

Loring Development Authority of Maine

Board Meeting Minutes

LDA October 2025

Loring Development Authority of Maine

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom & LDA Conference Room

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Lee Umphrey called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. Board members present included Joseph Sleeper II, Denise Garland, Don Powers, Jim Gardner, Lynn Bromley, Jeff Pangburn, Carolyn Dorsey, and others. Staff present included Jonathan Judkins, President & CEO. Congressional delegation staff and community members were also present

2. President & CEO Report

Jonathan Judkins delivered the President's Report, highlighting:

- Continued expansion of aerospace and defense-related activity at Loring, including coordination with military units and exploration of satellite and Space Force-related installations.
- Strategic marketing initiatives focused on Loring as Maine's largest industrial park, including outreach to forestry, timber, and wood-processing industries.
- Engagement with partners such as DG Fuels, MaineDOT, Rail New Brunswick, and regional forestry stakeholders.
- Recognition of the regional agricultural sector and advancements in technology supporting farming and logistics.
- Continued collaboration with Job Corps and reaffirmation of LDA's commitment to tenant support.
- Notice of upcoming internal audit and required state reporting activities.

No board questions were raised following the report

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

The Board reviewed the September 25, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve the September 25, 2025 meeting minutes

Moved: Denise Garland

Seconded: Lee Umphrey

Vote: Unanimous approval

4. Congressional & Government Updates

Representatives from the offices of Senator Collins, Senator King, and Representative Golden provided updates regarding the ongoing federal government shutdown:

- Congressional offices remain operational, though agency responses are delayed due to furloughs.
 - All Maine congressional delegation members have supported continuing resolutions to reopen the government.
 - Concerns were noted regarding short- and long-term impacts on SNAP benefits, rulemaking, grant administration, and federally funded programs.
 - Denise Garland reported that federally funded state positions remain supported through the state's cash pool at this time.
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5. Public Comment

Public comment included remarks from community members Laura Bagley and Travis Cyr expressing concerns regarding a recently announced data center project, including:

- Lack of public awareness and clarity around the approval process.
- Questions regarding environmental impacts, permitting, energy usage, and accountability.

- Requests for transparency and identification of the appropriate decision-making authority.

Additional public comments included introductions and updates from Job Corps leadership, workforce development representatives, Versant Power, and Bunker Inn representatives

6. Job Corps & Workforce Updates

- Job Corps enrollment remains paused in Maine despite strong historical performance.
 - Staffing levels have been maintained.
 - Workforce Development Board leadership emphasized alignment with LDA goals and regional workforce pipelines.
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7. Green4Maine Update & Data Center Discussion

Representatives from Green4Maine provided an overview of recent leasing activity and partnerships, including agricultural, storage, utility service, and museum uses.

A detailed discussion followed regarding the Liqui-Cool Solutions data center project:

- Description of a liquid-cooled, closed-loop system with no water usage.
- Anticipated creation of high-paying technical jobs, construction jobs, and related supply-chain employment.
- Potential reuse of excess heat for agricultural greenhouse operations.
- Board and public raised concerns regarding permitting, environmental review, public process, and coordination with the Town of Limestone.
- Board consensus emphasized the need for improved communication, transparency, and a formalized coordination protocol among LDA, Green4Maine, and the Town of Limestone.

The Chair directed staff to develop a more transparent framework for community engagement and regulatory coordination and to schedule future public information sessions.

8. Additional Project Updates

Jonathan Judkins provided updates on:

- **Nexion (Space Force Weather Tower): Small-footprint installation supporting military weather operations.**
 - **Winter Groundskeeping Contract: Bid process underway.**
 - **Wastewater Infrastructure Grant: Construction mobilization in progress.**
 - **Haunted House Fundraiser: Successful second-year event supporting the Loring Rehabilitation Fund.**
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9. Next Steps & Action Items

- **Develop a formal communication and coordination protocol for major development projects.**
 - **Schedule a community information meeting regarding the data center and related projects.**
 - **Include Nexian documentation with approved meeting minutes.**
 - **Continue monitoring Job Corps enrollment status and federal funding impacts.**
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10. 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. Jeff 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 motioned, Carolyn seconded. Vote – unanimous

11.) Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted