

Washington County: One Community

Established as a community-based coalition serving Washington County, the purpose of *Washington County: One Community* is to improve the quality of life for Washington County citizens – from infants to elders. Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the County Commissioners and reflect a diverse range of county interests. The *Washington County: One Community* coalition has adopted shared visions that respect cultural and community differences, encourage broad citizen engagement, and support public health, community development and a viable economic infrastructure.

Six focus teams, co-chaired and managed by volunteers, are working to help realize these visions. Using the results of a county wide survey and input from public focus groups, each team has the priorities listed below intended to reflect the needs of our citizens. *New members are encouraged to join!*

For more information about *Washington County: One Community* and meeting locations visit our website at www.washingtoncountymaine.com

Focus Team	Team Priorities/Projects — <i>New members are encouraged to join!</i>	Monthly Meetings
Communications	<i>Support:</i> Seeking to provide a seamless and transparent communications system; solving distance challenges with technology <i>Telling our positive stories and sharing our successes:</i> Website, brochure and newsletter; county-wide survey/assessments	1st Tuesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Economics	<i>Buy Local Campaign:</i> Linking schools with businesses, Farm to School <i>Commercial Building Inventory:</i> Enabling efficient assessment of available properties for economic opportunity <i>Community Direction:</i> Building on local and regional initiatives	2nd Tuesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Infrastructure	<i>Transportation:</i> Planning for a regional airport, local and commuter services, bike and pedestrian improvements <i>Broadband:</i> Working toward county-wide coverage and access <i>School Multi-Use:</i> Seeking to use our resources more efficiently <i>Energy generation and delivery:</i> Promoting alternative energy and access to it	1st Tuesday 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Social Capital	<i>Community support:</i> Networking and engaging citizens to work collaboratively for the county <i>Gaps:</i> Seeking to address gaps in available social services and promoting those that provide support to residents <i>Homelessness:</i> Identifying options and support for the homeless	4th Wednesday 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Wellness	<i>Policy development:</i> Advocating policies and supporting environments that offer healthy lifestyle choices <i>Advocacy:</i> Ensuring basic life necessities <i>Prevention:</i> Promoting and implementing strategies and resources for substance abuse prevention and healthy life choices	3rd Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Youth	<i>Youth Involvement:</i> Promoting healthy youth development by encouraging youth involvement and listening to their needs <i>Leadership Programs:</i> Youth Leadership Institute, Youth Leaders Encouraging a Difference, EdGE Program, Downeast Teen Leadership Camp, Greenland Point <i>Youth Empowerment:</i> Guiding and assisting youth to positively express their needs and promoting learning activities	3rd Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

L - R Center

Rick Tanney - Coalition for Healthy Tomorrows

Janet Toth - Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Mike Bush - Chair, Maine Rural Partners

Linda Pagels-Wentworth - Washington County Government

Mary Ann Hayes - Maine Rural Partners



L Center - R

Barbara Drisko - Washington County Drug Action Team

Gary Edwards - Downeast Resource Conservation and Development

Eleody Libby - Washington County: One Community

Judy East - Washington County Council of Governments

Washington County: One Community receives Maine Rural Partners' **Partner of the Year** Award, November, 2007

Washington County: One Community distributed a Quality of Life survey to all postal customers in the county in 2007.

Who responded:

- * 1085 individuals, families and businesses from 50 communities; the majority resided in Washington County for >20 years.
- * Respondents are generally older, more affluent and more educated than the population.

Some survey highlights:

- * Respondents are proud to call Washington County home and the majority feel welcomed in their communities.
- * The cost or lack of transportation and the distance to jobs are as much barriers to finding work as the lack of jobs.
- * Though a majority liked their current jobs, 65% said there were not enough jobs, and 92% who expressed an opinion felt more could be done to connect businesses to students.
- * Access to elder care and other important services is an issue for many.
- * Schools are an important part of our communities and many respondents provided comments on multiple uses for them.
- * Many would get services from other towns or the county if the cost was the same but many would not, and many more would not give up any local control even if it meant reducing their property taxes.
- * Response was enthusiastic about using a Washington County: One Community web site for multiple reasons including events, recreation, public affairs, jobs, health and more.

The six *Washington County: One Community* focus teams are using the survey to direct their priorities - please join them to improve the quality of life for all Washington County citizens!

To view all *Washington County: One Community* survey results and comments go to www.washingtoncountymaine.com

**Washington County: One Community
Board of Directors**

Jim Roberts - Chair
Gail Wahl – Vice Chair
John Shoemaker - Treasurer
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Harold Clossey
Barbara Drisko
Judy East
Gary Edwards
Cindy Look
James Moreira
Linda Pagels-Wentworth
Sunshine Strout
Janet Toth

The *Washington County: One Community* is an organization that welcomes participants living in, working in, and enjoying Washington County to create a true spirit of community life.

It is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of our member organizations. Each director is appointed by the Washington County Commissioners.

Membership is open to all organizations, businesses, agencies and residents who want to share in the challenge and benefits of creating collaborative activities throughout Washington County.

**For more information, to volunteer, or if you have project suggestions please call:
Eleody Libby – Project Director
43 South Lubec Road
Lubec, ME 04652
733-4760
elibby@rmcl.org
www.washingtoncountymaine.com**

