Sunrise County Economic Council
Board of Directors, FY 2012

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Machias Office
Visit our new location!
53 Prescott Drive, Suite 3
Machias, ME 04654
207-255-0983

Calais Office
C/O WCCC
1 College Drive
Calais, ME 04619
207-259-5004

EX-OFFICIO

Representative Joyce Maker
Washington County Representative

Sheridan Smith
Border Electric

Robert Tyler
Indian Township Tribal Govt.

SCEC’s 2012 Partner of the Year:

Peter Taylor
Maine Community Foundation

Initiating and facilitating the creation of jobs
and prosperity in Washington County

Sunrise County Economic Council
Annual Report of Activities
Fiscal Year 2012
Moving Washington County Forward!

SCEC’s new home—in the Machias CareerCenter building
53 Prescott Drive, Suite 3
1 College Drive @ WCCC
Machias, ME 04654
Calais, ME 04619
207-255-0983
207-259-5004
www.sunrisecounty.org
To the Friends of SCEC

As Board Chair, I am very proud of the significant role SCEC is playing in moving Washington County forward. It’s amazing when you stop by Harold’s office to see the different projects he and the Council’s staff have going on at any given time.

Perhaps one of the bigger initiatives SCEC has launched this year is Mobilize Down East Maine – an asset-based approach to economic development that is being implemented in different areas across the state. SCEC is also working with its partners at Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) on a three-year planning initiative looking at everything from economic development to infrastructure, to the environment to community planning.

Beyond that, SCEC has really ramped up its scholarship and training offerings, sponsoring or cosponsoring workshops on QuickBooks, social media, identity theft and more. We’ve given scholarships to people needing to develop job-specific skills that don’t fall under traditional financial aid programs, and we’ve worked with the business community to create customized trainings that they can take without having to go to Ellsworth, Bangor or farther away.

It’s also been a phenomenal year for SCEC’s lending department. Working with NMDC, the local banks, Coastal Enterprises, FAME, and specific industries, it’s safe to say that capital is available for investment Down East, and that the Council’s loan programs are gaining recognition across Maine and beyond. Nowhere was this more evident than at the Maine Small Business Administration awards ceremony in May when Harold was named Financial Services Champion for Maine and New England.

None of this work would be possible without your strong financial support and belief in Washington County people finding grassroots solutions to our economic issues. If you’ve given before to our annual campaign, thank you. If you’re on the fence, want to learn more about SCEC, and how your gift can move Washington County forward, please be in touch. We’d like to hear from you, and at the very least, find out how we can help your business.

Sincerely,

Josh Bragg
Chairman
SCEC Board of Directors

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**To Identify All Regional Assets**

**Mobilize Down East Maine** is a collaborative approach to economic development, which builds on regional strengths and assets that have market-leverage potential in a global economy.

We are looking to bring together a group of dedicated community, business and municipal leaders who are interested in sustaining and growing wealth in Washington County.

Together, we can create opportunities for local people with a sound economic strategy based on assets within our control.
2012 has been a year of changes and of moving forward - in more ways than one!

First, SCEC physically moved its Machias office across town to the CareerCenter building on Prescott Drive. We love our new space and enjoy better access to the people and businesses we serve. Coupled with our Calais satellite office at WCCC, this move only strengthens our capacity to create and develop robust partnerships with economic development, education and workforce development. That’s why our closest partner and colleague, Ruth Cash Smith of the Women’s Business Center at CEI also made the move.

Second, we’re moving Washington County forward with exciting initiatives such as Mobilize Down East Maine, the GROWashington-Aroostook sustainable planning initiative, and the Jobs Accelerator and Innovation Challenge grant—increasing economic opportunity by working with our close friends, allies, and partners at Northern Maine Development Commission. Bob Clark and his awesome team at NMDC have been very supportive, responsive and encouraging, giving new meaning to the over-used word collaborator.

Local businesspeople have told SCEC that they need access to capital in order to get their business off the ground, grow, or stay open. We’ve heard this loud and clear, and responded by reorganizing our loan department and increasing our lending capacity. We’re very pleased that last year, SCEC was able to participate in deals that leveraged over $5.1MM, creating or retaining 84 FT/PT jobs—again thanks to partnerships with FAME, USDA Rural Development, CEI, NMDC, local banks and others!

An important aspect of our work is often overlooked: advocacy. SCEC’s senior staff serves on many boards, committees, and commissions, both locally and statewide. The Council actively works with policymakers to move Washington County’s economy forward. Often, we are the only voice for rural economies and regional concerns in Augusta and beyond. At SCEC, we believe it is vital to be involved and a part of the solution.

Lastly, I would like to thank our volunteer board of directors and our hardworking and dedicated staff. Our team is engaged and enthusiastic, and gets the job done each and every day. Without them, none of the above, or the other dozens of things not mentioned, would continue. If you see Jennifer, Will, Carlene, Sharon, Larry or Ken, please take a moment to thank them for their effort and dedication to Washington County and SCEC.

Sincerely,

Harold W. Clossey
Executive Director
Moo-ving Washington County Forward

Local people are playing a leading role in moving our local economy forward. Whether it’s alternative and renewable energy, communications, tourism, enhancement of rail, highways and port infrastructure, agriculture and aquaculture, or information technology initiatives, SCEC is working with businesses, communities, organizations and governmental agencies to make move Washington County forward. Through these collaborations, we are helping to shepherd over $300 million in capital investments into Washington County, creating and/or retaining hundreds of jobs.

Moving Businesses Forward
to encourage prosperity, increase incomes, and to create and retain quality jobs

- Currently over $200,000,000 in projects and initiatives under development including:
  - Business expansion: technical assistance, including Pine Tree Zone incentives, $2MM (~21 FT jobs)
  - Renewable energy projects: several initiatives across the county including wind, tidal and biomass
  - New manufacturing facility: technical assistance and resources, ~$39MM, (~70+ FT jobs)
  - Loan packages leveraging over $5,100,000, (~84 FT/numerous PT jobs)
- Providing low to no-cost workshops to 120 Washington County business owners and employees
- Administering economic development grant program distributing $667,000, leveraging over $3.2MM
- Collaborating to align workforce development, education and economic development to meet the needs of our current and future workforce and business & industry needs

Moving Communities Forward
to help local leadership address local issues, convene citizens to work toward common goals, and encourage regional cooperation

- Providing a local portal to communities and businesses for local, state and federal resources, technical assistance, programs, training and initiatives through our community networks and experience
- Working with local and regional stakeholders on the GROWashington-Aroostook Sustainable Communities Planning grant, Jobs Accelerator Innovation Challenge Grant, and the Mobilize Down East Maine
- Supporting broadband infrastructure improvements to increase high speed broadband penetration rate
- SCEC staff participates on various committees, commissions and boards, locally and state-wide

Moving People Forward
to build leadership, encourage educational success, and enhance opportunities

- Distributed over $70,000 last year to local people for scholarships for workforce training & career advancement and community service opportunities
- Completed our 16th class of the Washington County Leadership Institute —now over 250 graduates