

Memorandum

To: Lincoln County Officials

Fm: Bob Faunce
Lincoln County Planner

Dt: March 28, 2011

RE: 2011 Census Data

We have received the first preliminary results from the 2010 Census. I have attached two spreadsheets summarizing the data on a state and county level and on a town level for Lincoln County. The county spreadsheet includes data from the 2000 Census for comparison while the town spreadsheet includes data from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses for comparison.

From the county spreadsheet Lincoln County's population growth was only three-fifths that of the state as a whole whereas housing growth was almost 20% higher than the state's. This probably reflects a substantially higher percentage of seasonal housing in the county's housing stock compared to the state. Although 2010 seasonal housing data has not yet been released, in 2000 25% of housing in Lincoln County was seasonal vs. 14% state-wide. The very high vacancy data probably reflects a combination of seasonal and foreclosed dwelling units but not much more can be concluded until seasonal housing data is available.

Without data on year-round housing units, it is not possible to provide information on average household size so I included population per housing unit for 2000 and 2010. It is an imperfect statistic but it does allow comparisons with other counties and the state during the period 2000 to 2010. Lincoln County's population per housing unit declined 10% due to a likely continued decrease in average household size as well as continued growth in seasonal housing. The county's decline, however, was pretty much in-line with our sister mid-coast counties.

The second spreadsheet allows comparisons among Lincoln County communities over the last three censuses. Four communities, Boothbay Harbor, South Bristol Southport and Westport Island, lost population between 2000 and 2010. Boothbay Harbor's loss appears to be part of a

longer term trend whereas losses in South Bristol, Southport and Westport Island in the past decade come after solid gains during the 1990-2000 period. Edgecomb was by far the fastest growing Lincoln County community from 2000-2010 followed by Damariscotta and Somerville. The rate of population growth decreased substantially in Alna, Bremen, Dresden, Jefferson, Newcastle, Nobleboro and Whitefield in the past decade compared to much stronger growth in 1990-2000.

Again, without information on seasonal housing it is hard to provide a lot of analysis of the housing data. While housing growth in Edgecomb was a bit more than half the county-wide average during 1990-2000, during the past decade it was almost two and a half times the county average. Much of the very large gain in housing units might be attributed to two developments - the conversion of the Sheepscot River Inn property to seasonal housing and the workforce apartment project off Route 1. Other communities with significantly above average housing growth were Boothbay, Damariscotta, South Bristol and Southport. The impact of projected growth in seasonal housing is especially evident in South Bristol and Southport, which, despite reductions in population during 2000-2010, Comparison County Population and Housing Data

2000 and 2010 Census each had 15% increases in housing stock.

As additional 2010 census data becomes available, I will pass it along. If you have any questions or comments on the data available to date, please contact me.