**MCOG Board of Director’s Meeting**

**January 25, 2024 at 11:00 am**

**165 Main Street, Damariscotta**

**Remote participation via Zoom**

**Minutes**

Directors in attendance: Marc Meyers,Betty Johnson, Sally Costello, Charlie Grover, Derek Scrapchansky, Julie Hashem, Jonathan Duke, Nicole Brian

Staff in attendance: Mathew Eddy, Brian Dancause

1. Marc Meyers called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.
2. Financial Report. Mathew Eddy presented the financial report for the six-month period ending December 31, 2023. (Refer to report provided in advance of meeting.)

Following Mathew’s report, Betty Johnson moved to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Derek Scrapchanski, and approved by a vote of 7-0.

1. **Director’s Report.** Mathew Eddy presented the director’s report. (Refer to report provided in advance of meeting.) He summarized LD 602, which would provide $2 million for regional councils, including $200,000 for MCOG. Mathew mentioned the response to the January 10 and 13 storms, emphasizing that most Midcoast municipalities lack the capacity to permit the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure.
2. **Committee Updates:**
3. **MCEDC.** Sally Costello, Co-Chair provided a brief update on Midcoast Economic Development Committee activities, which have focused on data. Sally noted that the full Advisory Committee will meet for the first time on January 31.
4. **Loan Committee.** Brian Dancause reported the December approval of a $75,000 loan to a land-based aquaculture business, which was used to finance the down payment for real estate acquisition in Sagadahoc County. He also noted plans for an organizational meeting, as well as a meeting to consider a new loan request for a business in Sagadahoc County.
5. **Appointments: MCOG Loan Committee.** Brian Dancause presented John Guerra as a nominee for the Loan Committee. John acquired Lincoln’s Country Store in 2019. Prior to that, John held various management capacities at Hannaford Supermarkets and Del Haize.

Charlie Grover moved to approve John Guerra’s nomination to the MCOG Loan Committee. Betty Johnson seconded the motion, which was approved by a 8-0 vote.

1. **Budget Planning–FY2025.** Mathew Eddy noted the need for salary adjustments, citing the need to be competitive, in order to recruit and retain quality staff. Derek Scrapchansky asked about the sustainability of State funding for planning and housing.

1. Marc Meyers adjourned the meeting at 12:13 pm.