

# **Greater East Grand Region Economic Plan**

*“A Heritage Reclaimed”*

## **Planning Update & A Look Ahead December 4, 2019**

On behalf of GEGREP Steering Committee Members, associated Towns and Organizations; Initial Planning Team; Sarah Strickland; Sunrise County Economic Council; Northern Maine Development Commission; Washington County Board of Commissioners; Individual and Corporate Donors; and the Southern Aroostook Development Corporation.

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## **Three Major Objectives**

1) Establish a credible economic voice for the Region.

2) Identify, thru citizen input, community and regional assets that have economic potential.

3) Develop specific recommendations on how those assets and relationships can be used to foster economic growth.

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## Guiding Principles

**Economic Development** is a process for creating wealth from which many community benefits are derived. It occurs in the private sector.

**Community Development** is a process of making the community a better place to live and work and occurs primarily in the public sector.

- Economic and community development are interdependent and reinforce each other.
- Planning is not development.
- Planning sets the table for economic and community development.

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## **Why a Regional Economic Approach?**

- Regional economic development capitalizes upon the strengths of specific rural communities/areas.
- Helps applicants overcome jurisdictional challenges - leverages public and private funding.
- Regional projects have a larger impact, enabling greater wealth creation and quality of life improvements.

LUPC BASE MAP

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## Overcoming Barriers to Area Identification

Who Are We? Where Are We? What Sets Us Apart?

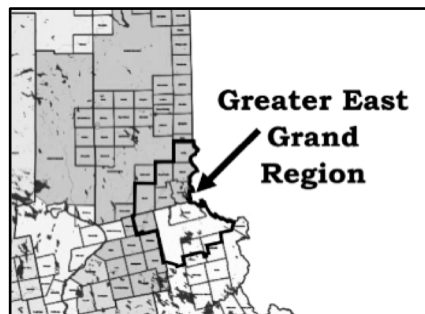


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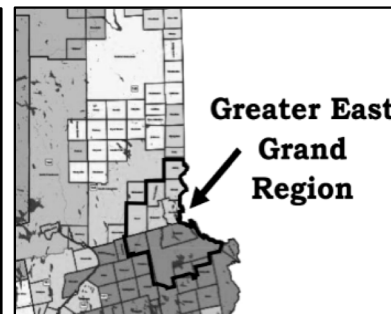
## Overcoming Barriers to Area Identification

Who Are We? Where Are We? What Sets Us Apart?

### Senate Districts



### House Districts

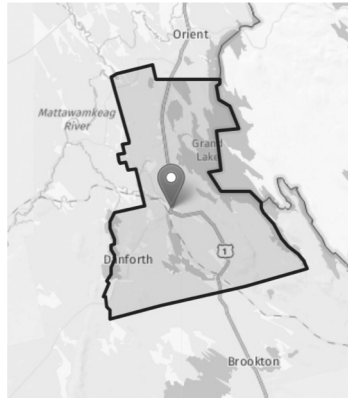


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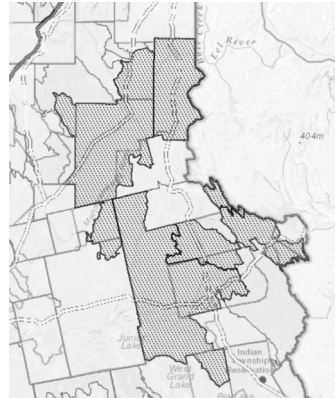
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## Overcoming Barriers to Area Identification Who Are We? Where Are We? What Sets Us Apart?

