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2009—2010

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Janet Roderick, CEI/SBDC

Executive Director's Report April 2010

KVCOG's Board of Directors met April 14. Michael LeVert, Maine State Economist, discussed the choices facing Maine people as they cope with declining and aging population, a complex and expensive government service delivery model, and a rapidly changing transition in energy supply and security. The next meeting is May 19. The board will begin its review of the FY 2011 KVCOG budget.

The Next CEDS Meeting is June 8, 2010. The speaker is David Cole, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation. Commissioner Cole will discuss the linkages between transportation and economic development.

Current Projects:

Solid Waste: KVCOG is assisting Augusta with planning for a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event in May. The disposal day will take place at Augusta and six satellite sites and will include disposal options for medications, e-waste, and all manner of corded appliances.

Comprehensive Plans:
Skowhegan received

approval from the SPO for its draft plan. The plan will be voted on in June. KVCOG submitted the first draft of a complete plan to Winthrop. Freedom and Manchester continue with their planning process, and several other towns have contacted KVCOG about beginning a process.

Land Use Ordinances: KVCOG is in the final stages of developing model standards for Low Impact Development (storm water management). KVCOG is also providing ordinance assistance to Litchfield and Skowhegan. Some towns are still working on shoreland zoning ordinances and map updates.

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Transportation Planning: KVCOG is completing a series of town-level meetings for the corridor management plan in the I-95, US 201 corridor from Fairfield to Gardiner. Seven meetings were held to date, with Gardiner and Oakland yet to come. KVCOG is also working on bicycle and pedestrian planning in Vassalboro, Skowhegan, and the Waterville area.

Revolving Loan Fund: KVCOG is working with 47 borrowers and looking actively for new lending opportunities. It has about \$792,000 available to lend and uses its fund to leverage other public and private sector investment and to help firms upgrade plant and equipment and create new jobs.

Community Development (CDBG): KVCOG provided technical assistance to twenty-five municipalities and one county in our region during the first six months of the 2010 CDBG grant program: Anson, Athens, Augusta, Belgrade, Bingham, Cambridge, China, Fairfield, Fayette, Freedom, Gardiner, Hartland, Madison, Manchester, Norridgewock, Palmyra, Pittsfield, St. Albans, Skowhegan, Solon, Starks, Thorndike, Waterville, Winslow, Unity and Kennebec County.

Brownfields Assessment Grant (USEPA): KVCOG's environmental consultant performed a Phase II assessment in the Town of Manchester at the site of the former fire station, and is beginning a Phase II assessment in the Town of Winslow, at the former public works garage. A Phase I assessment will be performed for the Town of Anson at the site of the C.N. Brown station, where the Town hopes to build a new fire station. We will continue to work with municipalities in our region to identify prospective sites.

Kennebec River Initiative: Developed a KRI Conservation and Land Protection Workshop program. Delivered the program in Bath and Augusta in February; 47 people participated. Closed out the project and submitted final report to Maine DOC. Exploring ways to keep KVCOG involved in whatever effort follows KRI.

Regional Workforce Projects: Meeting regularly with ED Forum participants to explore formation of a regional entrepreneur network. In discussions with the Central Western Maine Local Workforce Investment Board regarding funding for implementation. In discussions with Colby College regarding partnership opportunities.

Mobilize Maine: Work on this statewide economic development project is suspended effectively in the region as work continues to secure EDA funding to support KVCOG participation.

Augusta Regional Discussions: Facilitating a series of conversations organized by Roger Katz, Mayor of Augusta, focusing on expanding regional collaboration in the southern Kennebec County area.

Recovery Bonds: Distributed information concerning Federal stimulus bill program to issue bonds for both public and private economic development projects. Terms of issue will have effect of lowering interest rates. For more information, contact Ken Young at kyoung@kvkog.org; 453-4258.

Planning a Wind Power Update Discussion May 12, 8 to noon at KVCC in cooperation with SEDC.

The 2010 KVCOG Cooperative Purchasing Program

The Bid Awards for Culverts and Flake Calcium Chloride were announced on April 16th.

