

Loring Development Authority of Maine  
Board Meeting Minutes  
LDA November 2024  
Thursday November 21st, 2024 9:30 AM  
119 Weinman Rd  
Loring Commerce Centre, Limestone, Maine

1.) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lee Umphrey at 9:31 a.m.

LDA board members participating in an online conference are: Timothy Crowley, Jim Gardner, Lee Umphrey, Carolyn Dorsey and Jeff Pangburn.

LDA board members absent: Lynn Bromley, Suzie Paradis, Kris Doody, Denise Garland, Joe Sleeper, Kristine Logan and Grace O'Neal.

LDA staff participating by online conference: Micheal Beaulieu and Jonathan Judkins.

Others participating in an online conference: Trisha House-Sen. Collins, Kirsten Hebert, Chris Cossette, Steve Levesque, George Howe, Tim McCabe, Hays Gahagan, Roger Felix, Jason Dionne, Scott Hinkel, Jim Pelky, Kirsten Hebert, Thomas Manning, Sharon Campbell, Tony Levesque and Chuck Kelly

2.) Identification of board members and others

Board member attendance was taken.

3.) Approval of Notes: Jim moved for the approval of the minutes and Jeff seconded the unanimous vote

4.) Instead of President's Report a Highlight Reel of the past year of accomplishments shown:

Jonathan-LDA presents a highlight reel covering the end of 2023 and what's happened so far in 2024. Highlighting Maine Rural Water coming on board to manage the water district and taking over the water filtration plant at Madawaska Dam. Jonathan then covers the retirement of the old administration with Donna and Neal Haynes retiring in July with his onboarding occurring in August and eventually elevating to CEO in December with the retirement of Carl Flora. Jonathan then covers other major events in the organization moving and trying to cut operational costs to the community engagement events from the Eclipse to the open house and ending the year with a Halloween-themed haunted house. Lee Umphrey also brings up and thanks the committee members that took part in the communication committee with Green 4 Maine.

#### 5.) Nippius update:

Steve Levesque gives an update on the LDA finishing the airport master plan and having submitted the Nippius application to the regional FAA. He says they recommended a denial of the Nippius, so work had begun with a congressional delegation to appeal it to the national level. Steve brings up that one of the major reasons for the denial was the proximity to other Nippius airports in Presque Isle and Caribou. Second was the fact that there is no based aircraft calling Loring home which is to be expected being a former military base. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> criteria for the rejection was that Loring isn't considered a public use airport, which has already been addressed and Loring has been redesignated as a public use airport. Steve also mentions that they are also actively working with some MRO companies, and some potential satellite companies looking to locate up here to Loring. Steve says that Loring is close to getting it's Federal Trade Zone hopefully in the next couple of months.

#### 6.) Maine Rural Water update:

Jonathan talks about LDA's water being a point of contention as of late. Jonathan recognizes the two seasoned staff members that Maine Rural Water has secured in Steve and John as our day-to-day operational workers. Jonathan then covers the public notification of the rate changes coming and working with the PUC, Public Utilities Commission, to respond to anything they need. Jonathan says the MRWA was great with the boil notice and the information being conveyed with real-time updates on when the notice was lifted. As well as being able to utilize the newly set up text messaging and email chain for notifications. Chris Cossette comments that the terms and conditions for the water rates have gone and everything has been approved. Chris comments on working with PUC on the complaint and the LDA/MRWA's response to the complaint on the new rates.

#### 7.) The Maine Space Convention:

Jonathan talks about Loring being on the board of directors for the Maine Space Corporation as well as the consortium. Jonathan talks about the recent Space convention that was held this year in Portland and talks about the panel session given in collaboration with Brunswick. Jonathan talks about Vault which is a horizontal launch platform to send microsattellites into space. Jonathan talks about how Loring with its two and a half mile runway is uniquely qualified with allowing larger launches to take place and how partnering with Presque Isle is regionally beneficial, and how Loring isn't looking to compete with anyone, just looking to improve the access to the services in the future.

#### 8.) Financial Review and Budget Presentation:

Jonathan thanks Tim Crowley, Denise Garland, and Lee for helping deal with the many questions and the innumerable adjustments to the budget, and thanking the auditors and Mike for helping to get it completed and that it would be brought forward in executive session for review and approval today.

#### 9.) Housing Update:

Jonathan talks about touching base with J.A.K.S. Property management team and that they anticipate to have all of the units ready for December. Jonathan says with the influx of staff to the two federal contractors on base they will have no problems filling the vacancies, and that will put the LDA in a place where within five years reinvestment of the capital can be put into Tennessee Circle properties.

10.) Public comment:

Tim McCabe asks about DG fuels and its status. Jonathan talks about an article put out recently by Melissa Lizotte about the 4.3 billion sustainable aviation fuel refinery. Hays Gahagan says that they have some information for the board but it would be shared in executive session. Tim Crowley asks Jonathan about the discrepancy of the timeline in the article. Jonathan confirms that the article stated construction would begin in 2025, but in actuality the timeline is for it to begin sometime in 2026.

11.) Executive Session: Confidential discussions concerning personnel, economic development and real estate matters pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 Subparagraphs 6.A. and 6.C. Carolyn moved that we enter executive session for confidential discussions concerning personnel, economic development, and real estate matters pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 Subparagraphs 6.A. and 6.C. Jeff seconded. Vote – unanimous

13.) Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Umphrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.