

WI-CARH Rural Development Liaison Meeting
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Rural Development State Office
Stevens Point, WI

Those in attendance from Rural Development (RD) were Donna Huebner, Bob Hernandez, Lori Lewandowski and Debbie Biga. Russ Kaney and Russ Endres representing WI-CARH were in attendance and Rob Dicke and Diane Hamm (by phone).

2019 Budget Effects on Programs: HPG has more money than last year and allocation is state-wide. Funding is still available for the Farm Labor Housing and Direct Loans and Grants and the deadline is 5:00 pm EST and there is plenty of money available.

MPR and 2019 Changes to Program: Wrapping up 2017 applications. Currently funding debt referrals approved through 2017.

Voucher Update: Wisconsin (541) is the top state in the nation for the voucher program. There is plenty of funding for this program.

USDA-RD Training for 2019/2020 and General Training Needs: Maintaining the Wait List and Adjusted Income could be a topic for the fall conference with Zeffert & Associates and Lori Lewandowski providing insight. Vouchers and doing Webinars could also be training needs.

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 it last year might be unable to do it this year. The attorney that did the lease for 2018 was Kevin Martin who is now with Michael Best. Russ Endres will reach out to Kevin Martin to see if he will do the lease again.

Review Conference Program: The conference program will be reviewed at the September Board Meeting. Jackie Ramstedt is the keynote presenter. Topics are still in the discussion phase but include the lease, Maintaining the Wait List and Adjusted Income, a panel to include the LaValle flooding project, Workforce Housing with Opportunity Zones, Mike or Jason Gruett with the MPR Rehab, and RD Hot Topics.

Other Topics and General Discussion: Donna would like to do a newsletter. Diane requested that Donna submit an article for the upcoming WI-CARH newsletter for the fall. Donna discussed that they can't hire right now but are not under a hiring freeze. They are down 4 ¼ employees.

Please see Donna's handout from the Program Director's Training that she attended.

Liaison Meetings for 2020: TBD