The schedule for Road Salt for next year is: Towns to Order submit by July 23rd; Bid Awards will be announced on August 6th.

For more information, contact Heather at 453-4258 ext. 11 or hcarey@kvkog.org or go to www.kvcog.org.

Revolving Loan Fund

Cole Palmer, RLF Director

Banks Are Lending

There has been significant media discussion about the notion of banks not lending or that credit standards have tightened. While it is true that some of the money center banks have reduced lending, banks in this area have money to lend and are doing so regularly. While some standards have tightened, most banks will be creative when there is a reasonable basis to do so.

KVCOG is instrumental in helping the banks' lending efforts by assuming certain aspects of a lending transaction that banks find too risky to entertain. This is but one way in which banks can lend prudently yet creatively for companies that have strong potential, but perhaps have a few weaknesses in their overall banking picture. KVCOG has assisted banks and their borrowers for many years by utilizing a flexible instrument called the KVCOG Revolving Loan Fund.



In a recent transaction company needed financing to be able to grow its business. The bank involved felt that it could only lend to a certain amount based upon the type of collateral offered by the prospective borrower. KVCOG stepped in and took a second position behind the bank on the collateral available and was able to provide the necessary incentives to allow the bank to provide highly necessary financing to facilitate the company's growth.

Our Revolving Loan Funds are designed to accomplish two primary objectives: create higher paying jobs with good benefits and to leverage bank lending. We do not compete directly with banks as we require a letter from the bank certifying that they would not have been able to provide their loans without our involvement in the total financing package. As such, the bank is actually saying that they would have turned the loan down without KVCOG stepping in and taking a second position to help the bank structure a prudent loan.

KVCOG is an equal opportunity lender offering business loans in partnership with commercial banks and State and Federal Agencies. Please contact Cole Palmer at 453-4258 ext. 13 or cpalmer@kvkog.org to learn more about the ways in which KVCOG can help your business.

Regional Wind Power Conference

Ken Young, Executive Director

Regional Wind Power Development Discussion

Wind Power in Maine is seen by many as the next big opportunity for using natural resources to create high value, high wage jobs and to address sustainability issues relating to our future energy mix. Some of this development, particularly grid scale and community wind projects will take place in Kennebec, Somerset, and western Waldo Counties. Off shore wind offers additional, to be explored, opportunities for Maine and people in the region.

Join us for an update on developments and the latest thinking on how we in the KVCOG region, public, private, service, and municipal sectors can use wind power development to expand our economy and improve the lives of the people who live here.

May 12, 2010, 8.00 to Noon

KVCC Room 105, Lecture Room, Carter Hall, Fairfield

Sponsored by: Kennebec Valley Council of Governments and Somerset Economic Development Corporation

AGENDA

- 8:00 Registration.
- 8:20 Welcome and Introductions.
- 8:30 Peter Didisheim, Natural Resources Council of Maine
Wind Power in Maine, as development continues.
- 9:10 Habib Dagher, Ph.D. University of Maine
Offshore Wind Power Development, Untapped Potential.
- 10:10 Break
- 10:20 Jeremy Payne, Executive Director, Maine Renewable Energy Association
Grid scale project developments in Maine, an update.
- 11:00 Sue Jones, President, Community Energy Partners
Community Wind, Local Approaches to Wind Power.
- 11:45 Next Steps.
- 12:00 Adjourn.

HURRY - COMPOST BIN SALE ALMOST OVER:

Register now with the Maine Resource Recovery Association
at 207-942-6772 or victor.horton@mrta.net

Orders accepted until **April 30th**

Delivery of bins and pails during the week of May 10th

See the KVCOG website for more information: www.kvcog.org

Household Hazardous Waste

Ross Nason, Environmental Planner

Household Hazardous Waste One-Day Drop-off Event

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Augusta Public Works

**Unused/outdated medications
Household hazardous materials
e-waste (televisions, computer monitors, etc.)**

A regional 1-day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Augusta Public Works Complex located at 55 North Street in Augusta. The following communities are participating: **Augusta, Belgrade, Fayette, Gardiner, Hallowell, Manchester, Monmouth, Readfield, Wayne, and Winthrop.** Kennebec Valley Council of Governments is managing the collection event. *Pre-registration at your local town office is required.*

Environmental Projects Inc. will collect, recycle, and dispose of household hazardous materials.

eWaste Recycling Solutions will collect and recycle televisions, computer monitors, and e-waste free of charge, limit of 7 pieces per vehicle.

