Maine Climate Council
Coastal and Marine Working Group
Meeting #10 – May 28, 2020
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (via Zoom)

Notetakers: Jes Waller and Jess Reilly-Moman
Notes approved by H Leslie and K Leyden, 6.8.20

Total participants: 44 (see end of notes)

9:01am Laura greets, starts with zoom info, Cassy available for technical trouble.

9:06am – KL lists all people in attendance.

9:11am – Agenda and goals for Meeting 10
1. Provide results and feedback from stakeholder engagement efforts
2. Review strategy package and name areas of emphasis for MCC
3. Consider important caveats to note in cover memo
4. Share a sense of accomplishment!

9:13am – Heather Leslie presents strategies as a package
Discussion – immediate concerns about how have been packaged as 6 strategies
Are there concerns? Suggestions for overlap?
- Bill Mook – the Information Exchange (IE) focused on just business, info collection point to communities and state government as well
- Kathleen Leyden – Community (“Comm”) Resilience technical assistance is covering much community, municipalities
- Bill Mook - Want inter and multidisciplinary, bio and econ data, all info funneling into one place, where people of all different sectors have access
- Claire Enterline – blue carbon wording, not just on wetlands, but also eelgrass and macroalgae
- Ivy Frignoca – what Claire said, in response to Bill, the IE would provide briefing to legislators, and Biz Council to support seafood related industries, did that detail stay in there?
- Curtis Bohlen – Comm Resilience similar to Info Exchange, but not just focused on coast, have tech piece, how collect, how collect the right data, how get to users; the two strategies are glued, should be one strategy instead of 2
  o It should be statewide strategy
- Kathleen Bell –hard making case two different things just serving marine businesses, like the idea, second ideas from Comm Resilience; lose out on innovation when divide by sector
- John Hagan – how much outreach goes on throughout the document; this could be all extension work in one form or fashion, sometimes a specific body, or just promote and foster, to condense all together with mechanism
- Rep Lydia Blume – like wording about funding, “innovative funding mechanisms, financing tools”, another overarching goal of CC, having an office of funding, how find and develop funding
- Bill Needleman – Under strategy 2, urban condition and retrofit should happen, opportunity for experimentation
  - Fisheries: regulatory should be more directive, barrier is access to quota
  - WW: cross reference to Comm Resilience, inventory of current regulations and how overlap and how could be amended, strong mimicking or reference
- Kathy Mills – Biz Council became Maine Seafood Business Council, since couldn’t represent needs of other marine businesses (we don’t know what tourism and marinas need)
  - How can bake climate into decisions already make, think about how integrate, not just create new
- Kristen Puryear – balance between being redundant, important to keep threads and support between strategies
  - Kathleen Leyden - we recognize that, will put verbiage about connections and additional coordination
- Amanda Cross – GOPIF clarity on how overarching IDed among groups
  - Identify leads for actions, add specificity and ownership, who are the partners? A list of those, and if not clear, note that
  - Laura Singer – GOPIF job to ID crossing over, iterative process

Heather Leslie – asking for input: Is there an opportunity to do additional lumping by combining blue carbon and nature-based solutions?
- Susie – GOPIF will have access to details of strategies? I don’t have problems with lumping
- Angela Brewer – aside from concern over losing great details, Blue Carbon is mitigation, doesn’t want that to be lost
- Claire Enterline – don’t support combining, one is mitigation, other is adaptation; ecosystem planning is focused on lots of sectors and habitats, breadth of that is much larger, need to add urban infrastructure as well, scope is much larger, would water down blue carbon mitigation and the accounting tasks there
- Kristen Puryear – second Angie’s and Claire’s concerns, strategy 2 is most inland reaching, overlap with working lands WG
- Ivy Frignoca – they are separate, good tech scientists, to high level: carbon about protecting, conserving
- Nick Battista – actions under strategy could get lumped, to do blue carbon RIGHT, not just do Blue Carbon
- Bill – reiterates concerns about the Information Exchange

9:56am Summary of CMWG recent outreach efforts
- Kristen Puryear: KP and Bev Johnson spoke with Maine Climate Youth Justice, gave a presentation on Blue Carbon; they expressed concern about a lack of tribal representation and land uses. Cassy Rose replies that MCC is working to improve tribal participation.
- Kathleen Leyden: Maine Association of Planners/Build Maine/Grow Smart, echoed the need for urban considerations and incentives. She also had a call with a Maine ports group and received feedback on strategies.
- Claire – stream connectivity WG, big comment back – more inclusive of not just tidal but freshwater crossings, added this in to strategy
- Amanda – outreach at inland fisheries and wildlife, Stay Connected Initiative, feedback to bring more attention to co-benefits of strategies for conserving wildlife
- Ivy – group of people for all WGs, 250 ppl, feedback – incentives, ID priority marshes, making sure land owners understand can conserve seaweed in intertidal
- Heather Leslie: Meeting with Maine Coastal Fishermen’s Association, interested in working water fronts piece, highlighted connection between strategies.

