

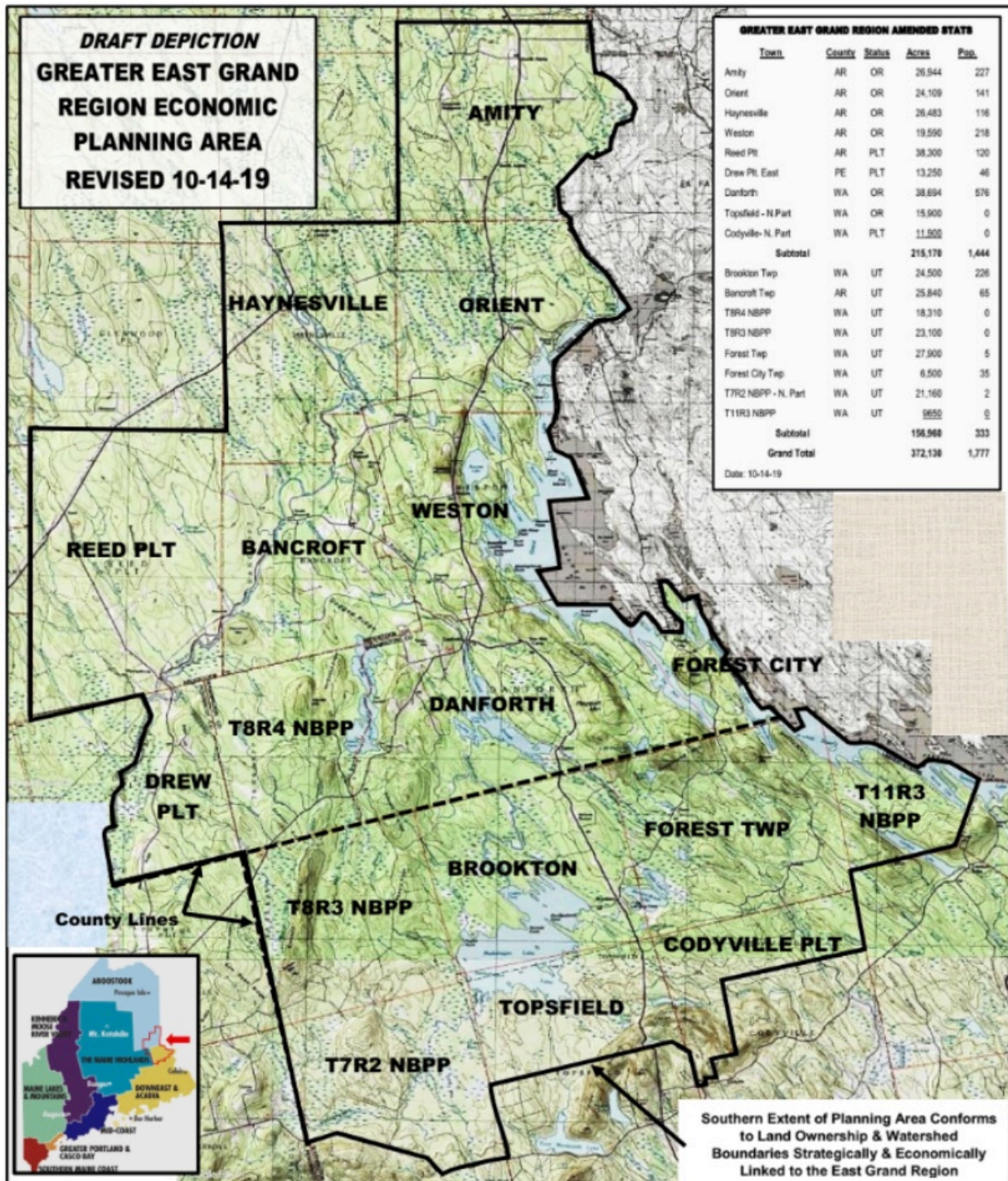
East Grand Regional Economic Planning Project
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 6, 2019
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Location: Weston Town Office

Meeting Objectives

- Review Asset Mapping Outline and prioritize additional data to be gathered.
- Review SWOT information and prioritize additional data to be gathered.
- Identify next steps to orient new committee members.
- Finalize meeting plan with communities/set tentative schedule.

Agenda

- 9:00 Welcome new members, review/revise agenda
- 9:05 Updates as needed
- Updated regional map
 - Press releases
 - SCEC meeting
 - GIS/Tora – student intern
- 9:15 Review Expanded Committee Roster
- Add names as needed
- 9:30 Review Asset Mapping outline and existing data compiled to date
- Discuss best approaches for long-term database management of information
 - What is missing?
 - Who needs to be heard from?
- 10:00 Review Current Strategies/Projects in Conversation
- What is missing?
 - Who needs to be heard from?
- 10:30 Review draft Community Meeting plan and discuss approach
- Identify meeting objectives.
 - Identify what information to bring to the meetings.
 - Identify questions to solicit discussion.
 - Finalize preferred locations and schedule.
- 11:00 Next Steps/Holiday calendar
- 11:15 Adjourn



Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Team Danforth, Maine

For Immediate Release

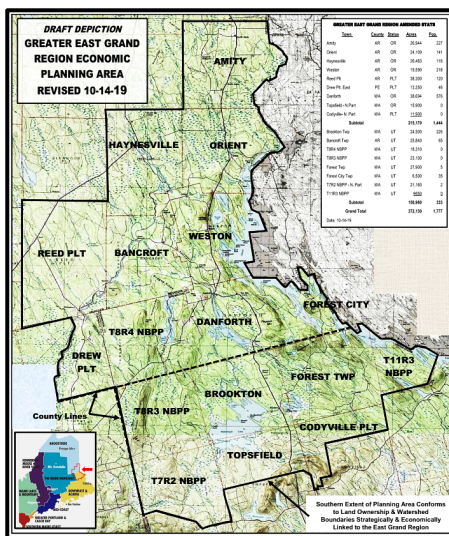
Date: October 25, 2019

Contacts: Denise Smith, Team Member, info@eastgrandlake.net, 448-3000
Elbridge Cleaves, Team Member, egcleaves@pwless.net, 557-9474
Sarah Strickland, Project Consultant, sbs4940@gmail.com, 454-2854

Economic Planning Effort Begins in the Greater East Grand Region of Eastern Maine

“The lowland forests and wetlands of the Mattawamkeag, the ridges overlooking the valley of the Baskahegan, and the highlands and lakes of the Upper St. Croix”

It was in April 2019, that nearly 40 area citizens, business owners, town officials and planning consultants gathered at the historic Danforth Town Hall to discuss the future of this sparsely populated East Grand Region of eastern Maine. It is an area of over 300,000 acres, situated at the extremities of three (3) counties, divided by the Washington – Aroostook county line and eight (8) of the seventeen (17) area towns are within the Unorganized Territory (UT).



The resounding theme was:

“We want our children to live here; we want those who love the outdoors to visit. Recent area investments mean we are not starting from ground zero; this is all important. Act now!”

Based on much research, the planning team has chosen a citizen-driven, asset-based approach to economic planning and development. Sunrise County Economic Council

(SCEC) and Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) have partnered as supporters and participants.

With a recent award of \$10,000 from the Washington County TIFF and nearly an equal amount of private donations, the planning team thru SCEC, has engaged Sarah Strickland of Strategic Wisdom Partners in Robbinston, Maine as Project Director. Full funding of the project is anticipated by December; the total budget being \$45,000, including in-kind contributions.

Over the next six (6) months, Strickland and the team will be meeting with groups and individuals within each community to identify key assets suitable for potential economic benefit. The final report will focus on combined strengths, gaps, connections and solutions. The underlying goal of the plan is to overcome past barriers to communication by arbitrary administrative, financial, and political use of county and municipal boundaries.

Realistic expectations include: maintain and grow existing businesses; foster new entrepreneurships; help address physical blight; facilitate workforce training; develop nature-based recreational infrastructure; expand services to lake neighborhoods; improve/expand local agriculture; promote connectivity to place and heritage; become a credible voice of economic advocacy; and build partnerships between communities and organizations.

The planning team would like to thank all those who have provided funding and incentive for this project. Of note are several area timberland owners, the Chipuneticook Lakes International Conservancy (Efforts with Forest City Dam), Washington County Council of Governments, and the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

Partnering organizations include: Citizens Organization for Rural Education, Machias Savings Bank, East Grand School, the Towns of Danforth and Weston, the Greater East Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce, Sunrise County Economic Council, and the Northern Maine Development Commission.

GEGREP Steering Committee

Updated: 11-5-19

Community	Name	Email	Phone	Primary Affiliation
Amity	???			
Bancroft Twp	Sandy McDonald? Ralph/Ann Jones?			
Brookton Twp	Kyle Burdick	kyle@baskahegan.com		Baskahegan Company
Danforth	Ardis Brown	townofdanforth@gmail.com	448-2321 (w)	Danforth Town manager
Danforth	Jackie Morse	jmorse@machiassavings.com	448-9048 (w)	Machias Savings Bank manager
Danforth	David Apgar	dapgar@eastgrandschool.org		EGS teacher, Farm owner, Guide
Danforth	Joe Dahl	josephdahl@aol.com		Retired principal; Lake community
Danforth	Mike/Angela Cowger?			
Drew Plt East	???			
Forest City	Colin Brown? Sandy Peterson?			Woodie Wheaton
Haynesville	Bill Malone? Paul Durwood?			
Orient	Colin Bartlett? Brent Bartlett?			
Orient	Heather Zapokosky	bunkyz@mfx.net		Small Business owner
Reed Plt/Whyt	Sue Szwed	sdszwed@gmail.com		
Reed Plt/Whyt	Diane Hines? Mike Faucet?			Sculptor
Weston	Dave Conley	dave@canoethewild.com	551-8729 (c)	Guide, EGS teacher
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)	EGS superintendent
Unorganized Territories	????			Codyville, Forest, Topsfield, T8R4, T8R3, T7R2, T11R3

GEGREP Project
Asset Mapping Outline
Compiled: 11-5-19

“We may be rural, even remote, but we are not isolated, rather we are very well connected.”

1. Demographics – Seasonal/Year-round

- Population
- Age segments
- Gender
- Race/Ethnic
- Household Income
- Poverty
- Births/Deaths
- Health Conditions

2. Infrastructure

- Public roads
- Private roads
- Public transportation
- Utility access
- Broadband access
- Service center businesses – public and private
- Fire and Emergency services
- Health care services
- Schools
- Housing stock

3. Land Resources

- Land ownership base – by size
- Forest ownership – Family/TMOs - Available lumber supply
- Farmland availability and ownership
- Land held in conservation
- Land available for commercial development
- Land available for recreational development

4. Cultural and Heritage Resources

- Community values
- Historical Buildings
- Land/Monuments
- History-making people/veterans
- Churches
- Community events

5. Natural Resources

- Rivers
- Lakes
- Fisheries
- Forests
- Protected/natural habitats
- Special/endangered species
- Scenic places/vistas

6. Recreational Assets

- Water trails
- Hiking trails
- Bike trails
- ATV/Snowmobile trails

7. Existing Businesses

- Forest-based logging
- Banking services
- Sporting businesses – hunting and fishing
- Fishing/Recreation Seasonal Camps
- Retail and other small service businesses
- Wind farming
- Cottage industries – wreaths, etc.

8. Current Adult Workforce Expertise

- Public education
- Forestry/logging
- Rehabilitation and health care
- Banking
- Retail business – grocery, fuel, hardware, restaurant
- Farming/Agriculture
- Certified Guides – hunting, fishing, river recreation
- Wind farm management

9. Non-Profits serving region (or should be)

- Healthy Acadia
- Downeast Community Partners

10. Outside Partners/Resources/Intersections

- UMaine system for students
- Maine Winter Sports
- Children's Stage Adventures
- Education events from outside providers
- Farms to School

11. Existing Government/Public/Private Services serving region

- State Health and Human Services
- Border Patrol
- State and County Police
- US Post Office
- Fed Ex, UPS Delivery
- High speed fiber optics at school – who is the provider?

12. Investment Partners in Region

- Cole Foundation
- Conservation Fund
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Stephan and Tabitha King
- Baskahegan Company
- David Snow
- Stetson Mountain Fund/Forest Society of Maine
- Machias Savings Bank
- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
- Davis Conservation Fund
- Sunrise County Economic Council
- Northern Maine Development
- Washington County Council of Governments

13. External Economic Investment Opportunities in Region

- Forest products
- Wind energy
- Mineral extraction
- Water development/extraction

14. Community-based Development & Investment Opportunities in Region

- Natural resources education at EGS to attract more students/families
- Destination recreational experiences – fishing, hunting, biking, hiking
- Local entrepreneurial enterprises focused on _____
- Position region as a gateway/bridge to _____

GEGREP Project
Current Strategies/Projects in Conversation
Compiled: 11-5-19

1. Establish East Grand Waterfront Recreation Area (TCF/Weston)

- Development and maintenance of 5.0 acre East Grand Waterfront Recreation Area
- Development of 10 miles of hiking trail in an around East Grand Lake including connectivity to East Grand Highlands
- Development of strategic multi-use trail crossing and associated connections over the outlet of Brackett Lake

2. Expand East Grand Snowmobile Club Trails

- 40 miles of new strategic loops to underserved areas around East Grand Lake, Hot Brook Lakes, and Orient (Much of which is approved for ATV use)
- Acquisition of an additional trail groomer
- Coordinate and connect ATV and Snowmobile trails stemming from a more strategic and working relationship between clubs and organizations within and outside of the region

3. Increase Public Water Access to Rivers and Lakes

Develop, prioritize and improve public water access including exploring public acquisitions, site improvements, and securing long-term landowner permissions.

- Mattawamkeag River access/Bancroft “Confluence” Project
- 27 site opportunities in region to be assessed

4. Build Thematic Water Trails for Ecotourism

Develop a thematic set of formal water trails especially those that are key to the development of nature and ecotourism-based businesses and activities.

- 6 trails identified to date

5. Establish Low Traffic, On-road Bike Trails connected to Federal Bike Route

Capitalize on low traffic paved roads as potential for on-road bike trails and loops including connectivity to the proposed federal bike route from Bangor to Allagash.

6. Develop “Heritage-based” tourism trails

In each community, identify and preserve the significant historical sites that offer “connectivity to place” for people who have left the area but have a love of place and a sense of appreciation for their heritage.

7. Develop a regional Hiking Trails system

- East Grant Highlands hiking trail
- Meetinghouse hiking trail
- Main East Grand hiking trail

8. Support the development of new business opportunities

- Expand small community-based RV parks and campgrounds.
- Expand innovative basic quality of life services such as food and energy.
- Expand nature-based tourism services and equipment.
- Develop/improve retail and local electrical, plumbing, custodian and winter maintenance services targeting lake neighborhood customer bases.

9. Institute a workforce training program

- Involve the school and other facilities targeting entrepreneurship within the region.
- Cottage industry utilizing native wood and other products from the forests
- Nature-based and ecotourism-based business development
- Guide development and retraining for nature-based guide services
- Local agriculture business development

10. Support EGS's innovative natural resources curriculum and project-based learning

- Continue efforts to sustain local education particularly instilling in students a sense of place and love for the area –it's the future of the region

11. Increase the region's infrastructure appeal as a welcoming destination, future home and a community in which to "thrive-in-place."

- Removal/restoration of physical blight throughout the region
- Increase signage and identification of places of importance including natural features and points of interest
- Encourage and track region-wide access to high speed internet
- Help develop historic and heritage-based community organizations and clubs

12. Develop a region-wide marketing and communications strategy to promote its assets.

- Develop a go-to credible voice of economic and quality of life advocacy for the region
- Include branding, video productions, social and electronic media
- Address the communication gap within the region thru information hubs and portals for citizens and visitors, both physical and electronic
- Concentrate tourism development on activities designed to keep and attract customers who have a connection to place - especially target younger members of families with roots, families with connections to seasonal residences and sporting camp businesses whose traditional customers are being replaced with younger members of families who wish to visit our area but have different values and diverse recreational needs.
- Town of Danforth – Video of History WIP – Mike Faucet – The Idea Factory

GEGREP Project
Washington County Planners GIS Maps – Overview of Available Data
UMaine Machias GIS Laboratory
11-7-19

Designed for use by municipal officials and others who need access to multiple data layers for land use planning, code enforcement, economic development planning, emergency planning, and other such functions. To assist with planning and regulatory review the Planners Maps depict information on:

- Parcels
- Proposed Land Use from municipal Comprehensive Plan (if available)
- Shoreland Zoning
- Conservation Land
- [Biodiversity](#) (click for information about the Biodiversity layer)
- Wetlands
- Development infrastructure
- Public Services
- Shellfish habitat
- DEP Tank Sites
- Brownfields sites in varying stages of assessment and redevelopment
- Other layers, as available

The **Biodiversity layers** included in the Planners Maps were created by the Maine Natural Areas Program with support from the Downeast Conservation Network as part of a resilience mapping study depicting conservation values for terrestrial, coastal and inland aquatic ecosystems for Washington and Hancock Counties in Maine. The Biodiversity layer includes four sub-layers listed below.

Terrestrial Co-occurrence: This layer represents the summed weighted values of rare plant locations, natural communities, listed animals, significant wildlife habitats, undeveloped habitat blocks and riparian zones co-occurring in Maine’s Hancock and Washington Counties.

Coastal Co-occurrence: This is a co-occurrence model result of summed weighted feature attributes along the coasts of Hancock and Washington Counties. The features and their weighted values are as follows:

Co-occurrence of aquatic habitat values for Hancock and Washington Counties, ME using 1-24k flowlines as a base.

Co-occurrence layers include:

- Shortnose sturgeon
- Atlantic sturgeon
- Sea run brook trout
- Alewife blueback herring
- American shad
- American eel
- Atlantic salmon
- Brook trout
- Endangered, threatened and special concern aquatic animal spp. (ETSC)

Aquatic Co-Occurrence: All elements contribute a value of 1 except for ETSC which contributes 3 for Endangered spp., 2 for Threatened spp. and 1 for special concern spp. Condition of NHD 24k flowlines, split into 1 km lengths. Condition values are a mean of the Designing Sustainable Landscapes index of ecological integrity score scaled to the State of Maine and the quantile rank (rescaled 0-1) of the full connected length of the stream/river network between barriers. Barriers included were dams, unknown/unsurveyed road crossings (inclusive of all unknown barriers on private lands for which data is not publicly available), and barriers confirmed by survey. Credits: U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service, and other Federal, State and local partners (see dataset specific metadata under Data Set Credit for details).