

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Good afternoon everyone,

Below is our October newsletter. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Webinars and Workshops

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. If you, or someone from your town office, plans to attend in person, please send a notice to mjohnstone@midcoastcog.com to prepare enough handouts at the meeting.

Cooperative Purchase Seminar:

The Midcoast Council of Governments will be hosting a seminar regarding the Cooperative Purchasing Program. This program is done in cooperation with the Greater Portland Council of Governments to help municipalities save thousands of dollars a year by buying common municipal and public works products in bulk through a competitive bidding process.

Join us with special guest speaker, Tony Plante, to learn more about this program.

This meeting is open to the public and may be attended either in person or online through Zoom.

The seminar will be held on **November 9, 2022 at 11:00am** at the Brunswick Town Office at 85 Union Street, Brunswick, ME. If you are unable to attend in-person, the following link can be used to watch the meeting on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88381214377>

MCOG Midyear General Assembly:

Please plan on attending the **MCOG Midyear General Assembly meeting on November 16th from 3pm-6pm** to be held in person at the Camden Snow Bowl. We will have **guest speakers from the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future** and the **Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning at DACF** to discuss community sustainability and resiliency planning, municipal planning and implementation programs, the importance of regional cooperation and other community issues of the day. The second half of the meeting will review **the final draft of the MCOG Five-year Strategic Plan**, asking you participants to help prioritize the actions of MCOG and its staff over the next five years. MCOG Board and staff members have held two forums each in four different subregions to collect input and craft a strategic plan to meet the needs of the MCOG region. Please come and help us finish this important work.

LD 2003 Workshop:

On **November 17, 2022 at 5:00pm**, the Midcoast Council of Governments and Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission will host a joint workshop to discuss LD 2003 and the Maine DECD guidelines. This workshop will be a hybrid meeting so members may attend remotely on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86849491407>) or attend in-person at the Waldoboro Town Office (1600

Atlantic Highway, Waldoboro, ME). This is a public meeting where we encourage municipal staff and volunteers that have any questions to attend. This session will also discuss any updates surrounding the legislation and funding for communities.

Planning Board Workshops:

The Midcoast Council of Governments and Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission will be hosting a joint workshop to cover the basics of Planning Board procedures. This workshop was popular amongst both organizations prior to COVID and helped volunteers unable to attend the Maine Municipal Association sessions learn about their roles and responsibilities as Planning Board members. This workshop will cover how Planning Board members should conduct during and outside of public meetings, and suggestions for running more open and efficient meetings.

For now, MCOG and LCRPC are planning to only cover basic Planning Board procedures in December. There are also plans for a subdivision workshop to be held in February. The date, time, and location of the workshop will be available in the November newsletter.

Announcements

Update on Housing Partnership Program:

As part of the LD2003 legislation, housing partnership grants will be available to municipalities and service providers. From the State's summary, an abridged version notes that the *Housing Opportunity Program will consist of three general areas:*

- *“Service Provider grants” will be awarded to experienced service providers to support municipal ordinance development, public process and may encourage regional coordination.*
- *Community housing planning grants to be awarded through a competitive process to municipalities to support the creation of housing development plans, and ordinance and policy amendments to support those plans.*
- *Community housing implementation grants to be awarded through a competitive process to support the implementation of community housing priorities.*

MCOG will keep communities aware of the rule making going on to implement this program, as well as funding availability.

Regional Hub:

On October 11, MCOG received a conditional award notice from the State of Maine regarding our proposal to serve as an Economic Recovery Implementation Regional Hub. MCOG proposed to provide grant funding, technical assistance and entrepreneurial training to new Midcoast businesses that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$689,619 award, which will fund MCOG's regional hub through 6/30/2024, is subject to execution of a contract between MCOG and the State of Maine.

MCOG Helping Towns Become More Resilient:

The Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) received a \$19,700 competitive grant to help the towns of Owls Head and South Thomaston engage the risks and opportunities posed by a changing climate.

The grant was awarded by Maine's Community Resilience Partnership to assist communities in reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to clean energy, and becoming more resilient to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, and public health impacts.

Meg Rasmussen, MCOG's community sustainability planner, will first assist these two communities in enrolling in the partnership by understanding their risks, their strengths and deciding which actions to pro-actively take. Once enrolled, Meg will also help them apply for Community Action Grants to fund up to \$50,000 for the towns' climate-related priorities. According to Executive Director Mat Eddy "This grant will help MCOG establish a robust sustainability program to assist our member communities in addressing their climate-related challenges."

Mapping Help Available:

MCOG recently expanded their GIS program to handle mapping processes for the MCOG region. If your community is in need of any help making, editing, or discussing maps, feel free to reach out to Charlotte Nutt at cnutt@midcoastcog.com.

Law Enforcement Purchasing Program:

We are testing the drawdown system to be sure that MCOG will be prepared to request up to the \$900,000 in equipment requests for the law enforcement agencies that submitted their requests back in June. All law enforcement agencies will receive a notice in the coming weeks when we can accept invoices. We anticipate accepting invoices later this month.

All the best,

The MCOG Team

Mathew Eddy, Brian Dancause, Meg Rasmussen, Max Johnstone, Michael Martone, and Charlotte Nutt

165 Main Street, Suite F
PO Box 62
Damariscotta, ME 04543
207-209-4129