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**WASHINGTON COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

PO Box 551

East Machias, ME 04630 2010 NOV 31 A 11 05

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE



November 30, 2010

The Honorable John E. Baldacci
Office of the Governor
#1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor Baldacci:

Enclosed please find the Washington County Development Authority's 2009-2010 annual report. I apologize for the lateness of this submission. As the report indicates, the Authority is in the process of redefining its role in promoting economic development for Washington County. To this end, the Authority seeks to amend the statutes governing its powers and relevancy, as well as establishing a more prominent public presence. The last two months have been pivotal in determining these endeavors since my hire on October 1, 2010 as the Board of Trustee's first Executive Director, which accounts for the late submission date of this report.

Respectfully,

Christine Laurel
Executive Director

cc: David E. Boulter, Executive Director
Maine Legislative Council
210 State Street
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0115

Elizabeth M. Schneider, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research
and Economic Development
55 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473





WASHINGTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 5 of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 383, Subchapter 3, Article 2-A, the Washington County Development Authority is required to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters. The report must be submitted no later than 120 days after the close of the authority's fiscal year. The Authority's fifth fiscal year ended on June 30, 2010. This annual report must be submitted on or before the statutory deadline of October 30, 2010. The report that follows fulfills that requirement.

Section 13083-F of 5 MRSA requires that the annual report of the Authority include:

- A. A description of the authority's operations and activities;
- B. An accounting of the authority's receipts and expenditures and assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;
- C. A listing of all property transactions pursuant to section 13083-D;
- D. A statement of the authority's proposed and projected activities for the ensuing year; and
- E. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this article.

History of the Authority

The Washington County Development Authority was established by the Second Regular Session of the 120th Maine Legislature as Chapter 568 of the Laws of Maine 2001. The Authority was established in response to the need to create a state entity that could take title to the former Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Cutler, Maine from the United States Navy. Since that time, the legislation was amended to

broaden the scope of the authority's mission to allow the authority to provide financial and technical assistance to any governmental entity and nonprofit located within Washington County in support of community and economic development projects. Representation was expanded to include all municipalities in Washington County, including the unorganized territories.

For the reporting period, the Authority was comprised of the following members: James Parker (Veazie), Shirley Erickson (Machiasport), Eric Robinson (Alexander), Robert Tyler (St. Stephen, NB), Edward Pellon (Machias), Normand Laberge (Trescott), Barbara Drisko (Columbia Falls), Brent Hartford (Milbridge), and Harold Prescott, Sr. (Whiting). During May (2009) the following officers were elected: James Parker / Chairperson, Harold Prescott / Vice-Chairperson, Barbara Drisko / Secretary, and Normand Laberge / Treasurer. The WCDA meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM at the Machias CareerCenter.

The Authority can have from 9 to 13 voting members. Trustees have been appointed to staggered terms of one, two, three and four years. At this point, there are only nine Trustees. Janet Toth had served as ex-officio, as the designee for the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, and has still not been replaced. David Burns resigned upon being elected as a Washington County legislative representative and he has not yet been replaced, either. The Authority is working with the Governor's Office to fill available seats.

Operations and Activities

The WCDA Trustees scheduled at least twelve (12) regular meetings from 01.July.2009 to 30.June.2010, though there was not always a quorum present for official business to take place. Major items of discussion during the course of the report period included the following subjects:

The Authority continues to contract with Sunrise County Economic Council to provide administrative services.

The Authority stays current on activities related to the Governor's appointed Task Force and the Department of Corrections in regard to the redevelopment and/or expansion of the State prison in Washington County. This is looked on by the Authority as having strong potential for economic growth for the area.

They have worked toward assisting Washington Academy with lower interest loan funds for capital improvements.

The Authority hired a part-time executive director, Christine Laurel, at the end of the reporting period to help with administrative tasks, promote WCDA within the community, and to aid its economic development efforts through researching and pursuing income streams.

WCDA has heard presentations on an assortment of projects in Washington County – including Unorganized Territories gardens, Brownfield site assessment, Rotary recreation planning, and the Recovery Support Network.

The Authority assisted the Washington County Food & Fuel Alliance with printing a resource guide which will be made available to anyone who needs assistance.

WCDA provided monetary support for “Destination: Washington County 2009 & Beyond” alternative energy and telecommunications expo.

The Authority signed letters in support of Port of Eastport infrastructure projects.

Receipts and Expenditures

See attached Financial Statement

Property Transactions:

The WCDA owns no property.

Proposed and Projected Activities

The Authority is increasing its public presence by creating a website in order to better facilitate economic development in Washington County. The website will not only provide businesses, government agencies and nonprofits contact information, but will also link the viewer to information and services Washington County has to offer to businesses contemplating a relocation to downeast Maine. The idea is also to encourage a dialogue with other organizations seeking the welfare of the county and to solicit proposals from businesses requiring assistance to expand or maintain their current level of prosperity.

The website will be promoted by press releases, a newsletter and perhaps a newspaper advice column in which WCDA trustees will share their industry knowledge and business acumen.

The WCDA Board of trustees will also function as a “think tank” to problem solve economic issues unique to downeast Maine.

The new part-time executive director will meet with chambers and representatives of local organizations and private companies to further discuss how WCDA can be of service to them in their mission to develop the local economy.

The change in statute sought by the WCDA (set forth under “Recommendations” below) will make the above possible by providing substantive assistance to these organizations and spur more concrete projects for the WCDA to assist the downeast economy, including the proposal from Washington Academy, noted in the 2008-2009 Annual Report, for WCDA to “help the Academy to reduce its interest rates and enable them to access more funds for expansion and economic development.”

Recommendations

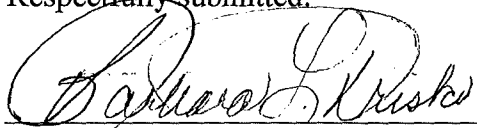
The Authority seeks to expand its powers in order to become more effective at economic development by petitioning the legislature to include the following:

1. Acquire additional State of Maine surplus property located within Washington County;
2. Expand its jurisdiction to include supporting private entities within Washington County; and
3. Expand its abilities to offer financial assistance by entering into loan or security agreements with one or more lending institutions, including, but not limited to, banks, insurance companies and institutions that administer pension funds, or trustees for those institutions for the issuance of bonds and exercise with respect to those loan or security agreements all of the powers delineated in this article for the issuance of bonds

Attachments:

- ❖ Financial reports: WCDA Annual Income Statement

Respectfully submitted:



Barbara Drisko, Secretary



**WASHINGTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

Financial Report
01.July.2009 - 30.June.2010
Normand Laberge - Treasurer

Account No.	Description	Balance on 01.July.2009	Balance on 30.June.2010	Interest Earned / Difference	Interest Rate [%]	Maturation Rate
80115759 30	Non-Profit Organization Checking Account	\$4,999.16	\$2,021.93	-\$2,977.23	n/a	n/a
12001268	91-Day Certificate Passbook Account	\$10,682.93	10727.18	\$44.25	0.35	14.oct.2010
80124129 20	Money Fund Business Account	\$8,169.45	\$8,193.99	\$24.54	0.3	n/a
	Total	\$23,851.54	\$20,943.10	-\$2,908.44		

Mo / Yr	Checks Issued	Amount	Balance	Deposit
July / 2009	Mark Altvater	\$50.00	\$4,949.16	
July / 2009	SCEC	\$463.91	\$4,485.25	
Aug / 2009	SCEC	\$164.90	\$4,370.35	\$50.00
Aug / 2009	MBACC	\$1,000.00	\$3,370.35	
Sept / 2009	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Oct / 2009	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Nov / 2009	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Dec / 2009	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Jan / 2010	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Feb / 2010	n/a	\$0.00	\$3,370.35	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$35.00	\$3,335.35	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$71.60	\$3,263.75	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$162.20	\$3,101.55	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$166.92	\$2,934.63	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$192.50	\$2,742.13	
Mar / 2010	SCEC	\$230.90	\$2,511.23	
Apr / 2010	SCEC	\$89.30	\$2,421.93	
May / 2010	SCEC	\$400.00	\$2,021.93	
June / 2010	SCEC	\$0.00	\$2,021.93	