

**Northern Maine Development Commission
Annual Meeting of the Members Meeting Minutes of
June 26, 2014**

PLACE: Lakeview Restaurant, St. Agatha, Maine

DATE: June 26, 2014 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Chair Don Guimond, Austin Bleess, Gary Aiken, Jon Frederick, Patricia Sutherland, David Cambridge, Jim Nadeau, Jim Gardner, Paul Dudley, Priscilla Staples, Max Lynds, Christina Therrien, Mary Anne Buck, Ray Mersereau, David Cyr, Terry Wade, Wendell Spooner, Don Adams, Larry Duchette, David Pierce, Jim Bennett, Beurmond Banville, Christy Sirois, Kristi Brannen, Jim Gagnon, Keith Brown, Tom Clowes and Norm Fournier.

Others Present: Barbara Hayslett-Congressman Michaud's Office, Leo-Paul Charest-World Acadian Congress, Carol Bell, Paul Bouchard, Doug Cyr, Tony Mazzucco, Barry McCrum, Barb Nardone, Charles Rudelitch, Judy Sherman, Craig Staples, Josh Tweedie, Bob Clark, Duane Walton, Alain Ouellette, Judy Dinsmore, Jon Gulliver, Dana Delano, Ryan Pelletier, Julie Corey, Mary Dahlgren, Julia Dahlgren, Robert Dorsey, Jay Kamm, Ken Murchison, Angela Oechsle, Wanda Osgood, Joanna Russell, Dave Spooner, Joella Theriault, Kristy Strid and Ruby Bradbury.

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Chair Guimond brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He recognized Barbara Hayslett of Congressman Michaud's office. NMDC staff was asked to introduce themselves. Members were asked to pass their travel vouchers in to Ms. Dinsmore and their mileage check will be mailed to them.

2. Certification of Quorum:

Chair Guimond indicated the quorum requirement for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Members is 25% of the Representatives entitled to vote.

There are 93 Member Representatives of which 23 would constitute a quorum. There were 28 Member Representatives present at the meeting, therefore a quorum was present and met the requirements of the by-laws.

3. Annual Report Presentation:

Mr. Clark presented the Annual Report to the Membership and indicated it was in draft form.

He discussed the success story of SBDC client Meryem Rogan of Promise Pretzels of Maine. NMDC staff member Rod Thompson assisted Ms. Rogan on her business plan, identified markets and helped her make the appropriate connections.

In the past year NMDC became the fiscal agent for the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board (TCWIB), and aligned both the Aroostook-Washington Workforce Investment Board with TCWIB to better serve clients in most of the northern half of the state.

Mr. Clark announced the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) counseled 10 clients over the past year in which they received a total of \$14,000,000 in government contract awards.

NMDC is also the lead agency in the Mobilize Maine effort, having successfully launched Mobilize Northern Maine with the assistance of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress (APP). APP now has 25 investors and are focusing their efforts on Education to Industry, Diversified Agriculture, and, in conjunction with Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD), the Opportunities Aroostook website and social media component to provide a single central point for people to discover jobs.

LEAD membership has grown to 150 members over the past year and continues to sponsor the Aroostook Day at the Legislature event each year as well as the Entrepreneur of the Year event.

The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge grant (JIAC) allowed us to:

- Deliver a second logger and off road trucker business management training
- Assist in the expansion of renewable energy economy for both Aroostook and Washington counties
- Expand the Renewable Energy Cluster in Washington County
- Training American workers in high demand occupations such as mechanical engineers, biological technicians, electrical engineers and engineering managers
- One-on-One Business Technical Assistance, peer-to-peer network development

The Cooperative Purchase program assisted 51 towns in purchasing nearly 13,195 tons of salt for a total savings of \$126,000.

The Brownfields initiative allowed us to provide:

- 10 Phase I environmental site assessments (ESAs)
- 6 Phase II ESAs
- 3 Phase II ESAs (pending)
- Approximately \$403,000 leveraged through grant
- Continued funding for cleanup of Brownfield in Presque Isle, at the future home of their proposed recreation center

We applied for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program, but was not awarded in round 1. We will resubmit for the next round.

NMDC is the fiscal agent for the Maine World Acadian Congress. We have also assisted in the Tourism, Economic Development and Youth Entrepreneurship efforts as well as NMDC and APP devoted staff time and funding to the Export Conference – *Exploring the Opportunities*, which will be held on August 19-20 at UMFK.

At this time Mr. Clark thanked the Executive Board and Committee members for their volunteered time and support.

4. Nominating Committee Report:

Mr. Frederick presented the report and announced the following:

Slate of Executive Board of Directors for Two Year Terms:

Keith Brown – Washburn
 Austin Bleess – Caribou
 Mary Anne Buck – Mapleton
 Jim Gagnon – Wallagrass
 Jim Gardner – Easton
 Don Guimond – Fort Kent
 Charles Harris (CP) – Limestone
 Jim Nadeau – Eagle Lake
 Jeff Packard – Sherman
 Wendell Spooner – New Sweden
 Patricia Sutherland – Chapman
 Jim Tweedie – Blaine
 Terry Wade – Monticello

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION:

Motion made by Beurmond Banville, seconded by Ms. Sirois to elect the slate of nominees for Executive Board of Directors for a 2 year term as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Slate of Executive Board of Directors for One Year Term:

John Davis – Frenchville

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Bleess, seconded by Mr. Gagnon to elect the slate of nominees for Executive Board of Directors for a 1 year term as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Slate of Officers for One Year Term:

Chairman: Don Guimond, Fort Kent
 Vice-Chair: Christy Sirois, St. Agatha
 Treasurer: Christina Therrien, Madawaska
 Secretary: Austin Bleess, Caribou

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Mersereau to elect the slate of nominees for the Officers positions as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

5. Other Business:

None noted.

6. Update on World Acadian Congress:

Mr. Leo Paul Charest, Executive Director of CMA 2014 discussed the challenges they have experienced for the event, i.e., the area, first time the event has been international and first time it has been held in Quebec.

He discussed some of the events that will take place during the 2 week period.

August 8th will be the opening ceremonies on the shore of Beau Lake, where the borders of New Brunswick, Quebec and Maine meet.

August 15th is National Acadian Day which will provide music, outdoor mass, Tintamarre (noisy celebration) and fireworks.

August 18th Louisiana Day – dance to Louisiana music, discover their literary culture and cinematographic know how and taste some authentic Cajun cuisine.

August 24th is the New Beginning Day on Lake Temiscouata – enjoy the music in the grand outdoor concert, watch parades and the finale fireworks.

He explained that there is an economic component that will provide ways to continue the legacy between the 3 regions.

For more information, visit the website at: www.cma2014.com

7. Employee Recognition:

Mr. Clark recognized NMDC employees who have served 10, 20, 25 and 30 years. Their years of service totals 150 years.

Mike Eisensmith – 10 years

Julie Corey – 20 years

Jay Kamm – 20 years

Alain Ouellette – 20 years

Rod Thompson – 25 years

Ruby Bradbury – 25 years

Ken Murchison – 30 years

8. Presentation of Plaques to Officers and Directors:

Chair Guimond announced the outgoing Directors. Both were unable to attend today's meeting:

Gene Conlogue – Houlton

Barbara Pitcairn – Portage Lake

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Guimond declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. A time of social and dinner followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Bless

Secretary

AB/jd