

**Sunrise County Economic Council
Board of Directors, FY 2011**



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EX OFFICIO

Representative David Burns
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Chris Gardner
Washington County Commissioner

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☆☆ SCEC's 2010 Partner of the Year: ☆☆
☆☆ Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager ☆☆
☆☆ **2011 Partner of the Year:** ☆☆
☆☆ **Machias Savings Bank** ☆☆
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*Sunrise County
Economic Council*

**Annual Report of Activities
Fiscal Year 2011**

Energizing Washington County!



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



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To the Friends of SCEC

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Sunrise County Economic Council, I am pleased to present our 2010-11 Annual Report. The Council has been working with businesses, communities, nonprofits and policymakers at all levels of government to energize Washington County's economy and make recovery a reality in eastern and northern Maine.

While you will see many examples throughout this report, every initiative SCEC is involved comes back to one or more of our five priority areas, as outlined by the Board and Executive Director Clossey:

- ◆ Building SCEC's internal capacity, business and community resources and strategic partnerships to best meet the needs of Washington County to create/retain jobs;
- ◆ Developing, aligning and strengthening education, economic and workforce development networks;
- ◆ Increasing access to capital and investment through micro-lending and financial packaging technical assistance;
- ◆ Investing in human capital by maintaining and expanding scholarship, training and leadership programming and opportunities;
- ◆ Advocating and representing Washington County at local, county, state and federal levels.

To boil it all down, SCEC recognizes that "economic development" doesn't happen in a vacuum, and that you have to work with people who know their field, their business, and their community to get things done. Whether we're talking about a lobsterman who needs non-traditional financing to get his boat back in the water, a town manager who knows of a business looking to expand, or a medical professional who needs a scholarship to take a certification course that will allow them to earn a higher income right here in Washington County, SCEC is part of a powerful resource-sharing network that is reshaping our economy one job, one business, and one community at a time.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members and SCEC staff for their hard work and professionalism in all that they do. SCEC would not be the organization it is today without such a committed, hard-working group of people – board members, staff, partners, contributors – who believe in its mission, and who believe that Washington County is the best place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,



Josh Bragg
Chairman
SCEC Board of Directors

Economic Development District Realignment

Maine now has seven Economic Development Districts (EDD's). The EDD creates and maintains a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for its district. The EDD also provides technical assistance to members for economic development planning, grant writing, and project development.

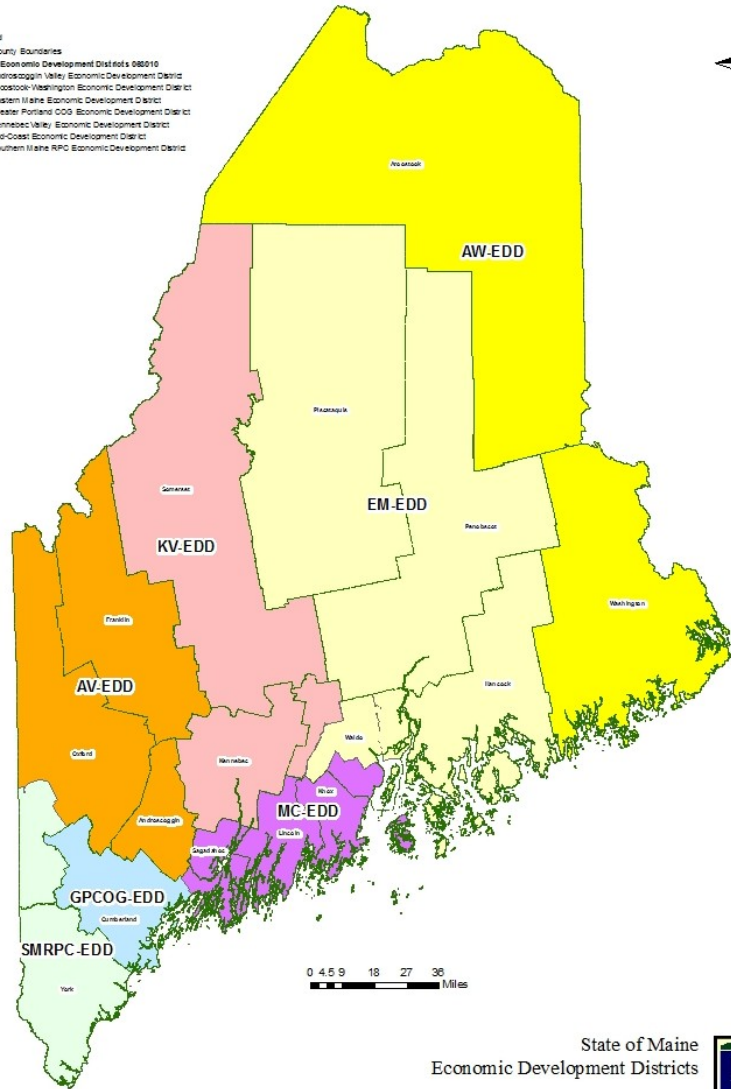
Our new district (Washington and Aroostook counties) has been reconfigured to align workforce and economic development. This alignment makes sense as Aroostook and Washington counties share common issues including our natural resource based economies, tourism and out-migration.

