



Maine Community Development Association

APRIL-JUNE, 2012

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Message from the President

President's Message on the Reality of Private Foundation Funding

(Note: These are my opinions only and do not represent the opinions and positions of the MCDA.)

As will soon become evident, the traditional publicly funded MeDOT, CDBG, DOC, etc., grant programs that communities have long relied upon for infrastructure improvements and economic development assistance will be curtailed or halted or become more difficult to get as more communities scramble to compete for fewer programs and diminishing funding. It has often been touted that this gap can be made up from private foundations. Not so. It has been my experience and observation, as well as those of others, that for the following reasons private foundation funding is no panacea for resolving the public sector funding gap. First grant amounts available from private foundations are mostly small amounts compared to public sector grant programs; a lot of work is involved for modest amounts of money; private foundations are often adverse to funding hardscape projects, and would rather fund software projects like social services and the arts; and the reviewers, despite what they tell you, seldom like to fund projects for municipalities preferring instead to fund non-profit organizations.

So where does this leave us? Fortunately, we still have the ability to raise local funds through TIFs and to assist with downtown building redevelopment with state and federal historic credits. However as elected municipal, county and school officials and administrators scramble themselves to find more funds to support their own operations, TIFs may also be under assault as well.

Rodney Lynch, AICP

President, MCDA

2011-2013

Summer 2012 MCDA Newsletter: Community Development Bytes Pieces by Rodney Lynch

April to May 2012 MCDA Newsletter: Planning Bytes 'N Pieces by Rodney Lynch, AICP

Bridgton has hired **Anne Krieg**, AICP as their new Planning, Economic and Community Director. Her work currently consists of updating the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, working with a newly formed Economic Development Corporation and working with CDBG projects as an entitlement community. She started April 2nd. Anne was the former long time Planning Director for the Town of Bar Harbor. Her email address is ecodevdir@bridgtonmaine.org.

Heidi Nelson is the new planner at Washington County Council of Governments. She comes to the COG with fifteen years of experience with the USDA. After receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies with concentrations in Geology and Ecology at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, she began as the DEP 316 Water Quality Grant Coordinator for the Southern Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District in Houlton. In 1997, Heidi started her USDA career as a Soil Conservationist in the Presque Isle Field Office for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She has been in Washington County since 1999, as a Soil Conservationist in Machias, nine years as County Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Machias and finally as the Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator in Cherryfield, until Congress defunded the position.

The Board of Trustees of Thomas College in Waterville announced that **Laurie Lachance**, President & CEO of MDF, has accepted the position of President of the College. Laurie will assume her new responsibilities effective July 1, 2012. She is presently the President of the Maine Development Foundation and a former Maine State Economist.

Long-time Bath Community Development Director **Al Smith** retired in May 2012. Al is best known for his successful CDBG and other grant writing skills and as well as an affordable housing advocate. He is a past President of the Maine Community Development Association and a recipient of the

much coveted Governor's Award's for CDBG Program Administrator of the Year. Al has been around for so long that he remembers when HUD Manchester administered the Small Cities CDBG Program before the State took it over! **Justin Poirier** was hired by the City in September and recently took over as Community Development Director on May 1st after longtime Director Al Smith retired. Justin most recently worked for the Town of Pownal as the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen. Previously, he worked for the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts for as a facilities manager. Justin grew up in Belgrade and attended Messalonskee High School in Oakland. He holds a bachelors degree in Public Management from the University of Maine and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Public Policy. Justin is also a Certified Maine Assessor. Justin resides in Augusta with his wife Jennifer and their pug, Hiram.

Noel Musson has announced that he has started his own consulting firm. He was formerly with CES, Inc. The Musson Group is up and running and can be contacted at the following:

Noel Musson - Principal
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Dorothy Havey has left Belfast's OurTown which is the Maine Downtown Center's Main Street Maine group for Downtown Belfast. **Breanna Pinkham** (soon to be Pinkham Bebb) originally from New Hampshire, is the new Director. She moved to Maine in 2005 to attend U Maine - recently graduated w/ highest honors. Other employment has included Schoodic Arts for All, Assistant Director, Winter Harbor, and a Teaching Assistant for the Searsport School District.



The most extensive strategic planning process ever in Aroostook and Washington counties is now underway. Kickoff events for the GROWashington-Aroostook regional planning initiative took place Thursday, June 28, 2012 in Machias and Friday, June 29, 2012 in Caribou. GROWashington-Aroostook is about economic development, job creation and much more according to lead team member Michael Eisensmith, the director of regional planning at the Northern Maine Development Commission. "It looks at a wide variety of economic and social issues and provides a broad game plan to move those forward," said Eisensmith.

The lead agency, NMDC, received an \$800,000 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant from the Housing and Urban Development Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. The primary staff leads in Washington County are the Washington County Council of Governments and the Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC). There are many other partners involved throughout the two counties as well as a 12-member consortium who have agreed to work together on a regional plan to GROWashington-Aroostook.

Jennifer Peters, assistant director of SCEC, is also on the lead team. "This is about embracing the future," she said. "We are looking at what we want and how we want to shape that future. We do know one desired outcome is to increase the median income." The process will require a great deal of participation of residents in both counties. "They will be asked for their input, ideas and solutions for economic development and job creation, renewable energy, transportation, broadband, health, housing and infrastructure to create a plan for our future," said Eisensmith.

There are many different ways to participate in GROWashington-Aroostook, but one of the most direct ways is by workgroup participation. Workgroups will be formed around the key topic areas of economic and workforce development, renewable energy, brownfields and economic renewal, transportation infrastructure, modernizing communications and electric utility infrastructure, sustainable housing, transportation and housing, healthy communities, climate change and infrastructure resilience, water infrastructure investment and growth management law change. Organizers seek participation for this work and especially want to hear from those who may not be typically represented in planning processes.

Members of the lead team have called the GROWashington-Aroostook initiative ambitious, but Ryan Pelletier, the director of the Workforce Investment Board and another lead team member, takes that a step further. "This is a progressive plan for Washington and Aroostook," said Pelletier. "I think it is going to open up a lot of eyes about the potential for future development and job creation in both counties, and I think it is also going to further the asset based planning going on in Aroostook County through the Mobilize Northern Maine process."

GROWashington-Aroostook also differs from traditional strategic planning due to its compressed time schedule. "I think we estimated at one time that everything we will be accomplishing as part of this plan would have probably taken, just through a natural course of time, 15 to 20 years, we will get it all done in three years," Pelletier added.

"Each county will create their own vision statement, since we are two distinct counties," said Eisensmith. "Then we will combine them into a single vision statement for the entire Aroostook Washington region." The kickoff event in Machias Thursday attracted nearly 100 people, including those from business, education, government and concerned citizens. The Caribou event drew about 60 people.

More information on GROWashington-Aroostook can be found at www.gro-wa.org.

2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Congratulations to all communities who have received a 2012 CDBG grant award! The 2012 awards are as follows:

2012 CDBG Awards

PF/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Milbridge	Washington	demo/construct municipal bldg	\$258,000
Greenville	Piscataquis	repair steamship Katahdin	\$300,000
Van Buren	Aroostook	handicapped restrooms	\$100,000
Skowhegan	Somerset	library egress staircase	\$35,472
Dexter	Penobscot	fire dept breathing appartus	\$50,000
Winterville Plt	Aroostook	sand/salt storage shed	\$28,415
Fort Fairfield	Aroostook	Health center	\$300,000
New Vineyard	Franklin	library expansion	\$180,000
PI/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Calais	Washington	sewer/water line replacement	\$500,000
Farmington	Franklin	public utilities to Brookside Village	\$500,000
Mexico	Oxford	replace water main/storm water collection	\$500,000
Cornish	York	replace water main	\$500,000
Bucksport	Hancock	remove/replace water tank	\$500,000
Starks	Somerset	replace Pelton Stream Bridge	\$100,000
Bath	Sagadahoc	upgrade water service	\$260,000
HA/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Rumford	Oxford	Single-family housing rehab	\$300,000
Winter Harbor	Hancock	Well & septic replacement	\$300,000
Winn	Penobscot	Single-family housing rehab	\$300,000
Lincoln	Penobscot	Single-family housing rehab	\$300,000
CE/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Calais	Washington	streetscapes	\$150,000
Bucksport	Hancock	business facades/streetscapes	\$150,000
Orono	Penobscot	business facades/streetscapes	\$150,000
Thomaston	Knox	business facades/streetscapes	\$150,000
Kennebunk	York	downtown facades/spot blight	\$110,000
Howland	Penobscot	streetscapes/pocket park	\$150,000
Fort Kent	Aroostook	streetscapes	\$150,000
Eastport	Washington	facades/historic district	\$150,000
PS/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Sanford	York	Expand Secure Records Management	\$50,000
Ellsworth	Hancock	Hancock County Agricultural Initiative	\$50,000
Lisbon	Androscoggin	Establish career service at library	\$20,000
Piscataquis County	Piscataquis	Energy conservation program	\$40,000
DR/COMMUNITY	COUNTY	PROJECT	\$ AWARD
Belfast	Waldo	streetscapes/water systems	\$500,000
Sanford	York	park,boardwalk,sidewalks,curbs	\$500,000
TOTAL			\$7,631,887

