

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Local Media Contacts
FROM: Sunrise County Economic Council
DATE: September 22, 2010
RE: Economic Council Launches 2010 Campaign
CONTACT: Harold Clossey, Executive Director, 207.255.0983 or 207.214.3600

Ed Hennessey of Machias Savings Bank joined with Skip Rogers, chairman of the Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) Board of Directors September 22 to kick off the non-profit's \$75,000 fundraising initiative, "Energizing Washington County" with a \$15,000 donation on behalf of MSB.

"SCEC is the only organization in Washington County that spends all of its time providing economic stimulus to Washington County," Hennessey said in explaining why he's chairing and supporting SCEC's 2010 campaign. "How many people know that SCEC has helped attract over \$270,000,000 of investments to our County over the past 4 years?"

Since 1993, SCEC has energized Washington County's economy with strategic efforts to increase this region's role in alternative energy initiatives, such as wind, tidal and biomass; improve infrastructure including transportation, broadband and tourism; and provide business development tools and financial resources to create and retain jobs. This approach has brought millions of dollars in critical investments to the region.

SCEC has distributed more than \$68,000 in scholarships to Washington County residents looking to further their education and develop professional skills needed to compete for better paying jobs locally.

"That is why Machias Savings has always been the leader in providing support to them," Hennessey continued, adding that SCEC has arranged several financial assistance solutions, leveraging over \$900,000 in commercial loans for area businesses that have, as a result created approximately 32 full time jobs.

Rogers, who manages Federal Marine Terminals in Eastport, said that SCEC can trigger a \$20,000 matching grant if businesses support the council's programs.

"This year the C.F. Adams Charitable Trust is offering us a \$20,000 match for new or increased amounts over previous donations. If you have helped us in the past and would be willing to do so again, any increase over your previous donation will count toward this match. If you were not able to contribute in the past, please consider doing so now."

"SCEC has been working to promote economic growth in Washington County for 17 years," he said. "The council is currently involved in over \$70 million worth of ongoing projects and initiatives. This work needs the help of the community. A healthy economy serves us all well.

Please, join us in lending your financial support. The tireless efforts of Executive Director Harold Clossey and his staff will take it from there and, together, we will continue to make a difference in Washington County.”

Hennessey concluded by pointing out that SCEC does not receive state or federal subsidy for its work, and relies on the community to help further its mission of initiating and facilitating the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County.

“I think it is also very important that everyone knows that SCEC does not receive State or Federal support to run its operation.” He said. “I think it is time that all businesses reach out and help provide support in these tough economic times. SCEC will help our County grow but they need our support to get there.”

For more information about SCEC or to find out how you can help energize Washington County, visit www.sunrisecounty.org, contact staff at 255-0983 or by email at scec@sunrisecounty.org. SCEC can also be found on Facebook by searching for “Friends of SCEC”.

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