



**Annual Environmental Conference 2020
Workshop Descriptions
and
Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners Units Content**

**Workshop Series A
9:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m.**

1. Addressing Climate-Related Threats to Species and Ecosystems

While climate adaptation utilizes many of the same conservation tools and approaches we have been using for years, it differs in that it is targeted to address specific climate-related threats. This workshop will discuss the need for local conservation efforts that focus on climate related threats to species and ecosystems. Conservation commissions and conservation organizations must be proactive about the need to protect species and ecosystems and ensure that local and regional climate adaptation plans do not focus exclusively on infrastructure, economic assets, and human health and safety.

Speaker: Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor, UMass Amherst; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Whately; MACC Director
Toni Lyn Morelli, USGS Research Ecologist, DOI Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst
Moderator: Cynthia O'Connell, RLA, ASLA, Manager, Stormwater Division of Dept. of Public Works, Town of Braintree; MACC Officer

2. Habits of Highly Effective Conservation Commissioners

An effective conservation commission gets its business done, works collegially to engage the strengths of each member, and is respected within its community. This interactive workshop is designed to help you identify and prioritize ways in which you can strengthen the work of your commission. We will address perennially challenging topics such as effective group decision-making, working with dominant and disengaged board members, setting expectations and engaging new members, rotating roles, and developing a proactive annual work plan. We will also talk about what to do when a commission member (or staff) is behaving badly. Depending on the topics brought by participants we may also touch on developing effective relationships between board and staff, strengthening relationships with other boards and departments (including appointing authorities), and managing agendas to shorten meetings. Participants will come away with practical suggestions for improving the effectiveness of their commissions' work.

Speakers: Kathleen (Kate) Connolly, Esq., Principal, Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff LLP; MACC Director
Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Agent, Town of Foxborough
Moderator: Jacque Goring, Conservation Assistant, Town of Stow

3. MassDEP Wetlands and Waterways Permitting: Jurisdiction and More

This presentation will review the geographic areas subject to jurisdiction and activities subject to jurisdiction for state and federal wetlands and waterways regulations. The regulations to be covered include the Wetlands Protection Act, 401 Water Quality Certification, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Chapter 91, and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (as it relates to Wetlands and Waterways).

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Speakers: Andrew Poyant, PWS, Environmental Analyst and Circuit Rider, Southeastern Region, MassDEP Wetlands and Waterways Program
Maissoun Reda, Environmental Analyst, Southeast Region, MassDEP Wetlands and Waterways Program
Carlos T. Fragata, Environmental Analyst, Southeast Region, Mass DEP Wetlands and Waterways Program

Moderator: Margaret (Peg) Stolfa, Esq., Partner, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP; MACC Director

4. Protecting Massachusetts Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are an important component of healthy ecosystems across the state, and they receive a host of legal protection under federal, state, and local wetland regulations. Their ecological functional values are at the root of why we protect them; and their variety, temporary nature, and fluctuations are at the root of much confusion over how we protect them. We will explore and explain both their function and best practices for their protection, including perspectives on local bylaws by a Commission administrator. This workshop will not focus on vernal pool documentation or official certification.

Speakers: Matthew R. Burne, Vernal Pool Association
Leo P. Kenney, Vernal Pool Association
Rebecca Longvall, Conservation Administrator, Town of Bolton

Moderator: Lana Spillman, Ph.D., former Conservation Administrator, Town of Topsfield; former Conservation Commissioner, Town of Boxford; MACC Director

5. Environmental Law 2020: Developments Commissions Need to Know

Commissioners and staff need to know recent legal changes in their powers and duties, procedures and standards, rights and remedies, and best practices. Otherwise, they are at a disadvantage to applicants, engineers, counsel, and even alleged violators appearing before them or appealing to DEP or court. This session will cover the past year of such legal developments in the laws and rules Commissions administer, MassDEP rulings, court decisions on the Wetlands Act and Home Rule, and constitutional law about enforcement.

