



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

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SCEC Participates in Nonprofit Day at the State House

SCEC participated in the Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) Maine Nonprofit Day at the State House January 27. The Council used the opportunity to educate legislators about the organization's mission and work Down East.

Senate President Kevin Raye of Perry, a past member of SCEC's Board of Directors, said that the economic development group's presence at the Hall of Flags



SCEC Staff and the Washington County legislative delegation meet in Augusta at the Hall of Flags

helped bring attention to job and business growth efforts in some of Maine's most rural

regions, and also served as "a shining example" of the value nonprofits can bring to their regions.

"I am pleased that SCEC participated in Maine Nonprofit Day at the State House," Raye said. "SCEC is a vital driving force in economic development in Washing-

ton County and a shining example of the value a nonprofit

...continued on page 2

Leadership Institute Graduates Fifteenth Class

The Washington County Leadership Institute (WCLI) recently completed its fifteenth year with the graduation of its Omicron Class. Since February the class had been exploring Down East Maine, discovering their own leadership skills, and building lifelong friendships with people they might not have otherwise met.

Participant Kathy Howell of Jonesport summed the WCLI experience up nicely in a recent interview.

"I've enjoyed each day that we've been at WCLI," Howell said, adding that the Institute's emphasis on building leadership skills through networking has really helped her learn more about Down East Maine. "I've met a lot of people, and love hearing about what they have going on in

their towns. This is the place to find out about what Washington County has to offer, to learn more about local businesses and what they do. I'm very happy with the class, and feel honored that I'm able to participate," she added.

"I think for most people graduation was bittersweet," SCEC Assistant Director and WCLI coordinator Jennifer Peters said. "On one hand the

class gelled. Everybody offered their own unique perspective on leadership and how they can use their skills and networks to make a better Washington County. On the other hand, time flew by and before we knew it, the group was saying good-bye and trying to figure out how to keep the momentum going."

...continued on page 2



Omicron Class at the Robbinston Historical Society

SCEC at the State House

...continued from page 1

agency can bring to a community.”

Raye and Washington County representatives David Burns (SCEC's newest Board member), Joyce Maker, Howard McFadden, Madonna Soctomah, and Dianne Tilton stopped by the Council's display, speaking with staff about projects and initiatives currently underway. Staff was also joined by Board Treasurer Shirley Erickson of Machiasport.

“It was an honor to represent the Board of Directors,” Erickson said, “and

a testament to the hard work SCEC has done to earn such statewide recognition. There's a lot going on in Washington County, and that message came across loud and clear. Staff was enthusiastic, engaging, and representative of the get-things-done attitude that makes Washington County unique.”

Staff members also met with Washington and Hancock County legislators for dinner while in Augusta.

Calais Job Fair



Senator Olympia Snowe spoke with Jennifer Peters (SCEC) and Nichole Jamison (Machias & Calais Career Centers) recently at the Calais Job Fair.

Leadership Institute Graduates Fifteenth Class

...continued from page 1



The Omicron Class visits the Boat School

As a method of introducing participants to as much of the county as possible, each session took place at a different location. The Omicrons visited the Community of Christ Church in Jonesport, the University of Maine at Machias, the EdGE in Cherryfield, the Boat School in Eastport, Washington County Community College in Calais, Washington-Hancock Community Agency in Milbridge, the Cob-

scook Community Learning Center in Trescott and the Robbinston Historical Society in Robbinston.

Members of WCLI's Omicron Class include: Melissa Alexander (Down East Credit Union), Diane Bell (Eastport Health Care), Tim Bennett (Eastport), Leola Carter (Bayside Supermarket), Sally Erickson (Vision Quest Pictures), Tina Erskine (Washington County Community College), Larry Finnegan (Machias Rotary Club), Brad Galley (Machias Savings Bank), Thomas Goetting (Archi-Check LLC), Regina Grabrovac (Healthy Acadia Project), Kehben Grier (Beehive Design Collective), Tom Hitchins (Tom Hitchins Architecture), Kathy Howell (Machias Rotary Club), Derrick Ray (Four Corners Shop 'n Save), Mike Shannon (Cobscook

Community Learning Center), Kathy Upton (Down East RC&D), and Deirdre Whitehead (Maine Coast Heritage Trust). Under the guidance of facilitator Linda Godfrey, this year's class brings to 242 the number of people who have participated in WCLI since its inception.

WCLI would like to thank its sponsors for supporting the program, and helping to make it accessible to all. Our 2011 sponsors include Camden National Bank, Eaton Foundation, First Wind, Machias Savings Bank, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, RHR Smith & Co, SCEC, University of Maine at Machias, Washington County Community College and the Washington County Council of Governments.



“Marketing Your Tourism Business” Workshop Part of the Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative

Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) and the Women's Business Center (WBC) at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) offered a marketing workshop to area businesses as part of the Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative (MWTTI) in late April.

“Marketing Your Tourism Business,” which emphasized the vital role that marketing plays in growing local small businesses, drew 11 participants from across Washington County. Businesses attending included guides, restaurants and lodging, and retail, among others. Each participant learned about the six components of successful marketing and received several no- or low-cost marketing ideas.

The Maine Woods Consortium is an open association of nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies dedicated to advancing a “triple bot-

tom line” approach (economy, environment, community) to development and conservation in the Maine Woods region. SCEC is a founding member in this effort because of its commitment to strengthening Down East Maine's natural resource based economy.

MWTTI is a Maine Woods Consortium initiative involving Washington, Franklin, Piscataquis, Aroostook, Penobscot and Oxford counties. The purpose of MWTTI is to deliver a comprehensive, multi-modal training program to meet educational needs expressed by tourism businesses and their employees in the Maine Woods.

