**East Grant Region Economic Planning Project**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**10-10-19**

Attending: Elbridge, Judy, Dwayne, Jackie, Denise, Wayne, Peggy, Sarah

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| Topic | Discussion Highlights | Next Steps/Update | Lead/Timing |
| 1. Affirm project goals | Project goals affirmed by group. New goal identified and added on communication. Improve the quality of life for the people who live, work and visit the twelve communities in the region.Capitalize on regional momentum and investments that have been made over the past five years.Prepare a regional economic feasibility study to guide short and long term priorities and investments.  1. Maintain consistent communication with the community at large to keep residents informed and engaged.  Develop a collective “voice” for the region to influence state and regional initiatives that can impact quality of life and economic stability. | None |  |
| 1. Affirm sub-region boundaries | Discussion about including more of Baskahegan Lake area. | Elbridge to revise map to include this area and recommend southern boundary. | Completed and attached. |
| 1. Affirm project deliverables | Project deliverables below affirmed by group.   1. Prepare a written regional economic feasibility study that:  * Utilizes, where appropriate, product and progress from 2019 regional planning efforts prior to execution of contract. * Completes comprehensive asset mapping with all key stakeholders and communities in the region; * Identifies the major goals and strategies for economic development in the region; * Identifies priority projects and required investment.  1. Identify how to build and maintain the organizational capacity to sustain the initiatives. 2. Identify funding strategies for both short and long-term projects. 3. Prepare the final study document for dissemination and presentation to key stakeholders. | None |  |
| 1. Update on funding | * TIFF funds received. Will be sent to SCEC. $10,000 * Private donations received. Will be sent to SCEC. $8500 * MCF Downeast Innovation Grant wll be submitted by 10-15-19 for $10,000. * Contract for services with Sarah will be through SCEC. | Sarah to send draft contract to Charles at SCEC. | Immediate |
| 1. Review project design | * Sarah reviewed the attached project design with the group. Consultant and committee responsibilities discussed. Committee members in agreement but noted that work/family schedules may limit full participation for some people. * The importance of representation by more communities was discussed. The goal will be to have 1 person from each of the communities in the region involved. A list of possible people was brainstormed. | List of possible representatives attached.  Elbridge and other members to reach out as asked. | Immediate  TO DATE:  Kyle Burdick and Heather Zapokosky have agreed to join the committee  Asking David Apgar and Sue Szwed |
| 1. Challenges/Opportunities | * Dwayne and Peggy presented an update on the high school consolidation initiative * Elbridge and others updated on the Forest City Dam. | Keep close watch on both initiatives as they have a major impact on economic planning. | Ongoing |
| 1. New Items | * Identified the for:   + A list of talking points about this project that all committee members can use at community meetings   + A press release about the project   + An article about the negative economic impact on the region with a school consolidation. * Sarah asked Judy to review all the Visitors and Tourism magazines and websites to see how the region is represented, or not. | * Sarah to develop a draft list of talking points * Elbridge to draft press release and article on school consolidation for review by group. * Judy to review tourism information and report back when ready. | By next meeting |
| 1. Next Steps | * Sarah to meet with Tora Johnson UMM on asset mapping with GIS system. * Sarah to talk/meet with Madison (student) to see if she is interested in working on this project. * Sarah to continue to consolidate asset mapping information completed to date. * Sarah/Elbridge to finalize community list to schedule asset mapping meetings | * Sarah met with Torah on 10/18. Intern identified to begin working in November. Details to be finalized. | Focus of next committee meeting. |

**EGREPP Steering Committee – Blue indicates current committee members as of 10-28-19**

Dave Conley – town? [dave@canoethewild.com](mailto:dave@canoethewild.com)

Joe Dahl – town? [josephdahl@aol.com](mailto:josephdahl@aol.com)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Community** | **Name** | **Email** | **Phone** | **Primary Affiliation** |
| Amity | ??? |  |  |  |
| Bancroft Twp | Mitch Lansky?  Sandy? Jones? | [lanskymitch@gmail.com](mailto:lanskymitch@gmail.com) |  | Organic farmer, writer |
| Brookton Twp | Jill/Buck Plummer? |  | 448-2260 (w) |  |
| Brookton Twp | Kyle Burdick | kyle@baskahegan.com |  | Baskahegan Company |
| Codyville Plt (N) | ??? |  |  |  |
| Danforth | Ardis Brown | townofdanforth@gmail.com | 448-2321 (w) | Danforth Town manager |
| Danforth | Jackie Morse | [jmorse@machiassavings.com](mailto:jmorse@machiassavings.com) | 448-9048 (w) | Machias Savings Bank manager |
| Danforth | David Apgar | [dapgar@eastgrandschool.org](mailto:dapgar@eastgrandschool.org) |  | EGS teacher, Farm owner, Guide |
| Drew Plt East | Jimmy Potter? Smallees? |  |  |  |
| Forest City | Phil McLulleon? |  |  |  |
| Forest Twp | ??? |  |  |  |
| Haynesville | ??? |  |  |  |
| Orient | Heather Zapokosky |  |  | Small Business owner |
| Reed Plt | Sue Szwed | sdszwed@gmail.com |  |  |
| Topsfield (N) | ??? |  |  |  |
| Weston | Elbridge/Judy Cleaves | egcleaves@pwless.net | 557-9474 (h) | CORE, Guide |
| Weston | Dwayne Young | townofweston@pioneerwireless.net | 448-2316 (w) | Weston Town manager |
| Weston | Denise/Wayne Smith | denise.wayne.smith@gmail.com |  | First Settlers Lodge owner |
| Winn | Peggy White | mwhite@eastgrandschool.org | 448-2260 (w) | East Grand School superintendent |
| T8R4 NBPP | ??? |  |  |  |
| T8R3 NBPP | ??? |  |  |  |
| T7R2 NBPP (N) | ??? |  |  |  |
| T11R3 NBPP | ??? |  |  |  |