Speakers: Gregor I. McGregor, Esq. Founder, McGregor & Legere, PC; MACC Director
Olympia A. Bowker, Esq., Associate, McGregor & Legere, PC

Moderator: Jennifer Steel, Chief Environmental Planner, City of Newton; MACC Director

6. Hands-on ID: Common Plants of Massachusetts Freshwater Wetlands

(DOUBLE SESSION—PLEASE SIGN UP FOR BOTH 6A and 6B)

This workshop will focus on the most frequently encountered trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants of swamps, bogs, marshes, and other freshwater wetlands in Massachusetts. This two-block session will include both hands-on identification and PowerPoint presentations that will cover characteristics used in field identification and photos and descriptions of each plant. The classroom set-up will include both herbarium and live winter specimens. These and additional photos and field guides will help attendees recognize common freshwater wetland plants in the field using the most prominent features of each plant. This workshop is intended for beginners and may also serve as a refresher on basic wetland plant identification for others.

Speakers: Amy Ball, PWS, CWS, Senior Ecologist, Horsley Witten Group, Inc.; MACC Director
Karro Frost, Conservation Planning Botanist, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species, MA Division of Fish and Game

Moderator: Alyssa Jacobs, PWS, Associate and Manager, Ecological Sciences Group, Epsilon Associates, Inc.

7. Green Infrastructure Goes Mainstream: Benefits and Applications

This two-part workshop will include a presentation to update participants on the benefits, costs, design requirements, and applications of the latest advancements in Green Infrastructure practices. The second part of the workshop will include a hands-on interactive exercise, during which participants will have the opportunity to "green-up" a Boston Public School parking lot design with green infrastructure practices and report out on the pros and cons of different design options.

Speakers: Richard A. Claytor, Jr. P.E., President, Horsley Witten Group
Geoffrey Glover, Staff Engineer, Horsley Witten Group

Moderator: Marc Bergeron, PWS, CWS, Associate, Senior Wetland Scientist, Epsilon Associates, Inc.; MACC Director

8. Reducing Coastal Hazards with Nature-Based Infrastructure

In this presentation, conservation commissioners will learn about and engage in discussion of nature-based coastal infrastructure practices and an ongoing project to design, build, and monitor the performance of these projects in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut. The presentation will begin with a brief overview of collaboration between the five coastal New England States to address coastal hazards, the regional context as it relates to climate change and sea level rise, and findings from "Living Shorelines in New England: State of the Practice (2017)." The presentation will highlight a range of project types—from marsh restoration to dune restoration to coastal bank stabilization—provide resources to assist in reviewing project proposals, and engage participants in a discussion about monitoring and maintenance of these practices.

Speakers: Eric Roberts, Coastal Resilience Specialist, The Nature Conservancy, Boston
Julia Knisel, Coastal Shoreline and Floodplain Manager, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Moderator: Nick Nelson, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Regional Director, Inter-Fluve, Inc.; MACC Director

Workshop Series B 11:15 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

(6B) Hands-on ID: Common Plants of Massachusetts Freshwater Wetlands

(DOUBLE SESSION—CONTINUED FROM 6A)

This workshop will focus on the most frequently encountered trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants of swamps, bogs, marshes, and other freshwater wetlands in Massachusetts. This two-block session will include both hands-on identification and PowerPoint presentations that will cover characteristics used in field identification and photos and descriptions of each plant. The classroom set-up will include both herbarium and live winter specimens. These and additional photos and field guides will help attendees recognize common freshwater wetland plants in the field using the most prominent features of each plant. This workshop is intended for beginners and may also serve as a refresher on basic wetland plant identification for others.

Speakers: Amy Ball, PWS, CWS, Senior Ecologist, Horsley Witten Group, Inc.; MACC Director
Karro Frost, Conservation Planning Botanist, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species, MA Division of Fish and Game

Moderator: Alyssa Jacobs, PWS, Associate and Manager, Ecological Sciences Group, Epsilon Associates, Inc.

9. Nature's Value in a Changing Climate: Land for Resiliency

This workshop will provide an overview of the new, sixth edition of Mass Audubon's *Losing Ground* report on land development and conservation trends across the Commonwealth. *Losing Ground: Nature's Value in a Changing Climate* also summarizes data from the literature about the values of ecosystem services provided by forests, farmlands, inland and coastal wetlands, and urban green spaces, through the lens of climate mitigation and resiliency. The workshop will also present the EEA Resilient Lands Initiative and nature-based solutions in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The workshop is relevant to the role of conservation commissions regarding open space conservation, land stewardship, and wetlands protection. It also provides information useful to conservation commissions more generally in their work with others in their community in relation to how open space and wetlands support climate change mitigation and resiliency, through local planning and land use regulations, and state grants to support that work.

Speakers: E. Heidi Ricci, Assistant Director of Advocacy, Mass Audubon; MACC Director
Kurt Gaertner, Director of Land Policy and Planning, Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs

Moderator: Lana Spillman, Ph.D., former Conservation Administrator, Town of Topsfield; former
Conservation Commissioner, Town of Boxford; MACC Director

10. Making the State House Work for You

Visits from constituents to legislators is a crucial strategy for advancing our conservation agenda. This session will empower members of conservation commissions to engage in the legislative process. Participants will learn about the life of a bill, the best opportunities to influence the process, and strategies and tactics to influence legislators to achieve goals for public funding and policy. Finally, there will be an interactive session in which participants will learn and practice crafting local stories into a compelling message. Skills participants will take away:

1. How to best engage with the legislature (process and timing)
2. How to prepare for and make the most of a meeting with a legislator
3. How to turn your local story into a compelling message
4. Advocacy strategies

Speakers: Emily Myron, Government Relations Specialist, The Nature Conservancy
Gabby Queenan, Policy Director, Massachusetts River Alliance

Moderator: Rebekah Lacey, Esq., Counsel, Miyares and Harrington LLP; MACC Officer

11. Agricultural Exemptions and USDA NRCS Farm Conservation Plans

Understanding agricultural exemptions and the use of USDA NRCS Conservation Plans in permitting projects are important parts of working with agricultural producers in and around wetland resource areas. Most routine agricultural activities are exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act, however, for some activities the exemption is contingent on the farmer having, and following, an NRCS conservation plan. A USDA NRCS conservation plan is a voluntary/non-regulatory document that provides a farmer with an objective assessment of a farm's natural resources. In concert with a farmer's goals and objectives, NRCS presents alternatives (suites of conservation practices to treat resource concerns) to the farmer that will improve a farm's natural resource base. The farmer chooses the alternative that best fits their goals and objectives. The conservation plan then documents the natural resource assessment and the farmer's decisions. Learn about the agricultural exemption in the Wetlands Protection Act and the role that conservation plans play in that exemption

Speakers: Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor, UMass Amherst; Conservation Commissioner, Town
of Whately; MACC Director
Thomas Akin, Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations and State Resource
Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Moderator: Janice Stone, PWS, Conservation Agent, Town of Hadley; MACC Director

12. Beavers and Bogs: Nature-based Vulnerability Preparedness and Effective Management

Massachusetts' MVP program offers numerous opportunities to use nature-based solutions to restore ecological communities and build resilience. We will demonstrate how a variety of municipal resiliency projects can be employed through MVP, including culvert and bridge assessments, and cranberry bog restoration, and an evidence-based process for beaver management. To amplify municipalities' efforts to effectively manage beavers, an analysis of the Billerica Municipal Beaver Management Program was recently published by the Association of Massachusetts Wetlands Scientists. We will present its findings comparing the cost effectiveness of water control devices versus trapping. We will also present an overview of effective beaver control methods, including their advantages and limitations.

