

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION: Franklin County Superior Courtroom

DATE AND TIME: January 16, 2024 @ 3:30 PM

The Franklin County Commissioners' meetings are open to the public. This meeting is also available virtually via [Video Conferencing, Cloud Phone, Webinars, Chat, Virtual Events | Zoom](#). Here is the meeting ID# 492 510 0482 passcode 030621.

**APPOINTMENTS: Appointment of a Director for MCCA Risk Pool
Appointment of a Director for AVCOG**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Clerks Report**
- 2. Treasurers Report**
- 3. Set New Rates for Stone Garden**
- 4. Request Authorization to use State Preferred Vendor for Safety School Grant**
- 5. Finance Services Transition**
- 6. Courthouse Security**

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. NRCM Authorization for Sign-on Letter**
- 2. LUPC Nomination for Franklin County**
- 3. North Franklin Snowmobile Club's TIF Application**

MISCELLANEOUS:

Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter: Road Supervisor

WARRANTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

County Commissioner's Meeting
Agenda Discussion and Analysis
January 16, 2023

Appointments:

Agenda Item: Clerks report

Comments: Minutes from the January 2, 2024 Commissioner's Meeting

- Nash Bridge has been repaired and opened.
- FEMA met with County Administration and Road Supervisor to get all the loose ends tied up for the May Day Storm. We should be in good shape for reimbursement of roughly \$60,000
- We have had several Road Complaints about State Roads that are "unsafe" due to December on Cook Hill and Route 145.

Recommendation: Motion: N/A

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Comments: Warrants:

Set New Hourly Rates for Stone Garden

Comments: Since the new contract for FOP the OT rate is now higher than the Stone Garden Rate, the Sheriff's Office is asking that the Commissioners set the New Stone Garden rate at \$55.00/Hour. It currently is at \$50.00/Hour. These funds are reimbursement through the grant. LT Radcliff or Sargent Close are planning to attend the meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Recommendation: Motion: to increase the Stone Garden Hourly rate to \$55.00/Hour.

Request Authorization to use State Preferred Vendor for School Safety Grant

Comments: A3 Communications is the vendor. They will assist the Schools and Sherriff Office in locating procuring soft/hardward for a mass notification system. The State has gone out to bid for this service and they are considered a preferred vendor. The Commissioners must authorize this use of the vendor without bid process.

Recommendation: Motion: to approve the use of A3 Communications without a separate Bid process.

Finance Services Transtion

Comments: BTR has discontinued our Financial Services Contract as of 1/1/2024. We need to bring AP and reporting back in to the County Offices. I have reached out to NMW, CPA of Waterville to discuss possibly taking over some or part of our financial services needs. It has

become apparent that we will need to have a fulltime treasurer position in the Treasurers Department. We have developed a Bookkeeper Job description that outlines the duties needed for the County to pay bills in house. We will need to approve the Job Description enclosed in the packet to move in this direction. BTR is requesting off boarding the County by no later than 2/14/2024. The County will need to use the contracted services line to pay the new position.

Recommendation: approve the job desipition of the bookkeeper and post the position.

County Courthouse Security

Comments: Please see the enclosed quote for key cards for the doors, real time security cameras, and a camera and intercome system at the bottom of the ramp on Main Street. The Franklin Superior Court building is the only courthouse that does not currently have security. We have worked with the Court system and used their suggestions to develop this quote. We reached out to the two local vendors for quotes. Seacoast Security and Cunningham. We have only received this quote within the last two and half months. We will need to fund this cost through the Building Reserve Fund.

Recommendation: approve the quote or direct staff on the next steps to secure the building.

Old Business

NRCM Authorization for Sign-Off Letter

Comments: A month ago NRCM came to the Commissioners and asked for their support for the Trail Bond Initiative. This group was involved in the confirmation hearing for Thomas Dubois to the LUPC for Franklin County. They advocated for Mr. Dubois to recuse himself from the Rezoning vote, which resulted in the committee rejecting Mr Dubois's nomination.

Recommendation: Motion: None at this time

LUPC Nomination for Franklin County

Comments: Thomas Dubois's nomination by the Commissioner to the AFC Committee for confirmation was rejected. The Commissioner's will need to discuss what steps need to be taken next. I have reached out to the Director of LUPC, Stacy Beyer, for the nomination procedure. The law states that confirmation must be done by the Commissioners and the appropriate committee is to confirm the nomination or overturned by 2/3 of the Senate.

Recommendations: None at this time

Franklin County Position Description

Position Title: Bookkeeper

Department: Treasurer

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Reports to: County Administrator/Treasurer

Effective Date: 01/12/2024

Job Summary:

This position is responsible for performing finance-related tasks including financial reporting, payroll, accounts receivable and payable, and other related tasks while working as a team in the Commissioner's office. Work is performed under the general supervision of the County Administrator and Treasurer and will be reviewed through observation, and verification through fiscal audit.

Essential Job Functions:

- *Assists the County Administrator in the preparation of the annual county budget(s) for all departments.*
- *Receive money, scan checks, and make deposits daily.*
- *Assist with answering the telephone, greeting customers, and answering questions related to finance.*
- *File documents as requested.*
- *Performs clerical and administrative tasks including drafting letters, memos, invoices, reports, and other documents that are finance-related for senior staff.*
- *Monitors investments of county funds; prepares and manages cash flow analysis as required; contacts local banks for interest rates or bids, and provides the information to the County Administrator and Treasurer; and tracks interest earned on accounts.*
- *Assist with the preparation and distribution of monthly and annual financial reports and additional information regarding the financial status of the county as may be requested by the Department Heads, County Commissioners, Treasurer, or auditors.*
- *Collaborate with the auditor(s)/CPA firm to prepare for pre-audit session and annual audit; assist with the review of the draft audit report for accuracy; make adjusting entries as recommended by the auditor and approved by the Treasurer.*
- *Review accounts payable invoices, enter into the AP program, create cover sheet(s)/voucher(s) and review submitted vouchers from Department Heads; prepare necessary warrants and print checks.*
- *Process 457 retirement report and payment bi-weekly.*

