

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 11 FY 87/88

DATE January 19, 1988

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING
RURAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR MAINE
AND
THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, small communities have experienced rapid population growth over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, these same small towns also have experienced new demands on public facilities and services and frequently lack the tax base necessary to provide these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, rural resource-based enterprises have experienced competition for basic resources such as land and water access; and

WHEREAS, much of the State's substandard housing and many poverty-level families and low-income elderly are located in rural Maine, and these families need better job training, public transportation, medical and human services, and greater educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural, forest, and fishing sectors of the economy are essential to the economic base of many small towns, and need assistance if they are to maintain their vitality; and

WHEREAS, energy and natural resource development are also critical to rural development in areas such as agriculture, housing, and economic improvement; and

WHEREAS, small businesses help form the backbone of the State's rural economy and need to be promoted and assisted; and

WHEREAS, the rates of poverty and intensity of economic distress have remained persistently greater in rural areas for several decades; and

WHEREAS, state and federal programs and actions which have a significant impact on rural development should be guided by clear policies and priorities in order to assist local development efforts, and to address identified rural needs in a coordinated and concerted manner; and

WHEREAS, most agencies have the capacity to conduct programs and activities relating to rural development;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish a Committee on Rural Development as follows:

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee on Rural Development is to ensure implementation of the terms of the Federal-State Rural Development Cooperation Agreement, entered into on this date by the State of Maine and the University of Maine and the major federal agencies whose programs impact on rural Maine.

The responsibilities of the Committee shall be:

1. To enable state and private sector members to work jointly with federal agencies and the University of Maine to coordinate resources for maximum benefit to the rural people of this state;
2. To advise the Governor regarding unmet needs, problems facing rural residents, and policies which may improve conditions in rural Maine;
3. To assure that the following goals for rural development are considered in the planning and operation of all state and federal programs:
 - a. stimulate new jobs and higher income in rural areas, especially in those small towns which have large concentrations of unemployed, underemployed, and low-income families;
 - b. promote the stabilization, preservation, and expansion of the state's farming, fishing, and wood products industries by ensuring a sustainable resource base, providing appropriate infrastructure investment, and by promoting product diversification and developing expanded market opportunities;
 - c. provide adequate and affordable housing to rural residents of all incomes, particularly the low income, and assist in improving the quality of the existing housing stock;
 - d. provide greater access to essential public facilities and services for rural residents;
 - e. assure access to essential resources for human development for all Maine citizens; and,
 - f. promote participation in the state rural development process to assure that rural development is balanced with urban needs; to eliminate and prevent duplication, competition, and conflicting

actions among and between all levels; and, to promote efficiency in rural development program delivery so that the objectives of this Executive Order and of the Federal-State Rural Development Cooperation Agreement may be met; and,

4. To assure that the program priorities in support of these goals are carried out.

Membership

State Agencies: The Commissioners and Directors of the following State agencies shall serve as members of the Committee:

- Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
- Maine Department of Conservation
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine Department of Educational & Cultural Services
- Maine Department of Economic & Community Development
- Maine Department of Labor
- Maine Department of Transportation
- Maine State Planning Office
- Maine State Housing Authority
- Finance Authority of Maine

The following agencies shall participate in activities of the Committee, as needed:

- Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
- Maine Vocational Technical Institute System
- Maine Office of Energy Resources
- Maine Division of Community Services
- Maine Department of Human Services

Others may be asked to participate from time-to-time as needed as well.

The State agencies listed above shall work in close coordination with the signees of the Federal-State Rural Development Cooperation Agreement, including the University of Maine, especially the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the following federal agencies: the agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture including the Farmers' Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; the Small Business Administration; and, the Economic Development Administration.

Private members: the Committee shall consist of up to ten private sector members who shall be appointed by the Governor. Members shall be selected with consideration for geographic distribution and representation of various needs (low income, economic development, natural resource development, etc.),

and from regional entities such as counties, regional planning councils, resource conservation and development programs, and community action programs.

Officers

The Committee shall be co-chaired by a commissioner from a state agency and a director of a federal agency participating in the Rural Development Cooperation Agreement. The Governor shall appoint the state co-chair and shall invite a federal participant to serve as a federal co-chair. Co-chairs shall serve a one-year term and may be reappointed.

Administration

The State Planning Office shall serve as executive secretary to the Committee and provide research and policy coordination for the Committee. The activities of this Committee and the goals and policies for rural development set forth by this executive order shall be reviewed at least annually. Recommendations for revision and modification shall be coordinated by the State Planning Office. An annual review shall be submitted by November 15 of each year, and shall include the views of local, regional, state, university, and federal officials.

Terms of Membership

The private sector members of this committee shall serve a term of two years and may be reappointed for additional terms.

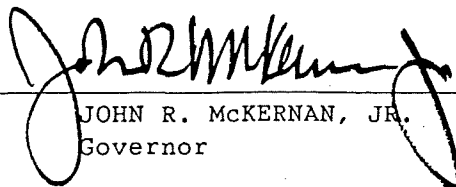
Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be called by the co-chairs as needed. Subcommittees may be established as needed to carry out the work of the Committee.

Compensation

Members shall serve without compensation. Necessary expenses incurred by members in the performance of their duties which are allowed by State law shall be reimbursed such allowable expenses by the parent organization. Private sector members shall be reimbursed by the Department of Agriculture and the State Planning Office as needed.

The effective date of this Order is January 19, 1988. This Order supersedes Executive Order 5 FY 82/83.



JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR.
Governor