



**COMMUNITY**  
RESILIENCE  PARTNERSHIP

**Stronger Communities Summit**

June 10th, 2026

Wells Conference Center, University of Maine, Orono

8:00-9:00 AM	<i>Arrival, Registration, Networking, Coffee</i>
9:00-9:30 AM	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening Keynotes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Samantha Horn</b>, Director, Maine Office of Community Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Maulian Bryant</b>, Executive Director, Wabanaki Alliance</li> </ul>
9:30-10:30 AM	<p><b>Session 1 – Community Innovation: Meeting the Moment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Sutherland</b> Newcastle Town Manager</li> <li>• <b>Craig Noble</b> Mariaville Selectboard</li> <li>• <b>Garrison Beck</b> VHB</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Melanie Nash</b> Sustainability Planner, SMPDC &amp; CRP Regional Coordinator</p>
10:30-10:45 AM	<i>Networking Break &amp; Community Slide Share</i>
10:45-11:45 PM	<p><b>Session 2 – Making Projects Happen: Leveraging Partnerships and Funding for Lasting Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matt Garside</b> Poland Town Manager</li> <li>• <b>Alex Zipparo</b> Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission</li> <li>• <b>Crystal Hitchings</b> Cherryfield</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Andrea Berry</b>, Funding Manager, New England Environmental Finance Center &amp; CRP Finance Coordinator</p>
11:45 –1:00 PM	<i>Lunch break</i>
1:00-2:00PM	<p><b>Session 3 – The Hidden Work of Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abby Roche</b> Island Institute</li> <li>• <b>Sarah Burnham</b> Otisfield Community Resilience Committee</li> <li>• <b>Jasmine Lamb</b> Sipayik Resilience Committee</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>John Brochu</b>, Senior Planner, Municipal Planning Assistance Program</p>
2:00-2:15 PM	<i>Networking Break &amp; Community Slide Share</i>
2:15-3:15 PM	<p><b>Session 4 – From Projects to Stories: Building Narratives that Last</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rod Melanson</b> Bath Director of Sustainability and the Environment</li> <li>• <b>Bill Zoellick</b> Gouldsboro Coastal Resilience Committee Chair</li> <li>• <b>Tamra Benson</b> Community Resilience Director, CEBE</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Sam Schipani</b> Communications Coordinator, State Resilience Office</p>
3:15-3:30 PM	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brian Ambrette</b> Director, State Resilience Office</li> </ul>