Speakers: Michael Callahan, Owner, Beaver Solutions, LLC
Julianne Busa, PhD, Senior Environmental Scientist, Fuss & O'Neill
Josh Wilson, PWS, Senior Ecologist, Fuss & O'Neill
Moderator: Nick Nelson, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Regional Director, Inter-Fluve, Inc.; MACC Director

13. Beyond the Building Code: How Commissions Can Reduce Flood Risk

This presentation examines the role of conservation commissions in the permitting process with an eye to non-building types of floodplain development activities, and how local commissions help to implement the heart of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in their floodplains. The presentation demonstrates the nexus between buildings in the floodplain and all other types of development, and why local commissions are key to NFIP compliance.

Speakers: Joy Duperault, State Floodplain Manager, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Moderator: Cynthia O'Connell, RLA, ASLA, Manger, Stormwater Division of Dept. of Public Works, Town of Braintree; MACC Officer

14. Reviewing Wetland Replication Plans

Constructing successful replication sites, especially small sites, can be tricky; existing reports document that replicated wetlands often do not fully compensate for lost and/or degraded Interests of the WPA. However, we've also seen some replication sites do well in this regard. This workshop will provide guidance to conservation commissions and others on reading and understanding wetland replication plans, including notes, specifications and drawings, and in writing effective and enforceable conditions to yield successful replication projects.

Speakers: Michael Howard, PWS, CWS, Principal, Epsilon Associates, Inc.; MACC Officer
Matt Schweisberg, PWS, Principal, Wetlands Strategies and Solutions, LLC; MACC Officer
Moderator: Marc Bergeron, PWS, CWS, Associate, Senior Wetland Scientist, Epsilon Associates, Inc.; MACC Director

15. Conservation Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems (aka Drones)

Take off and explore exciting conservation applications of remotely collecting data with small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS). Learn about the remote flying process and data collection methods with a live on-campus campus demonstration. Incorporating sUAS into workflows can produce excellent quality data previously unobtainable from traditional ground survey methods. Topics are to include a variety of conservation applications, coastal monitoring, video and imagery, orthophotography, 3D modeling, and FAA flying rules and regulations, all presented by commercially licensed remote pilots in the industry. Attend this workshop to discover the numerous possibilities of using sUAS data collection in the conservation setting.

Speakers: George Andrews, GISP, sUAS Pilot, BSC Group
Shaine Bonin, Survey Technician, sUAS Pilot, BSC Group
Matt Creighton, Senior Coastal Ecologist, BSC Group

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Moderator: Theresa Portante, Environmental Scientist, BSC Group

Workshop Series C
1:45 p.m.—2:45 p.m.

16. Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations Overview; Considerations for Habitat Management

Regulatory review and strategic conservation planning are complementary tools for protecting Massachusetts' spectacular biodiversity, from rare species to unique natural communities. Likewise, habitat management activities such as invasive species control or early successional habitat creation can work to enhance environments for rare species if certain protective measures are taken. This workshop will provide an overview of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), with special emphasis on the details of regulatory review under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA, 321 CMR 10.00) and guidelines for permitting habitat management activities.

Speakers: Rebekah Zimmerer, Endangered Species Review Biologist, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Chris Buelow, Senior Restoration Ecologist, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Moderator: Rebekah Lacey, Esq., Counsel, Miyares and Harrington LLP; MACC Officer

17. Municipal Procurement Law: An Overview

Conservation Commissions must follow Chapter 30B for the purchase of supplies and services such as the hiring of consultants. This presentation will include the fundamentals of Chapter 30B, procurement principles, contracting best practices and a discussion of how public records law and commission responsibilities interact with procurement law.

Speaker: Neil Cohen, Director, Regulatory and Compliance, MA Office of the Inspector General

Moderator: Margaret (Peg) Stolfa, Esq., Partner, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP; MACC Director

18. Assessing Road and Stream Crossings

The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) was formed to facilitate and coordinate road-stream crossing assessments in order to set priorities for culvert replacement projects that will restore aquatic connectivity in streams and rivers. The original NAACC assessment protocol evaluated the barrier effects of road crossings on non-tidal streams. The NAACC recently developed three additional crossing assessment modules: aquatic passability for tidal streams, passability for terrestrial wildlife, and assessment of culvert condition. Learn more about these assessment methodologies, the NAACC, and how you can get involved.