MaineGeneral Health, Healthy Communities of the Capital Area, and Community Pharmacies will collect unused, unwanted, outdated medications. All medication will be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner. Leave medications in original containers. There are also six satellite locations that will be accepting medications – *SEE NEXT PAGE* for more information.

More detailed information on what items that can be brought to this drop-off event are available at your local municipal town office. Information is also posted on many of the municipalities' websites and on the KVCOG website: www.kvcog.org.

Announcing the 17th Annual Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

April 26 & 27, 2010

at the Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine

Presented by the Maine Resource Recovery Association

Focus: Understanding Economic Impacts

DEP Training, SafetyWorks! Training, Increased Efficiency and Productivity

For more information, contact MRRA at 942-6772
or see the brochure on KVCOG's website www.kvcog.org

Medication Collection

Unused, unwanted or outdated

Saturday, May 15

Return your medications at:

- **Augusta Public Works**, 55 North Street
9 a.m. - noon *Questions:* Ross Nason, 453-4258 x23
- **Fayette Public Safety Building**, Route 17
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* Mark Robinson, 685-4373
- **Gardiner City Hall**, 6 Church Street
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* Judy Dorsey, 582-3298
- **Monmouth Transfer Station**, 126 Route #135
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* Sharon Benoit, 933-3726
- **Readfield/Wayne Transfer Station**, North Road, Readfield
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* Robin Lint, 685-4939
- **West Gardiner Fire Department**, 318 Spears Corner Road
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* West Gardiner Town Office, 724-3945
- **Winthrop Transfer Station**, Route 202
8 - 10:30 a.m. *Questions:* Megan Antonucci, 377-6848

Please bring your unused, unwanted or outdated personal or veterinarian medications in their original containers. Medication collection is specifically for individual households, not for health care facilities.

And Remember:

Don't Mix, Don't Share, Don't Flush



Regional Capital Investment Plan

Ken Young, Executive Director

KVCOG Regional Capital Investment Plan Project Identification

KVCOG is preparing to survey its members and others regarding planned capital investment projects in the region. The intent is to develop an inventory of capital improvement projects, both within individual municipalities and regionally among groups of cities and towns. The information will become part of KVCOG's **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**. Early in May, KVCOG will circulate its KVCOG Regional Capital Investment Plan Project Identification survey instrument. Look for an email with more information and the survey form.

In addition to developing an up to date list of familiar investment projects(water, sewer, et cetera), the passage of Quality of Place legislation, PL 483, provides an excellent chance to identify potential investments in **Quality of Place Assets**. Quality of Place assets can underwrite economic development as well. A Quality of Place asset includes but is not limited to exceptional, marketable, place-based competitive strengths, resources and advantages that help drive the local and regional economy.

We want your help to identify future community, economic development, transportation, Quality of Place, and other public services infrastructure investment projects in the KVCOG region.

We are interested both in A.) local projects that have a significant regional effect (easier to attract EDA funds) and B.) in regional projects involving planned investments by more than one municipality.

These are projects that you anticipate pursuing in the next 5 years.

Here are some examples of the projects about which we want information:

- New proposed Industrial, business, or technology parks
- Sewer, water, road or other utility extensions to serve a new or existing facility
- Sewer, water, road or other utility extensions to serve downtowns or affordable housing developments
- Substantial upgrades to and rehabilitation of existing water system, sewer system, water supply or sewage treatment facilities
- Improvements in downtowns or service centers, including infrastructure and improvements to historic buildings
- Facilities or major equipment to be shared with other town(s) such as road graders, fire trucks, etc.
- Programs to be developed jointly with other town(s) such as combined police departments
- Publicly supported affordable housing projects
- Major recreation area development or improvements, especially those used by more than one municipality
- Tourism related infrastructure, outdoor recreational facilities, heritage sites
- Conservation and land protection investments focused on natural resources, heritage based tourism, outdoor recreation and leisure

Look for the survey forms in early May.

Disaster Recovery – Somerset County Businesses

Heather Carey, Office Administrator

Did you know that 25% of all businesses do not reopen after a disaster?

Drought	9
Flood	75
Funnel Cloud and Tornados	12
Hurricanes	3
Precipitation and Hail	44
Snow and ice Storms	212
Temperature Extremes	50
Thunderstorms, Lightning and High Winds	225
Wild Fires (1995-2001 data only)	294

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center, Somerset County has experienced 924 natural hazardous events since 1950.

While wild fires and thunderstorms occur most often, flooding is by far the most costly event. Is *your business* prepared for one of these major events?

KVCOG, in partnership with three other economic districts, received funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to develop a Comprehensive Risk Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Plan for businesses in Somerset County. The Plan will help businesses develop risk management plans, business and employer training, and business continuity plans.

At Risk are approximately 1220 businesses in Somerset County ranging in size from 1-4 employees to 1000 employees. The purpose of this Comprehensive Risk Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Plan is to assist businesses in understanding risk that might affect your business, how to mitigate that risk, and finally how to recover from a disaster.

Risk Mitigation is the planning process used to identify risks, assess vulnerabilities, and develop strategies for protecting people and property.

Business Continuity will help a business determine how long it can remain in business during or after an incident. A business continuity plan will help you plan alternate locations where you could continue conducting your business should your property be affected by a disaster. The plan can contain such information as contact information for staff, customers, suppliers, vendors, and other critical information for keeping your business running.

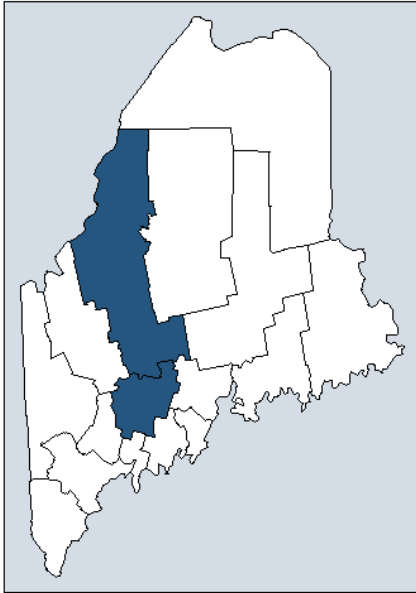
Disaster Recovery planning is crucial to determine which processes of your business are critical to your getting back to business. Planning for back-up of vital records, recovering your IT system, and reconnection to power and communication services are some important activities.

Somerset County businesses are invited to participate in a survey. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/2YRKLQN or at our website: www.kvcog.org. Businesses will also be invited to participate in upcoming workshops to help businesses develop business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

Participating businesses will receive a free copy of the Plan upon completion. For more information or for a paper copy of the survey, please contact Heather Carey at KVCOG at 453-4258 ext. 11 or hc Carey@kvcog.org.



KVCOG



**Serving municipalities
and businesses in
Kennebec, Somerset,
and Western Waldo
Counties**

This Newsletter is
on the web at
www.kvcog.org

It is located on the right side
bar and can be downloaded as
a PDF file. You may download
Adobe reader from the link
below the newsletter.

*If you would like to receive a copy
of this newsletter via surface mail
please call: 207-453-4258 ext. 11
or email hcarey@kvcog.org.*

Member Communities Make it Happen

Member municipalities are the backbone of KVCOG. Membership fees provide matching funds for over \$200,000 of Federal and State grants; make our website, newsletter, data collection, analysis, and other vital services possible; and allow flexibility in creating new programs to respond to specific local needs.

Dedicated municipal officials serve on KVCOG's General Assembly and Executive Board, guiding policies and programs.