

LEADERS

Encouraging Aroostook Development

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Northern Maine Development Commission
DATE: March 10, 2009 8:00 a.m.

Attendance: Nate Berry, Dr. Richard Cost, Mike Fogarty, Dick Haines, Dr. Don Zillman, Glenn Lamarr, Linda Smith, Doug Morrell, Jim Davis, Reginald Reed, Roger Roy, Jon McLaughlin and Virginia Joles.

Members Excused: Mike Bosse, Bruce Sandstrom, Jason Parent, Tim Hobbs, Eileen Carey, Patricia Sutherland, Patti Crooks, Steve Gallant and Bob Clark.

Others Present: Phil Bosse-Senator Collins' Office, Kim Rohn-Senator Snowe's Office, Barb Hayslett-Representative Michaud's Office, Ralph McPherson-Northern Maine Medical Center, Walt Elish, Judy Dinsmore and Ruby Bradbury.

1.) Call to Order:

Chair Berry asked everyone to introduce themselves and give the Board any updates they may have.

Dr. Zillman announced that the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) is now housing the Prometrics school and professional training. This will allow testing for education graduates in the health care, veterinary, medical, law enforcement, etc. and will eliminate a tremendous amount of time that is being spent traveling south for training and testing.

Ms. Joles announced that Maine Public Service is now entering into the disconnect season, which will make it hard on some of their customers.

2.) Education Session:

Mr. Bosse presented a general summary of the Economic Stimulus Bill. More information on this can be found at www.recovery.com

He explained that most of the monies are going to the state and the state will be determining how it will be delegated. He stated that 50% of the monies will need to be dedicated with 120 days and the rest within the year.

The highway fund has been dedicated by the Governor. He stated that this is a bonus and should be looked at as such. This is not a long term injection. Police and fire will get

monies and will not be required to provide match for these funds for 2009-2010. The department of labor will get 11.5 million for Maine. This will go toward Workforce Investment and will be disbursed by formula.

Mr. Bosse stated that the Byrne-Justice Assistance funds will provide 9.6 million to the state. This breaks down to \$6,000,000 to state and \$3,000,000 to various communities and counties. Fire departments will hire fire personnel without matching the need for matching funds but the job has to continue in the future. He indicated that some fire departments have been in need of repair or replacement of the station, this stimulus will allow these renovations to take place.

Mr. Bosse also explained that the hospitals will be reimbursed for expenses related to Maine Care. It is estimated that \$424,000,000 is owed to the state hospitals. This bill will allow \$100,000,000 to the state. State can use the money and the government will match these funds. Mr. Bosse stated that the stimulus money will translate to approximately \$400,000,000 and take care of the debts owed to hospitals from 2005-2006.

He stated that \$100,000,000 new money will go toward nutritious programs for senior citizens.

Renewable money will go to Efficiency Maine. Louisiana Pacific will get some to help renovate and repair the buildings.

Mr. Bosse stated that there will be extra money for Pell Grants but was not sure how much money is available for the public higher education institutions. Mr. Bosse indicated that he will provide these numbers to the LEAD Board upon his return to the office.

3.) Approval of January 13, 2009 LEAD Board Minutes:

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Ms. Joles to accept the January 13, 2009 LEAD Board minutes as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed

4.) Resignation of Board Member:

At this time, Chair announced the resignation of Barb Pitcairn. He stated that at this time her schedule has not allowed her to attend the meetings as she should and would like to step down as a Board member, but will stay on as a general member.

Chair Berry accepted her resignation with regret.

Mr. Berry then announced that Jon McLaughlin has agreed to finish out Ms. Pitcairn's term as Secretary.

5.) Nominating Committee Formation:

Chair announced that the Nominating Committee will be working on filling the Board's vacancies and those that terms that will be expiring this year. He asked the Board members to bring names of any potential nominees to those on the Nominating Committee, so they can be brought before the membership at the annual meeting.

6.) Finance Report:

Profit and Loss Statement:

Interest income of \$9.17, meetings (Aroostook Day at the Legislature) of \$525 for total income of \$534.17.

