

Loring Development Authority of Maine

Board Meeting Minutes

LDA July 2025

Thursday July 17, 2025 9:30 AM

Online Hybrid/ 119 Weinman Rd, Limestone, Maine 04750

LDA Monthly Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting

1.) Call to Order

Lee Umphrey officially commenced the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2.) Identification of Board Members and Others

Participants in the online conference include LDA board members Jonathan Judkins, Lee Umphrey, Timothy, Troy Haney, Jim Crowley, Trisha, Barb, Denise Garland, Roger Felix, Bob Hayslett, Don Powers, Kameron Waff, Joseph Sleeper II, Kameron Waithe, Jordyn Madore, Senator King, Maine Rural Water, Chris Parent, and Donald.

3.) Public Comment

Roger Felix provided an update on the current status of the Job Corps situation. The injunction issued by the Southern District Court in New York remains in effect, effectively preventing the closure of the 99 Job Corps centers scheduled for closure by June 30th. Recent hearings took place in June and July, with another oral argument scheduled for Monday, the 21st. The central issue is understanding how actions by the Supreme Court might influence the injunction and the authority of the district court. Despite these challenges, the program maintains an optimistic outlook. They have successfully reintegrated 65 students into the center but are awaiting approval to admit new students from other centers nationwide. Their primary focus is on training current students and assisting them in securing employment. A notable success involved a young woman who graduated from the electrical program and obtained employment at Bath Iron Works, with housing assistance provided.

Regarding staffing, the number of open positions has doubled, primarily due to uncertainties concerning long-term funding, despite the fact that funding is secured through June 30 of the following year. Recruitment efforts are ongoing; however, a new layer has been added to the hiring process involving review by corporate and the Department of Labor to assess operational capacity with existing staff.

4.) Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes from the June 18th meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Lee Umphrey and a second by Tim Crowley.

5.) Communications Subcommittee Report

Timothy provided an update on recent discussions with Green for Maine and LDA, noting that the conversations have been positive. Issues such as obtaining keys for the Green for Maine group to access fuel were resolved through Jonathan's efforts. Payments are being reconciled, and progress continues. Strategies for enhancing communication for future projects and ensuring positive messaging for the base were discussed. Timothy also suggested reflecting on the communication surrounding the announcement of the potato chip factory to improve future outreach.

Lee Umphrey proposed that in the next meeting, Green for Maine should deliver a more detailed update on tangible developments, especially prior to the legislature reconvening in January. Emphasis was placed on demonstrating Green for Maine's impact.

6.) President's Report

Jonathan, President of the LDA, outlined a series of achievements and updates. He began with a quotation regarding missed opportunities and the significance of diligent effort. June was a busy month, featuring successful events such as the spring morning timing event, a visit to Brunswick Landing for the Maine Space Corporation, and a tactical training exercise with the 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction Unit in Augusta.

June also marked the conclusion of the fiscal year. Michael, the finance director, is overseeing year-end procedures, including reconciliations and preparations for an audit. Additionally, the organization welcomed Grant, a work experience participant from ACAP, who has been assisting with administrative tasks and offering a fresh perspective on budgeting.

Jonathan reminded business owners of the importance of returning job increment finance letters to facilitate ongoing funding processes. Progress on the sewer grant project managed by Wright-Pierce is notable, with a successful pre-bid meeting with contractors. The Manzer Drive teardown project is scheduled to commence within the next 30 days, with optimistic outlooks for continued community support.

7.) Operation Northern Phoenix Year Two

Jonathan discussed Operation Northern Phoenix, a collaborative, five-year initiative involving the New Hampshire Air Guard and the U.S. Air Force on a local campus. Initiated in May, the operation involved C-130 landings and various exercises. The event scheduled for June 7-12, 2026, will expand to include helicopters, radar, C-130s, and B-52s, culminating in a week-long series of activities. The timeline anticipates the arrival of the landing team on June 7, operations commencing by June 9, and departure planned for June 12.

He highlighted the reuse model for Loring and its airfields, emphasizing positive outcomes such as the California team's runway sampling, which confirmed an additional ten-year plan for the main runway at no cost to the state. Growing interest from other units for both winter and summer exercises was also noted.

Timothy inquired about financial benefits, to which Jonathan explained that a daily fee is charged for facility use. He also addressed public communication strategies, confirming the event will be managed through coordination with their team and the Air Force's public relations team.

Jim emphasized the importance of notifying the local community ahead of the aircraft arrivals, considering the significant military presence. Lee commented on the success of land speed events on the runway, and Jonathan was commended for his efforts in promoting the base and its facilities.

8. 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 Limestone Greater Waste Water

Vote for Jon to enter into negotiations with Aero Company to secure a lease
Vote to extend and secure the water operation via Maine Rural water.

9.) Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m