

AGENDA

SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 1st, 2024

SMPDC Conference Room, Saco Island, ZOOM

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM+/-

Intro of new Board Member Erin Moriarity from Sanford. Erin is replacing Beth Della Valle on the Board. Beth has retired.

1. Minutes of the October 26th and November 30th Meeting.

The minutes for the meeting are enclosed.

Move to accept the minutes of October 26th.

We have also enclosed the minutes of the November 30th meeting for which there was no quorum.

2. Treasurer's Report

There are a few items for the Treasurer's report. As this is a mid-year report, we may spend a little extra time on this.

We have included:

- 1. The accounting "dashboard" for December, 2023. This is the ½ year financial.*
- 2. The most recent Financial Statement from QuickBooks*
- 3. The most recent loan activity and info*

Move to accept the most recent financial reports.

3. Personnel

Please see the attached letter from myself to you all.

Jan will be discussing this with the full Board at the meeting and a proposed path forward.

While I fully understand this is now public information, I would respectfully ask that we be a little discreet, if possible, as we more fully develop a communications strategy on the opening and let me communicate with some stakeholders and partners on various projects, including some that are being formulated as I speak. This should happen in the next couple of weeks.

4. Closing of EPA Brownfields Accounts and Path Forward

Last week we submitted the final closeout report for the FY2014 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant from the EPA. As we have alluded to before, this was a long process to dissect old files and ensure we had an accurate understanding of everything that had occurred over the past 10 years.

This grant represents a lot of the hallmark projects of our program, including over \$2,990,000 dollars in loans and \$1,042,000 in subgrants. A large portion of these are projects representing the investment into the Biddeford Mills district. At this time, we have about \$1.45 million in program income from this grant that will be transferred to our Closed EPA account, bringing the total to about \$2.8 million. With our current outstanding loans, we anticipate an additional ~\$130,000 annually from loan repayments. As we've mentioned before, the EPA Post-Closeout funds are particularly flexible, and free of many of the federal restrictions of the active grants. This transition marks a big capitalization of our Closed funds, and we would like to have a larger strategic planning discussion about how to use this fund in a way that expands our programs and sets our active grants up for future success. Some of our ideas are 1) setting aside funds for affordable housing specific projects 2) planning activities to identify previously unknown sites 3) outreach activities to garner more interest for the program in our rural or underserved areas.

We'd like to continue this conversation with the board, and welcome any ideas about how best to form our plan forward. While we do have some parameters this would essentially be a huge opportunity to align SMPDC mission with real funding.

5. Legislation

Some legislation to track regarding our work:

LD 602 – This a bill to increase the responsibilities of the RPCs statewide and also provide more funding to accomplish that. This may be the first piece of actual legislation I have seen addressing this during my time. It passed the Housing Committee yesterday with a 2 million dollar fiscal note. Got a ways to go and many hills to climb though.

LD 1976- This is the new the Comp Planning Legislation which is winding its way through workshops and hearings but is still on the table. I can briefly describe but can say while containing some good ideas and being mindful of the need to update the Growth management Act, no one in this office feels this is the best vehicle to do it.

I can briefly summarize a few others – time permitting.