Expenses were \$126.74 for Aroostook Day and transportation fund expense of \$1,093.07 for total expenses of \$1,219.81 or net income of \$-685.64.

Balance Sheet:

Checking and Savings of \$30,195.28, accounts receivable of \$2,750 for total assets of \$32,945.28.

Opening Balance Equity was \$12,740.92, retained earnings were \$5,534.02 and net income was \$14,670, for total income of \$534.17.

Expenses were \$126.74 for Aroostook Day and transportation fund expense of \$1,093.07 for total expenses of \$1,219.81 or net income of \$-685.64.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Joles to accept the finance report as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Mr. Elish announced that the cities of Caribou and Presque Isle in the past have contributed \$5,000 toward LEAD's transportation efforts. Presque Isle has again agreed to contribute the \$5,000 toward our efforts and has asked if their LEAD dues could come out of the \$5,000.

The consensus of the Board was to allow the \$300 LEAD dues for Presque Isle to come out of the \$5,000 contribution for transportation.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Fogarty, seconded by Mr. Davis to deduct Presque Isle's LEAD dues from the \$5,000 contribution for LEAD's transportation efforts.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

7.) Legislative Review:

- A. Referendum Questions: Reduce excise tax, Tabor 2, repeal school consolidation, and revamp medical marijuana law

Mr. Elish stated that as we get closer to the November election, LEAD may want to take a position on some or all of the referendum questions. A list will be emailed to the Board members for their information and a discussion will take place as to our position (if any) on these questions.

8.) Aroostook Day Review:

- A. Social Hour, Dinner, Breakfast

Mr. Elish reviewed the Aroostook Day at the Legislature event that took place in February with the Board members. He announced that all of the Delegation was in attendance as well as one member from the Leadership.

He stated that issues were discussed with the Legislators in regards to healthcare, transmission line and education to name a few.

He stated that the next morning LEAD members, representation from the cities of Presque Isle and Caribou, the Delegation and members from MDOT held a breakfast meeting where Representative John Martin lead the discussion on the north south highway..

Representative Martin announced that if MDOT did not make the decision to proceed with the bypass, then the Legislators would make that decision for them. He indicated that too much time has lapsed and we need to move forward.

It was announced that Caribou is ready to start, but Presque Isle has a few issues to be resolved prior to groundbreaking.

Mr. Elish indicated that this breakfast meeting indicated the strength and importance of LEAD. He also asked for suggestions for next year's Aroostook Day.

9.) Weekly Call Review:

Mr. Elish reviewed last week's Legislative call with the Board.

Topics Covered: North/South Highway, Healthcare, Stimulus Package

Attendance: A total of 12 participants from the 4 sights. Six Legislators and the Governor were also in attendance.

Mr. Elish urged LEAD members to participate in these weekly calls and to RSVP to Ms. Dinsmore and indicate any topics they would like to discuss with the Legislators.

Discussion took place in regards to hosting a legislative breakfast when the Legislators are not in session. The purpose behind the breakfasts would be to thank them for their efforts and to continue to keep them aware of our concerns issues in the County.

10.) Entrepreneurship:

A. Nomination Promotion:

Chair announced that Linda Smith, Jason Parent and Ginny Joles were spearheading this project.

Ms. Joles stated that a successful press conference was held announcing the new program. The criteria for this award will be that the entrepreneur has to be between the ages of 16-40 and owns or is a co-owner of a successful business. She indicated that after the April 1st application deadline, the committee will be reviewing the applications, a judgment will be made and the award will be presented at the annual meeting in June. Ms. Joles stated that in addition to this award, if the LEAD Board approves, we will be awarding the successful entrepreneur with a \$500 donation.

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin to approve the \$500 donation to the successful young entrepreneur at the annual meeting in June.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Mr. McLaughlin suggested that it be expanded to the Entrepreneur of the Year and to include everyone. Other suggestions were to possibly have two categories.

11.) Other Business:

A. Business Breakfast, April 9, 2009

This will take place at UMPI with Charles Colgan being the Keynote Speaker discussing the state of the economy. LEAD will be co-sponsoring this event with UMPI and a press release will be sent out soon.

12.) Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon McLaughlin
Secretary

JM/jd