- *Respond to finance-related FOAA requests.*
- *Process payroll, prepare warrant spreadsheet, and upload reports to accounting software.*
- *Mail W-2's annually and other financial documents when necessary.*
- *Process retirement reports and payments.*
- *Forecasts county revenues to assist the County Administrator in monitoring and developing the county budgets.*
- *Monitors expenditures and control of credit card and purchase order requests.*
- *Prepare and send annual 1095-C forms.*
- *Grant monitoring: Reporting of grant related expenses, and ensures compliance with grant requirements.*
- *Assist with the financial administration of the Franklin County Tax Increment Financing grant.*
- *Responsible for entering Detention Center budget in Department of Corrections; Reporting of Actuals System (CRAS), inputting of monthly expenses and revenues and annual projections.*
- *Communication with CPA and work closely on investment requisitions.*
- *Other duties as assigned.*

Required Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:

- *Knowledge of Microsoft Office including Outlook, Teams, Excel, and Word*
- *Strong communication skills, both oral and written*
- *Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail*
- *Possess strong problem-solving skills and ability to work independently.*
- *Ability to maintain confidential and meticulous records.*
- *Ability to learn new software systems and adapt to changing environments.*
- *Operate general office equipment.*

Education and Experience:

- *Minimum of associate degree in accounting or similar study; or three years of experience in fund accounting.*
- *Minimum of two years working in an office setting.*
- *FOAA training required upon hire. (Freedom of Access Act)*

Physical Requirements:

Percentage of Work Time Spent on Activity

	0-24	25-49	50-74	75-100
<i>Seeing: Must be able to read computer screens and reports.</i>				x
<i>Hearing: Must be able to hear well enough to receive calls and radio communication.</i>			x	
<i>Standing/Walking: Must be able to move about the department.</i>	x			
<i>Fingering/Grasping/Feeling: Must be able to type and use technical sources.</i>				x
<i>Lifting/Pulling/Pushing: Must be able to lift up to 25 pounds.</i>	x			
<i>Climbing/Stooping/Kneeling: Must be able to stoop or kneel to pick up paper products or directories.</i>	x			

Working Conditions: Normal working conditions absent extreme factors.

Note: The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to do this job. The above is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and duties required. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date

This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee, and is subject to change by the employer, as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

Approval Signatures:

Commissioner Brann

Commissioner Harvell

Commissioner Carlton

Seacoast Security, Inc.
 PO Box A
 290 West St
 West Rockport, ME 04865
 Phone: (800) 654-8800 or (207) 236-4876
 Fax: (207) 236-8517



Proposal # 13866

Proposal Date 12/30/2023

Customer:
 Office of Judicial Marshals
 171 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333

Site Location:
 Franklin County Superior Court
 140 MAIN STREET
 Farmington, ME 04938

Parts			
Description	Location		Quantity
ACCESS CONTROL PANEL	TBD		1.00
KEYPAD	Near panel for programming		1.00
ALTRONIX AL400ULACM ACCESS POWER SUPPLY	Near panel		1.00
12V 8 AH SEALED LEAD ACID BATTERY	In panel		1.00
PATAGONIA PROXIMITY READER & KEYPAD	Basement entry, Inside hall new door, South door, North door, Future 2nd floor hall door		5.00
ACCESS CONTROL MODULE	Each door		5.00
PROXKEY II ACCESS DEVICE, PACKAGE OF 10	50-total to start		5.00
PROFUSION ACCESS CONTROL CABLE, YELLOW			3.00
AIPHONE MASTER STATION & 1 INSIDE STATION	Basement main entry and hall inside station		1.00
7 COLOR SUB MASTER STATION	Inside stations - locations to be discussed		4.00
AIPHONE DISTRIBUTION ADAPTOR FOR VIDEO SUB			1.00
24VDC 2AMP UL POWER SUPPLY	TBD		1.00
FORM C RELAY 18-24VDC	to allow door release		1.00
2 COND 18G NON-SHLD CABLE 500			2.00
CAT 6 UTP CMR 1000 BLUE BOX			1.00

Items		
Description		Amount
Installation Labor		\$5,400.00
Equipment		\$18,309.00

Tax: \$0.00
 Total Amount: \$23,709.00

Any Questions, please contact: Hayden, Steven shayden@seacoastsecurity.com

Page 1 of 2

THIS PROPOSAL IS CONFIDENTIAL AND SHOULD NOT BE SHARED. PROPOSAL VALID FOR 15 DAYS. 50% DEPOSIT REQUIRED. IF PERMIT IS REQUIRED, PERMIT WILL BE BILLED IN ADDITION TO PROPOSAL. PROGRESS BILLING MAY APPLY.

Seacoast Security, Inc.
 PO Box A
 290 West St
 West Rockport, ME 04865
 Phone: (800) 654-8800 or (207) 236-4876
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 Augusta, ME 04333

Site Location:
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 140 MAIN STREET
 Farmington, ME 04938

Parts			
Description	Location		Quantity
16-CHANNEL EMBEDDED RECORDER WITH 4-SATA & NO-HDD	TBD		1.00
8TB-HARD DRIVE	In recorder		1.00
22 LED MONITOR W/ VGA HDMI WALL MOUNT	Near recorder		1.00
6U WALL MOUNT RACK ENCLOSURE	TBD		1.00
5MP 2.8MM EYEBALL CAMERA WITH 164-FT IR	Inside basement foyer, Main hall, North end hall, South end hall, 2nd floor Jury landing, 2nd floor court landing		6.00
JUNCTION BOX			6.00
CAT 6 UTP CMR 1000 WHITE WIRE			1.00

Items		
Description		Amount
Installation Labor		\$1,440.00
Equipment		\$4,327.00
	Tax:	\$0.00
	Total Amount:	\$5,767.00

Any Questions, please contact: Hayden, Steven shayden@seacoastsecurity.com

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49 Water Street
 Hallowell, ME 04347
 (207) 622-9657
 www.burtsinc.com

