



## Sustainable Housing Work Team June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Minutes

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Joe Perkins	Washington Hancock Community Agency
Betsy Fitzgerald	Washington County Government
Jon Calame	Thermal Efficiency - Eastport
Al May	Maine CDC
Bobbi Harris	Washington Hancock Community Agency
Judy East	Washington County Council of Governments
Mike Sealander	Sealander Architects
Sean Thibideau (on telephone)	USDA Rural Development
Rebecca Hobbs	The Next Step
Matt Lewis	Four Directions Development Corp

Meeting started with introductions around the table.

All agreed that the **meeting minutes from June 5 meeting** properly represented the discussion. They are now posted on [www.gro-wa.org](http://www.gro-wa.org)

**Data Discussion:** Bobbi presented the revised data that documents the Scope of need as compared to the paucity of funding to address it. Her handout was reviewed by the Work Team and revised (now in a spreadsheet (Housing Needs to Fund Availability.xlsx) posted to [www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses](http://www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses)) to show the total funding need (~\$2.1Million), total available public funds (~\$183,800), to demonstrate **a conservative estimate that only 2% of the need can be addressed with available funds**. We will continue to update this table if there are additional funding sources.

Also discussed:

- USDA funds that could address some of the housing needs are not being used; USDA is aware that there is more need than is being demanded. Outreach strategies have included notices at town offices and meeting with WHCA but most referrals come from word of mouth. There is a need for better outreach strategies so that USDA housing programs can reach the targeted population.
- Bobbi noted that the demand for Fuel Assistance decreased in the 2012-2013 heating season even though the winter was colder than the 2011-2012 heating season. Reasons for this decline included:
  - Income eligibility requirements were more restrictive
  - Paperwork requirements were more intensive
  - WHCA knows from interviews that people are doubling up, living off the grid, living in sub-standard housing of all kinds (many that use wood) including campers, busses etc.

- The housing needs in the spreadsheet do not include Indian Township and Pleasant Point. ***Matt Lewis indicated that he would try to document/obtain those numbers.***

The Work Team then reviewed the document that Judy prepared (from the agenda):

Policy, Program, and Funding Opportunities/Solutions

- **1<sup>st</sup> Matrix** in Handout: SustHsgWrkTeamPolicyRecommDiscPrep.docx
- Evaluate (High, Medium, Low, Essential) Leverage and Effectiveness of Existing Programs and Initiatives

Recommendations

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Matrix** in Handout: SustHsgWrkTeamPolicyRecommDiscPrep.docx
- Add/refine policies
- Evaluate (High, Medium, Low, Essential) Leverage and Effectiveness of Existing & Proposed Policies

The Work Team did not review the 1st matrix due to time constraints and because it is a summary of what we reviewed in the Powerpoint presentation of May 7 and the input from that meeting and the June 5 meeting. Jon Calame suggested, all agreed, it would be a useful homework assignment for the Work Team to review the 1<sup>st</sup> matrix between now and the next meeting – to provide input on the evaluation (High, Medium, Low, Essential) of each program. Rebecca also noted that she will send Judy an additional program for homelessness prevention/stabilization called Home to Stay – now described in 1<sup>st</sup> Matrix.

**Decision:** Work Team to review Policy, Program, and Funding Opportunities/Solutions matrix and add their evaluations to the left column prior to the next meeting. NOTE – The 1<sup>st</sup> Matrix is now in a separate document (SustHsgWrkTeamExstgProgEvaluation) and posted to [www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses](http://www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses))

The Work Team reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Matrix on Policy Recommendations and the revisions that were made are captured in a new separate document (SustHsgWrkTeamPolicyRecommds&Eval) also posted to [www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses](http://www.gro-wa.org/housing-challengeshousing-responses))

Al May circulated some information:

Al indicated that most were excerpts from large reports; he has summarized what he handed out below relative to the full documents they came from (working on getting them posted on <http://www.gro-wa.org/housing-responses-best-practices>):

- Policy/Program Ideas and Solutions
- Rosser study on Rural Housing and Code Enforcement (for the meeting I had pulled out a couple of the pages from this report)
- Engaging as Partners in Energy Efficiency (for the meeting only the first page of the report as well as one of the case studies on Vermont)
- On bill Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements (for the meeting only the first two pages of this report)

All agreed it would be useful to meet once again to finish review of Policy and Program Recommendations – chose **Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-3PM at Mano en Mano in Milbridge**