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Message from the President

President's Message on the State of the Community Development Job Market

Because of my own personal job experiences in the 1970s I am very much interested in assuring employment opportunities for community and economic specialists and planners. After college, a stint in the military and graduate school I entered the job market in the 1970s at a time of hyper-inflation, malaise and the stigma of being a Vietnam Veteran—unlike today where employers want to hire returning veterans for their discipline, dedication and work ethic. Needless to say it was very difficult and often discouraging. Fortunately over the years the employment opportunities for persons in these professions has dramatically improved; especially in larger and medium size communities and at the regional level. Before retiring from my community development position with the City of Rockland in June 2011 I had observed that a number of smaller communities are not being well served by these professions but wish to be but can't either because they lack the funds for full time planning or development staffs or, because the regional agencies are limited in the amount of assistance they can provide pro bono for reason of their own funding problems and limited staffing. In order to assist in filling in this gap I was able to offer affordable services on a part-time contractual basis to the small Maine communities of Thomaston and Kingfield. Quickly, along with downtown master planning work for Waldoboro and Camden I was overwhelmed! Instead of semi-retirement and living off my Navy Reserve and MSRS checks I was back working almost on a full time basis again—this was not in my plans! However, what this demonstrates there is a need out there for professional people like us to assist smaller Maine communities and that this need can be filled by semi-retirees like me or by other persons wishing for part-time employment. Anecdotally, I know I could get more community work if I wanted to hustle for it; but, don't wish to.

Rodney Lynch, AICP

President, MCDA

2011-2013

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

After having worked as the City of Bangor's longest serving Community and Economic Development Director **Rodney McKay** has retired from that position. Rod started in that position in 1967. Among his numerous accomplishments over the decades are the on-going downtown revitalization projects, redevelopment of the Bangor waterfront and the City's neighborhood preservation programs.

Matt Eddy, former Economic Director for the Town of Brunswick and for the Cities of Bath and Westbrook has resigned his position with Eaton Peabody Consulting and has started Eddy Consulting Services located in Brunswick. Matt is a long time Maine planner with several decades of experience.

Misty Gorki is the new Town Planner for the Town of Wiscasset. Previously she was the Planning and Development Director/CEO for the Town of Waldoboro where she advocated for the Downtown Village Master Plan. Her replacement is **Bill Najpaurer**. Bill was formerly in private practice with Renaissance Planning as well as, a former CEO for the City of Gardner and a former senior planner with the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Long time Bath Director of Planning and Development **Jim Upham**, AICP retired on September 30, 2011 from the City of Bath. He started his career as a town manager in 1973 and his first planning job was on the staff of the City of Bangor--1978 to 1983. Jim was formerly the Executive Director of the Southern Maine RPC and former Town of Sanford Planning Director as well as having worked for the Town of Wells. The new Planning and Development Director is **Andrew H. Deci**. Previously he was a planner in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

The City of Belfast has hired **James Francomano** for the newly created Assistant Planner position. Jamie previously worked as City Planner for the City of Presque Isle.

Brian Hodges is the Development Director for the Town of Camden. This is a newly created position. Brian was the former Deputy Commissioner of DECD.

Keith Luke former Economic Development Director for the City of Westbrook has left that position is now is out on his own. He was in Westbrook for about 2 ½ years.

Rodney Lynch, AICP retired from the City of Rockland after serving for over 13 years as its Community Development Director. Like Jim he started his career in 1973 and has been both a planner and a town manager. More recently he was the recipient of the 2011 Maine Downtown Center's 2011 Downtown Visionary Award and the 2011 Rockland Main Street, Inc., Main Street Stalwart Award. Since leaving Rockland he has been doing part-time consulting work focusing on small town and village planning involving economic and community development planning and plan implementation and funding. Rodney is a Vietnam Veteran having served in the Mekong Delta and is retired from the U. S. Navy Reserves. **Audrey Lovering** has replaced Rodney as the Community Development Director for the City of Rockland. Previously she worked for Developers Collaborative of Portland and the Skowhegan Main Street Program.