Additional workshops are being planned, including marketing through social media and a regional destination training. Dates and locations have not been finalized for these workshops yet, however you can ask to be notified via email by contacting Will Tuell (wtuell@sunrisecounty.org) or by calling



Participants at the Marketing Your Tourism Business Workshop

UT TIF Fund Update

Washington County's TIF Grant & Loan Program for the Unorganized Territories is going strong. Since January, the County Commissioners have approved \$124,000 in grants for five projects in Trescott, Township 25, Edmunds, and Marion.

These grants include marketing and planning for UT businesses, a study on organic blueberries, expansion of an organic chicken operation, and a communications tower for a regional business.

Since its inception in 2010, the TIF Program has made numerous grants totaling \$326,810, leveraging nearly \$3.4 million in economic development projects in the UT. The TIF District for the Stetson I and II wind projects near Danforth is a program of Washington County government and is administered by SCEC. For more information, please contact TIF Administrator Diane Smith-Halkett at 255-0983 / tifadmin@sunrisecounty.org.



UMM Student Chad Everett (far left) and professor Andrea Edney (fourth from left) presented a report on the Baskahegan Watershed to the TIF Program, the Stetson Mountain Fund Committee, The Forest Society of Maine, and First Wind.

Fishing for Money? Check out the Down East Commercial Fisheries Fund

Do you need resources for your commercial fisheries or marine related business? We have loans available from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for Washington County fisheries & related marine businesses.

Eligible uses include:

- Boat and gear acquisition/improvements
- Creation and/or expansion of value-added products/services

- Training and education
- Marketing assistance
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Assistance with the formation of start-up capital

For more information on this loan fund, or others offered by SCEC, call Will Tuell at 255-0983 or go to www.sunrisecounty.org/decff.



Something is in the AIR!



SCEC—Bangor Savings Bank Community Matters More \$1,000 Recipient!

We all work hard at our jobs and are tremendously proud of our people, our organizations and our region. We appreciate and value their good work. And apparently, others have noticed, too! We are pleased to share with you some of the recent awardees that have been recognized locally and around the state for their dedication, work ethic & creativity. Thank you!

SCEC salutes you!



Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Awardees:
Employee of the Year—Will Tuell, SCEC
Business of the Year—Susan Corbett,
Axiom Technologies and SCEC Board Member



CEI presented three **Founder's Awards**. This year, all awardees were from Washington County: Susan Corbett, Axiom Technologies, LLC; Ian Yaffe, Mano en Mano, "Hand-to-Hand" housing project; Jane Bell, Tide Mill Organic Farm. Also pictured are Harold Clossey, SCEC; Art Stevens, CEI; and Ruth Cash Smith, Women's Business Center at CEI.

What is Sunrise County Economic Council?

SCEC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County by working with a consortium of community-minded businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and citizens. Founded in 1993 by a group of business and community lead-

ers, SCEC uses a grassroots approach to economic and community development. By seeking common ground, working across political, municipal and economic boundaries, Washington County residents are building a brighter future.

Message from the Board Chair Josh Bragg



On behalf of the SCEC Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate Harold Clossey and his staff on the publication of this newsletter. Over the past few months the

Council has been very busy pursuing new opportunities, following through on long-range initiatives and building positive momentum for its work locally, statewide and nationally. I am continually impressed with the professionalism, passion and commitment of each of our employees to a job well done, and I believe that work is well represented in this newsletter.

It is also an exciting time to be involved with economic development in Washington County. Down East Maine's economy may not be at its peak, but there are some great things going on here that people from all over the state are paying attention to. The Port of Eastport is expanding, diversifying and leveraging its geography to take advantage of global markets. Wind power projects in northern Washington County have generated much-needed

investments through a first-of-its-kind tax district that fuels further research and development in the Unorganized Territories. Efforts to sync regional economic development, workforce development and education are also gaining traction as Maine looks to realign its approach to all three.

Staff would only be so effective without a highly motivated Board of Directors that represents every aspect of our economy, including retail sales, banking, education, aquaculture, government, information technology, tourism and small business. Each Board member gives of his or her time, experience and knowledge to make SCEC the most economical, resourceful and effective advocate for Down East Maine that we can possibly be.

In closing, I would like to thank each of our donors for making SCEC's work possible. Your support has made a difference. The projects, programs, and initiatives that you're reading about in this newsletter are directly and indirectly supported by your generosity and belief in economic development from the ground up. With that, and a huge thank you, that I am pleased to present SCEC's Spring 2011 newsletter – a celebration of the diversity and hard work that it takes to make Washington County the best place to live, work and play.



Sunrise County Economic Council

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT REALIGNMENT COMING THIS SUMMER

July 1 is the anticipated date that all Economic Development Districts in the State of Maine will be realigned to better match regional needs and better balance regions according to population and geographic distribution, economic development efforts, and other factors. As a result, Washington County will be joining Northern Maine Development Commission in the newly created Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District. FMI visit www.sunrisecounty.org/publications.html.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NONTRADITIONAL TRAINING

The Eaton Foundation has graciously provided funding for scholarships of up to \$500 for Washington County residents attending training and/or certification courses not covered by traditional forms of financial aid. There is also a limited number of scholarships for residents over 29.

Scholarships have helped to pay for programs from Certified Residential Medications Aide to advanced automotive certification. To learn more, visit www.sunrisecounty.org/crmacna.html, or call Jennifer Peters.

SCEC Economic & Community Development Partners



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