

CMWG – Working Waterfront subgroup meeting #1 – Shoreland Zoning and Land Use Focus

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 8:30 – 10:00

Zoom: <https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/82075452150?from=addon>

- Welcome/Intros/Context
- Review Maine Wont Wait Strategy Alignment for Working Waterfronts (see below)
 - o Consider making a recommendation to the full CMWG for the up coming meeting about **“Support adaptation in Maine’s heritage industries that are on the front lines of dealing climate change”**
 - o Consider adopting a strategy for the working waterfront group of elevating working waterfront issues in other strategies and actions that are relevant. Statements to guide this work:
 - Working waterfronts and communities need to be prepared to deal with sea level rise and storm surge at the land/sea interface.
 - Working waterfronts are critical infrastructure supports adaptation for other marine businesses as well as contributing economically to coastal communities.
 - Adaptation for working waterfronts likely includes clean energy projects that help stabilize or reduce energy costs for businesses being battered by the impacts of climate change on the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine. – this is likely a conversation with the Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing work group, possibly the Energy work group as well.
- Deep dive into land use ordinances, shoreland zoning, related matters. Much of this work may be happening in the Community Resilience Work Group.
 - o Supporting adaptation of working waterfront infrastructure
 - Identify support needed to help communities plan for SLR, particularly in the built environment and with businesses that need to be on the water
 - Identify related SLR planning work that is needed to support/maintain working waterfront access
 - Identify barriers/challenges/exceptions/carve outs needed to effectively allow working waterfronts to remain at the waters edge
 - o Securing working waterfronts as critical infrastructure
 - Identify whether there needs to be an update to model working waterfront ordinance
 - Identify the technical assistance or capacity needs of communities to support effectively navigating shoreland zoning and working waterfront infrastructure
 - Identify connection between working waterfront infrastructure and other community infrastructure
 - o Recommendation – Continued coordination on these issues with the Community Resilience Work Group
- Meeting schedule moving forward

Working Waterfronts and Maine Wont Wait Strategy Alignment – DRAFT

Maine Wont Climate Action Plan -

https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December2020.pdf

Strategy D – Grow Maine’s Clean Energy Economy and Protect Our Natural Resource Industries

- D1 - Take advantage of new market opportunities
- Draft for Consideration – **Support adaptation in Maine’s heritage industries that are on the front lines of dealing climate change.** Should we recommend elevating this to a strategy instead of an action under take advantage of new market opportunities?

Strategy E – Protect Maine’s Environment, Working Lands, and Waters...

- E3 – Expand Outreach to Offer Information and Technical Assistance
 - o Note, no fisheries businesses here – Should we push for keeping with addition of fishing businesses and the infrastructure that supports them.

Strategy F – Build Healthy and Resilient Communities (Links to Community Resilience Work Group)

- F1 – Empower Local and Regional Resilience Efforts
 - o Should we push for any actions specific to working waterfronts and zoning?
- F2 – Adopt Official SLR projects
 - o Should we push for actions linked to support for implementation of these projections, particularly in tricky places like working waterfronts
- F3 – Emphasize Resilience Through Land Use Planning and Legal Tools
 - o Should we push for adding action related complicated tangle around working waterfronts

Strategy G – Invest in Climate Ready Infrastructure (Links to Community Resilience and Transportation Work Groups)

- G1 – Assess climate vulnerability and provide climate ready design guidance
 - o Should we push to clearly add working waterfronts as critical infrastructure in the actions and in the descriptions/implementation related work?
- G2 – Establish State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund
 - o Should we push to make sure working waterfronts are included in descriptive language and implementation of actions? They are currently referenced in the plan but not meaningfully included in follow up implementation.

Some questions to be thinking about:

- What kinds of TA or support do municipalities need to use land use planning and shoreland zoning to protect working waterfronts?
- Does Maine need an updated model ordinance to help support municipal efforts to protect working waterfronts?
- Are there changes to shoreland zoning that are needed to specifically recognize the unique needs and nature of working waterfront infrastructure?
- What does planning for 2ft of SLR by 2050 mean for working waterfront zoning ordinances?
- How do multiple land use issues and state regulatory overlays combine in your community?
- What support do you need for approaching or addressing use conflicts between the needs of working waterfront businesses and other uses, including parking
- Does your community have a working waterfront inventory? Would you need support to develop this?
- Would it be helpful to have similar kinds of assistance from the State that is going into supporting the implementation of LD 2003 and addressing housing issues?
- How are you approaching sea level rise and publicly owned working waterfront infrastructure?
- How are you approach sea level rise and privately owned working waterfront infrastructure