

## **Washington County: One Community**

One community of citizens devoted to positive communication across our county – demonstrating, celebrating, and promoting success.

Economic Meeting

October 22, 2007

Present: Jen Peters, Inez Lombardo, Dodie Emerson, Rick Tanney, Jill Peterson, Keith Small, Barbara Drisko, Janet Toth

- 1.) Janet gave update on the process of the Buy Local in Schools fund raiser. The business component of this trial event is Roy Toy of East Machias. The Choice of Roy Toy being that they are a local company, sellable product (toys for the holiday season), they have been to the Northern New England trade show, very established business, have set retail and wholesale prices, not junk, and they are child safe. Jonesboro was selected for the test site because: Janet is the President of the PTA making it easier for her to promote and track the project, four teachers in other area schools live in Jonesboro making it an easy way to spread the word for future fund raising events. The event was designed in Sept, information about the sales was distributed in Oct, sales continue until mid-Nov. and product is delivered mid-Dec.
- 2.) Janet to ask Susan Dennison of Ray Toy to meet with WC:OC Economic Team in January to summarize the results and plan the next steps. Jen suggest getting an application in for a M.C.F. grant to print a catalog for the school fund raisers. Jen also shared with the group a new product being produced locally, kitchen utensil handles made from crushed shells.
- 3.) Janet shared the importance of keeping communities on a positive track, with her idea of a dream team. The challenge to keep people looking towards the endless possibilities. So now Jonesboro PTA has a dream team with a growing wish list. Dodie shared that the Jonesboro cross country team needs more team uniforms so that the students don't have to share dirty uniforms.

- 4.) A discussion followed on how to discourage outside companies from using this school sales idea without applying through WC:OC. We need to have an application to select participating businesses with certain standards that need to be met. Schools need to be made aware that just because a company is local it may not make the requirements of quality, quantity, and safety backed by the WC:OC logo and buy local campaign.
- 5.) Inez discussed the use of interns from UMM; community studies program students to cover the gaps in staff time needed. She will discuss further with Pat Pelham the site advisor and have Pat attend a meeting to observe the WC:OC group. Suggestions for needs of the interns – linking project teams, updating website, and other forms of communication. Inez also explained the studies of Research Methods through UMM with the J.F. Kennedy Survey to be preformed by students.
- 6.) Next meeting to be held using polycom at Career Center in Machias and the NADA office in Calais. Jill to send notice to Dodie and Gail Walh so they may schedule the date and time.