

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 14, 2019

To: Invitees - Ad-Hoc Initial Exploratory Meeting

From: Elbridge Cleaves, President – Citizens Organization for Rural Education

Re: Meeting to Explore the Feasibility of a Greater East Grand Region Economic Plan

Date: April 12, 2019 – 9:00AM – The Meeting Room – Millyard Restaurant

This Memorandum and meeting announcement follows numerous conversations with area people about the concept of a “Greater East Grand Region Economic Plan”. Jackie Morse, Branch Manager of Danforth and Houlton Machias Savings Bank (MSB) affirmed the “time is right” if not “imperative” to explore business development; capitalizing on the region’s assets including outdoor recreation. The attached depiction is a proposed “Greater East Grand Region” which not only approximates the service area of the Danforth Branch of the MSB, but also the footprint of the Greater East Grand Chamber of Commerce.

The main purpose of this meeting is fact-finding and reporting. Invitees should be seen as representatives of municipal, organizations, businesses, landowners and outdoor recreational interests. Information gathered will be shared over the entire planning landscape. Charles Rudelitch, Executive Director of Sunrise County Economic Council, will be present to offer critical advice and counsel. The agenda, which will be forthcoming, includes time for questions, discussion and determination of next steps.

Overcoming the proverbial cross-county line barrier, maintaining municipal identity while pursuing unity, and the need to include the unorganized territory are “musts” at the get-go. While sentiment exists, “time is of the essence”, if our area is to stem the tide of rural decline, there is also a growing momentum toward positive change. Capturing momentum and finding ways to properly identify, connect, enhance and market the regions assets including outdoor recreational, may very well be the essence of success.

Attached is a list of invitees. My role through CORE is to facilitate this exploratory meeting. Please mark the date. We certainly hope to see you on April 12th at 9:00AM. Thank you.

Below are internet links to reading material:

2017 Greenville Strategic Economic Action Plan: <https://future-iq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Moosehead-Lake-Region-Strategic-Action-Plan.pdf>

Maine 2014-2019 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_onl_y.pdf

SCORP = Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019

GREATER EAST GRAND REGION LANDSCAPE?

Town	County	Status	Acres	Pop.
Amity	AR	OR	26,944	227
Orient	AR	OR	24,109	141
Haynesville	AR	OR	26,483	116
Weston	AR	OR	19,590	218
Danforth	WA	OR	38,694	576
Subtotal			135,820	1,278
Brookton Twp	WA	UT	24,500	226
Bancroft Twp	AR	UT	25,840	85
Reed Pl	AR	UT	38,300	319
T8R4 NBPP	WA	UT	18,310	0
T8R3 NBPP	WA	UT	23,100	0
Forest Twp-WP	WA	UT	10,000	5
Forest City Twp	WA	UT	6,500	35
Subtotal			146,550	650
Grand Total			282,370	1,928

**FOR DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY**
March 14, 2019

