



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of
September 9, 2009

PLACE: Northern Maine Community College
DATE: September 9, 2009 7:30 a.m.

Attendance: Chair Virginia Joles, Mike Bosse, Dave Cambridge, Bob Clark, Dr. Dick Cost, Steve Fitzpatrick, Doug Morrell, Dr. Reginald Reed, Roger Roy, Linda Smith, Tim Vernon and Dr. Don Zillman.

Members Excused: Eileen Carey, Jim Davis, Dick Haines, Jon McLaughlin, Jason Parent and Bruce Sandstrom.

Others Present: Representative Patricia Sutherland, Representative Mike Willette, Representative Peter Edgecomb, Representative Bernard Ayotte, Phil Bosse-Senator Collins' Office, Tim Crowley-President NMCC, Karen Gonya-NMCC, Walt Elish, Judy Dinsmore and Ruby Bradbury.

Prior to the LEAD Executive Board of Director's meeting, The Aroostook County Delegation Appreciation Breakfast was held.

Mr. Crowley opened the breakfast meeting welcoming the Legislative Delegation and guests to NMCC. He announced that this year holds the largest number of students in their first year. He indicated there is an 11% increase.

Chair Joles thanked Mr. Crowley and NMCC for hosting the breakfast meeting and for providing us with their bridge for the weekly Legislative calls.

She indicated that we will be holding weekly calls again once the Legislature goes back in session. Satellite offices are at UMFK, Houlton Higher Education Center, NMDC and NMCC.

Chair thanked the Legislators for their time listening to the concerns and issues at hand in Aroostook County.

Chair gave the invocation.

At this time the Legislators gave an update on the concerns they have received. Those being:

- Goose Livers
- Pesticide Spraying
- Groundwater Issues

The Legislators also stated that they felt the calls were great brainstorming sessions. LEAD is valued as the Voice of the County. Trying to find a convenient time for the calls can be hard as they are in and out of session at various times.

It was stated that LEAD should try to be more specific regarding their issues during these calls. It was also mentioned that the LEAD website needs to stay current with the various bills.

Representative Sutherland indicated she will be confirming a date in January for Aroostook Day to be held.

Other topics discussed with the Legislators were:

- Border crossing
- LURC from a business standpoint
- Unemployed students – funding for these students
- Railroad and the impact on manufacturing businesses in our area
- Video conferencing in hearing room so businesses can participate without travelling the long distance

At this time, Chair thanked everyone for attending the Delegation Appreciation Breakfast and announced that the LEAD Board of Directors meeting would be commencing momentarily.

1.) Call to Order:

Chair Joles called the LEAD Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.) Welcome Introductions/Current Events of Interest:

Everyone introduced themselves.

3.) Approval of August 11, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Mr. Vernon to accept the August 11, 2009 LEAD Minutes as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

4.) Financial Report:

Profit and Loss Statement:

(Income)

Interest Income: \$8.14

Total Income: \$8.14

(Expenses)

Aroostook Day: \$80.00

Transportation Fund Expenses: \$44.00

Total Expenses: \$124.00

Net Income: -\$116

Balance Sheet:

Operating Cash: \$25,801

Accounts Receivable: \$1,115

Total Current Assets: \$26,916

Deferred Dues: \$50

Total Liabilities: \$50

Opening Balance Equity: \$12,741

Retained Earnings: \$5,534

Net Income: \$8,591

Total Equity: \$26,866

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$26,916

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Dr. Reed to accept the Financial Report as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

5.) Letters of Support (Proposed Resolutions)

a. TIGER Discretionary Grant Application – Madawaska Subdivision Project

Chair announced that they are asking for \$32,000,000 for rail and \$6,000,000 for upgrades.

b. TIGER Discretionary Grant Application – Caribou Connector

Chair announced that they are asking for funds to continue the Aroostook County transportation study.

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Cost, seconded by Mr. Cambridge to provide a letter of support for the TIGER Discretionary Grant applications as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

6.) Committee Reports:

- a. Advocacy/Legislation/Programs: Jon McLaughlin, Nate Berry and Tim Vernon
 - i. October 13, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting – Hampton Inn
 - ii. Board and Member Education – TABOR II and Excise Tax Reform

Mr. Vernon indicated that at this time there was no report.

b. Business Recognition – Patti Crooks and Mike Bosse

To date, this committee has not met.

c. Energy – To be determined

d. Entrepreneur of the Year – Linda Smith

Ms. Smith indicated that she will have an update at the next LEAD meeting.

- e. Membership – Executive Committee
 - i. November 10, 2009 Board Meeting in Houlton, Location TBD
 - ii. Invite a guest
 - iii. Board and Member Education: Houlton Energy Park

f. Publicity/Political Forums – Jason Parent and Don Zillman

No report to date.

g. Transportation – Dick Haines and Doug Morrell

Mr. Morrell announced that he attended the rail meeting and as a group they signed a form letter for the application. They are still waiting for a response. He indicated that the meeting was very informative and brought to light just how important the rail is to the County and how it would have a negative effect on many of the businesses if closed.

7. Other Business:

a. Senator Susan Collins Response – Black Liquor Tax Credit

Chair announced that she received a letter back from Senator Collins pointing out that this is a difficult issue due to the challenges faced by the industry, the reliance of certain mills on the credit, and the disparate impact on various producers. Senator Collins states that these issues are the subject of debate in the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the matter.

The letter also states that on June 18, 2009, the Canadian government announced it will provide \$882 million over the next three years to Canadian companies for a similar tax credit, which could assist companies like Fraser.

Chair announced that there will be a Small Business Forum on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 in Ellsworth that is free and will focus on issues related to the economic downturn and the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. She stated that access is available via a live stream and it is not necessary to travel to Ellsworth.

8. Motion to adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Joles declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Next LEAD Board meeting will be on October 13, 2009 at Hampton Inn in Presque Isle.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Davis
Secretary

JD/jd