Quotation

Date	Estimate #
1/2/2024	E4573

Name / Address
SEACOAST SECURITY PO BOX A W ROCKPORT ME 04865-0701

Project
STEVE HAYDEN FRANKLIN SUPERIOR COURT 140 MAIN ST FARMINGTON, ME

Terms
2% 15 NET 30

Item	Description	Qty	Total
LR100	SDC QUIET DUO MOTOR RETROFIT KIT 24VDC	2	1,648.00T
TSB-C	SECU 18" ARMOR CABLE	2	82.00T
BPS-24-4	SECU 24VDC 4AMP POWER SUPPLY W/FIRE ALARM INTERFACE	1	1,348.00T
B-24-5	SECU 5 AMP IIR, 24VDC BATTERY	1	173.00T
9600-630	ITES RIMP-STRIKE FOR EXIT DEVICE 12/24VDC	1	575.00T
SC	SERVICE CALL AND LABOR TO INSTALL HARDWARE (NO TERMINATIONS)		129.00
		Subtotal	\$3,955.00
		Sales Tax (5.5%)	\$210.43
		Total	\$4,165.43

January 7, 2024

Franklin County Commissioners
140 Main Street, Suite 3
Farmington, Maine 04938

C/O TIF Director Charlie Woodworth

RE: 2024 TIF Grant for the North Franklin Snowmobile Club

Dear Mr. Woodworth:

On 12/18/2023, Franklin County was the recipient of a major rain storm which resulted in the most flooding since 1987. Besides the many roads and bridges what were damaged, many snowmobile trails and bridges also washed away or were severely damaged. After the flood receded, we got out into the woods to inspect the trails and bridges, to include ITA 89/84, which is the responsibility of the North Franklin Snowmobile Club (NFSC) to maintain and groom in Phillips, Avon, Salem Twp., Freeman Twp., and Madrid Twp.

After calling the State and finding out there was no money left for snowmobile trail and bridge repairs because of the last flood in May of 2023, High Peaks Alliance (HPA) stepped up and called a meeting of regional snowmobile clubs. This meeting was held in Strong, Maine on 12/28/2023 and over 100 people attended, including Sen. Russell Black, 3 State Representatives, County Commissioner Bob Carlton, the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) President, Vice President and their lobbyist, 15 snowmobile clubs, Director Brent West from High Peak Alliance and 5 of their board members, Joe Higgins the Director of the Maine Snowmobile Program, and some landowners.

At the meeting we heard from each club as to how their trails and bridges were affected by the flood. I learned that the NFSC was not the only club with major devastation to their trails and bridges. I also learned that some clubs were able to help other clubs with steel, timber mats, excavators, mapping and labor, if needed. We heard from Director Joe Higgins that the State had no money left because it was all spent for damage repair from the 05/01/2023 flood. The legislators listened, answered questions and said they would try to help with some law and funding changes, but that could not occur for many months, if at all.

What we did learn and finally decided was that the most important trails and bridges to fix, as soon as possible because of a pending snowstorm on 01/07/2024, was the ITS 89/84 trail and to temporarily fix the Orbeton Stream Bridge, which are maintained and groomed by the NFSC. Commissioner Bob Carlton asked HPA board members, Dana Bowman and John Rogers to come to the 01/02/2024 commissioners meeting and make an emergency TIF presentation. They did and the commissioners approved 3-0 to award the NFSC \$100,000 in TIF money, as well as some gravel, tailings and culverts owned by Franklin County, pending a grant application to Mr. Woodworth.

Our grant proposal consists of four projects. We intend to temporarily fix them before the 01/07/2024 snowstorm in order to get the trails open and used for the 2024 season. We intend to then go back during the summer and fall and finalize the projects with the remaining material and money. We will have some in-kind donations of gravel and tailings from Franklin County, gravel for some of the landowners in the area and some excavator time from the Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club. Our four projects are as follows:

#1. ITS 89 between the intersection of Reeds Mill Road and Fish Hatchery Road, and the Perham Stream Bridge. There is a +/- 1400-foot section that washed out as much as 4 feet deep in places and many small spots along the rest of the trail for about +/- 1450 feet in length. This will require about 1000 yards of tailings, 2000 yards of gravel, 5 culverts and some excavator and bulldozer time. Our intention is to pull some material from the sides of the trail, put in some tailings and gravel, and finally put in the culverts by 01/07/2024. The final tailings, gravel and grading will be done before 09/30/2024.

#2. ITS 89/84 +/-400 feet east of the Orbeton Stream Bridge to the bridge. We will pull material from the sides of the trail to fill in the trail and replace the washed-out culvert. We will then build a temporary bridge over the Orbeton Stream with safety railings. This will be done by 01/07/2024. The final gravel and grading will be done before 09/30/2024. The State along with the landowner will pull the temporary bridge and replace it with a permanent bridge with a weight capacity to handle log trucks in the summer of 2024.

#3. ITS 84 between US Route 145 in Salem Twp. and Stubbs Meadow. There are several washed out sections totaling +/- 2000 feet in length with some sections being 3 feet deep. This will require a lot of excavator time. Our intention is to pull most of the material from the sides of the trail and put in 2 culverts by 01/07/2024. The final 800 yards of gravel and grading will be done before 09/30/2024.

#4. ITS 84 Bridge adjacent to US Route 145 in Freeman Twp. We will jack up the bridge and put some temporary blocks under the bridge to get it open by 01/07/2024. During the summer, we will pull the bridge and put 18 concrete waste blocks and some tailings in place, in order to set the bridge up higher. We will then reset the bridge and deck it, which will be done before 09/30/2024.

As the writing of this letter, we have all the temporary fixes in place for all four projects, as describe above and before the 01/07/2024 winter storm. During the summer when the trails dries out, the NFSC will go back in and complete the work so that it should be a fix that will last for the next 8-10 years barring another record flood. We could have not accomplished all the temporary fix without several people, too many to name and Franklin County.