A few two-county projects already in the works:

- ◆ **HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning:** The Washington-Aroostook Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (WARPSD) will develop a harmonized strategic plan to address housing, land use, economic/workforce development, transportation and water infrastructure through a broad-based, inclusive process that supports the positive interaction of Community, Economy and Environment.
- ◆ **Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant:** will establish a Renewable Energy Industry Cluster with the goal of creating jobs by replacing or supplementing fuel oil furnaces in homes and businesses with wood biomass units.
- ◆ **Mobilize Maine:** Mobilize Northern Maine has a good foundation with positive results (creating jobs) in Aroostook County and is coming soon to Washington County.

Maine's Economic Development Districts

- Legend
- County Boundaries
 - Maine Economic Development Districts 08010
 - Aroostook Valley Economic Development District
 - Aroostook/Washington Economic Development District
 - Eastern Maine Economic Development District
 - Greater Portland OGD Economic Development District
 - Kennebec Valley Economic Development District
 - Mid-Coast Economic Development District
 - Southern Maine RPO Economic Development District



State of Maine
Economic Development Districts



Date: 09/21/10

A message from the Executive Director

Where did 2011 go? As executive director of Sunrise County Economic Council, I could easily say that much of it was spent on the phone, on the road, going to meetings, or swapping email with clients, stakeholders, partners and investors -- people who, despite reading the bad news every day, are energizing Washington County's economy with their own unique brand of enthusiasm, insight and/or capital. In short, there's never a dull moment around the water-cooler.

And that's fantastic! It keeps us hungry, motivated, and engaged in bringing quality jobs to the region, in offering trainings and scholarships that workers need to compete for those jobs, in providing capital investment so that employers of all types and sizes have a foundation for success, and in advocating for Washington County at the local, county, state and federal level.

SCEC is proud of the fact that we've been able to accomplish a great deal out of our Machias office, working alongside our many business and community development partners. We also recognize that to increase opportunities, improve the quality of service countywide, and to bring even more investments to the region, we could never settle for "business as usual".

Towards that end, we've opened a new SCEC office at Washington County Community College in Calais. Offering a greater array of programs and services in consort with WCCC, and other resource providers on campus such as the Career-Center and Down East Business Alliance, we are excited about increasing our capacity in the Baileyville/Calais/Eastport region.

Most exciting in 2011, is the official realignment of economic development districts in Maine, a move that has spawned a new and exciting relationship with Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) -- our county is part of the newly formed Aroostook Washington Economic Development District (see pages 6 & 7) along with NMDC. We look forward to this new collaborative, and the prospect of amplifying synergies between economic development, education, and workforce development.

In closing, I'd like to thank our staff for their efforts which make SCEC such a great place to work. Jennifer Peters recently celebrated her 15th anniversary with SCEC. Will Tuell was named 2011 Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year; Carlene Lyford keeps our contracts, loans and financial affairs in order; and Ken Daye has been meeting clients, working with county government, and expanding his knowledge of SCEC since he came on staff October 1. All in all, a great group of people who do great work under ever-changing conditions.

Sincerely,

Harold W. Clossey
Executive Director

Energizing Washington County

Local people are playing a leading role in rebuilding our local economy. Whether it's alternative renewable energy, communications, tourism, enhancement of rail, highways and port infrastructure, agriculture and aquaculture, or information technology and transportation initiatives, SCEC is working with businesses, communities, organizations and governmental agencies to make recovery a reality. Through these collaborations, we are helping to shepherd **over \$290 million in capital investments into Washington County, creating and/or retaining hundreds of jobs.**

Energizing Businesses

to encourage prosperity, increase incomes, and to create and retain quality jobs

- Currently over **\$100,000,000** 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 package leveraging over **\$1,322,000, (~78 FT/numerous PT jobs)**
- Providing low to no-cost workshops to **61** Washington County business owners and employees
- Administered economic dev. grant program distributing **\$351,000, leveraging over \$4MM**
- Collaborating to align workforce development, education and economic development to meet the needs of our current and future workforce and business & industry needs

Energizing Communities

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 deep networks and experience
- Assisting with development of newly formed Aroostook Washington Economic Development District
- Working with Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) on the Washington Aroostook Regional Plan for Sustainable Community Development and Jobs Accelerator Innovation Challenge, a project to support the creation of jobs in renewable energy —particularly biomass
- Supporting broadband infrastructure improvements to increase high speed broadband penetration rate
- SCEC staff participates on various committees, commissions and boards, locally and state-wide

Energizing People

to build leadership, encourage educational success, and enhance opportunities

- Distributing nearly **\$68,300** last year to local people for scholarships for workforce training & career advancement and community service opportunities
- Completed our **15th class** of the Washington County Leadership Institute —now over **240 graduates**
- Helped bring youth leadership training to Washington County elementary schools

