



**Kennebec Valley
Economic Development District**

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**CEDS Committee Minutes
December 2, 2008
11:00am-1:00pm**

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Committee met on June 3, 2008 at 11:00 am in the Conference Room at KVCOCG in Fairfield.

Members Present

Clifford Andreasen, Farmingdale
Jim Batey, Somerset Economic Development
John Butera, Central Maine Growth Council
Norman Dean, Madison
Leonard Dow, FirstPark
George Gervais, Department of Economic & Community Development
Kimberly Lindlof, Mid Maine Chamber of Commerce
Josh Reny, Fairfield Economic Development
Janet Roderick, Small Business Development Centers
Gerard Roy, Augusta
Kathryn Ruth, Pittsfield
Jason Simcock, Gardiner Economic Development
Peter Thompson, Kennebec Valley Chamber
Brian Whitney, Senator Snowe's Office
Robert Worthley, Anson

Guests Present

Tim Vrabel, Efficiency Maine
Joy Hikel, Madison Economic Development

Staff Present

Ken Young, Executive Director
Amy Harrington, Office Administrator
Gail Chase, Community Development Mgr.
Vic Reinfelds, RLF Director

1. Welcome:

Peter Thompson, Chair, opened the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2008 meeting made by Bob Worthley and seconded by Kim Lindlof. The motion approved unanimously.

3. Presentation: Timothy J. Vrabel, Deputy Director, Energy Programs Division, Maine PUC.

Tim Vrabel is the Deputy Director of the Energy Programs Division at the Maine PUC. The PUC collects 1/14th of a cent in tax form every kilo watt hour sold in Maine. This amounts to about \$13,000,000 annually. Tim's shop spends this money on residential and commercial energy

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conservation programs, training for facility operators, incentives for renewal energy projects, rebates on conversions from less efficient electrical systems, lighting, motors, et cetera to more efficient systems, and education. For more information see www.energymaine.com. You can reach Tim at timothy.j.vrabel@maine.gov.

4. Project Updates: RLF, CDBG, and EDA:

Vic Reinfelds – Revolving Loan Fund

The RLF Committee met on October 9, 2008 to approve a \$175,000 loan to B&B Precise Products in Benton. EMDC approved a companion loan for \$175,000. The loan proceeds will be used to purchase a VTL 2.0 Meter Turning Machine costing approximately \$350,000. These two loans are part of a \$3,197,914 project that also includes funds for additional equipment and a new facility funded by Bangor Savings Bank. The RLF Committee also met on November 13, 2008 to approve a \$75,000 loan for Dennison Lubricants, Inc. in Gardiner and a \$60,000 loan for J P Wentworth General Store in Brooks. The City of Gardiner Economic Development Committee also approved a companion loan for \$75,000 for Dennison Lubricants, Inc, subject to Council approval. The total project cost is \$1,660,000 and includes a new building for \$1,300,000 funded by Citizens Bank. Our loan to J P Wentworth General store has a \$110,000 companion loan for the construction of a small building funded by Damariscotta Bank & Trust Company. Loan demand is light. We have approximately \$504,000 available to lend in partnership with commercial banks and other organizations.

CDBG & Brownfields Updates: Gail Chase – Community Development Manager

CDBG

The 2009 Program Statement is on line at the Office of Community Development website (www.meocd.org). The national objectives have not changed (to benefit low and moderate-income persons, to prevent and eliminate slum and blight, and to address needs that have a particular urgency).

The first due date for Letters of Intent is December 5, 2008, for the Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure programs. The application date for those programs is January 23, 2009. The next due date for Letters of Intent is January 9, 2009, for: round 1 of the Economic Development program, the Downtown Revitalization program and the Community Enterprise program. The application date for the Economic Development program is March 6, 2009; the application date for the other two programs is February 20, 2009.

Brownfields

KVCOG received a new **Brownfields Assessment Grant** for 2009. It also applied for a **Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant** that will provide municipalities that have larger sites to partner with KVCOG to obtain up to \$1,000,000 in assessment funds, with an expenditure limit of \$200,000 per site.

Updates: Ken Young – Executive Director

Mr. Young discussed the Kennebec River Initiative. Part two is in process. There is a meeting December 8th at the Augusta City Hall. The agenda is at www.kvcog.org.

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Mr. Young mentioned the Workforce Development Program with MSAD's 47, 49, 54, and Winslow. The group met on October 9th at 3:15 to go over the last minute details and to make sure there is not anything holding the schools back from imitating contact with businesses to set up tour and in school presentations. There are about 20 firms interested in participating.

Mr. Young shared the Maine and Company press release regarding Notify MD's decision to develop a 250 seat call center in Winthrop. KVCOG played a small but important part in the process of recruiting the firm.

Mr. Young announced that the members of the Regional Economic Development Forum (the group of "professional" economic development staff employed in the region) met with Fairpoint/Vital Economy's organizational development consultant to be trained in the use of its "Change Management" tool. Additionally, the group "launched" FairPoint's Demand Aggregation tool iwantmybroadbandfromfairpoint.com/kvcog.

On January 13, 2009 the group will use the Change Management tool to explore possibilities for developing a regional strategic plan for economic development. Stan Halle, VE's consultant will facilitate the daylong session.

John Butera described the workforce programs in which the KVCOG, Central Maine Growth Council and Mid-Maine Chamber are involved including Work Ready, the Internship Initiative connected to the Chamber's B to B Trade Show April 8, 2009, and the Business to School Connection Program.

Josh Reny described Fairfield's plan to develop a strategic economic development plan in 2009.

5. Member Roundtable:

Jim Batey – Somerset Economic Development

- Annual Legislative Breakfast December 12th 7:30 – 9:30 at Madison American Legion Hall

Norman Dean – Madison

- Welcomed Joy Hikel to the Town of Madison as Economic Development Director.
- The new greenhouse is going up – about 100 people to be employed.

Gerard Roy – Augusta

- May close and sell one of two schools
- Augusta moving forward with Downtown initiative.

6. Next Meeting: February 3, 2009