**MCOG Board of Director’s Meeting**

**January 23 11:00-12:30**

**165 Main Street, Damariscotta**

**Zoom link provided to those who needed to participate remotely.**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Directors: MM, JJ, AD, AJ, NB, SC, JH, Chris Rector, Mark Walz

Staff: ME, MJ, BKD

1. MM called meeting to order at 11:03 am.
2. Approval of Minutes. ME reported that minutes of October? Meeting will be forwarded separately.
3. Financial Report (Quarterly Report). Refer to report. Highlights: travel over budget; outstanding receivables, particularly Hub and TA.

Motion to approve: SC, AD second, approved unanimously.

1. Director’s Report
   1. New Space and budget adjustments (to accommodate). ME–Move will occur as soon as finished floors are ready. New desks and chairs purchased with grant. Conference room will allow us to host meetings, including Board.
   2. Staff changes. ME–Meg moving from contractor to FT employee. Charlotte moving from FT employee to contractor, who will continue to do GIS work. Alexis will assist BKD with TA-Diversity and other DEI work. Broadband JJ asked what is scope of work for broadband work. Assisting communities on how to utilize technology (e.g. Zoom for Select Board, Planning Board meetings. Risk assessment re. MCOG RLF programs. JH–Status of coastal resilience funding under new administration? SC–asked about EPA Brownfields grant app? ME–Two applications
2. Committee Updates
   1. MCEDC-Steering Committee. SC–Reported on progress of CEDS update, which should be finalized by June? Both SC and JH thanked CN and Max/Mat for shepherding the process. MW–Has not received CEDS survey, but he searched his inbox under Max not Charlotte.
   2. MCOG Loan Committee. BKD–Elaborated on RLF risk assessment summarized by ME. RMAP is a loan we have to repay USDA. FAME–both REDRLP and SSBCI are funds drawn down from FAME. Following disbursement to borrowers, revolved loan funds (i.e. loan payments) are MCOG funds with no federal strings attached. MCOG is required to pay FAME an annual administrative fee of 0.75% of total funds drawn down and disbursed.
3. Overall Program Review
   1. Review of existing, expanding and new programs. ME reported on Transportation and Housing work. Shifting MCEDC work from CEDS to industry clusters (e.g. blue economy). CDBG and NBRC TA. CEO support for smaller members. Discussion between ME and SC re. housing permit data. JJ–Any specific federal funding that might be in jeopardy due to new administration? ME–Renewable energy funding will likely be eliminated, but transportation and other economic development infrastructure will likely survive. CR–For this year.
   2. Staffing Balance. ME–We’ve reached a sweet spot, but the unknown is broadband work?
   3. Interest of Board in other opportunities
4. MM Adjourned meeting at 12:12 pm.

Upcoming MCOG meetings: February 27, 2025