

### 3/14/07 MOC Meeting Minutes

<b>Voting Members:</b>	<b>Member present</b>
<b>Bridgton</b>	Mitch Berkowitz
<b>Cape Elizabeth</b>	Mike McGovern
<b>Cumberland</b>	Bill Shane
<b>Falmouth</b>	Nathan Poore
<b>Freeport</b>	Jim Migliaccio
<b>Gorham</b>	Tom Ellsworth
<b>Gray</b>	Skip Crane
<b>Harpswell</b>	Jay Chase
<b>Harrison</b>	Lisa Villa
<b>Long Island</b>	
<b>Naples</b>	Derik Goodine (late)
<b>New Gloucester</b>	
<b>North Yarmouth</b>	
<b>Pownal</b>	
<b>Raymond</b>	
<b>Scarborough</b>	
<b>Sebago</b>	Robert Nicholson
<b>South Portland</b>	Jim Gailey
<b>Standish</b>	
<b>Windham</b>	Tony Plante
<b>Yarmouth</b>	
<b>County Commissioner:</b>	Dick Feeney
<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>	Peter Crichton, County; Neal Allen, GPCOG; Erik Carson, Westbrook; Grant Lee, PROP
<b>Staff:</b>	Aaron Shapiro, Elizabeth Trice, County;
<b>Others:</b>	Allen Crabtree, Sebago, Pommy Hatfield, Chebeague Island

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Tony Plante
- 2) The Money – Aaron Shapiro HUD CDBG Program Allocation 2007 Program Budget
- 3) Consolidated Plan Presentation – Elizabeth Trice, Aaron Shapiro
- 4) Application Review Team – Update – Tony Plante
- 5) HOME Program – Aaron Shapiro
- 6) Meeting Schedule for Spring, Summer – Tony Plante

**Documents:**

- Community Development Program Budget FFY'07- Program Year #1
- Consolidated Plan PowerPoint
- Consolidated Plan draft

#### 1) Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Tony Plante

#### 2) The Money – Aaron Shapiro HUD CDBG Program Allocation, 2007 Program Budget

Total amount from HUD is \$1,462,123, which leaves about \$583,341 for competitive grants. This is at the low end of what was originally estimated and will try to make cuts in admin etc. to bring it up to \$600,000 even. Part of the reason the estimate may have been low was because our estimates were based on population and poverty of existing entitlements, whereas the HUD formula also includes elements such as age of housing and growth lag. Communities such as Raymond, Windham, Scarborough, Gorham and Falmouth have had a lot of growth, and have relatively young housing stock which would lower our allocation. HUD says Westbrook would have brought in an estimated additional \$270,000 due to old housing stock and little growth.

Total amount available for Planning Grants would be \$34,133

Total amount available for Public Service Grants would be \$219,318

County administration is high because it includes expenses incurred before the July 2007 official program start. The County may also pay for some of the pre-program expenses.

Portland's total allocation went down by \$4,000, and the state went down about \$1,000,000 meaning that the net increase statewide of the program was close to flat.

If total HUD funding goes up in future years the amount to all entitlements will go up, and if the total amount goes down, all allocations will go down.

Question: If we knew that this was the amount going in would we have set up the application process differently? Concern about splitting the pie too thin. Comment that there was a strong discussion about the importance of using this money for regional projects.

Discussion of whether the set-asides could be reduced? Tony: for this year, probably not, reminds group of original reason for set-aside for South Portland, but that this might be something that could be revisited in the future “if only to come to peace with the current arrangement” Another person points out that it would be unfair to change agreements so recently made. Commissioner Feeney points out that a strong commitment was made to South Portland. Another points out that the lower number just makes the rest of the program more competitive and that’s OK. A few members expressed their hopes that recommendations will be regional projects and/or projects with the maximum possible “bang for the buck”. One member suggests spending at least a few thousand dollars on lottery tickets.

Question of whether it would raise the overall number if some of the wealthier communities left the program. Answer: not sure, but there is some possibility of getting access to someone at HUD who might be able to answer that question, which was impossible to get answered before we started the program. Comments that there is value in having all communities present, and that also the value of their population may outweigh any disadvantage posed by new housing etc. Also question of how some smaller communities may fare in state program vs. county program. Also, wealthier communities may have needs, ie Falmouth affordable housing projects. HOME funds can be used in any community, not just communities that are part of the CDBG Entitlement Jurisdiction. Others request that staff find out if at all possible the effects of each town on the total allocation. Grant Lee from PROP points out that every town has substandard housing. Someone asks that we come up with a clear answer to what we have gained by this process. Erik from Westbrook says that he is in a much better place within the County program rather than competing against 400 other towns. Tony encourages everyone to give the process some time.

### **3. Consolidated Plan Presentation**

#### **4. Application Review Team**

Review Team has met twice, sent scores and comments to staff, the group is getting closer to being able to make recommendations to the MOC. The next meeting is Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>. Now having a real number, the review team will be able to come back to the group with recommendations. All applications are public record. Next MOC meeting will have summary of applications and description of the prioritization process and the actual funding recommendations.

#### **5. The HOME Program**

HOME funds can be used for housing based activities throughout the County. Staff originally thought that having Westbrook join would make us big enough to get an allocation, but it's not, so we will be working with Portland and/or Westbrook to create what is called a "consortium" it's expected that we will get at least a few hundred thousand from this beyond what Portland is already getting. Towns have already agreed to join this based on their previous agreement to join the CDBG program.

**6. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 27 3-5pm at GPCOG. Staff will send out materials a few days ahead of time: application summaries, what they're about, how they were rated and ranked by the group, and the actual recommendations.