

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Good morning,

We hope you're all enjoying the cool temperatures and colors that comes with fall. Here is our September newsletter.

Upcoming discussions/workshops

LD 2003 Discussion: MCOG will be hosting a meeting to go over the recently released guidance documents released by the Maine DECD on LD 2003, a copy of which is attached to this email. The meeting will be held on **November 17, 2022, at 5:00pm**. Interested participants may attend the meeting remotely on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86849491407>) or in-person at the Town of Waldoboro conference room (1600 Atlantic Highway, Waldoboro, ME). The meeting will also be recorded and uploaded for viewing if you are unable to attend.

Solar Ordinance Workshop: MCOG will host a workshop to discuss implementing solar ordinances and balancing the preservation of farmland. The workshop will be held on **November 3, 2022, at 11:00am**. The meeting will be held on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83121361148>) and in-person at the Town of Waldoboro conference room (1600, Atlantic Highway, Waldoboro, ME). The guests for this workshop will include Thatcher Carter and Abby Farnham of Maine Farmland Trust. The meeting will also be recorded and uploaded for viewing if you are unable to attend.

Strategic Planning

- If you have not been able to make our sessions or if you have additional input, please fill out our [Strategic Planning Survey](#) by tomorrow at 5pm. We are excited to read your comments.
- MCOG has more strategic planning meetings coming up. All meetings start at **5pm**. The meeting for Rural Communities North of Route 1 is available as a remote option too. [This is the zoom link](#). All other meetings are in person only.

MCOG Strategic Plan 2022			
	1st Session	2nd Session	Locations
Brunswick, Harpswell and Sagadahoc County	14-Sep	12-Oct	Bath City Hall
Lincoln County	21-Sep	13-Oct	Lincoln County Planning Offices
Rural Communities to the North of Route 1	20-Sep	20-Oct	Waldoboro Town Hall
Knox County	22-Sep	27-Oct	Rockland City Hall

- Please block off your calendars **November 16, from 2-6**, location TBD. We will hold the MCOG Fall General Assembly session focused on the Five-year Strategic Action Plan. Guest

speakers will be invited to address regional land use issues facing the Midcoast area. Your input on the final Plan will be collected as we deliver the plan to the Board of Directors for implementation.

Other news

Correction from the August newsletter: Joel Lufkin of Landmark Engineering received the grant for the Union culvert project on Clarry Hill Road.

MCOG helps St. George take climate action: With the assistance of MCOG staff, the Town of St. George enrolled in Maine's [Community Resilience Partnership](#) and applied for \$50,000 to undertake a project entitled, "*Visualizing Solutions: Assessing Vulnerable Infrastructure and Engaging the Community Through 3-D Imaging.*" The project will evaluate options to protect critical roadways and important historic and economic resources vulnerable to sea level rise using state-of-the-art surveying-geomatic technology, and highly accurate 3-D topographic and architectural modeling. These realistically scaled virtual models and resulting imagery will be used to engage community members in visualizing expected impacts of sea level rise and exploring a range of adaptation options. It uses visual storytelling to deepen understanding of complex information, expand the decision-making capacity of community members, and connect with the community at large. If funded, the project will be a model for other coastal communities to proactively address sea level rise and flooding, with broad community participation.

Working on sustainability and climate resilience? MCOG can help! Please take this [short survey](#) to tell us about your priorities and what you need to move ahead. We're here to assist!

Thrive Maine application period opens October 4: Thrive Maine is a FAME-administered program offering forgivable loans to businesses and nonprofits that demonstrate COVID-related negative economic impacts, for which they have not previously received federal and/or state pandemic relief. **Grow Maine:** MCOG is participating in this FAME-administered loan program, which will provide capital to help Maine businesses grow and provide jobs for Maine people. We have already received an inquiry from a family farm in the Midcoast region. Link to Thrive Maine and Grow Maine page on FAME website: <https://www.famemaine.com/business-financing/for-business-owners/fame-financing-programs/thrive-and-grow-maine/>

Law Enforcement Purchase: We have formally been awarded the \$900,000 for law enforcement purchases in the MCOG region. Funds will be awarded to municipalities and counties based on requests made in June 2022. All funds have been allocated, and the next step is for MCOG to sign the contract with the US DOJ and to prepare the drawdown program. A separate notice will be sent out to all Police Departments that submitted a request to provide a timeline and any information we will require from them. This has been a grant 18 months in the making, and this could not have been done without the cooperation from each public office and law enforcement department.

Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program: Funds from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan will expand the Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program, which provides local governments and organizations competitive grants up to \$150,000 towards the upgrade of undersized and failing culvert stream crossings on municipal roads. Administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, this program will help more communities upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings to cost-effectively improve fish and wildlife habitats, reduce flooding, and increase community safety. Application materials are open until November 10th.
<https://www.maine.gov/jobsplan/program/municipal-stream-crossing-grant-program>

All the best,

The MCOG Team

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