WI-CARH/Rural Development Liaison Meeting

**Tuesday, February 8, 2018**

Rural Development State Office

Stevens Point, WI

Those in attendance from Rural Development (RD) were Frank Frassetto, Donna Huebner, Bob Hernandez, Dirk Williams, and Debbie Biga. Russ Kaney, Russ Endres, Chris Hand, Rob Dicke, and Mark Stay representing WI-CARH were in attendance and Diane Hamm was on the phone.

**2018 Budget Effects on Programs**: Donna Huebner provided a handout. (Please see attached.) They don’t have a budget for 2018. The 538 programs are due 2020. They did a webinar on the uses of the Section 538 Guaranteed Program for preservation and new construction of affordable housing projects. Tax credits will be awarded at the end of March or beginning of April. Reviews – get files to RD as they are not doing on-site visits.

**Update CARH’s Mid-Year Meeting:** Russ Kaney attended the meeting in Napa and made a presentation. CARH will be offering a June meeting for state associations.

**Multi-Family Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) & Changes to Program**: Last year they had 34 applicants. Wisconsin is one of the top. They haven’t notified early applications as they are waiting for National. Program will have a pipeline – first come, first served.

**Voucher Program Update:** Wisconsin is the number one state using these and Laurie is recognized nationwide. There will be a webinar coming up for managers.

**Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) Update and Overview:**  Nothing new. Off watch list.

**USDA-RD Training** **for 2018/2019:** There will be several webinars offered which will include 538, vouchers and the summer food program.

**General Training Needs for Borrowers:** They would like to extend training past RD. Electronic customer files and Donna will check into electronic signatures.

**Spring Training/Fall Conference:** WI-CARH will be offering a spring training on May 16th called “Here comes the sun. Rehab with solar.” The cost will be $25 for members and $35 for non-members. The training will take place at Wisconsin Management Company in Madison and then an on-site visit at Verona that has converted to solar. The Fall Conference will be on November 8 at the Kalahari.

**Lease & Amendment Review/Feedback:** The current lease has the 2017 date at the bottom. October is when the review is done, and changes are made. At the November conference there will be a session that will discuss what changes will be made for the new lease.

**Other Topics & General Discussion:**

* Summer Food Program. A mailing will be done along with a webinar. Sponsors provide the meals and clean up. Stoughton would be an ideal location. Looking for properties to host this.
* Enterprise had a webinar on an Opportunity Zones Program that was enacted as part of tax reform to provide private investors certain tax benefits on long-term investments made in rural and low-income urban communities throughout the nation.

**Next Liaison Meeting**: Our next liaison meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2018.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:42 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Russ Endres, Secretary