Upcoming Events and Grant Opportunities

August 6, 2012

Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)

The primary objective of the RBOG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

August 15, 2012

Libra Foundation

A private philanthropic foundation funding projects in the areas of arts, culture and humanities, education, environment, health, human services, justice, public/society benefit and religion. Contact www.librafoundation.org

August, 2012

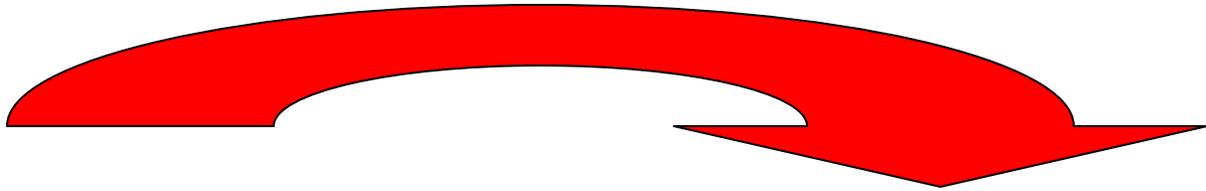
MCDCA General Membership Meeting - Date, Time, and Place to be announced. Visit the MCDCA website at www.mainecca.org for more information.

September 15, 2012

Belvedere Historic Preservation Grant – www.mcf.org

October 3 & 4, 2012

MMA Annual Convention – www.memun.org



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS

The Maine Association of Planners, or MAP, was formed in 1996 to foster planning throughout the State of Maine. It is a 501 (c) 6 nonprofit organization of over 100 members, including professional public, private, and nonprofit planners, citizen volunteers serving on local boards, and Mainers from other professions like attorneys, landscape architects, professors, and developers who are dedicated to enhancing the practice of planning in Maine.

As an outcome of the 2011 and 2012 completion of the Waldoboro Downtown Village Master Plan, and the Camden Downtown Master Plan, the principals involved in the projects, Denis Lachman of Lachman Architects of Portland, Land Architect Regina S. Leonard of Topsham, Rodney Lynch, AICP of Rockland, and Mike Sabatini of Landmark Surveyors and Engineers of Rockport, have formed Downtown reVitalization Collaborative. At the June 22, 2012, MAP Annual Meeting, Downtown reVitalization Collaborative received the 2012 MAP Plan of the Year Award for the Waldoboro Downtown Village Master Plan

BROWNFIELDS

The Brownfields Program was originally begun in January, 1995 as a U.S. Environmental Protection Act (EPA) initiative. In 2002, the Brownfields revitalization Act was signed expanding potential federal assistance for Brownfields

revitalization. Revitalization efforts included grants for assessment, cleanup and job training. On May, 2012, EPA announced Brownfields funding for Region 1, which includes the State of Maine.

Under the Assessment Grant Program, state, tribal, and local governments may apply to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Since 1994, Maine has received a total of \$11,059,017 to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

funds to provide subgrants to other eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations. An RLF requires a 20% cost share.

The Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program, which is used to fund a revolving loan fund (RLF) to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites, has provided the State of Maine with a total of \$13,628,355 since 1994. RLF are used to provide no-interest or low-interest loans for brownfields cleanups. An RLF grant recipient may use up to 50% of the

State, tribal, local governments, and nonprofits are eligible to apply for the Cleanup Grant Program to carry out cleanup activities (sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances) at Brownfields sites that they own. Since 2003, Maine has received a total of \$7,850,744.

For more information on Brownfields, visit www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields.

Recipient Name	Grant Type	Site Name	Amount
Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society	Cleanup	Central Hall	\$200,000
Northern Maine Development Commission	Assessment	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$400,000
Old Town	Cleanup	Old Town Canoe Site – Lot 1, 35 Middle Street	\$200,000
	Cleanup	Old Town Canoe Site – Lot 1B, 35 Middle Street	\$200,000
	Cleanup	Old Town Canoe Site – Lot 11, 211 Main Street	\$200,000
Piscataquis County Economic Development Council	RLF	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$800,000
Rockland	Assessment	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$400,000
Sanford	Assessment	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$400,000
	Cleanup	CGA, Inc., 229 New Dam Road	\$200,000
	Cleanup	Sanford Transportation Center, Millyard Road	\$200,000
Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission	RLF	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$350,000
Washington County Council of Governments	Assessment	Community-wide Petroleum	Hazardous Substances & \$400,000
Wilton	Cleanup	Wilton Tanning Facility, 833 Route 2	\$200,000
Maine Total			\$4,150,000

“The term ‘brownfield site’ means real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” (from the federal Brownfields Act of 2002)

ABOUT MCDA

DO YOU KNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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. FOUR (4) REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE HELD ANNUALLY THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MAINE. 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.

Benefits to Becoming a Member. . . .

MCDA Funding Directory
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. I AM/AM NOT INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- ✓ ADVOCACY
- ✓ COMMUNICATIONS
- ✓ FINANCE
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ MEMBERSHIP
- ✓ OFFICER/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There are 491 municipalities in the State of Maine, yet there are only 13 municipalities who are members of the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA). Now, more than ever, MCDA urges each municipality to become a member of the organization. MCDA is an affiliate group of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and as such enjoys the same status regarding lobbying. MCDA's Advocacy Role is to weigh in on proposed legislation and policies that impact community development in Maine. This organization is the "voice" of community development policy making in Maine.

Each year, prior to the distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the State Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) Office of Community Development (OCD) holds public hearings on the upcoming program statement. Each year, proposed changes to the CDBG program are prepared and made available during the public hearing forums. Little or no representation among municipalities is on hand to provide comments on the program changes that would have a direct affect on their communities needs.

Focus on cutting federal spending and decreasing the national debt has resulted in continual decreases of the CDBG budget over the past few years. CDBG is vitally important for Maine communities since it is the only flexible source of federal assistance available to address a wide array of rural community development needs. OCD administers the CDBG funds through an annual competition based on scoring criteria adopted in the rule-making and program statement process. OCD works collaboratively with MCDA to review proposed changes and garner support for the CDBG program. This is the time for the MCDA membership to provide feedback on the CDBG program.

Please join and make your 'voice' count!

Please visit our website at www.maineecda.org for a membership application or contact any member of the Board of Directors.

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

Daniel LaPointe (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Ron Harriman
Al Smith
Wade Hanson
Noel Musson

Communications

Joella Theriault (Chair)
Tony Levesque
Mary Walton
Ken Arndt

Finance

Ron Harriman (Chair)
Executive Committee

Professional Development

Darryl Sterling (Chair)
Jim Gulnac
Joella R. Theriault
Steve Dyer
Wade Hanson
Mathew Eddy
Noel Musson
Suzie Paradis

Membership

Steve Dyer (Chair)
Michael Bush
Suzie Paradis
Tony Levesque
Jonathan Edgerton

Nomination

Al Smith (Chair)
Wade Hanson
Paul Bernier

2012-2013 MCDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Term Expires: October, 2013

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Term Expires: October, 2013

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Term Expires: October, 2012

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Term Expires: October, 2012

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Term Expires: October, 2013

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Term Expires: October, 2013

