For more jobs listing, visit www.memun.org.

Keep Maine Healthy

The *Keep Maine Healthy* initiative encourages municipalities and tribal governments to develop education and prevention plans to protect people from COVID 19. Activities proposed under this initiative includes public education; physical distancing and public health support such as fences, tape, and signage for physical distancing; and assistance to local business. Funding will be made available to local officials and tribal governments to assist businesses in addressing safety measures and addressing complaints regarding health violations. On June 26, 2020, Gov. Mills approved almost \$9 million in grant awards to 100 municipalities in its first round of funding. This was followed by an announcement on August 11 of an additional \$4 million in awards to more than 80 municipalities for the second round of funding. For more information on the initiative, contact Michael.abbot@maine.gov.

Upcoming Events

| Upcoming Event | Dates | Location |
|--|----------------------|---|
| MCDA Annual Meeting | October 8, 2020 | ZOOM meeting. Details will be submitted via email to each member. |
| Maine Development Foundation – Annual Meeting & Champions of Economic Development Champion | September 18, 2020 | University of Maine at Orono Hannaford Hall |
| MMA 84 th Annual Convention | October 7 & 15, 2020 | Augusta Civic Center |
| Northern New England Planning Conference | October 13-15, 2020 | Hilton, Burlington, VT |

Funding Opportunities

Maine Community Foundation announced that it has replaced the Maine Fund for Land Conservation with two new land conservation grant programs. The programs - Conservation For All and Maine Land Protection – provides general support as well as acquisition and easements. The programs support Maine organizations and projects that help Maine people access and connect to the outdoors. Deadline for applications is October 15, 2020. Guidelines and applications can be found online at www.mainecef.org. An information session on the two programs is planned for September 14, 2020 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Reducing Public Exposure to Indoor Pollutants – The Environmental Protection Agency will be accepting applications until September 15. EPA is soliciting applications to conduct demonstration, technical assistance, training, education and/or outreach projects that seek to reduce exposure to indoor air contaminants by advancing national policy and systems-level initiatives. Additional details are available at www.grants.gov.

Relief Programs

MaineHousing doubles its rental assistance from \$500 to \$1,000 through the COVID-19 Rental Relief Program, which began August 3, 2020. The Governor is dedicating an initial \$5 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to support the expansion. Under the program, households may receive up to \$1,000 in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to three months. The assistance may also be used to pay for overdue rent.

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development in partnership with the Maine Small Business Development Centers will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for businesses with five or fewer employees, with an owner whose income is in the low to moderate range. Businesses may use the grant money for working capital, which includes fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid as a result of COVID-19.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program News...

The 2020 CDBG CV19 Proposed Program Statement is now available at www.meocd.org. The CDBG CV19 Relief Funding Budget is \$7,022,416 to be distributed as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| State Administration | \$ 240,448 |
| Technical Assistance Administration..... | \$ 70,224 |
| Housing Expense Assistance Program..... | \$2,200,000 |
| Food Security | \$2,200,000 |
| Micro-Enterprise Assistance Program | \$2,000,000 |
| Special Projects..... | \$ 511,744 |

The CV19 Housing Expense Assistance Program (HEAP-C) provides funding to address emergency housing needs for low-and-moderate income persons as a direct result of the COVID19 pandemic. Funds will be distributed to each Community Action Agency throughout Maine. The CDBG CV19 Urgent Need Food Security Program addresses community needs of food insecurity by providing funding for operating expenses, program supplies, and distribution activities of the Good Shepard Food Bank, which will benefit low/moderate income persons.

The CV19 Micro-Enterprise Assistance Grant Program provides grant funds to micro-enterprise businesses in non-entitlement areas through a partnership with Maine’s Small Business Development Centers. Grants of up to \$5,000 for businesses with five or fewer employees, with an owner whose income is in the low-to-moderate income range are available. The funds are being distributed through Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Northern Maine Development Commission, and Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission.

Maine’s Revenue Forecast

The pandemic has disrupted Maine’s economy and threatened the financial stability of people all across the state. An updated Revenue Forecasting Report indicates that the General Fund was revised downward from earlier forecasts by \$523 million for FY20; \$527.8 million for FY 21 and \$883.2 million for FY22/23. The Highway Fund revenues were also reduced by \$30.8 million in FY21 and \$30.5 million for FY22/23. These predictions come as a result of a review conducted in July 2020.

Forecasting revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic presents an impact on our society not seen in 100 years. The latest report shows a major revenue shortfall and more difficulty in predicting. Current conditions are unprecedented, highly uncertain, and includes a large number of unknown variables. Key assumptions made in making the economic forecasts include a protracted and slow recovery from the current recession and no subsequent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases in Maine forcing a full lockdown. Global concerns in Maine include the closure of the Canadian border, new immigration restrictions and the continuing Chinese tariffs.

Key findings of the latest forecasting report are listed below:

- While there were strong employment numbers in the first quarter of 2020, there were record-setting job losses beginning in April. Projections of an 8.0% decrease of nonfarm employment in CY20 and growth of 4.0% in CY21 and 2.0% in CY22.
- Total personal income was revised downward due in part to the substantial increase in personal current transfer receipts.
- Approximately 60% of the \$238 million reduction in sales and use tax for FY21 is attributable to taxable prepared foods and lodging. Lodging sales for the third quarter of CY20 is predicted to be down by 50% as compared to CY19. Restaurant sales are projected to be better than lodging sales and are assumed to be down by approximately 30%.
- Food sales will improve slowly but is not expected to see the same level as CY19 until CY22.

