

## **Down East RC&D**

### **Meeting**

Jan 23 2014

#### **Present:**

Nate Pennell

Gary Edwards, Sullivan (MSA)

Kathy Upton (Cherryfield Library)

Kathryn Lewis, (Eastport)

Fred Cook (DART)

Also present: Regina Grabrovac, Cheryl Brown

Neither minutes nor treasurer's report could be approved, due to lack of a quorum.

President's report: Paula Day requested a letter of support in applying to the Kellogg's Foundation and Gary has already sent it out. The National Association Board will be meeting in California in February.

Gary gave a report on the GeoLab. There was a webinar conference Jan 22. So far there are 6 councils willing to be charter members. 150 councils sat in on the conference and did seem interested and will be doing individual followups. The goal is to have at least 20 by Feb 15 and that doesn't look likely; however, it may not be necessary to get the project off the ground, though it may take longer than planned. Crowdsourcing is becoming increasingly popular. It is possible we could get staffing by seeking like-minded, talented individuals on the net. We will want to modify the program to keep costs down, but it is a way to access funding from sources previously not available, it being an international group that donates to projects and causes and takes its name from National Geographic.

There is still some money in the Maine Association checkbook. That money could be divided up and checks sent to the councils.

Fred noted that DART is pushing to move to Ellsworth. They pay half the rent, but on the other hand, who would be their fiscal agent? The Office is Tourism is looking to cut the 8 districts down to two - interior and coast, with the coastal district centered (?) in Portland.

Cheryl Brown gave a report on Cherryfield Academy. There have been many events and parties held at the building and it continues very popular, with many calls to make reservations for parties and special events. The Academy applied for a Davis foundation grant and was awarded \$20,000. \$9500 will go toward cellar work and \$8000 to restore the upstairs windows and replace storm windows on the front of the building. The rest will go towards electrical work.

The fire marshal inspected and required three fire doors. One of these, the little "ticket" door, needs to be saved and can't simply be replaced. Panic hardware is required on several doors, but he's OK with the old metal fire escape, for now. Sprinklers are estimated to cost \$33,940, fire alarms \$17,000. This will be a voice system, probably the only one in all of Washington County. They have put in for a \$50,000 Tabitha King Foundation grant and will need yet another \$10,000.

Weatherization will also require grant funding and they are looking for funding for an elevator. They discovered the old Baptist Church clock in storage and have sold it, plus they get two free maintenance sessions

for the deal. They thought the clock on the outside of the building was broken but followed the electric line down and found a still working switch. It lights up at night.

The Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society is spending the winter fundraising.

Destination Cherryfield: Expects to be made an official member of DART at its next meeting. The event is being moved to the first week in October and feature a folk-festival atmosphere with high end vendors. This is still in the early stages and a meeting is slated for next week. There may be some coordination with Harrington's Oktoberfest.

Fred suggested they advertise on Quoddy TV out of Lubec, the Bangor daily News on the web, and DART's calendar of events.

Peer network: A few more details and we shall be out of our financial dealings with them but the work continues.

The Happy Grant also continues.

Sunrise County Food Alliance: A lot was accomplished at the last meeting with a whole lot of projects taking shape. The tool sharpening workshop was incredible. The next meeting will be in Calais. The local foods effort is really taking off, with efforts directed at such institutions as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

Regina Grabovac ran a slide show as she explained the Food Policy Council and its goals. It brings together stake holders from diverse food related areas. Right now, the group is in process of approving a new logo.

Working together with WCCOG, they are re examining programs to highlight successes and looking at the not so successful in hopes of improving all. The RC&D has a huge potential to help forward the work, especially in the fisheries area of food production/distribution. Another area that will require exgtra thought and effort is wild foods. A food summit is slated for March 8 at the Elm Street School in East Machias.

Meeting adjourned 12:05 pm.