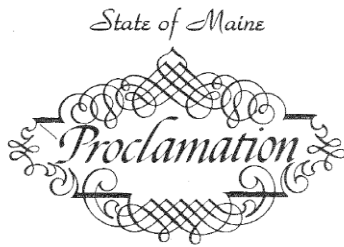
Darryl Sterling has resigned as the Community and Business Development Director for the Town of Richmond to become the new Executive Director for the Central Maine Growth Council located in Waterville. During his 9 years in Richmond, he was very successful in obtaining numerous grants for the town and well as developing new businesses. His successor is **Victoria Bounty**. Victoria was most recently a planner with the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, the organization redeveloping the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Prior to that, she worked for regional planning agencies in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Anne Krieg, AICP has left her position as Bar Harbor Town Planner and was recently hired as the Planner/Economic Development Director for Bridgton. Anne previously served as Town Planner in Reading, Mass., for three and one-half years, and prior to that was Principal Planner in Danvers, Mass., for five and one-half years.

Jason Simcock has resigned his position as the City of Gardner Economic and Community Director to accept a position with the Municipal Division of the Androscoggin Bank. He was in Gardner for over 5 years. **Nate Rudy** is the new Director.

After 11 years as Community Development Director for the Town of Houlton, **Wade Hanson** resigned to accept the position of Economic Development Director for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Success Stories from 2011 CDBG Awardees



WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has operated since 1975 to provide local governments with the resources required to meet the needs of persons of low-and-moderate-income, and CDBG funds are used by thousands of neighborhood-based, non-profit organizations throughout the nation to address pressing neighborhood and human service needs; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant program has had a significant impact on our local economies through job creation and retention, physical redevelopment and improved local tax bases; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Maine have clearly demonstrated the capacity to administer and customize the CDBG program to identify, prioritize and resolve pressing local problems, such as affordable housing, neighborhood and human service needs, job creation and retention and physical redevelopment,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, do hereby proclaim the week of April 8 – 14, 2012, as

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this Sixth
day of April Two-Thousand Twelve



A handwritten signature of Paul R. LePage in black ink.

Paul R. LePage
Governor

A handwritten signature of Victoria Boundy in black ink.

The Main Street Streetscape project, funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), will be starting up on April 9

The project is located along a portion of Main Street (Route 197) from Williams Street to Front Street (Route 24) in downtown Richmond. The work involves installation of 33 street lights, along with underground conduit and wiring, junction boxes, light pole bases, electrical service connections and control panels, and replacement of shrubs. The work also includes construction of approximately 475 linear feet of new ADA compliant asphalt sidewalk segments, predominately with vertical granite curbing, along portions of Main Street from Alexander Reed Road to Williams Street and associated construction of paved shoulders, paved driveway aprons, installation of shrubs and street trees, and minor storm drainage improvements. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact: Victoria Boundy, Director of Community & Business Development, at 737-4305 x 331 or email director@richmondmaine.com.

**EFFORTS TO REOPEN THE
STINSON CANNERY ARE
SUCCESSFUL!**

**Tom Martin, Executive Director,
Hancock County Planning Commission**

Through a partnership with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the town of Gouldsboro, the Hancock County Planning Commission obtained \$400,000 in CDBG Business Assistance funding to reopen the Stinson Cannery in Gouldsboro as a lobster processing facility. These funds will be used to create 40 jobs as the first step in creating a total of 115 jobs over the next three years. These will largely replace the 128 jobs lost when the Stinson facility, the last sardine cannery in the United States, closed in 2010. The CDBG funds are part of a larger \$8.9 million investment package by Live Lobster Company, Inc. to convert the sardine cannery into a state of the art lobster processing facility.

The facility should be a boon to the local lobster industry since most lobsters are now shipped for processing to plants in Atlantic Canada. A local processing facility will mean reduced shipping costs. It should also boost demand for lobsters. The plant will cook and freeze lobsters and sell them to high-volume customers such as restaurant chains and cruise ship lines. The project is an example of how CDBG funds can be used to retain jobs and boost the area economy.

