

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

In person at KVCOG- 17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

[Zoom Link](#) for those unable to attend in person

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC)
Workforce Training and Professional Development
(Workforce Development was identified at the 11/15/23 meeting as a barrier)
3. Approval of Minutes: 08/17/23, 11/15/23
4. Round Table Discussion-CEDS Action Plan
What do you see in your respective industries that are moving in the right direction and what is being met with roadblocks?
[Link](#) to CEDS Document and The 8 Action Items
 - a. Industry Clusters (page 30)
 - b. Entrepreneurship and Innovation (page 33)
 - c. Workforce Development and Higher Education (page 35)
 - d. Access to Capital (page 37)
 - e. Infrastructure (page 39)
 - f. Environment (page 41)
 - g. Leadership (page 44)
 - h. Resiliency (page 45)
5. Next Meeting Agenda Items/Topics/Guest
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Workforce Training & Professional Development

Funding Opportunities for Employers

Joining the Maine Workforce Development Compact gives employers access to training funds for their frontline workers.



Free Training Courses

Funded through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and aimed at preparing Mainers for in-demand careers, such as:

- EMT-Basic Training**
- Business Entrepreneurship**
- Precision Machining**
- CDL - Class B**
- Phlebotomy**
- Medical Assisting**
- Virtual Assistant Training**



Popular Trainings



Customized Training Available

We can build customized options to support your business

- Leadership
- Microsoft Office Applications
- Technical Skills Training
- Healthcare Training
- Remote Working
- Industry Topics

Business Partners

Local companies we have provided training for recently

- Northern Light Health
- Motivational Services
- Mid-State Machine
- Maine Veterans' Homes
- GE Power
- Alcom
- Skowhegan Savings Bank
- Native Gardens of Blue Hill

Funding Available

Various sources to fund your training needs

Maine Workforce Development Compact

Funding through the Harold Alfond Center to upgrade frontline incumbent workers' skills and professional development opportunities.

Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan

Funding to support training programs that target unemployed and underemployed workers

kvcc.me.edu/workforce
workforce@kvcc.me.edu
207-453-5083



Put ME to Work

Covers 50% of the costs to create new training programs or enhance existing ones. Its goal: to support local businesses and industries in need of skilled workers.

Maine Quality Center

Offers workforce training grants to Maine employers interested in providing training for new or current employees.

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

1. Attendance

In person:

Jessie Cyr-KVCOG • Joel Greenwood-KVCOG • Kathe Bolster-Town of Benton

Jeff Hewett-Town of Skowhegan • Melissa Lindley-City of Gardiner

Kimberly Lindlof-Mid-Maine Chamber • Stephanie Thibodeau-Town of Fairfield

Courtney Yeager-United Way of Kennebec Valley•

Via Zoom:

Jim Dinkle-First Park • Joy McKenna-Maine General • Brian Eng-Developer

Members in attendance introduced themselves and their background area of expertise, many noting that they were on the CEDS Committee for the 2022-2027 re-write. The printed copy of the final CEDS was distributed to all in attendance.

2. Meeting frequency & future dates

Future meetings will be in person and zoom for attendees to chose what format works best for them. The preference was that meetings be hosted quarterly as opposed to monthly and a calendar invite will be sent out for meetings at 10am on the 3rd Thursday in November, February, May and August.

3. Review of Goals

The previous CEDS goals were reviewed as well as the new goals from the 2022-2027 Plan that reflect the Region's aim for economic recovery, stability and growth.

4. Review and Discussion Regarding the Status of Identified Projects

The eight drivers of success that are identified in the CEDS are the foundation of our regions economy. The success of the projects identified by the Committee under each driver is what will help us meet our 5 year goals. These are: Industry Clusters, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Workforce Development and Higher Education, Access to Capital,

Infrastructure, Environment, Leadership, and Resiliency. Industry Cluster, and Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the identified projects under both of those were reviewed. Due to time constraints today, the remaining drivers of success will be reviewed at the next meeting.

It was suggested that for future meetings we bring in a guest to speak on topics where we are meeting roadblocks, such as Maine Department of Labor and Maine Broadband Coalition.

5. Round Table discussion

It was noted that: employees, lack of available commercial space, and the cost of the infrastructure needs are the roadblocks being met in our region and outside our region.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie L. Cyr
Economic and Community Development Specialist
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

1. Attendance

In person:

Jessie Cyr, KVCOG • Joel Greenwood, KVCOG • Matthew Underwood, KVCOG
Kathe Bolster, Town of Benton
Stephanie Thibodeau, Town of Fairfield
Erin Benson, Central Western Maine Workforce Development Board
Katie Doherty, Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hildie Lipson, GrowSmart Maine
Christian Savage, Somerset Economic Development Corporation
Tenley Skolfield, Main Street Skowhegan

Via Zoom:

Jeff Hewett, Town of Skowhegan • Melissa Lindley, City of Gardiner
Joy McKenna, Maine General

2. Approval Of Minutes

No action was taken.

3. Presentation by Maine Connectivity Authority

Kendra Jo Grindle and Maggie Drummond-Bahl from Maine Connectivity Authority were present and gave an overview of their program. They discussed in depth, the current state of our region's goals, what milestones have been met, what the next goals are, barriers, incentives, resources, funding opportunities, and next steps for Maine moving forward. They encouraged members to reach out with any specific questions.

4. Review and Discussion Regarding the Status of Identified Projects

The eight drivers of success that are identified in the CEDS are the foundation of our regions economy. The success of the projects identified by the Committee under each driver is what will help us meet our 5 year goals. These are: Industry Clusters, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Workforce Development and Higher Education, Access to Capital, Infrastructure, Environment, Leadership, and Resiliency. Workforce Development was identified as currently having many barriers to the growth and success of our region.

5. Round Table discussion

A round table discussion began about the barriers members are seeing in the area of workforce, noting that this is not just in our region. Members spoke about the growing industries and trends in our region and the lack of qualified skilled staff in the workforce. Discussion was held with respect to reaching the unskilled younger working age group and how we can assist with their needs and subsequently help get them into getting them into the workforce. This was suggested as a topic for the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting Agenda Items/Topics/Guests

Our next meeting will be held on February 15, 2024 at 10am. In person at KVCOG or via Zoom.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie L. Cyr
Economic and Community Development Specialist
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments