

## **Welcome:**

- **Self intro**
- **Thank you for volunteering**

## **Aroostook County**

- **6700 sq. mi.**
- **2,500,000 acres of UT about ½ the land mass of The County.**
- **My district #2 PI, Caribou west to Ashland and NW territories.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> county to adopt a charter in 1989. Established Districts, Administrator, Powers, Meetings and an elected Finance Committee with the final budget authority.**
- **Ashland geographic center of UT, but not the center of UT population. 1 to 1 ½ hour from here.**
- **1650 people in UT.**

## **Municipal services provided by the County mostly through contract:**

- **Road maintenance summer/winter**
- **Animal control**
- **Grant administration**
- **Solid waste/septic disposal Only Sanitary District in the State UT**
- **Recreation programs**
- **Fire protection**
- **Law enforcement**
- **EMA support**
- **Polling**
- **Ambulance services**
- **Cemeteries**

**The counties currently serve as the town fathers.**

- **Street lights**
- **Library access**
- **Help in renaming towns.**
- **Service to Senior's**
- **Housing revitalization for the needy.**

**Act as judges**

- **Road closures**
- **Tax abatement**
- **Road maintenance appeals**

**Summary counties are very similar to towns and cities now.**

**Currently if you need help getting a permit you would come to the Ashland office. If the permit involves a non-conforming use or you wish to appeal a decision then you will need to be put on the agenda at a subsequent LURC board meeting in Augusta.**

**At this point the citizen has lost access to his government. It should not cost you an arm and a leg to petition your government or take a day to get there and back.**

**Planning**

- **LURC's planning is premised on preservation, with little regard to the needs of the people or respect for property rights.**

- **LURC has no charge for the economic wellbeing or welfare of the people that live, recreate or work there.**
- **Because the Comprehensive Plan for the UT has no consideration for economics there has been no real growth there. i.e. Aroostook evaluation in 2000-----\$405 million**

**2010-----\$480 million**

**Buildings in 2000      2,520**

**2010      2,565**

- **Cost to administer municipal services per capita has increased 66% for the same period.**

#### **Northern Maine Development Commission (COGs)**

- **Grow Smart America recognized NMDC along with several other city and regional planning agencies for their unique approach to regional economic planning.**
- **Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Center in Washington, D.C. recognized the efforts of Mobilize Northern Maine a conjunction of efforts lead by NMCC with NMDC, WIA, private industry, non-profits and government s for its development of an educational curriculum in alternative energy. This is part of the strategy to Build a Green Economy.**
- **We have a pot of public and private alphabet soup working to grow industry here.**
- **With ½ of our county marked for preservation it's no wonder we are having difficulty moving the whole county forward.**
- **Interject story. When we read in the paper or hear in restaurants “Northern Maine is a drag on the rest of the State”, one should also ask if there is truth in it and then why?**

**Might it be it's because ½ half of the state isn't allowed to grow. If you don't grow you die! We can't have it both ways. LURC has no economic mission.**