For more information on this project, contact Tom Martin (207-667-7131 or tmartin@hpcpcme.org)

2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Staff reviewed and responded to submissions for **21 Public Facilities Letters of Intent to Apply**. The total amount requested for the proposed projects is \$3,611,384. The Proposed Budget for this program category within the 2012 program statement is \$900,000. The maximum award per project is \$300,000.

Staff reviewed and responded to submissions for **12 Public Infrastructure Letters of Intent to Apply**. The total amount requested for infrastructure projects is \$4,701,000. The Proposed Budget for this program category within the 2012 program statement is \$2,000,000. The maximum award per project is \$500,000.

Applications for the Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure programs were due March 9, 2012. Awards were announced on April 22, 2012. Congratulations to the following communities who were successful recipients of the 2012 CDBG program.

By Deborah Johnson
Director, Office of Community Development
Department of Economic and Community Development

| Community | Activity Group – Public Facilities | Amount Requested |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Greenville | Historic Preservation | \$300,000 |
| Van Buren | Complete restrooms @ Acadian Village | \$100,000 |
| Dexter | Fire fighting equipment | \$50,000 |
| New Vineyard | Library addition | \$180,000 |
| Skowhegan | stairwell for public library | \$35,472 |
| Winterville Plantation | repairs sand/salt storage facility | \$28,415 |
| Milbridge | new bldg for public library | \$258,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$951,887 |
| Community | Activity Group – Public Infrastructure | Amount Requested |
| Starks | 3-Replace Pelton Brook Bridge | \$100,000 |
| Bucksport | 1- Water storage tank | \$500,000 |
| Cornish | 1-Replace water main | \$500,000 |
| Farmington | 2-Public road to Brookside Village | \$500,000 |
| Mexico | 1-water,sewer,storm drainage | \$500,000 |
| Calais | 1-water/sewer improvements | \$500,000 |
| Bath | 1/2-replace sewer pipes/water | \$260,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$2,860,000 |

Dan LaPointe named to Franco-American Hall of Fame

Dan LaPointe is the Community Development Director for the Town of Van Buren; he serves as Chairperson for the MCDA Advocacy Committee; and is President of the Franco American Club. Mr. LaPointe was honored with a Franco American Hall of Fame Award from the Maine State Legislature on March 21 at the State Capitol in Augusta. He is credited for supporting, promoting, and encouraging the advancement of the French culture, the French language, and the unique French customs. A daylong celebration took place during the International Francophone Week, celebrated worldwide during the week of March 18 through 25.



Photo Contributed by Alex Pringle.

Pictured from left to right: Senator Troy Jackson, Philip LaPointe, Marie LaPointe, Daniel LaPointe, Julie LaPointe, David LaPointe, and Rep. Bernard Ayotte

Upcoming Events and Grant Opportunities

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>April 13, 2012</i> | <i>MCDA Meeting via Teleconference beginning at 10:00 a.m. Instructions for accessing teleconference available at www.mainecca.org</i> |
| <i>April 8-14, 2012</i> | <i>Community Development Week. This annual event is celebrated to showcase economic and community development projects throughout the State. See Page 3 for signed Proclamation by Governor LePage.</i> |
| <i>April, 2012</i> | <i>Fair Housing Month</i> |
| <i>May 3, 2012</i> | <i>Gardiner Economic Leadership Summit: Flood Hazard Mitigation Seminar for Historic Buildings. For more information contact Nate Rudy at nrudy@gardinermaine.com</i> |
| <i>May 9, 2012</i> | <i>RCDI (Rural Community Development Initiative) Applications available at www.rurdev.usda.gov</i> |
| <i>May 18, 2012</i> | <i>Innovation Meets Main Street: 2012 Maine Downtown Conference. Register at www.mdf.org</i> |
| <i>June, 2012</i> | <i>CDBG Certification Course/Implementation Workshop. Date To Be Determined.</i> |

HUD's FY2013 Proposed Budget

The Budget Control Act of 2011 sets caps on discretionary spending for the next 10 years, which includes \$907 billion in total cuts. The impact on HUD's budget is that it increases gross budget authority by 3% over 2012 levels to \$44.8 billion and maintains housing assistance for families currently receiving rental subsidies.

HUD's top priority for FY2013 is to renew rental and homeless assistance and provide capital needs funding for HUD's public housing stock. To accomplish its priority, HUD proposes the FY2013 budget broken down into three major categories as follows:

HUD's 2013 Goals

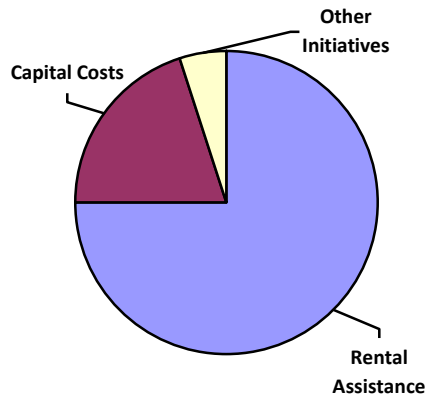
Goal I – Strengthening the Nation's Housing Market

Goal II – Meeting the Need for Quality, Affordable Rental Housing

Goal III – Utilizing Housing as a Platform for Improving Quality of Life

Goal IV – Building Inclusive Sustainable Communities Free From Discrimination

Goal V – Transforming the Way HUD Does Business



75% - Rental Assistance

- *Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- *Project-Based Rental Assistance
- *Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- *Portions of: HOME Investment Partnership and Native American Housing Block Grants

20%- Capital Costs

- *Public Housing Capital Fund
- *Choice Neighborhoods
- *Section 202
- *Section 811
- *CDBG
- *Portions of HOME Investment Partnership and Native American Housing Block Grants

5%- Other Initiatives

- *Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction
- *Housing Counseling
- *Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity

Impact of FY2013 budget on three major federal programs:

- CDBG – The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding to five “entitlement” cities, Cumberland County, and State of Maine’s Department of Economic and Community Development. The FY2013 CDBG budget is expected to be reduced by another 8% cut over the FY2012 budget of \$9,427,331.
- HOME – HOME provides communities with funding to create affordable housing for low-income households. Allocations were \$5.7 million in 2011 and are expected to be only \$3.5 million in 2012, representing a 40% reduction.
- Lead Abatement Programs are expected to be discontinued in 2012-2013.

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. 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

NETWORKING

What is a Networking List?

It is an e-mail networking list that permits you to:

- *Network with colleagues*
- *Quickly resolve problems and seek solutions*
- *Seek advice or answers and get responses quickly*

Actively participate in discussions or simply monitor news or developments

- *Stay involved with the organization*

How does it work?

Think of it as a bulk mailing system. You send out a message for your colleagues to read and/or respond to. All messages to the list are received by everyone on the list. Messages are posted in response to yours, and everyone on the list gets to see the answers. Participation is limited to current MCDA members. Messages to the group can only be sent or received at your subscribed e-mail address. Once you are subscribed to the list, to send a message to the listserv, simply send an e-mail to: MCDA-Networking@imail.memun.org.

How do I sign up?

The MCDA list is managed by the Resource Center at MMA. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list, contact the Resource Center. The Resource Center updates the list as members join the organization or change jobs or change their e-mail address. Members should contact the ResourceCenter@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786 if changes need to be made to your list information or if you are having problems using the list.

Maine Community Development Association

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

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

www.maineecda.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

President:

Rodney Lynch, AICP
Town of Thomaston
123 Summer Street
Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 594-7663

Term Expires: October, 2013

Vice President:

Darryl Sterling
Central Maine Growth Council
50 Elm Street
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(207) 680-7300

Term Expires: October, 2013

Treasurer:

Ron Harriman
Ron Harriman Associates
61 Main Street, Suite 62
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1-800-648-8335

Term Expires: October, 2012

Secretary:

Joella R. Theriault
Northern Maine Development Commission
11 West Main Street, Suite 104
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 543-1802

Term Expires: October, 2012

Past President:

James Q. Gulnac, AICP
Town of Sanford
919 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073
(207) 324-9150

Term Expires: October, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS

Wade Hanson

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
88 Bell Road
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(207) 532-4273 x 204

Term Expires: October, 2012

Gail Chase

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Term Expires: October, 2012

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(207) 728-3612

Term Expires: October, 2013

