

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington County Unorganized Territories Planning Committee Members Sought

Calais – July 13th, 2015 – The Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG), working on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners, has launched Community Guided Planning and Zoning in the Unorganized Territories (UT) of Washington County.

Completed to date is a required Process Document that describes the scope of the planning effort, its timeline, work products and decision-making methods. Eighteen people helped to create the Process Document in May and June of 2015. It can be downloaded on the web page dedicated to this planning effort: <http://www.wccog.net/cgp-and-z-process.htm>.

At their July 9th, 2015 meeting, the Washington County Commissioners nominated an initial roster of 17 people to serve on the Planning Committee. It includes a good cross section of large landowners; forestry and agriculture interests; towns adjoining the Washington County UT; tourism, guiding and recreation interests; service providers; and those working on economic development in the County.

The Planning Committee includes UT residents and small landowners and the planning process will include several attempts to engage UT residents at already scheduled events like pancake breakfasts, club dinners and association meetings. However both WCCOG and the Commissioners feel that this category could use broader participation on the Planning Committee.

"The Commissioners are strong advocates for personal property rights" notes Commissioner Christopher Gardner "and feel strongly that the people of the Unorganized Territories should have more ownership in the land use planning process. This is a great step in that direction where regular everyday citizens who actually own the land can help guide its intended uses. We hope more UT citizen landowners will step up and take an interest in this emerging process. The County Commissioners can not thank Judy East and the WCCOG enough for all their work in assisting the County with this effort."

Therefore, until July 31st the Washington County Commissioners are seeking UT residents and small landowners to put their names forward to serve on the Planning Committee. The time commitment is roughly 8 meetings from September 2015 through June of 2016.

If you are a UT resident or small landowner and are interested in serving on the Planning Committee please contact County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald (255-3127) or WCCOG Executive Director Judy East (454-0465).

Likewise, if you simply wish to be placed on the list of those who receive e-mail updates on the Community Guided Planning and Zoning Process in the Washington County Unorganized Territories contact WCCOG Executive Director Judy East (454-0465).

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