Speaker: Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor, UMass Amherst; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Whately; MACC Director

Moderator: Nick Nelson, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Regional Director, Inter-Fluve, Inc.; MACC Director

19. Alternatives Analysis in the Riverfront Area and Beyond

Alternatives analysis is a requirement for working in Riverfront Area that is often overlooked or misunderstood. Even when Riverfront Area is not involved, an alternatives analysis can also be a useful tool for evaluating potential impacts to other resource areas that helps both applicants and commissioners understand design decisions and better protect those resource areas. This presentation first focuses on how to scope and apply the alternatives analysis regulations for Riverfront Area for large- and small-scale projects as well as for standard and limited projects. Example scenarios will be discussed. It then focuses on a broader use for this process and how an alternatives analysis can help applicants and commissioners streamline their decisions. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of Riverfront Area regulation requirements and how alternatives analysis can be applied to protect other resource areas during the permitting process.

Speakers: Maria Firstenberg, Project Manager/Wetland Scientist, TRC Companies, Inc
Colin Duncan, Energy Program Manager, TRC Companies, Inc.
Moderator: Matt Schweisberg, PWS, Principal, Wetlands Strategies and Solutions, LLC; MACC Officer

20. EPA Permit for Construction Site Erosion Control and the Commission's Role

This workshop will cover how the US EPA and Massachusetts conservation commissions can work together on construction sites. The EPA presenter will go over the EPA federal permit for construction site erosion control, including requirements for site operators, how operators apply, and how to verify permit coverage. EPA's informal and formal enforcement authorities and procedures will be covered. Participants will discuss, with examples, how conservation commissions' local on-the-ground knowledge and EPA's resources can together bring environmental improvement.

Speaker: Andrew Spejewski, Inspector/Enforcement Officer, US Environmental Protection Agency
Moderator: Sandra A. Brock, PE, CFM, LEED AP BD + C, ENV SP Vice President and Principal, Nitsch Engineering; Chair, Conservation Commission, Town of Grafton; MACC Director

21. When You Need an Army Corps of Engineers Permit

This workshop will provide a discussion of the Corps jurisdiction and how it differs from the State's. It will also include some tips to assist conservation commissioners in knowing when to alert wetland permit applicants that they may need a permit from the Corps.

Speakers: Katelyn Rainville, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers
Paul Sneeringer, Senior Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers
Moderator: Gregor I. McGregor, Esq. Founder, McGregor & Legere, PC; MACC Director

22. New England Landscape Futures Explorer: A Tool to Visualize and Plan

The New England Landscape Futures Explorer (NELF) Explorer is a scenario-based online land-use visualization and planning tool. The NELF Explorer can be used to understand development vulnerability, compare impacts of different development patterns (including a scenario with no new wetland development), and inform open space and recreation planning. This session will demonstrate the capabilities of the NELF Explorer and highlight uses relevant for conservation commissions using examples from across Massachusetts.

Speakers: Lucy Lee, Research Assistant, Harvard Forest, Harvard University
Danica Warns, Southeast Regional Coordinator, Shaping the Future of your Community Program, Mass Audubon
Moderator: E. Heidi Ricci, Assistant Director of Advocacy, Mass Audubon; MACC Director

Workshop Series D
3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

23. Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience: Mapping, Planning, and MVP Implementation

This talk will explore how existing science for conservation and restoration prioritization can be leveraged into a framework for holistic climate resilience planning. Project examples demonstrating economic, social, and environmental benefits will be shared and explored. Examples of transitioning from planning to action grants through the Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness Program will also be discussed.

