

**CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, February 15, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927**

**1. Attendance**

In person:

Jessie Cyr, KVCOG · Joel Greenwood, KVCOG ·  
Timothy Curtis, Somerset County Administrator  
Kimberly Lindlof, Central Maine Growth Council  
Tenley Skolfield, Main Street Skowhegan  
Stephanie Thibodeau, Town of Fairfield

Via Zoom:

Erin Benson, Central Western Maine Workforce Development Board  
Kristina Cannon, Main Street Skowhegan  
Jeff Hewett, Town of Skowhegan  
Katie Doherty, Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Christian Savage, Somerset Economic Development Corporation  
Courtney Yeager, United Way of Kennebec Valley  
Celeste Banda, Main Street Skowhegan  
Brian Eng, Developer

Presenters from Kennebec Valley Community College:

Elizabeth Fortin, Dean of Workforce Training and Professional Development  
Joe Musumeci, Director of Workforce Training and Professional Development  
Kimberly Cole, Workforce Development Coordinator

**2. Presentation by Kennebec Valley Community College, Workforce Development**

Elizabeth Fortin, Joe Musumeci and Kimberly Cole, from Kennebec Valley Community College discussed the [Workforce Development Program](#) offered at KVCC and encouraged reaching out to them should anyone have a workforce development need that is not already being offered. They reviewed the available courses and training, the financial assistance to eligible individuals, highlighted customized training, and other resources available to employees and employers. The contact information for the Workforce Development Department at KVCC is: [workforce@kvcc.me.edu](mailto:workforce@kvcc.me.edu) or 207-453-5083

**3. Approval Of Minutes**

K. Lindlof MOVED, S. Thibodeau SECONDED, to approve the 8/17/23 and 11/15/23 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**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. Housing 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 housing, noting that this is not just in our region. Members spoke about the growing industries and trends in our region and the lack of housing to support the growth. Members noted that all price ranges of housing are needed to accommodate the growth, noting that this ties to everything in our CEDS. Industry clusters, job markets, workforce and infrastructure are all growing in our region and there isn't adequate multi price point housing to accommodate the growth, deterring out of the area job seekers from moving to our region. Barriers to housing and what we can do in our communities to begin removing them, was suggested as a topic for the next meeting.

**6. Next Meeting Agenda Items/Topics/Guests**

Our next meeting will be held on May 16, 2024 at 10am. In person at KVCOG or via Zoom.

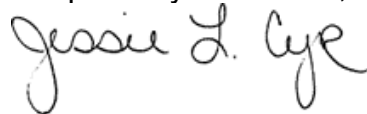
**7. Other Business**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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