### School District



### Health Center Service Area

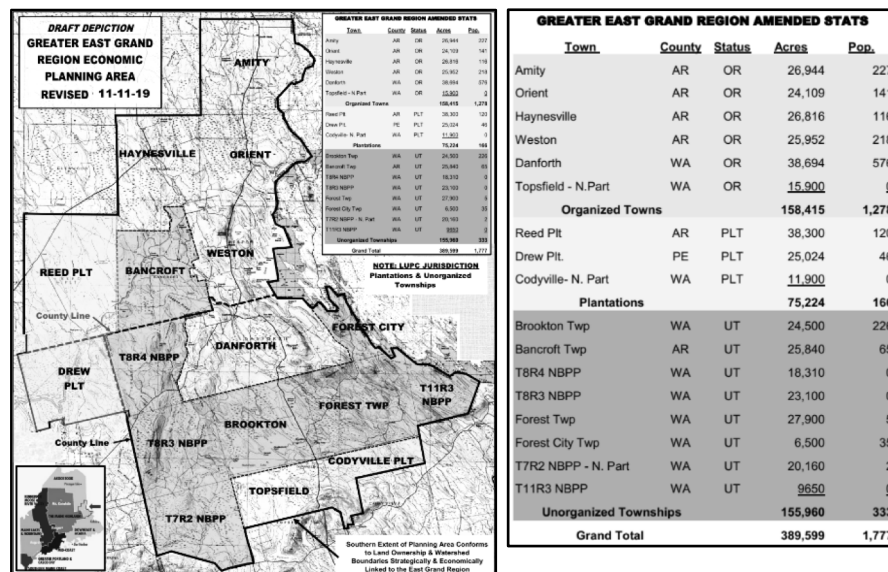


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## Zoning & Planning Jurisdictions



## People First - Getting Established

### GEGR Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
April 22	Exploratory Group
May 9	Planning Group
May 22	Planning Group
June 11	Planning Group
June 28	SCEC Meeting
July 11	Reed Plantation TO
July 23	Planning Group
August 13	Haynesville TO
August 21	Planning Group
August 29	Maine Community Foundation
September 10	Mattawamkeag River Access
September 10	DFP Fisheries Meeting
October 10	Planning Group
October 29	Mattawamkeag River Access
October 31	SCEC Meeting
November 7	Planning Group
November 21	GEGR Snowmobile Trails
December 2	Amity TO

### GREATER EAST GRAND ECONOMIC PLANNING REGION EXPLORATORY GROUP - REVISED 11-20-19

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## Getting Started

### April - July

- Group consensus to proceed
- Citizen driven asset-based mapping approach chosen
- Research on economic issues and planning in rural Maine/US
- Developed and revised map of the Planning Area/Region
- Began draft mapping (Google Earth) and data mining: access to public water, land ownership, recreational trails (water-hiking-motorized), natural features and resources, broadband service, location and acreage of farmlands, lake neighborhoods, rural residential areas, planning jurisdictions and barriers , etc.
- Drafted a compelling narrative for funders
- Developed a working set of goals & objectives
- Conducted preliminary SWOT analysis – identified major threats: loss of FC dam & closure of school
- Assembled project outline, initial budget and deliverables

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## Project Fund Raising

- Total budget = \$45,000: \$30,000 cash; \$15,000 in-kind
- Secured
  - \$15,000 in-kind contributions – SCEC, NMDC, CORE
  - \$10,000 from WC TIFF grant
  - \$8,500 from private and corporate fund raising
- Pending
  - \$10,000 Innovation Grant from MCF.
- Obtained SCEC approval for Project Director to contract the work through SCEC.

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## Relationship Building

- Introductory selectperson meetings – Reed, Haynesville, Amity, Orient
- Initiated contacts with IF&W & BPL about water access
- Met with IF&W at Mattawamkeag River - Drew, Reed and Haynesville - coordinated plan with BPL (Sue Szwed)
- Engaged in Forest City Dam – CLIC Rally, press release, interviews and offered FERC testimony in Danforth
- Chaired fisheries meeting with DFP at Rideouts
- Drafted maps of area bike trails for Jay Kamm at NMDC
- Began planning heritage and canoe launch project below Beans Falls in Bancroft (LUPC Zoning implications)

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## Official Project Launch

- November 1<sup>st</sup> Press Release state-wide
- Revised process of asset identification and area meetings
- Obtained promise of advice from the Southern Aroostook Development Corporation – focus on economic development
- Began assembly of GIS digital data - UM Machias (No charge)
- Began asset mapping database
- Held an organizational meeting with 4 area snowmobile clubs - will hold similar meeting with 3 ATV Clubs later this winter

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## Project Timeline

### December – February

- Hold area meetings - select persons, citizens, and area organizations
- Complete Asset Mapping data collection and GIS base mapping with UMM
- Explore state-wide initiatives to help implementation
- Build upon existing relationships with State and regional agencies
- Identify potential economic development projects for every jurisdiction
- Assemble info on on-going community development projects
- Draft preliminary assessment and emerging recommendations for discussions with stakeholders.

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## Project Timeline

### February - April

- Meet with business development group from SADC, SCEC, local entrepreneurs, etc
- Hold community meetings to review assessment and gather recommendations
- Complete next draft of feasibility plan and review with Steering and Planning committees

### April – May

- Finalize plan
- Communicate plan and priorities to communities and seasonal residents
- Initiate search for local Economic Development Coordinator for region

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**Questions  
Discussion  
Recommendations  
Availability**

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