



Maine Community Development Association

December, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 4

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MCDA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Maine Community Development Association (MCDA) was held on October 7, 2004 at the Augusta Civic Center. MCDA was part of 13 Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Affiliate Groups that participated in the 67th Annual Convention. The Palesky Tax Cap Proposal was the subject of many general sessions. MCDA sponsored a session entitled *The Impacts of Palesky on Economic and Community Development*. Guest speakers included Christopher St. John, Executive Director, Maine Center for Economic Policy; Todd Gabe, University of Maine, Department of Resource Economic and Policy; and

If approved by Maine voters, a statewide citizen initiative would limit property taxes to 1% of the assessed property valuations at the 1996-1997 value of real and personal property. While this would mean lower local property taxes, it would also represent a loss of revenue for many municipalities. The overall impact is that many local services would be reduced or eliminated.

Following the general session, MCDA held an annual luncheon and meeting. President Mathew Eddy summarized the accomplishments made over the past year and invited members to share ideas for the upcoming year. Other business conducted was to fill two vacancies on the Executive Board. James Gulnac, Community Development Director for the Town of Sanford and Michele Gagnon, City Planner for the City of Ellsworth were nominated and unanimously accepted for the two-year term expiring in October, 2007.

CEI AmeriCorps

Mr. Jonathan Underwood, Director of Coastal Enterprise, Inc.'s AmeriCorps Program provided MCDA members with a brief presentation. AmeriCorps mission is to help low-income elderly and disabled people remain independent in their own homes through housing modifications.

CEI AmeriCorps currently have 25 members assigned to Maine's independent corporations. The corporation must have the ability to use an AmeriCorp member on a full-time basis for at least 11 months. Organizations are required to provide a \$10,000 cash match for each person hired. CEI AmeriCorps does considerable training before placement of a member in any organization. Skill level varies depending on the needs of the organization. Examples of how AmeriCorps members have contributed in the past:

- 1) Work in soup kitchen, window replacements, minor housing renovations.
- 2) Operating an Activity Center for seniors.
- 3) Maintenance tasks.



2005 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

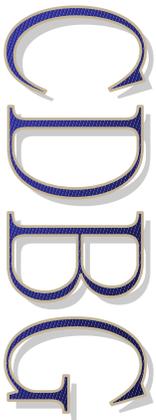
January 14	(EC)	Orono/Bangor Area
February 11	(GM)	Guest Speaker - Augusta Area
April 11	(EC)	In Conjunction with Community Development Day at the Legislature in Augusta
May 13	(GM)	Ellsworth/Belfast Area
June 10	(GM)	Fort Fairfield
August 19	(EC)	In Conjunction with Community Development Block Grant Appreciation Day in Augusta
September 16	(EC)	Organizational Meeting in Brunswick
October 6-8	(AM)	MMA Convention in Augusta
November	(GM)	Meeting to Establish 2006 Goals.

(EC - Executive Committee Meeting)
 (GM - General Membership Meeting)
 (AM - Annual Meeting)



Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association (MBOIA)

The Building Code Working Group first convened in March, 2003 with the goal of adopting a voluntary model building code by all municipalities in the State of Maine. On March 30, 2004, Public Law 2003, Chapter 580 "An Act To Adopt a Model Building Code" was signed into law, paving the way for the Maine Model Building Code to begin taking effect in municipalities throughout the State as of July 30, 2004. The new law is composed of the International Residential Code and International Building Code, both of which are part of the International Codes Council. The law does not mandate that any municipality adopt the Maine Model Building Code (MMBC), but requires that, if a municipality does voluntarily choose to adopt a new residential or non-residential building code, it must adopt the MMBC. The law allows municipalities the flexibility of adopting only portions of the MMBC and of amending the MMBC locally if it wishes to do so. For more information, www.state.me.us/legis/lawlib/buildcode.htm.



2005 Community Development Block Grant Program

Upcoming Programs and Deadlines:

Downtown Revitalization Program	January 14, 2005
Community Enterprise Program	January 14, 2005
Non-Profit Development Grants	January 14, 2005
Innovative Housing Assistance Program	February 4, 2005
Economic Development Program	February 11, 2005
Community Planning Program	March 4, 2005

For More Information on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, please contact the following technical assistance providers:

Michael Baran – DECD, Office of Community Development	www.meocd.org
Joella McBreairty – Northern Maine Development Commission	www.nmdc.org
Michael Bush – Eastern Maine Development Corporation	www.emdc.org
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	www.kvcog.org
Amy Landry - Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	www.avcog.org
Lincoln County Economic Development Office	www.lincolncountymaine.org
Mid Coast Council for Business Development	www.mcbdp.org
Greater Portland Council of Governments Commission	www.gpcog.org
Hancock County Regional Planning	www.hcpcme.org
Penobscot Valley Council of Governments	www.emdc.org/planning.htm
Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission	www.smrpc.maine.org

