

**WI-CARH Rural Development Liaison Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 14, 2018**  
**Rural Development State Office**  
**Stevens Point, WI**

Those in attendance from Rural Development (RD) were Donna Huebner, Dirk Williams and Debbie Biga. Russ Kaney, Russ Endres, Chris Hand, and Diane Hamm representing WI-CARH were in attendance and Rob Dicke (by phone).

**2018 Budget Effects on Programs:** Donna Huebner provided a handout. (Please see attached.) Rural Development is forming an Innovation Center which will have four teams with national office employees. The four teams consist of: Rules and Regulatory, Statistics Data Analytics, Partnership – Community and Economic Development, and Community Development. They are still under a hiring freeze and can only fill positions from within. The only way to bring in new employees is through “Pathways” which is equivalent to an internship.

**MPR and 2018 Changes to Program:** Working on 2017/2018 deals. They currently have 34 projects moving forward at various stages. Site visits are happening that they are underwriting. Funding is trailing for a number of years. Debt deferral money is way behind and it has to do with how it scores.

**Voucher Update:** Wisconsin (541) is the top state in the nation for the voucher program. There is plenty of funding for this program but there is talk about putting a year limit on it.

**IPIA Update and Overview** – Nationwide is under a threshold. They don’t have to report but random sampling is taking place.

**USDA-RD Training for 2018/2019:** There will be a half day training session done with fair housing in September. RD needs to expand their training beyond RD and training needs to be done from the ground up. Topics to consider: Blended Occupancy Specialist, Workouts for RD, Training on Certification, and properties that have left the Voucher.

**General Training Needs for Borrowers:** Workout Plans. Summarize the tools and give to management.

**Lease and Amendment Review Feedback:** Doesn’t appear to be many changes. Would like to have the lease done by conference time. The attorney that did the lease last year has left Foley and Lardner and has gone to Michael Best. Russ Endres will reach out to Foley and Lardner and discuss the lease with them and determine if Foley will do it or the attorney from last year.

**Review Conference Program:** The conference program will be reviewed at the September Board Meeting. Toni Blake is the keynote presenter. Topics to be included for the 2018 Conference are Emergency Management and Insurance Needs, Blended Occupancy Specialist (BOS) possible Spring Training topic, RD Update Panel and Wisconsin State Credit, Community Facility Program, Attracting and Retaining Employees, and Legal Compliance Issues.

**Other Topics and General Discussion:** Temporary or Labor Housing must be farm. HPG – had five or six and has closed.

**Liaison Meetings for 2019:** Tuesday, February 12 and Tuesday, August 13.