



Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes

PLACE: Northern Maine Community College  
DATE: January 13, 2009  
Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Attendance: Chair Nate Berry, Mike Bosse, Bruce Sandstrom, Dr. Richard Cost, Jason parent, Dick Haines, Dr. Don Zillman, Eileen Carey, Linda Smith, Doug Morrell, Jim Davis, Dr. Reginald Reed, Roger Roy, Jon McLaughlin, Robert Clark and Virginia Joles.

Members Excused: Tim Hobbs, Mike Fogarty, Glenn Lamarr, Patricia Sutherland and Steve Gallant.

Others Present: Phil Bosse – Senator Collins’ Office, Barbara Hayslett, Congressman Michaud’s Office, Ralph McPherson-Aroostook Human Health Services, Angela Tompkins-Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan, Dawn Poitras – The Aroostook Medical Center & Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce,

Staff: Walt Elish, Judy Dinsmore and Ruby Bradbury.

Mr. Tim Crowley welcomed the attendees to NMCC at 8:00 am. Nate Berry then introduced Mr. Dana Connors, President, Maine State Chamber of Commerce.

1.) Dana Connors Presentation:

Mr. Dana Connors discussed with the attendees the current Legislative session and other issues of interest that may impact local businesses. LEAD Board meeting convened after this presentation.

2.) Call to Order:

Chair Berry called the LEAD Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:15 am and asked everyone introduce themselves.

3.) Approval of December 9, 2008 LEAD Minutes:

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Parent to approve the December 9, 2008 LEAD meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed unanimously.

4.) Finance Report:

There was little activity this month.

Profit and Loss Statement:

Interest income of \$11.77, transportation expense of \$91.00 for net income of -\$79.23.

Balance Sheet:

Checking and Savings of \$20,175, accounts receivable of \$9,500 for total assets of \$29,675.

Current liabilities of \$11,400 for net income of \$11,683.

Total liabilities and equity was \$29,675.

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. Joles, seconded by Mr. Haines to accept the Finance Report as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed unanimously

Mr. Elish announced that 2009 dues invoices have been sent out. He stated that we have received dues from a new member – Eastern Maine Electric. A thank you letter has been sent out and he will be following up with them personally.

5.) Transportation Update:

Mr. Elish stated that this is a critical time for the north south highway and it's going to be necessary for LEAD to take a more supportive role if the project is to move forward. At the recent public meeting concerning the Presque Isle Bypass, the majority of the attendees were in opposition of the bypass.

He stated that if LEAD is in support of the highway then it's time we take a stand on the highway issue.

It was the consensus of the Board to submit a letter of reaffirmation from the LEAD Board. It was also advised that LEAD members send their own letters in support of the road. Information for the letters is posted on the LEAD web site and information will be emailed to the membership.

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. Joles, seconded by Dr. Cost for LEAD to take an active role in support of the highway and submit a reaffirmation letter supporting the transportation issue.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Ms. Smith to continue to contract with John Melrose for his involvement in the transportation issue.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed unanimously

6.) Entrepreneurship:

A. Entrepreneurship Week (February 21-28, 2009)

Mr. Elish stated that Entrepreneurship Week is February 21 to 28 and that there are a number of activities taking place in Maine Mr. Elish suggested LEAD take an active role in promoting Entrepreneurship Week in the County.

It was suggested that we launch the Young Entrepreneur idea during the week of February 21-28, 2009 and then announce the individual at our annual meeting in June.

7.) Aroostook Day at the Legislature:

A. Date

Mr. Elish stated that he and Representative Sutherland decided on the following block of dates for the 2009 Aroostook Day at the Legislature. January 28 and 29, February 3-5, February 10-12.

These are dates when the Legislature will be in session and we will get a better response from the Legislators. The event will be similar to last year with a reception, dinner and breakfast for the Legislators. The Senator Inn worked out well last year and we would pursue this facility for the function again this year. The State Capital is not available for the remainder of the year.

It was suggested that the week of February 3-5 or February 10-12 be pursued.

B. Gifts

Mr. Elish announced that it was Staff's suggestion to provide gifts to speakers, and guests at our LEAD functions.

8.) Other Business:

A. Maine 1<sup>st</sup> Activity

Mr. Elish recapped that this is a group of Chamber Directors of the Regional Chambers around the state. They have provided position papers with topics that are of importance to them. The topics are then reviewed and a position will be written up that the entire group will agree to and support. At some point LEAD may want to consider developing their own position papers on issues of concern to Aroostook County businesses.

B. LEAD/APP Discussions

Chair announced that LEAD and APP Executive Committees continue to work on this item and will provide both Boards with suggestions/recommendations as they develop.

C. Special Meeting Location

Mr. Elish briefed the Board on a Letter to the Editor from Kevin Simmons, owner/operator of the Presque Isle and Caribou Inn and Convention Centers. The letter indicated that by holding meetings in government facilities (i.e., higher education centers, etc., takes business away from local businesses who count on large functions for their economic growth.

It was suggested by Mr. Parent to come up with a list of facilities where large functions can take place and rotate each facility as events occur.

9.) Adjournment:

There being no further business to conduct, Dr. Reed made a motion and seconded by Mr. Haines to adjourn the LEAD Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pitcairn  
Secretary

BP/jd