

Maine Climate Council
Community Resilience Working Group Meeting
Friday May 9, 2025
Hybrid

Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce new group members, provide legislative, policy, and programmatic updates, and discuss CRWG engagement going forward.

- State Updates
 - Brian Ambrette shared an update on the NOAA Resilient Maine grant milestones and upcoming priorities, and the Community Resilience Partnership grants and Regional Coordinator pilot.
 - Judy East shared information about the Maine Community Funding Portal and Maine Community Resilience Hub Website.
 - Nathan Robbins presented interagency regulatory updates such as 2025 shoreline stabilization under NRPA and DEP regulatory & design guidance materials.
 - Brian Ambrette described the recent activity of the Maine Office of Community Affairs, LD 1, and the State Resilience Office.
 - Judy East explained the purpose of the interagency working group focused on inland flood analysis.
- Federal Funding Updates
 - Dan Matz provided an overview of the Governor's Infrastructure Implementation Committee and their considerations for how to evolve their mandate to keep up with the changing federal landscape.
 - Judy East shared an update from Anne Fuchs on the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) program funding and the [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund](#).
 - Judy East noted termination of funding for NOAA *Transformational Habitat Restoration and Connectivity in Downeast Maine*, AKA "Addison Road Project" and the elimination of 400 federal staff who contribute to the for National Climate Assessment. Many federal funding cuts are proposed in the Presidents budget; many decisions have yet to be finalized
- Looking Forward
 - Judy shared a summary of the [Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission Final Report](#) and potential areas for CRWG contributions.
 - A video was shared to highlight an [example of a community resilience action in Vermont](#) to relocate a public library out of a flood zone.
 - Summary of input from WG members:

- Charlie Hebson, MDOT Hydrogeologist, noted that MDOT will cover expenses for the Fish River gage this year (with the help of NB province) but that commitment ends 9/25/25 and ongoing funding is needed.
 - Tora Johnson, SCEC Sustainable Prosperity Initiative, shared the status of the [Upper Machias Bay Master Plan project](#), a 6-town initiative to address multiple areas of conflict and urgent resiliency challenges. Issues are now identified and public meetings are planned for the summer.
 - Co-Chair Becca Boulos, Executive Director of the Maine Public Health Association (MPHC) shared a link to the [MPHC annual conference](#) which has a focus on connections, building health and strengthening communities.
 - Jeremy Bell, TNC Climate Adaptation Program Director, provided an update on the Sandy River Watershed Association's work on erosion and sedimentation challenges facing the region (e.g., One foot of gravel deposited across 300 acres of ag. land), and the passage out of committee of LD 758 calling for a geomorphic study of the river system.
 - Jessica Brunacini, Wells Reserve Director of Coastal Training Programs, described a workshop she will give with Susi Moser and Lucy Perkins at the Mobility and Resilience [2025 conference in NYC](#) in June; the workshop will focus on approached for communities to let go before, during, and after catastrophic climate events
 - Rebecca Lincoln, Maine CDC Environmental Epidemiologist/Program Coordinator noted that she is near publication of a Community Extreme Temperature Guidebook.
- The group identified the topics of well-being, health, and community engagement as the focus areas for the next CRWG meeting.
 - A survey will be sent out to identify a summer meeting date. The fall meeting will take place on Friday, October 17, also hybrid.