

Down East RC&D  
August 28 2014

**Present:** Nate Pennell, Gary Edwards, Fred Cook, Kathy Upton, Betsy, Barbara Tibbetts, Dale and Dorothea Crowley. Crystal Hitchings, Regina Grabrovac

Minutes were approved without discussion.

Treasurer's report: The bottom line will reflect a healthy balance next month when the monies from the Maine Office of Tourism for DART are posted. The \$27,000 we paid out for them was the largest ever.

President's report: Addison has appointed Dale Crowley to represent them and Dorothea will be his alternate. He replaces Frank Batson. Crystal Hitchings will replace Judy East as WCCOG's representative. Orissa Sargent and Jolene Stanley are to be members at large and Gary Edwards will seek to represent Sullivan.

Maine Rural Partners: Mark Hews, former coordinator for Threshold RC&D, is now interim executive director and that Board has charged him with state-wide listening sessions. Gary Edwards and Jennifer Peters will join him at the October 1 session at the Clipper Lounge at UMM.

Downeast Fisheries Trail maps are now out. This is good information for stores, B & Bs, town halls, etc and some of the sites will feature tours. Nate remarked that the processing plant for Cook Aquaculture is definitely coming to Machias. He also noted the program schedule for upcoming events at the Penobscot Marine Museum is out now.

Gary gave an update on the tour of Cutler. He went with Betsy Fitzgerald and Charles Rutledge. The tour was led by Adam Meyer. Many of the buildings are deteriorating fast, but there are some good and promising ones; among them the gym building which has potential for a commercial kitchen. Look's Gourmet Foods is also of interest. This would make a terrific distribution site for local foods. There's also an old grange that would work as a rent a space garage or something similar. The site is not that far from Machias. There was to be a meeting this month but it's been rescheduled until Sept. 15.

Projects: Cherryfield Academy is still open for events but is waiting on a big grant award and will know in November.

Sullivan/Sorrento: A most successful program about Admiral Byrd's public and private life brought a lot of interest. And a couple who spend their summers in Corea have gone to a lot workshops on old cemetery stones and will present a workshop on how to restore a broken/ downed one to its original condition.

The Food Alliance is on summer break.

Destination Cherryfield continues to get vendors signed up for the event. There are about a dozen now. It is expected the railroad station will have a new roof by then. Posters will soon be out and there is a lot of interest in Paint Cherryfield.

The Happy Grant is looking forward to next year's award.

Sunrise County Arts in the Park has received \$1000 from UMM. Nine historic societies have agreed to hold open houses and advertise on the same day .

Crystal said the Bold Coast Byway now has a public website, although it is not completely up yet. The Corridor Management Plan is written as is the Roques Bluff Comprehensive Plan.

There was a tour of brownfields with EPA representatives and the new grant cycle begins in October. Sites can be very small and simple – not what people usually think of when thinking of brownfields. It might be household asbestos or it might be the perception of pollution. Often these cases can be easily taken care.

Research may prove there was never a problem or simply paving over a spot may serve as mitigation. Dale asked about the Cutler sites, since there is hardly a military site that has not worked with some kind of dangerous substance.

Fred updated on DART's transition. They may be approaching a solution, at least in regard to office help. It is expected the Sept. 12 meeting will resolve and hire WCCOG for the position. The administration part hopes to work out something with the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce for a visitor's center.

Nate gave an update on the clamshell project. It was agreed we should invite a representative from the DEP to come and speak about it.

Regina spoke about the farm to school program. Healthy Acadia has received three small grants to cover a gleaning initiative to get unused food to schools, food pantries, etc. Volunteers are needed, possibly from schools and churches. Other ideas are welcome. The scouts and 4H clubs Meals on Wheels, and a tie in with the Peer network were suggested.

They have 2 Vista workers for improving SNAP enrollment and food access full time for one year and they also will recruit volunteers but they can't do direct services; for that there is an Americorps worker.

Adjourned 11:55 am.