

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2020

To: Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Team

From: Elbridge

Re: Meeting Notes – SADC Zoom Meeting of March 26, 2020 (Replaced in-person meeting at Weston Town Office scheduled for February 27, 2020)

Attending: Sarah Strickland, Jon McLaughlin, Peter Chase, Jerry York, Chris Anderson, Jen Peters, and Elbridge Cleaves

Agenda: (1) the business challenges and needs that are emerging because of Covid-19, (2) discussion about the direction the GEGR economic planning is taking, (3) the experience of Southern Aroostook Development Council. Meeting materials: A draft set of slides that begin to outline a regional vision, goals and objectives based on the work and conversations to date.

Recording of Meeting: https://zoom.us/rec/share/4sp2d-ncqW9OctbOtW39Ha54T9m-aaa8gyce_fsEyUo_yfUsVqUOrZArm_k1Q0V

Bulleted Notes (Primarily a summary of SADC comments)

- Much unknown about future of business post-Covid – Internet delivery of services seems key
- All commended GEGR Group on undertaking planning initiative
- General consensus – GEGR efforts are on the right track
- No silver bullet – a long term venture – success if its comes is in small increments
- SADC current mission primarily concentrates on entrepreneurs including single owners of existing and/or new businesses
- Helps with connections to financial, marketing and business expertise
- Uses experience and mentoring of SADC Board Members & personal contacts whenever feasible
- Keeps focused on mission – while being much aware of efforts in municipal & community development
- Believes strongly in private – public partnerships (Peter Chase)
- Positive feedback regarding proposed community area branding for GEGR
- Sees primary assets of GEGR as scenic and nature based: woods – waters – cottages & recreation
- Broadband internet access is key – worked diligently to get it in-place in Houlton area
- Envisions SADC as potentially playing an important role as advisor and/or participant with further development of GEGR efforts
- Keep SADC abreast of progress and developments

Postscript – Chris Anderson was instrumental in helping to bring Pioneer Wireless on board of the GEGR Broadband Task Force and planning project