



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Kristin Harmon
kharmon@emdc.org • (207) 942-6389

EMDC, AIM Development, LLC. and the Town of Bucksport applaud Whole Oceans' announcement as a catalyst to further redevelopment

BUCKSPORT, ME – Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), in partnership with the Town of Bucksport, American Iron & Metal (AIM) Development, LLC. and local partners, have been managing a United States EPA-funded community planning effort in Bucksport called ADAPT Bucksport. ADAPT Bucksport facilitates economic development and is pleased to welcome Whole Oceans, LLC. to the former mill site. **ADAPT will continue to foster growth and redevelopment with the rest of the community, in an effort to prepare the town for this transformative project and spur additional economic revitalization in the town and region.**

“EMDC is committed to working with our partners within ADAPT Bucksport and beyond to foster additional economic revitalization at the remaining portion of the property,” said Vicki Rusbult, Director of Re-Engineering the Region and Planning at EMDC. “We want to ensure that the former mill property moves forward at full capacity.”

ADAPT will build on the success the Town of Bucksport has seen by exploring new economic development opportunities such as job training for local residents and recruiting new businesses to the town and region. A consultant team led by Elan Planning, Design & Landscape Architecture, is assisting EMDC and the Town of Bucksport to prepare the plan.

“This is an exciting development in the process and opens up all kinds of new economic opportunities for not only the site, but the town and the region as a whole,” said Lisa Naigle, Principal of Elan. Following the Whole Oceans announcement, the town has already been approached by two seafood businesses that will be moving into Bucksport.

“Whole Oceans provides an opportunity for the community to have environmentally responsible industrial development that is compatible with the town's future goals,” said Bucksport Town Manager, Susan Lessard. “The EPA Planning Grant secured by EMDC and the work of ELAN consulting and local partner organizations will be key in providing a framework for the future that both supports the Whole Oceans project and also includes planning for additional development and the successful integration of that development with the community at large.”

ADAPT is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program. The EPA has also invested funds in the property through a Brownfield Assessment grant in partnership with the Hancock County Planning Commission. More information about the project is available at www.ADAPTBucksport.com.

Contact:

Jeff McGlin, AIM Development (USA) LLC, jmcglin@aimrecyclinggroup.com

Susan Lessard, Town of Bucksport Town Manager, slessard@bucksportmaine.gov

Rich Rotella, Town of Bucksport, Community and Economic Development Director, rich.rotella@bucksportmaine.gov

Daniel Stevens, AICP, Elan Planning & Design, dstevens@elanpd.com

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