



# Maine Office of Community Affairs

## Maine Development Ready Advisory Committee (DRAC)

### Purpose & Overview

**DRAC Mission: To help Maine communities plan for and achieve sustainable, coordinated development, through:**

- Supporting sustainable growth and local priorities.
- Promoting collaboration among state, regional, and municipal partners.
- Advancing housing, equity, and inclusion for all residents.
- Protecting natural and historic resources.
- Building local capacity through education and funding support.

#### A. History & Context

- **2021** – Committee initially created under the statute for the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to develop best practices for community redevelopment (Title 30-A §5161, PL 2021, c. 664)
- **2025** – Statute revised and relocated to Title 5 §3235 (PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12)
  - Expanded scope, including infrastructure, land-use, housing, economic development, conservation, historic preservation.
  - Transfer of primary oversight to MOCA.
    - Shift from a narrower redevelopment-land-bank frame to a broader municipal capacity-building/coordination role across Maine’s communities.

#### B. Committee Membership & Representation

- **State leadership:** Directors and Commissioners from: Redevelopment Land Bank, Economic and Community Development, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Agriculture Conservation and Forestry, Maine State Housing, Historic Preservation Commission, and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Municipal and regional voices:**
  - 3 municipal representatives
  - 5 regional council representatives
  - Representatives for affordable housing, civil rights, conservation, and economic development organizations.

### C. Primary Duties

- The committee **develops best practices** to help communities:
  - a. Prepare for sustainable growth and enhance quality of life.
  - b. Coordinate across State Gov.
  - c. Designate priority investment areas (e.g., downtowns, rural crossroads, waterfronts).
  - d. Provide technical assistance, education, and resources for accessing funding for project implementation across:
    - Transportation and infrastructure
    - Housing creation and preservation
    - Economic development
    - Conservation
    - Historic preservation

### D. From Formation to Action

- In these early phases DRAC will serve as a **forum for raising issues and addressing cross-agency challenges**, a “squeaky wheel” space for problem-solving.
- Overarching Goal: Communities have an easier time navigating state regulations and incentives.
  - Provide a venue for aligning standards and priorities across state initiatives
    - Including the Maine Won't Wait (MWW), Infrastructure Plan, Maine Economic Plan, Growth Management policies, etc.
- As this effort gains momentum, we will look at more **comprehensive strategies to assist communities with their development plans**.

### E. Logistics & Next Steps

- The full committee is required to meet at least twice per year to review progress and set priorities
- Working groups may be established to advance specific implementation actions and priority topics
- Currently: Scoping work, anticipate appointments near the end of 2025.

### Contact information:

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