10:05 Review of CMWG stakeholder survey results (Jess Reilly-Moman)
Presentation from Jess:

- 427 respondents, 27 WG members, respondents dominated by researchers / nonprofits, slight majority were male, most were 45+ and 65+ years old
- Caveats: Qualitative analysis that will share repeated topics and themes, not representative, several strong opinions.
- Overreaching themes: People are missing, COVID-19 is referenced in fisheries and working waterfronts, funding equity, stormwater management missing, use what is already out there (tech assistance and monitoring,) need for municipal involvement in process and implementation, incentives for the win.
- Blue Carbon: Actions 4 &5 highlighted as WG concern; overall concern with lack of community engagement, concern around eelgrass proof of concept, lack of municipal education, difficult to understand.
- Tracking impacts: Actions 2&6 as WG concern; overall concern around decision making and self-promotion, the need for broader scale (ecosystem and regional) monitoring, concern around lack of involvement (citizen science and involvement of many groups.)
- Info exchange: Action 1 flagged as WG concern; concern about powers of advisory council and composition of this group, desire to build on and not duplicate existing efforts, equity and inclusion beyond “same old gang.”
- Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture: Action 2 is WG concern; overall aquaculture as a concern of pollution source and industry dynamics that exclude local families, industry and management dynamics (FMP and not protecting right species), hesitation around management expansion/changes, get beyond commercial species, use existing programs, COVID-19 related concerns and support for fishermen in hard times.
- Business Council: Action 4 is WG concern; overall concerns about history and implementation, need to make it more broad and use existing efforts, not all sectors are included, the need for specific tools.
- Working waterfronts: no specific Action concerns, but many brought up flood insurance; overall concern with community access, municipal implementation, tourism not mentioned, lack of flood insurance, funding/equity.
- Nature Based Solutions: No specific Action as WG concern; overall hesitation around landowner conflicts, proof of concept, funding, need for incentives.
- All strategies ranked as a priority except for the information exchange and business council.

Comments from WG:
- Nick notes that many seem to think that this group is all NGO/State and the need to consider that perception;
- Stacy Keefer- Need to go back through strategies and address equity concerns, but do we have time with MCC timeline?
- Bill Needelman- Inflammatory comments need to be listed as caveats, highlight that this is the product of the virus and we lacked broader community
- Bill Mook-Agree that we need to simplify language and consider Business Council comments
- Kathy Mills- equity gets buried in these, how can we elevate these comments
  o Cassy Rose- This will be considered in June meetings, UMaine will conduct an “equity audit” as well
  o Kathleen Leyden- Equity can also be addressed in cover memo
- Ivy F- Is the reason the outreach strategies (info exchange, BC) a result of survey design? We also need to highlight that monitoring can inform action.
- Angie Brewer- concerns that survey was dense and communication of Blue Carbon strategy, and asks if we can make changes to the survey
- Bill Needelman notes that this is a bad time to send another survey and that it may not be reflective giving everything going on

10:57am – break

11:07am – Laura reconvenes, shares slides of WG member preferences:
Survey results from just WG members (Laura Singer, CBI)
Question: “What strategy should we be taking in the near-term?”

- Which actions were highest rank from the WG members in each strategy:
  1. **Blue Carbon**: statewide inventory and ID priorities were selected,
  2. **Nature based solutions**: Stormwater management, protect ecosystems,
  3. **Tracking Climate Impacts**: water quality monitoring, improve socio-economic tracking, develop and implement a coordinated funding strategy,
  4. **Maine Marine Business Council**: Information exchange and technical assistance
5. Information Exchange- Oversight panel and scientific clearinghouse,
6. Fisheries- enhance monitoring, evaluate regulations in the climate context,
7. Working waterfronts - coastal ordinance zone, SLR planning, infrastructure revolving loan

Responses:
- Stacey – did we put a lens on this as to cost, and what is low hanging fruit? Has that been done on top of what we did?
- Nick – description of the strategies / how we package is important
  o Overall looking at what pops out, twice as many extension agents, would hit 90% of the things that popped out
- Claire – I don’t think my responses should be used in this way, difficult to decide; with any strategy, things were interconnected, wording
  o Kathleen Leyden – heard from GOPIF that IDing what came first, put clarity around that
- Bill Mook – I share Claire’s consternation; ask what are first steps I would take?
- Claire – what are WG members supposed to be doing with this? How much taking survey info into account?
- Don Witherill – results aligned with what I selected, leaning towards thought progression of need more data to make informed decisions (these are short term things I gravitate towards)
  o As state program, thinking about how budget about to get hammered, have this in mind—if can find resources, what comes first?
- Kathleen Leyden – has indications that charge for state agencies to reprioritize with existing

Deadline next Friday, June 5th. All changes need to be made by Monday COB.
- Group discussion talks about what is possible by COB Monday. Bill N notes that this will depend on the caveats in the memo, and Curtis states the need to review the summary for each strategy. Heather asks that the chairs of each SC edits each strategy in the 5 page summary and provide information for outreach slides.

11:52am Addressing Important Caveats for Cover Memo (Kathleen)
Kathleen shares Caveats and Limitations draft and reviews limitations

Group discussion on missing caveats:
- Bill N notes that COVID-19 has shaped this and that needs to be acknowledged
- John Hagan - acknowledge that things were not ranked by cost effectiveness,
- Bill M- the virus changed things but still got a lot done and it was an iterative process,
- Ivy- the WG process was an adaptive process (around COVID-19),
- Lydia - need to show that climate change is as important and impacts as widespread as a pandemic
- Claire-when do non-WG get involved? COVID has made that hard.
- Bill M- Note that COVID impacts are still happening and will continue, huge drain on our time

12:07pm Next Steps (Cassy and Kathleen)
- Kathleen reviews ERG draft report, ERG needs comments by June 5th
- Charles and Eliza (from ERG) will do a webinar to review their work next week. Laura will send out Doodle poll to schedule

12:14pm – Next Steps (Laura)
- Draft as 5 page document of exec summary, everyone can review, send comments to subcommittee (SC) chairs
- Reflections on overarching caveats
- Look at language from Heather’s slides
- No additional edits for SC folks
- Looking for correspondence, calls for help from Heather or Kathleen
- Curtis Bohen recognizes hard work of the groups and says thanks, Ivy asks what next steps are

Meeting Participants, based on pre meeting registration.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
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<td>Susie</td>
<td>Arnold</td>
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<td>Nick</td>
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