

9/27/07 MOC Meeting Minutes

Voting Members:	Member present
Bridgton	Micah Niemy
Cape Elizabeth	
Cumberland	
Falmouth	Nathan Poore
Freeport	Donna Larson
Gorham	Tom Ellsworth
Gray	Deb Cabana
Harpswell	Terri Sawyer
Harrison	
Long Island	
Naples	Derik Goodine
New Gloucester	David Lunt
North Yarmouth	
Pownal	
Raymond	
Scarborough	
Sebago	Robert Nicholson
South Portland	
Standish	Caroline Biegle
Windham	Tony Plante
Yarmouth	
County Commissioner:	Dick Feeney
Ex-Officio Members:	Erik Carson, Westbrook; Suzanne McCormick, PROP
Staff:	Aaron Shapiro, Elizabeth Trice, County; David Willauer, Caroline Paras, GPCOG
Others:	

Materials: Memo from Aaron re CDBG Program Improvements, Key Discussion Points
 Memo from David Willauer re Lakes Region Transit
 Draft Application questions
 Draft Planning Grant App
 Home Consortium Update
 Proposed Program App Schedule
 State’s Growth Management Act

Updates: Money arrived in late July, showed pictures of ribbon cutting at new playground in Long Island (old one was closed due to arsenic and splinters), and also new playground in Harrison. Also showed pictures of rehab of mobile homes in Freeport, PROP rehab of a house of some men with disabilities in Windham, and septic replacement in Harrison. He also reports that there are 4 septic replacements underway in Harpswell, and 5 in Freeport.

David Willauer gives memo on Lakes Region Transit service. David is presenting to individual towns to seek interest and funds. The service would cost roughly \$122,000 for the first year. \$50,000 would come from CDBG, \$22,000 from farebox, and \$50,000 from communities. There are still two routes being explored:

The PROP/Portland homeless project is hiring staff and will be underway in October
 Public Health is underway, and will be starting a Oral Health . . .
 Bridgton will be doing engineering this winter on their urban sewer project with construction in the Spring.
 South Portland is reconstructing Waterman Drive. . .

Tony: Is encouraged to see the program’s progress so far and is pleased that we’ve been able to turn this money into projects that make a measurable difference in people’s lives.

Program Improvement Work Group

A group met twice over the summer to consider changes to the program that had been brainstormed in the spring. Key recommendations/discussion points:

1. Require 20% local match.

*Approved 12-0

2a. Create a separate application and review process for planning grants

*Approved 12-0

2b. Planning grants should be required to meet a national objective.

Robert Nicholson opposes for the reason that a planning project could reduce costs in some other area, for example Standish's study on solid waste, which cut tipping fee by 70%, which benefits all income levels, not just low income, and frees up funds for other activities. Caroline says it's very difficult to prove planning grants meet national objectives.

* Failed 0-12

3a. Create a simple pre-application to ensure that projects meet program requirements.

Approved 11-1 (Harpwell opposing)

(Amendment to limit to 2 pre-applications per community failed 1-11)

3b. Limit number of applications to 2 activity and 1 planning application per community. County could sponsor 4 activity and 2 planning.

*Approved 12-0

3c. Applications must be endorsed by local elected officials prior to submission of final application.

(Nathan Poore leaves)

(amendment to make it only a recommendation failed 3-8)

*Approved 10-1 (Gorham opposed)

4. Change application review team to reduce conflicts: 1 member from Bridgton or South Portland, 1 member from GPCOG, 3 from MOC, preferably those not submitting applications. 1 county staff member least involved in applications.

* Approved 11-0

5. Maine Housing and DECD are required by Title 30-A 4349-A to invest funds for growth related projects (housing, public infrastructure) in designated growth areas consistent with a locally adopted comprehensive plan. Exemptions are permitted in some instances. MOC by-laws identify a program goal "to assist communities to meet the goals of their comprehensive plans"

Discussion, consensus to leave bylaws as are.

Update: HOME Program

County is seeking to form a consortium with Portland, Westbrook, Brunswick and MOC communities which would bring in an extra \$500,000-\$700,000. Portland would have to be the lead community as they already receive \$667,000 per year. HOME funds can be spent anywhere, and we can still get money from the state program. The program requires a 25% match, but the city of Portland has a match credit balance of \$15 million, which is more than we will ever need, and it can be used for our portion of the match. This program will be designed through this winter and will have its first funding year in 2009. Three things we can do with this money are homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation, TANF rental assistance, and new construction of rental housing. New housing can be built by for-profit or non-profit developers. Having HOME funds will free up the portion of the CDBG funds we are currently spending on housing rehabilitation for other projects.

Update: Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant award

The City of Portland and Cumberland County have been awarded a 2007-2010 grant for \$1,525,172 to remediate lead paint hazards in 80 housing units, split between Portland and the County. All Cumberland County communities, including Westbrook and Brunswick are eligible. The county will be marketing the program in the near future.

Next meeting: November 1st from 3-5 pm at COG.