Thank you for considering this grant request and we really appreciate all that Franklin County has done for the North Franklin Snowmobile Club, as well as all the trail users, landowners and businesses that benefit from ITS 89/84, now opened.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Kennedy, President
North Franklin Snowmobile Club

Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Application for Funding

Date

Project Title

Name of applying individual/business/organization

Please check what type of organization is applying for funds:

- Private enterprise 501(c)(3) organization
 Community organization
 Government entity

Fiscal Sponsor:

This project is being pursued by:

- Single business or organization
 A collaboration including:

One line description of your project:

Dollar amount requested: Total project budget:

Unorganized Territory(ies) in which project will occur:

Have you applied for applicable licenses and permits for your project (LUPC, DEP, DHHS, etc.)? Please list:

I. Applicant Information

Legal name of organization:	North Franklin Snowmobile Club		
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 386, Phillips, Maine 04966		
Physical address:	58 Bray Hill, Phillips, Maine 04966		
Telephone:	N/A	Mobile:	915-478-6408
E-mail:	pkennedy1@aol.com		
Website:	N/A		

Number of years business/agency in existence:	54 years		
Number of paid staff (Note FT, PT, and/or Seasonal):	0		
Number of volunteers:	45 members		
Federal Tax I.D. or EIN:	EIN # 16-1709812		
Name of President or Executive Director:	Paul Kennedy		
Telephone:	c. 915-478-6408	E-mail:	pkennrdy1@aol.com

Project start date:	01/02/2024	Project completion date:	09/30/2024
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A 200 word (maximum) description of your project (if you need more space, please provide a labeled attachment):

The first part of this project is the +/- 1450 feet of ITS 89 trail between the Fish Hatchery Road and the Perham Stream Bridge in Madrid Twp., which will require the replacement of 4 culverts and the replacement and grading of approximately 3,000 yards of gravel and tailings that washed away in the flood.

The second part of this project is the +/- 400 feet of ITS 84 trail just east of the Orbeton Stream Bridge in Madrid Twp., which will require the resetting of 1 culvert, the replacement and grading of +/- 800 yards of gravel, and building of a temporary bridge across the Orbeton Stream capable to handle snowmobiles for the 2024 season. The entire Orbeton Stream Bridge will be permanently replaced by the Fall of 2024 by the owner.

The third part of this project is the +/- 2000 feet of ITS 84 trail along the railroad bed between Stubbs Meadow and US Route 145 in Salem Twp., which will require the replacement of 5 culverts and the replacement, erecting some snow fence and grading of approximately 800 yards of gravel.

The fourth part of this project is the temporary resetting of the ITS 84 trail bridge adjacent to US Rt. 145 in Freeman Twp. before the snowmobile season starts and then to permanently reset the bridge by the Fall of 2024.

These projects will be temporarily finished by 01/08/2024 before the snow comes with he final fixing of the trails and bridges in good weather, but before 09/30/2024.

II. Project Budget

For an example budget, see TIF Application Checklist & Guidelines.

Requested TIF Funds: Total Project Cost:

Estimated Income:

	Sources	Amount
Secured Income	None	N/A
Planned Income	None	N/A
	In Kind - Misc. (railing, runners, fasteners)	\$3,350
	In Kind - Manual Labor from members @15.00/hour	\$1,500
In-Kind	2000 yards of gravel @ \$18.75 (Linkletter and Franklin Cty)	\$37,500
	500 yards of talings @\$27.50 (Franklin County)	\$13,750
TIF Request	Request from Franklin County TIF	\$100,000
	TOTAL	\$154,600

Estimated Expenses/Use:

Uses	One Time/Ongoing	Amount
2 foot culverts, 5 @ \$800	One Time	\$4,000
3 foot culverts, 2 @ \$1,600	One Time	\$3,200
11 - 16' timbermats @ \$700	One Time	\$7,700
Tailings - 1,096 yards @ \$27.50	One Time	\$30,140
Gravel - 3,600 yards @ \$18.75	One Time	\$67,500
Escavator with driver - 210 hours @ \$150	One Time	\$31,500
Manual Labor - 100 hours @ \$15	One Time	\$1,500
Lumber for railings, runners decking plus fasteners	One Time	\$6,860
Concrete waste blocks - 18 @ \$100	One Time	\$1,800
Misc. (snow fence and posts)	One Time	\$400
	TOTAL	\$154,600

III. Sustainability Plan

Franklin County UT TIF Funding is intended to provide the initial boost often required to help an initiative to become self-sufficient. What are your strategies for sustainability?

The North Franklin Snowmobile Club maintains approximately 40+ miles of ITS trails that connect Phillips directly to Salem Twp., Madrid Twp., Freeman Twp. and to the Towns of Strong, Avon, Kingfield, Rangeley and Weld. These trails also connect to several parts of Franklin County from Rangeley, Carrabasset Valley and other locations north, and eventually to Dixfield, Temple and Farmington and other points south and east. This TIF grant project just make great recreational and economic sense and a major loss for all residents of Franklin County and seasonal tourists, if the ITS 89/84 trails and bridges are not fixed.

The first part of this TIF grant request is to fix the washed away +/- 1450 feet of gravel on ITS 89 trail from the Fish Hatchery Road to the Perham Stream bridge in Madrid Twp. This section of trail has a permanent easement deeded to the North Franklin Snowmobile Club, thus we have an invested interest. The repairs to this trail would include: replacing culverts, tailings and gravel. Parts 2-4 of this TIF grant request is to fix the washed out trails, culverts as described above in Section I, as well as replacing a temporary Orbeton Stream bridge in Madrid Twp. and resetting the Freeman Twp. bridge both, on ITS 84.

The sustainability will be long-term once these trails are redone properly; then they should last at least 8-10 years before they would need more repairs. We believe the sustainability to becoming self-sufficient on these trails is directly tied to the eagerness of the members to make the repairs happen, for both the landowners and recreational users happiness, as well as the business increase at local restaurants, markets, gas stations and lodging that would be generated throughout Franklin County. These ITS 89/84 trails outlined in this TIF grant application also have ATV access, which allows more members to help sustain and maintain these trails in the future, through the local ATV Clubs. If funding is needed after this 8-10 year period for trail repairs, we will seek other options, which may include landowner donations, business donations or other grant opportunities.

IV. Barriers to Success

Please indicate the greatest impediments to success of your proposed project and your plans to address them.

The biggest barrier to our success for this project is the lack of money. We are a small club with very good and well used ITS 89/84 trails that open up southern Franklin County to northern Franklin County for recreational snowmobiling. We need money to fix bridges, replace culverts and repair trails.

The second biggest barrier has been the weather (snow storms coming 01/07/2024) after the 3 weeks of the largest flood since 1987. Because of this, we are making temporary fixes during early January 2024 to get the trails open and useable and then the permanent fixes will be done by the end of September at the latest.

We have recently, through a High Peaks Alliance initiative, put together a meeting of all the 15 snowmobile clubs in Franklin County and northern Oxford County, as well as county commissioners, legislators, State of Maine Snowmobile staff, landowners and the Maine Snowmobile Association. The purpose of this meeting was to talk about the flood storm damage, triage the most important areas/trails/bridges to fix, as well as funding inquiries and communication between all parties. This was a very big barrier, which now has been overcome with High Peaks Alliance putting this meeting on so all clubs and other affected parties can continue to communicate and work together. It has really amazed us how effective this meeting with all parties has been and how we now can break down communication the walls and get things going in the right direction. High Peaks Alliance will be hosting future meetings.

We are hoping that the Franklin County TIF grant reviewers and/or the Franklin County Commissioners will make this project barrier-free by awarding this \$100,000 TIF money request to the North Franklin Snowmobile Club.

V. Project Narrative

Who will be served by this project?

Township(s)/Region: **Madrid, Salem and Freeman Twps. directly, however all of Franklin County will benefit.**

Age range of those served: **15-80 years olds**

Approximate number of those served: **40,000 sled riders per season**

Plan for evaluating the success of this project / Measurable outcomes:

The North Franklin Snowmobile Club has trails (including a portion of the State's ITS Trail System) in central Franklin County. Our trails can be accessed from Farmington to the Canadian Border, through Rangeley and Carrabassett Valley and we have estimated about 40,000 sled riders go through Franklin County using ITS 89/84 during the riding season. We maintain a Facebook page and we receive comments from snowmobile trail riders on that media, as well as most of the 15 clubs in the greater Franklin County area. Some clubs even have their own webpage on the Internet.

One measurement would be the increased number of positive comments of the trail conditions on our facebook page. Another measurement could be the number of personally expressed positive comments from the many riders and other club members around the state on how the ITS 89/84 trails are in Franklin County and maintained and groomed by the North Franklin Snowmobile Club and other snowmobile clubs in the area.

Another measurement could be the negative comments from potential riders and the substantial loss of business to the restaurants, markets, gas stations and lodges/hotels/rentals that would be lost this year and maybe permanently, if the ITS 89/84 trail are not connected. Remember these 2 ITS trails connect the north to south and the east to the west of Franklin County.

The last measurement would be done by the State Tourism Bureau that show how much money and tax dollars are brought in from snowmobile registrations, sales tax on all food, gas and lodging, plus all the millions of dollars spent locally to these restaurants, markets, gas stations and lodging sites.

VI. Signatures

Signature of president, CEO, or board president (non-profits)



Date

01/07/2024

Print name

Paul Kennedy

Title

Club President

Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable):

Signature of fiscal sponsor organization

N/A

Date

N/A

Print name

N/A

Title

N/A

IRS DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
HOLTSVILLE NY 11742-9003

002353.150616.0015.001 1 MB 0.109 702
[Barcode]



NORTH FRANKLIN SNOWMOBILE CLUB
% CAMELIA SMITH
PO BOX 386
PHILLIPS ME 04966

002353

Date of this notice: 11-17-2004

Employer Identification Number:
16-1709812

Form: 55-4

Number of this notice: CP 575 E

For assistance you may call us at:
1-800-829-4933

**IF YOU WRITE, ATTACH THE
STUB OF THIS NOTICE.**

WE ASSIGNED YOU AN EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Thank you for applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We assigned you EIN 16-1709812. This EIN will identify your business account, tax returns, and documents even if you have no employees. Please keep this notice in your permanent records.

When filing tax documents, please use the label IRS provided. If that isn't possible, you should use your EIN and complete name and address shown above on all federal tax forms, payments and related correspondence. If this information isn't correct, please correct it using the tear off stub from this notice. Return it to us so we can correct your account. If you use any variation of your name or EIN, it may cause a delay in processing and may result in incorrect information in your account. It also could cause you to be assigned more than one EIN.

If you want to apply to receive a ruling or a determination letter recognizing your organization as tax exempt, and have not already done so, you should file Form 1023/1024, Application for Recognition of Exemption, with the IRS Ohio Key District Office. Publication 557, Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization, is available at most IRS offices and has details on how you can apply.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- * Keep a copy of this notice in your permanent records.
- * Use this EIN and your name exactly as they appear above on all your federal tax forms.
- * Refer to this EIN on your tax related correspondence and documents.

Thank you for your cooperation.

North Franklin Snowmobile Club - 2024 TIF Request

ITS 89 (Orberton Stream Trail)

1400 feet X 18 feet wide by 2 to 4 feet deep

	# of Units	Cost per Unit	Total Unit Cost	Total Cost
2 foot culverts	4	\$ 800.00	\$ 3,200.00	
3 foot culverts	1	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	
yards of tailings @ \$27.50	1000 yards	\$ 27.50	\$ 27,500.00	
yards of gravel @ \$18.75	2000 yards	\$ 18.75	\$ 37,500.00	
hours of excavation time	100 hours	\$ 150.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Subtotal				\$ 84,800.00

ITS 89/84 (Orberton Trail and Temporary Bridge)

400 feet by 18 feet wide by 2 to 4 feet deep

Build Temporary Bridge

bridge mats 12 inch X 12 inch X 4 feet X 16 feet	11 mats	\$ 700.00	\$ 7,700.00	
hours of excavation time	40 hours	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,000.00	
railing, runners and fasteners for 50 running feet			\$ 2,000.00	
manual labor @ \$15/hour	100 hours	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,500.00	
yards of gravel for final fix @ \$18.75	800 yards	\$ 18.75	\$ 15,000.00	
Subtotal				\$ 32,200.00

ITS 84 (Railroad Bed from Salem to Stubbs Meadow)

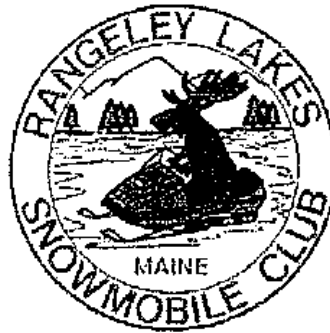
hours of excavation time	40 hours	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,000.00	
2 foot culverts	1	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	
3 foot culverts	1	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	
misc. (snow fence and posts)	1	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
yards of gravel for final fix @ \$18.75	800 yards	\$ 18.75	\$ 15,000.00	
Subtotal				\$ 23,800.00