ABOUT MCDA

MCDA's Purpose –

To provide forums to increase awareness and foster communication relating to community development issues and concerns and to provide education and training through workshops.

MCDA Meetings –

The annual meeting of the association takes place at the annual convention of the Maine Municipal Association. Beginning in December, general membership and executive committee meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month. The Executive Committee meetings are called by the President or majority of officers on an as-needed basis.

MCDA Newsletters –

Quarterly newsletters highlighting community and economic development articles of special interest throughout the State of Maine are made available to the general membership via the MCDA website.

Benefits to Becoming an MCDA Member –

- MCDA Funding Opportunities
- Training and Workshops
- Legislative Advocacy
- Affiliation with other Agencies and Organizations
- Links to Funding and Business Agencies
- MCDA's ability to network with multiple partners

Who's Invited to Join –

ANY PERSON, MUNICIPALITY, OR FIRM EMPLOYED BY OR INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

The composition of MCDA's Executive Committee and current membership offers new members an extensive knowledge base of community and economic development programs and available financial resources. The tenure and experience of this association can provide new members with a multiple resource base on a variety of proposed projects in your community. If interested in serving on one of the following committees, please signify by checking the subcommittee of choice on your membership application.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Officer/Executive Committee

DID YOU KNOW!!!

Throughout history, as humans spread across the world, infectious diseases have been a constant companion. Even in this modern era, outbreaks are nearly constant. The following are some of history's most deadly pandemics.

| Name | Time Period | Type | Death Toll |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Antonine Plague | 165 - 180 | Smallpox or Measles | 5M |
| Japanese Smallpox | 735 - | Variola Major Virus | 1M |
| Plague of Justinian | 541 - 542 | Yersinia Pestis Bacteria/Rats, Fleas | 30-50M |
| Black Death | 1347-1351 | Yersinia Pestis Bacteria/Rats, Fleas | 200M |
| New World Smallpox | 1520 - Onwards | Variola Major Virus | 56M |
| Great Plague of London | 1665 | Yersinia Pestis Bacteria/Rats, Fleas | 100,000 |
| Italian Plague | 1629 - 1631 | Yersinia Pestis Bacteria/Rats, Fleas | 1M |
| Cholera Pandemics 1-6 | 1817 - | V. Cholerae Bacteria | 1M+ |
| Third Plague (China & India) | 1885 | Yersinia Pestis Bacteria/Rats, Fleas | 12M |
| Yellow Fever (U.S.) | Late 1800s | Virus/Mosquitoes | 100,000-150,000 |
| Russian Flu | 1889-1890 | H2N2 (Avian Origin) | 1M |
| Spanish Flu | 1918-1919 | H1N1 Virus/Pigs | 40-50M |
| Asian Flu | 1957-1958 | H2N2 Virus | 1.1M |
| Hong Kong Flu | 1968-1970 | H3N2 Virus | 1M |
| HIV/AIDS | 1981- Present | Virus/Chimpanzees | 25-35M |
| Swine Flu | 2009 - 2010 | H1N1 Virus/Pigs | 200,000 |
| SARS | 2002 - 2003 | Coronavirus/Bats, Civets | 770 |
| Ebola | 2014 - 2016 | Ebolavirus/Wild Animals | 11,000 |
| MERS | 2015 - Present | Coronavirus/Bats, and Camels | 850 |
| COVID-19 | 2019 - Ongoing | Coronavirus/Unknown | ?? |

Maine
Community
Development
Association

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9486

(207) 623-8428 or
1-800-452-8786

www.maineccda.org

*MCDA Subcommittee
Members:*

Advocacy
Vacant (Chair)
Tony Levesque

Communications
Joella R. Theriault (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Stephen Dyer
Darryl Sterling

Finance
Mathew Eddy (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development
Scott LaFlamme (Chair)
Jennifer Peters
Tony Levesque
Linda Smith
Cary Tyson

Membership
Tony Levesque (Interim Chair)

Nomination
Tony Levesque (Chair)

2020-2021 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | Term Expiration |
|---|------------------------|
| President: Tracey Desjardins City of Gardiner 6 Church Street Gardiner, ME 04345 (207) 582-4200 | October, 2021 |
| Vice President: Scott LaFlamme Town of Yarmouth 200 Main Street Yarmouth, ME 04096 (207) 846-2401 Ext. 227 | October, 2021 |
| Treasurer: Mathew Eddy City of Biddeford P.O. Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7119 | October, 2020 |
| Secretary: Joella R. Theriault Northern Maine Development Commission P.O. Box 779 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 551-5812 | October, 2020 |
| Immediate Past President: Stephen Dyer Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 404 Portland, ME 04102 (207) 772-2891 | October, 2021 |

Board Members

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Darryl Sterling Economic Development Consultant 11 Corliss Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 807-9062 | October, 2021 |
| Cary Tyson Portland Downtown 549 Congress Street Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-6828 | October, 2021 |
| Nancy Ketch Town of Houlton 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 521-5938 | October, 2020 |
| Jennifer Peters Sunrise County Economic Council 7 Ames Way Machias, ME 04654 (207) 255-0983 | October, 2020 |