



Maine Woods Consortium

7/15/09 Coordinating Team Report

Funding

Betterment Fund

- The subcommittee designated a liaison for each project for oversight. Liaisons will work with project managers to finalize workplan and benchmarks. Expectations are that MWC liaisons will meet with project managers at least on a quarterly basis to check-in on progress and/or obstacles, offer advise/coaching as appropriate, and help make connections between project managers and the broader MWC initiative.
- Liaisons are: Mike Eisensmith, Katahdin “Made by Hand,” Maine Woods Discovery Package; Keith Bisson, Wabanaki Cultural Tourism Center Website; and Carolann Ouellette, Maine Woods Tourism Training Network.
- Betterment is organizing a meeting in the fall for MWC to meet with additional potential funders.
- Betterment is currently reviewing the contract between AVCOG and the Consortium (see Fiscal Management below). Once go ahead is received from Betterment and the Coordinating Team, the contract for services will be signed and funds released.

RBEG Grant

- The USDA RBEG request for \$50,000 to develop the Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative has been funded. Leveraged Betterment funding.
- Training will be accomplished through networks of individuals, organizations, and institutions organized around specific needs identified by local tourism businesses as high priority. The three pilot areas are Franklin, Piscataquis, and Washington Counties.
- Training planning team will be meeting in August.

Maine Humanities Council

- Mountain Counties Heritage received an Infrastructure grant for \$10K to pay for touch screen computers and programming to test kiosk system, two sites – Farmington and Skowhegan. (Knowledge Power group).

Fiscal Management

- Bruce met with Bob Thompson and Greg Whitney to discuss MWC’s fiscal relationship with AVCOG. Decided to focus first on Betterment funds.
- Dina is crafting a contract for services between MWC and AVCOG and a letter for members of the Coordinating Team to sign giving Bruce authority to sign the contract for services and Dina the authority to approve invoices from sub-grantees.
- Bob suggested that MWC work on articles of association for the group and will provide some examples for the Coordinating Team to review.

Communications

- A Current Activity page has been added to the website to inform members of the status and any news on initiatives such as the Capital Investment program.

Information Management

- Lucas needs an additional \$6,000 to fund the building of the Expression Engine system.

Next meeting: Conference call Thursday, August 6, 9-11am. Need a facilitator.