

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Washington county development authority

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
OFFICE  
2011 NOV -2 A 7:56

## ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

### 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 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2011. This annual report must be submitted on or before the statutory deadline of October 30, 2011. 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 120<sup>th</sup> 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: Shirley Erickson (Machiasport), Robert Tyler (Calais and St. Stephen, NB), Edward

Pellon (Machias), Normand Laberge (Trescott), Barbara Drisko (Columbia Falls), Brent Hartford (Milbridge), and Harold Prescott, Sr. (Whiting), Betsy Fitzgerald (Machiasport), and Michael Radeka (East Machias). For this time period, the following officers were elected: Harold Prescott / Chairperson, Betsy Fitzgerald / Vice-Chairperson, Barbara Drisko / Secretary, and Normand Laberge / Treasurer. The WCDA attempted Friday meetings, but it was determined that Tuesday meetings hold a better chance of hosting a quorum. For this reporting period, the WCDA met monthly at 3:00 PM at the Machias CareerCenter.

The Authority can have from 9 to 13 voting members. At this point, there are only nine Trustees. Bill Osborn (DECD) had served as ex-officio, as the designee for the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, and has not yet been replaced. James Parker resigned upon being elected as a 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 July 2010 to June 2011, 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.

Betsy Fitzgerald has volunteered to act as a liaison with Sunrise County Economic Council. She will attend Board meetings and report to the Authority.

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

WCDA now has an online presence through a website created by the executive director: <http://www.washingtoncountedevelopmentauthoritymaine.org/>.

An assessment of Authority member strengths was conducted.

The WCDA has formed a Prospecting Committee to work on business attraction/development.

Municipalities in the underrepresented Commissioner Districts were asked to nominate potential members to the Authority.

### **Receipts and Expenditures**

See attached Financial Statement

### **Property Transactions:**

The WCDA owns no property.

## **Proposed and Projected Activities**

The Washington County Development Authority has arrived at its core mission with the assistance of two legislators. With expanded powers, the WCDA can now fill a void in the economic development strategy of Washington County. With the ability to develop property, WCDA can assist in making projects a reality.

Representative James Parker (former WCDA member) submitted “An Act to Amend the Authority of the Washington County Development Authority” which was passed and signed by the Governor. The bill granted to the Washington County Development Authority the same authority given to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority to borrow money and issue bonds.

Representative Dianne Tilton also submitted legislation to benefit the Authority. Her bill would allow the Authority (only one of three in the state) to act as a local development corporation through a contract with a municipality. Thus, through a MOU, a town could sponsor a development project without having to set up a development corporation. WCDA would have to own the property before any applications for funding could be submitted, but the town could donate the property. The Authority would be the owner acting on behalf of the town.

The WCDA’s next effort is to create and support a collaboration with the Downtown Revitalization Committee in Machias. This committee has been working for several years to improve the downtown area of the county seat. As a local development corporation, the partnership will be the first effort to join local efforts with the WCDA’s funding abilities. Several projects are on the list, from working to rehabilitate a building into an artists’ gallery to retrofitting an area surrounding an historic structure.

Several additional projects are being considered that will have far-reaching ramifications to address some of the more pressing problems facing county residents. Food security and having sufficient food for families are issues that demand immediate attention. Economic development surrounding food distribution will also be addressed. Structures that need immediate attention are another issue to be addressed by the WCDA. While funding may be more problematic for these projects, infrastructure improvements are at the top of the list.

With expanded authority and the enthusiasm of members, the WCDA will become one of the leading entities for improvements across Washington County.

## **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:

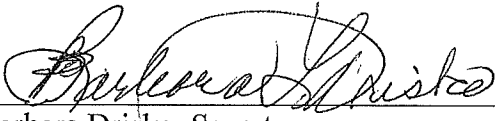
1. Acquire additional State of Maine surplus property located within Washington County;

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:



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Barbara Drisko, Secretary



## WASHINGTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Financial Report  
 01.July.2010 - 30.June.2011  
 Normand Laberge - Treasurer

Account No.	Description	Balance on 01.July.2010	Balance on 30.June.2011	Deposit During Period of Interest	Payment from Account
8011575930	Non-Profit Organization Checking Account	\$2,021.93	\$1,778.75	\$8,200.00	
12001268	91-Day Certificate Passbook Account	\$10,717.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	
8012412920	Money Fund Business Account	\$8,195.94	\$8,731.32	\$10,755.32	\$10,205.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,935.70</b>	<b>\$10,510.07</b>	<b>\$18,955.32</b>	<b>\$10,205.00</b>
	Total on 01.July.2010	\$20,935.70			
	Total on 30.June.2011	\$10,510.07			
	Difference on 30.June.2011	-\$10,425.63			
	Total Payments	\$10,443.18			
	Interest Payments	\$17.55			

<b>Mo / Yr</b>	<b>Checks Issued</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Deposit</b>
Aug / 2010	SCEC	\$192.50	\$1,829.43	
Aug / 2010	SCEC	\$196.70	\$1,632.73	
Sept / 2010	Machias Valley Publishing Co.	\$23.75	\$1,608.98	
Sept / 2010	SCEC	\$158.97	\$1,450.01	
Sept / 2010	Transfer from Money Fund	\$0.00	\$3,450.01	\$2,000.00
Oct / 2010	Washington Academy	\$1,500.00	\$1,950.01	
Oct / 2010	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$46.91	\$1,903.10	
Oct / 2010	Christine Laurel	\$600.00	\$1,303.10	
Oct / 2010	SCEC	\$109.58	\$1,193.52	
Nov / 2010	SCEC	\$73.70	\$1,119.82	
Nov / 2010	Christine Laurel	\$800.00	\$319.82	
Nov / 2010	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$49.73	\$270.09	
Dec / 2011	SCEC	\$125.50	\$3,144.59	\$3,000.00
Dec / 2011	SCEC	\$177.10	\$2,967.49	
Dec / 2011	SCEC	\$87.50	\$2,879.99	
Dec / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$1,000.00	\$1,879.99	
Dec / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$26.81	\$1,853.18	
Jan / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$800.00	\$1,053.18	
Jan / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$24.98	\$1,028.20	
Jan / 2011	SCEC	\$125.50	\$902.70	
Feb / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$600.00	\$302.70	
Feb / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$89.90	\$212.80	
Mar / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$1,000.00	\$1,412.80	\$2,200.00
Mar / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$73.85	\$1,338.95	
Mar / 2011	SCEC	\$144.00	\$1,194.95	
Apr / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$1,000.00	\$3,194.95	\$3,000.00
Apr / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$49.96	\$3,144.99	
Apr / 2011	SCEC	\$144.00	\$3,000.99	
May / 2011	Christine Laurel	\$800.00	\$2,200.99	
May / 2011	Exe. Dir. / Exp	\$158.24	\$2,042.75	