

## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 9, 2019  
To: Potential Participants in Initial Exploratory Meeting  
From: Elbridge  
Re: Exploring Feasibility of a Greater East Grand Region Economic Plan

Jackie Jones of MSB yesterday affirmed the idea of having a local ad hoc committee explore the feasibility of a "Greater East Grand Region Economic Plan", essentially driven by outdoor recreational assets. She also confirmed the draft depiction of the GEGR (Depiction attached) coincides to a great extent with the service area of the Danforth MSB Branch as well as the Greater East Grand Chamber of Commerce.

For an exploratory meeting to be credible and to report out good information, key municipal, organizational and outdoor recreational interests should be represented. Furthermore, the complexity, expense and human resources necessary to conduct planning and implementation dictates an expert be in attendance to offer critical advice and counsel. Two names were mentioned: Charles Rudelitch of Sunrise County Economic Council and Jon McLaughlin of Southern Aroostook Development Corporation.

Overcoming the proverbial cross-county line barrier, municipal differences, and the need to include the unorganized territory are "musts" at the get-go. Jackie shares the sentiment "time is of the essence" if our area is to stem the tide of rural decline. Conversely, evidence exists of momentum to seek change in the minds of many. Capturing this momentum and properly identifying, connecting, enhancing and marketing our regional outdoor recreational assets are the building blocks for success.

Since this meeting is very preliminary with the limited role of simply reporting out results, the following is a list of potential groups and organizations to be represented at the meeting. Please comment, correct, add, etc.

Government: Weston, Danforth, State of Maine (UT)

Organizations: Chamber of Commerce, East Grand Snowmobile Club, Grand Lake ATV Club, Citizens Organization for Rural Education, Eastern Maine Electric Coop

To this end I will work to schedule an exploratory GEGR meeting in the area with Charles Rudelitch of SCEC later this month. (Charles did the Economic Impact Study regarding the School) My role and that of CORE is simply to facilitate.

Attached are some internet links to pertinent reading material: Greenville Strategic Economic Action Plan: <https://future-iq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Moosehead-Lake-Region-Strategic-Action-Plan.pdf>

State of Maine SCORP Report (Setting priorities in outdoor recreation for State and Federal Funding)  
[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications\\_maps/docs/final\\_SCORP\\_rev\\_10\\_15\\_plan\\_only.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/docs/final_SCORP_rev_10_15_plan_only.pdf)