

March 14, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held March 14, 2024
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Jill C. Holmes, Finance
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Darlene Perry, Probate
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of February 15, 2024
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

Dean reported that Land for Maine's Future Program has selected a proposal from Downeast Lakes Land Trust. The project is located in Sakom Twp. for Big Lake Beach - Sysladobsis Lake. This project has been selected as a finalist for the project funding. The letter is attached to the U.T. report.

March 14, 2024

21

Dean stated U.T. requested to be included in the DMR Special permit for Green Crab trapping this season. He has been notified that the U.T. will be included in this conservation effort.

Dean reported that DMR has reviewed and approved the 2024 Shellfish Conservation Management Plan and the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance.

Dean reported the U.T. office is reviewing a cooperative service agreement with the Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services. The agreement is to provide the service of removing beavers and other wildlife. This service will be helpful with road damage for lands owned and managed by Washington County Territories. Commissioner Crowley inquired if the agreement is a contract. Dean responded that it is a contract, but is a cooperative agreement. He will try to find local people to do the work, but local people are usually only available out of season.

Dean stated he was happy to share good news regarding special projects. Starting in mid-March, Fidium Fiber (a Consolidated Communications brand) will begin construction of the regional fiber broadband service across the Greater East Grand Region. Dean noted he has attended several informational meetings. He stated the project is in the organizational phase. Dean also reported that SCEC has put forth an exceptional effort with this project.

Dean reported that he received a unique request from a landowner regarding a town line between Princeton and Big Lake Twp. It has been requested by a citizen of Big Lake Twp. that the town line be perambulated and maintained. Dean has done some research by contacting many surveyors to find out what the law is on towns maintaining their town lines. It is actually a law that towns maintain their town lines, but it is not customarily done. Dean stated the U.T. office has secured the services of a surveyor (CES) to establish and clearly mark this town line. The project is scheduled to begin in May.

Dean presented an Animal Control Agreement for the Commissioners' approval. The agreement will be for the U.T. to provide Animal Control Officer (ACO) services for the Town of Wesley. The term of the agreement is for a three-year period with an annual compensation of \$250.00 for training fees plus \$27.00 per hour per call and mileage reimbursement of \$0.655 per mile.

March 14, 2024

22

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Animal Control Agreement between Washington County Territories and Town of Wesley as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)

Dean noted that the U.T. now is providing ACO services with nine towns.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton reported DLLT has a yellow-book appraisal scheduled. The appraisal is a requirement to receive the rest of the grant funding.

A Notice to Cure Default was sent to Michael Griffin. The time to cure has passed. Ms. Hatton stated Mr. Griffin is selling an asset to provide the funds to pay off the loan. Mr. Griffin has been extended some additional time for the sale of the asset and to pay off the loan.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

March 14, 2024

23