

WI-CARH/Rural Development Liaison Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2014
Rural Development Area Office
Stevens Point, WI

Those in attendance from Rural Development (RD) were Debbie Biga and Bob Hernandez, Russ Kaney, Mary Pavek, Russ Endres, and Laura Mason representing WI-CARH were in attendance.

2014 Budget Effects on Programs: Management fees will be increased for 2015 budgets. New Procedure Notice will be posted to website. The fee change will not be final until publication. It will be an increase of \$1.50 (\$48).

They hope to hire staff. They will be filling the open positions from within first with one of them being an area director. Virtual office system helps.

Multi-Family Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) & 2014 Changes to Program: MPR NOFA coming soon which means application period will be quick (30 days). Guaranteed NOFA closing 12/31/15 (538 Program) covers 2014 & 2015. Three companies contracted to help applicants. Each region is assigned a different contractor. There is no cost to the applicant, but they have to go through state office and they will let the national office know.

There are three from Wisconsin being considered for 2014 Housing Preservation Grant. Two will be awarded, splitting the \$52,000. Mostly used for single family repairs.

New Administrative Notice (AN) coming out soon. It will replace the one which came out last year and is set to expire on 9/30/14.

Voucher Program Update: Debbie reported that there is not much new on the voucher program. 47% funds obligated. \$3.6 million carry over funds. Wisconsin very active. Rental assistance is funded through 2014 fiscal year. Wisconsin is in the top three for projects leaving the program. No incentives are offered. There were 2 foreclosures and 4 to 5 transfers done plus 10 in the works.

Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) Update and Overview: 667 tenant files were reviewed. Wisconsin had 11 of them. National office had to ask for extensions for the second year in a row because property managers are not responding to requests or not providing accurate responses. National office is working with National CARH office to see what they can do to alleviate the problem next year. A report will come out at some point. Most errors were in the income calculations and certifications missing signatures and dates.

USDA-RD Training for 2014/2015: Training for RD staff September 8, 9, & 10 in St Louis on servicing, workout plans, and transitions. All area office specialists attending along with Bob Hernandez, Cheryl Halvorson, and Debbie Biga. There could be training for borrowers in the future. Most likely later in the fall. It will be an intermediate training. They are researching being able to record it.

General Training Needs for Borrowers: Nothing to report.

Lease & Amendment Review/Feedback: Laura reported that Doug Buck said that there will not be any major changes for 2015. He is working on the minor changes and will send them to HUD and RD for their approval when he has finished.

Review Conference Program: Roger Seip will be the keynote speaker and Mark English will be giving a teaser session on the Fair Housing/Compliance training that we will be offering in the spring.

Other Topics & General Discussion:

- They don't hear much about the Harmonization Trail from the National office.
- The area offices received iPads and they are saving time. Next year they will be used for physical inspections.
- Handicap accessible logo is not required on signs or advertising for units built prior to October 1982.

Next Liaison Meeting: Our next liaison meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Russ Endres, Secretary