Speakers: Sara Burns, Water Resource Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter
Jessica Dietrich, GIS Manager, The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter
Hillary King, Central Regional Coordinator, MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Moderator: Nick Nelson, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Regional Director, Inter-Fluve, Inc.; MACC Director

24. Increasing Visibility and Awareness of your Conservation Commission

The conservation commission serves a critical role in the town, and yet the work of the commission often goes unseen. This lack of integration within the community limits essential learning opportunities for parents and youth and decreases opportunities for cross-collaborations with other volunteer-led programs working with common goals to support protected lands and wetland species. The presentation provides examples of cross-community collaborations that have brought about significant local change. It includes an invitation for commission members to amplify their work on the protected spaces and to facilitate conversations with parents and children on ways they can mobilize citizen efforts to preserve the quality and longevity of these critical areas.

Speakers: Kristin Capezio, Conservation Commissioner, Town of Norwood
Stephen Washburn, Chair, Conservation Commission, Town of Norwood
Moderator: Jennifer Steel, Chief Environmental Planner, City of Newton; MACC Director

25. Data Sources and Tools for Land Conservation

Over the past several years, there has been a proliferation of GIS data and online tools to inform conservation decision-making. Examples include Biomap2, CAPS, Critical Linkages, Nature's Network, TNC's Resilient and Connected Lands, MA Climate Action Tool, and Mass Audubon's MAPPR Tool. Many of these data layers/tools are interrelated. This workshop will review these datasets and tools, and provide background information about their development, intended uses and how they can complement one another.

Speaker: Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor, UMass Amherst; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Whately; MACC Director
Moderator: Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator, Town of Ayer

26. Wetland and Floodplain Considerations for FEMA Grant Applications

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) mission is helping people before, during and after disasters. FEMA grants fund disaster recovery and mitigation measures for communities. The Mitigation Division's Environmental Planning and Historical Preservation (EHP) program staff reviews all grant projects for compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Recipient projects often involve coordination with US Army Corps of Engineers, state Coastal Zone Management agencies, and local conservation commissions in Massachusetts. The FEMA environmental and historic project review process will be described, as well as regulatory compliance documentation needed for EHP review and approval. Some common wetlands and floodplain regulatory compliance issues we experience will be discussed, and conversation with participants will be encouraged to identify options to improve the process.

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Speaker: Linda Hutchins, PG, CFM, Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA Region 1, Mitigation Division
Moderator: Sandra A. Brock, PE, CFM, LEED AP BD + C, ENV SP Vice President and Principal, Nitsch Engineering; Chair, Conservation Commission, Town of Grafton; MACC Director

27. NPDES MS4 Permit: How are Municipalities Complying with Permit Requirements?

Complying with the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit is a challenge for many towns and cities. This presentation will provide an overview of the NPDES MS4 requirements focusing on what communities were required to have already completed, what communities need to complete in the next year, and what long-term requirements communities need to prepare for. This presentation will highlight some local strategies and regional initiatives, using case studies from Framingham and Palmer. At the end of this presentation, participants should have a better understanding of the MS4 stormwater permit requirements and have some strategies to successfully address these requirements that could be effective in their communities.

Speakers: Kerry Reed, Senior Stormwater and Environmental Engineer, Department of Public Works, City of Framingham; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Hopkinton
Angela Panaccione, Stormwater Coordinator and Conservation Agent, Town of Palmer
Moderator: Pamela D. Harvey, Esq., Conservation Commissioner, Town of Brookline; MACC Officer

28. Wildlife Considerations in Lake and Pond Management; Tools for Commissions

Lake and pond management is a common tool used for a variety of reasons including aquatic vegetation control and invasive species management. MassWildlife has a regulatory role in lake and pond management with regard to MESA species, but also makes recommendations to protect all fish and wildlife resources consistent with our mandate. MassWildlife has been involved in researching the relationship between fish and wildlife resources and certain management techniques including annual winter water level drawdowns. We have also developed tools that will help conservation commissions weigh the benefits and impacts of certain management techniques (e.g., winter drawdowns) on target and non-target fish and wildlife resources. This workshop will help conservation commissions by providing guidance and tools to better implement the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Speakers: Jason Carmignani, PhD, Aquatic Biologist, Mass Wildlife
Jason Stolarski, PhD, Watershed Project Leader, Mass Wildlife
Moderator: Kathleen (Kate) Connolly, Esq., Principal, Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff LLP; MACC Director

29. MassDEP's eDEP Online Filing Program for the Wetlands Program

MassDEP's eDEP Online Filing System allows you to submit Wetland Protection Act documents instantly to MassDEP. MassDEP staff will provide a "walk-through" on how to use eDEP and answer questions you may have about the eDEP forms, the program requirements, and general technical issues. **Bring along your laptops and questions.** Attendees will gain a better understanding of how to make eDEP work best for you.

Special Note: *In advance of your eDEP training, please make sure you are signed up for eDEP. We highly advise that municipalities use a generic conservation address like conservation@town.com or concom@town.com rather than a personal email, as eDEP creates a permanent archive of your submissions which become part of your record keeping, which you will want to keep accessible to future staff and commission members. The log-in and security questions for the account are best kept something generic that can be shared by the conservation office and passed on if necessary.*

<https://edep.dep.mass.gov/edep/>

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Speakers: Kimberly Roth, MELP, Environmental Analyst & Wetlands Circuit Rider, Central Region, MassDEP
Alice Smith, MEM, Wetlands and Waterways Program, MassDEP
Moderator: Nicholas Wyllie, Conservation Agent/Environmental Planner, Dept. of Planning and
Development, City of Attleboro; Co-Chair, MACC Young Professionals Committee

Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners

9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Unit 105: *Writing Effective Orders of Conditions*

Content: Protecting Interests of the Act; Boilerplate and special conditions; denials and appeals; amendments and extensions; certificates of compliance

Instructor: Andrea D. Langhauser, Interim Planning Director/Environmental Planner, Town of Easton
Assistant: Heidi Graf, Ecologist, BSC Group, Inc; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Hudson

Unit 208: *Wetlands Buffer Zones: Considering the Science while Applying the Regulations*

Content: Current science on buffer zones; reviewing projects in buffer zones; decision making under the Wetlands Project Act Regulations; climate change and other considerations; writing wetland bylaws and ordinances, developing science and performance-based standards for buffer zones

Instructors: Gillian Davies, PWS, NHCWS, RSS, and CESSWI; Senior Ecological Scientist, BSC Group, Inc., Ingeborg Hegemann, CWS, PWS, Senior Consultant, BSC Group, Inc.; Conservation Commissioner and Community Preservation Committee Member, Town of Stow
Assistant: Becky Nesnevich, Land Stewardship Coordinator, Mass Audubon Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners

Unit 103: *Plan Review and Site Visit Procedures*

Understanding and reading maps and engineered plans; overview of site visits—preparing for and conducting them

Instructors: Michael Howard, PWS, CWS, Principal, Epsilon Associates, Inc.; MACC Officer
Greg Hochmuth, RS, PWS, CWS, Environmental Consultant, Williams & Sparages LLC; MACC Director
Assistant: Heidi Graf, Ecologist, BSC Group, Inc; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Hudson

Unit 201: *Getting Home Before Midnight: How to Run an Effective Meeting*

Content: Meeting preparation; participants and their interests; group dynamics; recordkeeping; Public Records Law; communication techniques

Instructor: Nathaniel Stevens, Esq., Senior Associate, McGregor & Legere, P.C.; Chair, Arlington Conservation Commission
Assistant: Amanda Smith, Conservation Commissioner, Town of Granby

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Unit 202: *Protecting Wildlife Habitat*

Content: Presumption of significance regarding wildlife habitat; protecting habitat for rare wetlands wildlife; protections for vernal pool habitat; understanding wildlife habitat evaluations; determining if a project will have significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat

Instructor: P. Chase Bernier, CWB, PWS, Natural Resources Program Manager, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Assistant: David Cowell, PWS, CWB, CERP, Senior Wetland Scientist/Project Manager, Hancock Associates: Conservation Commissioner, Town of Clinton