ITS 84 (U.S. Route 145 Bridge in Freeman Township)

concrete waste blocks	18 blocks	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,800.00	
yards of tailings @ \$27.50	96 yards	\$ 27.00	\$ 2,640.00	
hours of excavation time	30 hours	\$ 150.00	\$ 4,500.00	
lumber 3 inch X8 inch X12 feet	60 boards	\$ 58.00	\$ 3,480.00	
railings, runners and fasteners for 35 running feet			\$ 1,380.00	
Subtotal				\$ 13,800.00

Total cost for all 4 projects				\$ 154,600.00
Total in-kind contributions				\$ 54,600.00
Total TIF Grant Request from Franklin County				\$ 100,000.00

Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club (RLSC)
PO Box 950
Rangeley, Maine 09470



Jan 4, 2024

Franklin County Commissioners
140 Main Street
Ste 3
Farmington, Me 014938

Dear Franklin County Commissioners:

My name is Lee Libby, president of the Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club (RLSC). I also am currently the chairman of the planning board for the town of Rangeley.

I am writing this letter about my neighboring club to the south. The North Franklin Snowmobile Club, and their application for a Tiff Grant.

I want to share how this affects RLSC and the town of Rangeley, Maine. The trails ITS 84 and ITS 89, which both pass through the North Franklin Snowmobile Club area, also connect to the RLSC trail system and the town of Rangeley. These trails are the major route connecting my club, RLSC, to the south.

The economic impact of snowmobiling to the town of Rangeley is estimated to be 80 million per year, the rider traffic on those trails; ITS 84 and ITS 89 exceed 3000 sleds per weekend.

I cannot express enough the negative impact the closing of those trails would have on the town of Rangeley.

Thank you, respectfully,

Lee Libby
President RLSC



TOWN MANAGER
15 School Street
Rangeley, Maine 04970

TO: Charlie Woodworth

FROM: Joe Roach 

RE: Support for TIF Application for Emergency Snowmobile Trail Repairs

DATE: January 4, 2024

Cc: Amy Bernard

The storm of December 18, 2023 caused significant damage to the main snowmobile trails in the region (ITS 89 and ITS 84). With snowmobile season likely to begin any day, time is of the essence to make repairs.

Snowmobiling contributes in a real way to the economy of the Rangeley Region, and it is a part of our outdoor culture. People come from all over to ride in Rangeley and the places we are connected to via the trail system.

I recognize that local clubs and the State of Maine do not carry sufficient contingency funds for this level of storm damage recovery. I support an application that is being made to the Franklin County TIF program that would fund repairs necessary to get the affected trails open as soon as possible.



PO Box 987
Farmington, ME 04938
207-491-2750
highpeaksalliance.org

January 3rd, 2024

Franklin County Commissioners
104 Main Street, Suite 3
Farmington, ME 04938

Dear Commissioners,

The High Peaks Alliance enthusiastically supports the grant to North Franklin Snowmobile Club for repairs to the ITS 89/84 snowmobile corridor. High Peaks Alliance's mission is to ensure and enhance public access and recreational opportunities in Maine's High Peaks. The trail connections in this area are integral to the regional connectivity of our snowmobile trail systems. This project is a direct fit for TIF granting priorities as it services the unorganized territories and is an investment in trail infrastructure.

Snowmobiling is a \$606-million-dollar industry in Maine and the High Peaks is home to the two largest clubs in the state. These trails are the back bone of our second home building market, our restaurants and retail industries. Our organization was formed because of the changing landownership patterns in this region which resulted in loss of access. This project helps ensure access to a landscape that has been integral for our community's vitality and quality of life.

High Peaks Alliance is pleased to support TIF funding for this project proposed by the North Franklin Snowmobile Club.

Sincerely,

Brent West
Executive Director
High Peaks Alliance



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

North Franklin Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 386
Phillips, Maine 04966

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of a TIFF grant application from the North Franklin Snowmobile Club to the Franklin County Commissioner's Office specifically for the re-construction of recreational bridges and trails that were heavily damaged in the December 18th storm. The State of Maine Snowmobile Program understands the importance of snowmobile trails to the towns of Phillips, Farmington and the Rangeley area.

We know the last economic impact study done for the 2018 – 2019 winter season indicates that snowmobiling in Maine generates \$606 million dollars to the local economy. This economic train would not be possible without our landowners, local snowmobile clubs and volunteers. These numbers would indicate this sport/business is the largest winter tourism economy for Maine. The December 18th, 2024, storm has devastated the trail system in parts of Somerset, Franklin and Oxford Counties. Any funding support from counties would be extremely beneficial to rebuilding a resource that creates jobs. Every club and trail system are important to the success of this sport.

Obviously, we depend on hundreds of local volunteers every year to pull 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails together, across private land before the snow arrives. Our system is the third largest in the country according to national reports. One of the largest costs to the snowmobile clubs is the maintenance of bridges and trails. As many now know, most all snowmobile trails in Franklin County have been closed off to other surrounding communities due to this major storm. This grant will contribute a lot in helping the club to get the main artery trails open for this coming winter season.

In closing we hope you will strongly consider the North Franklin Snowmobile Club's application for a TIFF grant to help them with these costs. We appreciate your support in the effort to enhance our trail system especially for this remote location throughout much of Franklin County.

