

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 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 Action Program (KVCAP)
(Transportation was identified at the 05/16/24 meeting as a barrier)
3. Approval of Minutes: 05/16/24
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
(Next Meeting Date: 11-21-24)
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, May 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.
17 Main Street, Fairfield, ME 04927

1. Attendance

In person:

Jessie Cyr, KVCOG
Joel Greenwood, KVCOG
Katie Doherty, Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce
Melissa Lindley, City of Gardiner
Kimberly Lindlof, Central Maine Growth Council

Via Zoom:

Erin Benson, Central Western Maine Workforce Development Board
Celeste Banda, Main Street Skowhegan
Tenley Skolfield, Main Street Skowhegan

Presenter:

Dan Brennan, Director of MaineHousing

2. Presentation by MaineHousing

Dan Brennan, Director of MaineHousing gave an informative overview of MaineHousing, the work they do, and the programs offered. He highlighted the programs, tools and incentives for affordable housing, multifamily housing, rural affordable rental housing, short-term real estate acquisition program, affordable homeownership program, single family programs, housing choice voucher program, HUD Section 8 project based housing, USDA rural development housing, and supporting housing. To learn more about any of the programs, you can go to mainehousing.org. The contact information for Dan Brennan is 207-626-4611 or dbrennan@mainehousing.org

3. Approval Of Minutes

K. Doherty MOVED, K. Lindlof SECONDED, to approve the 2/15/24 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Consideration of Adding a Significant Transformative Project to the CEDS

Members received a written summary of the Head of Falls Village (“HoFV”) project in their packet and Kim Lindlof reviewed the significance of this project for the region. She highlighted that it will be mixed-use development that will bring a mix of much needed housing, commercial, incubator/innovation space, and economic prosperity for the entire area. It will revitalize an area of town that is dilapidated and abandoned and will provide a sense of place and connection providing a physical

link between Main Street and River Walk Park. Erin Benson questioned what type of housing will be available in project, noting the lack of housing in the area and the high demand. Lindlof noted there will be a mix of apartment rentals of 1 or 2 bedrooms and also purchase options of condominium units. Upon completion of discussion, K. Doherty MOVED, E. Benson SECONDED, to add the Head of Falls Village as a Transformative Project into the Action Plan within Chapter 4- Entrepreneurship and Innovation of the 2022-2-27 Kennebec Valley CEDS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. 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. Transportation was identified as currently having many barriers to the growth and success of our region.

6. Round Table discussion

A round table discussion began about the barriers members are seeing in the area of transportation, noting that transportation has been identified in this region as a barrier to getting prime age employment gap (PAEG) reduced. Erin Benson discussed a grant they have received to purchase vans to be used to help with the lack of transportation to and from rural employers. Kim Lindlof and Celeste Banda discussed the EDA Recompete Grant and the components of the proposal, noting that all of them tie to the CEDS and will be helping to remove the barriers our region is seeing, adding that transportation is one of the 8 components. Rural transportation and the barriers being met was suggested as a topic for the next meeting.

7. 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.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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