

**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

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☆☆ **SCEC's 2012 Partner of the Year:** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Peter Taylor** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Maine Community Foundation** ☆☆☆
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Sunrise County Economic Council

Annual Report of Activities Fiscal Year 2012

Moving Washington County Forward!



SCEC's new home—in the Machias CareerCenter building

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



53 Prescott Drive, Suite 3
Machias, ME 04654
207-255-0983

1 College Drive @ WCCC
Calais, ME 04619
207-259-5004

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



For more information: lsaunders@sunrisecounty.org

ASSET MAPPING SESSIONS

What is unique? What is awesome? What is underutilized? Where is it located?

How can the asset be leveraged? Who will benefit from the leverage?

Join This Interactive, High Energy Initiative

WHERE: The Tides Institute, 43 Water Street, Eastport

WHEN: OCTOBER 25TH 6:00PM TO 8:00PM

WHERE: Washington County Community College, Riverview Hall Assembly Room, Calais

WHEN: NOVEMBER 14TH 6:00PM TO 8:00PM

WHERE: Mano en Mano Building, 2 Maple Street, Milbridge

WHEN: NOVEMBER 15TH 2:00PM TO 3:30PM

WHERE: Princeton Town Hall, 15 Depot Street, Princeton

WHEN: NOVEMBER 26TH 6:00PM TO 8:00PM

WHERE: University of Maine Machias, Clipper Lounge

WHEN: NOVEMBER 27TH 2:00PM TO 3:30PM

OBJECTIVE: 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.



GROWashington-Aroostook is about economic development and job creation for the region defined by the counties of Aroostook and Washington, here in northeastern Maine.

With many moving parts, the primary goal of GROWashington-Aroostook is to increase median income in this large geographic region of over 9,200 square miles that is home to slightly more than 100,000 residents.

GROWashington-Aroostook is a multi-year initiative with four fundamental objectives:

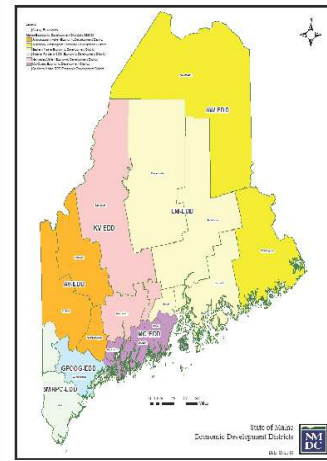
- Development of a sustainable growth plan for the Washington and Aroostook region, including implementation steps for state and local government, recommendations for private sector stakeholders, and establishing a solid foundation for the new *Aroostook Washington Economic Development District*.
- Increase visibility and awareness of regional issues related to the economy and quality of life.
- Region-wide civic engagement in the planning process and improving the efficiency of local Comprehensive Planning.
- Institutional capacity and relationship building, linking technology and information to community decision making for current and future planning processes.

Each GROWashington-Aroostook regional plan component has a *Workgroup* - some are in each county, some are region-wide, and some will work on more than one component.

All Workplan Components and *Workgroup* activity is outcome driven with much collaboration and interplay between groups and across the region.

More information available at

www.gro-wa.org



- Regional Plan Components**
- Economic Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Renewable Energy and Related Training
 - Brownfields and Economic Renewal
 - Transportation Infrastructure for Economic Development
 - Transportation and Housing
 - Modernizing Communications/ Electric Utility Infrastructure
 - Sustainable Housing
 - Climate Change and Infrastructure Resilience
 - Healthy Communities
 - Water Infrastructure Investment
 - Growth Management Law Change

A Project of:



Northern Maine Development Commission



Sunrise County Economic Council



Washington County Council of Governments

Moo-ving Washington County Forward!

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 hard-working 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**