Sincerely

Joe Higgins, State of Maine, Supervisor of Snowmobile Program

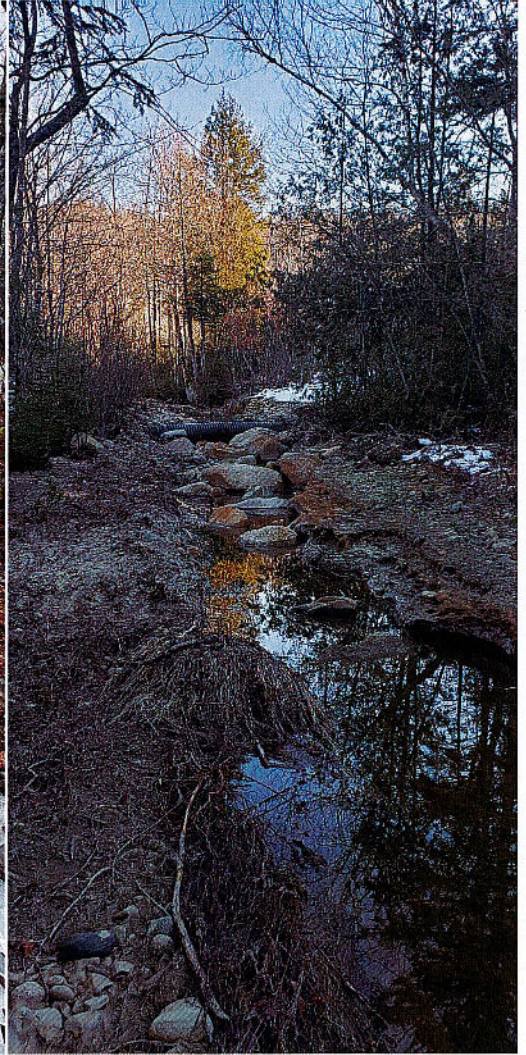
OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL
VEHICLE OFFICE
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
18 ELKINS LANE, HARLOW BUILDING



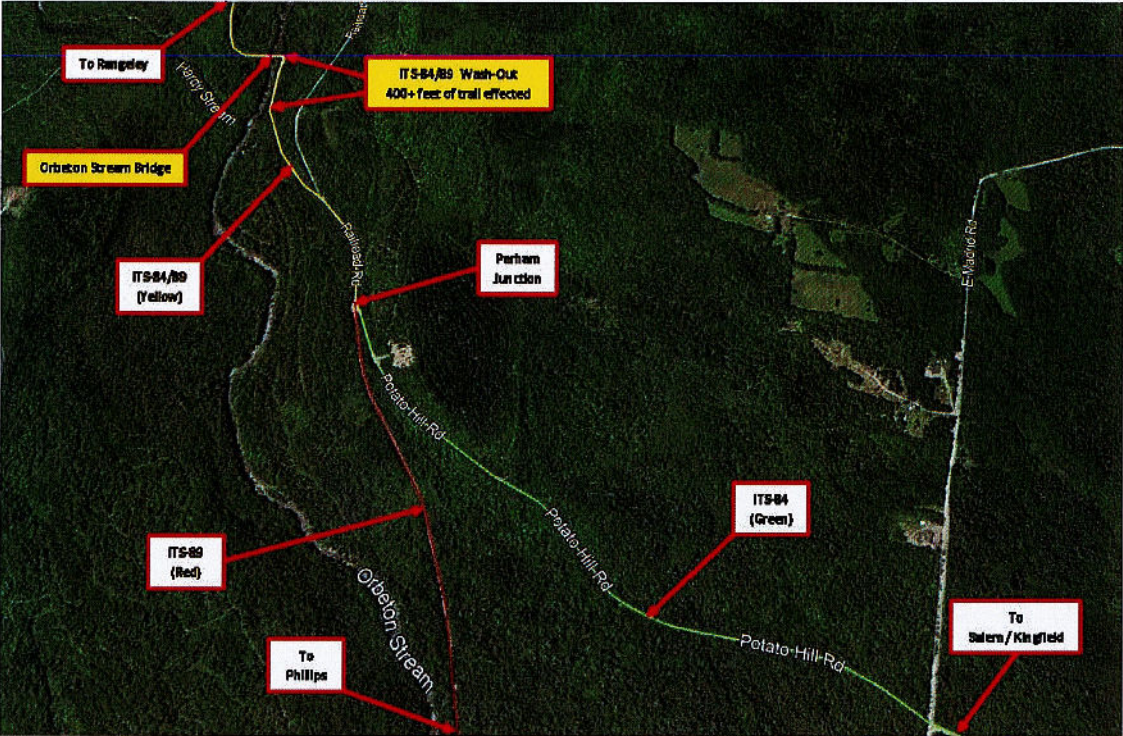
PHONE: (207) 287-4957
FAX: (207) 287-8111
WEB: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF

Project One Map and Pictures



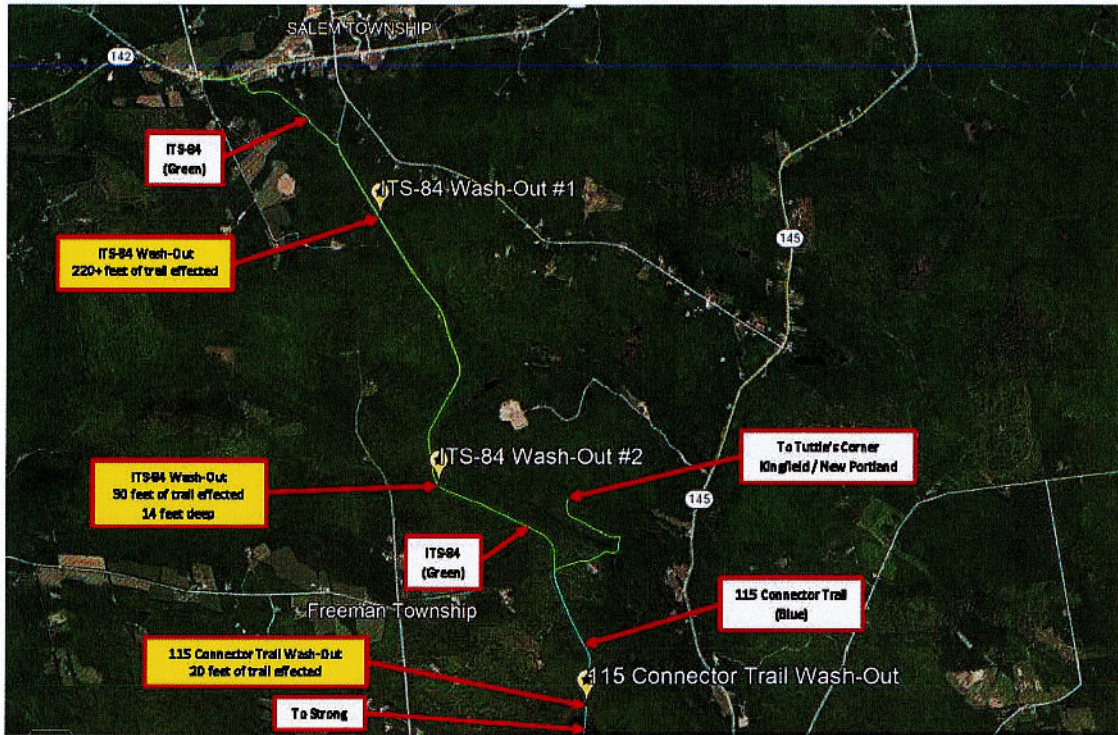


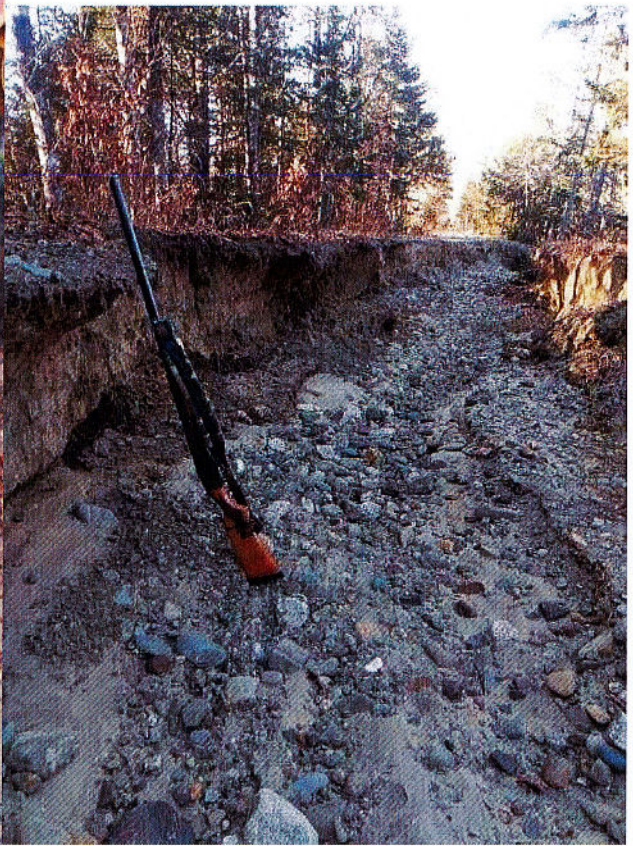
Project Two Map and Pictures



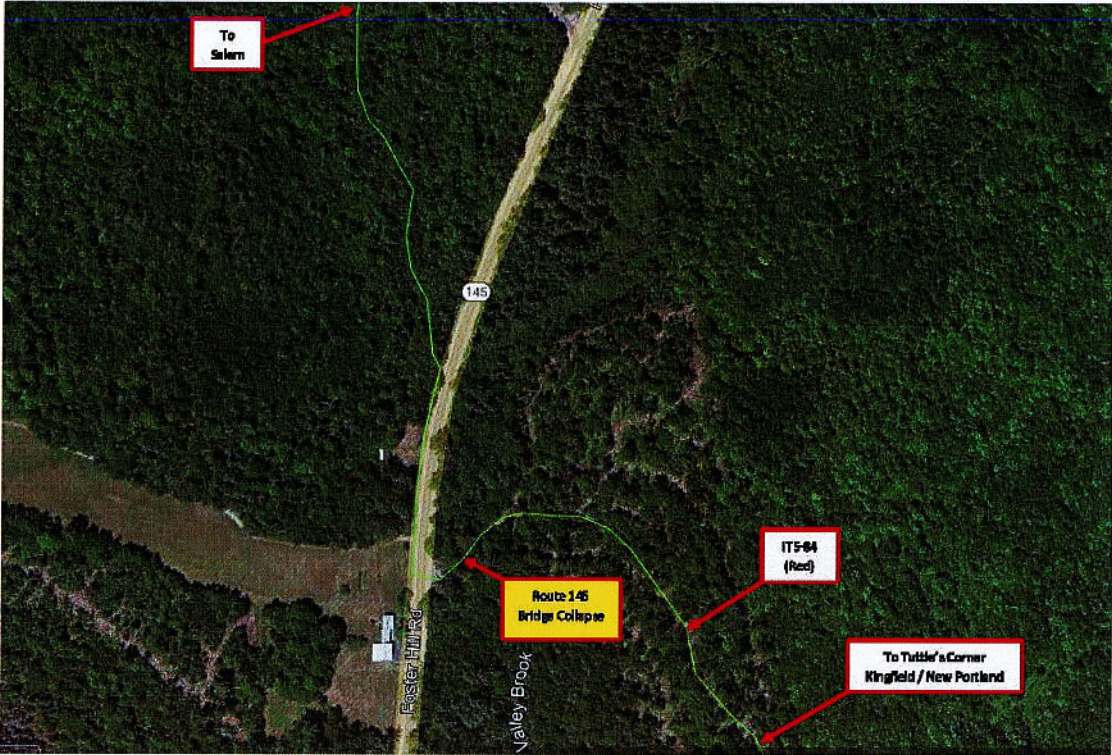


Project Three Map and Pictures





Project Four Map and Pictures





Amy Bernard

From: Marc Edwards <medwards@nrcm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:51 AM
To: Amy Bernard
Subject: Maine Trails Bond sign-on letter

Good afternoon Amy,

Thank you so much for facilitating the discussion about the Maine Trails Bond with the County Commissioners last month.

We are pleased to have the Commissioner's support for this important bill. To add Franklin County Commissioners to our sign-on letter to the legislature, please click on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUOW_Kkr62kKLnVCUtrvsc41PC5W6pEGXbEkDyApdF6YNYg/viewform

Again, many thanks,

Marc

Marc Edwards
Regional Outreach Coordinator
PO Box 1048, Farmington, ME 04938
Direct: (207) 430-0146



**Natural Resources
Council of Maine**
Protecting the Nature
of Maine – join us!

NRCM is committed to a more inclusive Maine.

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