



# MACC 2025 Annual Environmental Conference

## Workshop Descriptions

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### Full Morning Workshops

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#### Morning Fundamentals Unit

9:45 AM - 12:15 PM

#### Unit 103: Plan Review and Site Visit Procedures

This required Fundamentals Unit will provide participants with an understanding of how to read maps and engineering plans typically submitted to conservation commissions. The class provides an understanding and overview of site visits, how to prepare for and conduct site visits as a commissioner, as well as understanding wetland lines, erosion and sediment control structures, and other symbols on engineering plans. This is a great class for new commissioners as well as consultants, and participants will learn by using large construction plans. This class extends through the entire morning; participants who take Unit 103 can sign up for Unit 105 in the afternoon or other afternoon workshops.

#### Instructors:

Tennis Lilly, Climate Resiliency Program Manager; Chair, Lawrence Conservation Commission;  
MACC Education Committee Member

Moses Matovu, Senior Project Designer, Nitsch Engineering

#### Series A & B Double Session Workshop

9:45 AM– 12:30 PM

#### A1 & B1. Identifying Woody Wetland Plants in Winter

While soils have become a more significant indicator of identifying and delineating freshwater wetlands, as the “above ground” indicators, plants still play a key role in this process. This two-session workshop will focus on the most frequently encountered trees, shrubs, and vines of swamps, bogs, marshes, and other freshwater wetlands in Massachusetts with PowerPoint presentations and a “hands-on” identification that will cover characteristics used in field identification. The classroom set-up will include live winter specimens, which, along with additional photos and field guides, will help attendees recognize common freshwater wetland plants in the field using the most prominent features of each plant. **Workshop A1 is the first part** of the workshop and will be dedicated to a review of some basic botanical terminology as well as an overview of the plant specimens collected. **Workshop B1 is the second part** of the workshop that will explore

some of the more common woody wetland plants found in forested swamps and shrub swamps in Massachusetts “*hands on!*” This workshop is intended for beginners and/or a refresher on basic wetland plant identification. Space is limited-this workshop typically sells out early, so do not delay in registering for this important workshop series. **Participants must attend both sessions A1 and B1.**

**Speakers:**

Amy Ball, PWS, CWS, Senior Associate, Horsley Witten Group, Inc.; MACC President  
Karro Frost, Plant Restoration Biologist, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

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## Workshop Series A

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

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### **A2. No Net Loss – Implementation of “An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth”**

This important workshop will focus on an overview of the new Open Space Act (formerly referred to as the **Public Lands Preservation Act** or **PLPA**) including implementing regulations, related tools and information provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), and examples of how dispositions or changes in use of land protected by Article 97 have been considered after passage of the Act. Conservation commissions are important stewards of land subject to Article 97, and this session will help participants understand how the Constitution of the Commonwealth, An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth, and EEA's Article 97 Policy interact to protect open space and ensure no net loss. The EEA Open Space Act website is a great resource to conservation commissioners and planners. Be sure to bring your questions about Article 97 land protections!

**Speakers:**

Kurt Gaertner, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Policy, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Michael Gendron, Open Space Act Coordinator, Assistant Conservation Restriction Reviewer, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

### **A3. Massachusetts’ Biodiversity Goals and the Importance for Conservation Commissions**

Conserving biodiversity is essential to maintaining the natural systems that filter our air, clean our water, and regulate our climate, especially in the face of climate change. Massachusetts is developing nation-leading biodiversity conservation goals through Executive Order 618. Come learn about what biodiversity goals are, how they are set, and how they can be used at the local level by conservation commissions to better protect, restore, and rebuild biodiversity. Speakers will also address how this statewide initiative fits into national (and local) efforts.

**Speakers:**

Jennifer Ryan, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives and Climate Policy, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game

Eve Schlüter, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

**A4. Salt Marsh Restoration: Innovations in Techniques, Permitting, and Monitoring**

Salt marshes provide essential habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife, sequester large amounts of carbon, and protect neighboring communities from storm damage and flooding. Restoration is planned on thousands of acres to address impacts such as historic ditches and embankments, subsidence, and tidal restrictions. Learn about innovations in restoration techniques including a 1,000-acre project in the Great Marsh, and new guidance documents and regulatory updates from DEP. Participants will hear about plans for a statewide salt marsh monitoring program to better assess the status of salt marshes and how stressors are affecting them, as well as the effectiveness of restoration projects. Bring your questions for this great panel of experts! Conservation commissioners and consultants will benefit from this presentation.

**Speakers:**

Christina Wu, Environmental Engineer, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Boston Wetlands Program

Ken Alepidis, P.G., Environmental Analyst, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Boston Wetlands Program

Scott Jackson, Extension Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst, Whately Conservation Chair, Town of Whately

Alejandra Narvaez, Coastal Project Manager, The Trustees of Reservations

**A5. Flood Resilience through Integrated Local Permitting Practices**

Effectively managing development in the floodplain requires a well-integrated local permitting process that includes review by multiple programs. Learn how your role as a conservation commissioner and commission staff is critical to a more resilient community in face of rising flood threats. This presentation discusses how conservation commissions help reduce flood losses in their communities by adopting integrated floodplain permitting practices. The workshop offers a look at most types of floodplain development, how a community can work together for best floodplain management, and insights into possible zoning changes that promote flood resilience.

**Speakers:**

Joy Duperrault, Director, Flood Hazard Management Program & State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Nadia Madden, CFM, Floodplain Management Specialist, Massachusetts Flood Hazard Management Program, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

**A6. Tools for Regulating Resiliency in the Floodplain**

This session will provide an overview of the suite of tools that the Cape Cod Commission has developed to assist communities in addressing the changing environment. Presenters will highlight 1) a model coastal resiliency article that can be added to an existing wetlands bylaw, 2) companion

model coastal resiliency regulations, and 3) a model zoning bylaw that provides higher standards that exceed the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimums. These regulatory tools were developed with consideration of the draft Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulations on Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), and incorporate the state's future flood model, the Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC FRM). Presenters will give an overview of a data viewer built to help communities understand and compare the differences between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood mapping and future scenarios projected by MC FRM. Lastly, presenters will review a communications toolkit built to address local challenges in communicating climate threats, including plainly defined terminology, considerations for identifying target populations, messaging, resources.

**Speakers:**

Heather McElroy, Natural Resources Program Manager, Cape Cod Commission  
Barbara Landau, Esq., Partner, Noble, Wickersham & Heart LLP

**A7. Introduction to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act**

We rely on volunteer conservation commissioners from many backgrounds and experiences to implement a complicated law and its supporting regulations. This presentation will review the basics of the Act and Regulations including how they are organized, who does what, and the various applications and forms. Are you a new member of your conservation commission? Or maybe not new, but you're interested in learning the basics of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act? Come learn or review the basics to prepare you for project review and understanding of in-meeting conversations from a dynamic team of speakers.

**Speakers:**

Alicia Geilen, Circuit Rider, Northeast Region, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Mia McDonald, Circuit Rider Program Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**A8. Digging Deeper: Soils Classification and Textures**

Designed for wetlands scientists and related practitioners, as well as regulators and conservation commission members, this hands-on workshop will provide an overview of major soil classification topics and "real-feel" practice for determining soil textures. We will review the five factors of soil formation, how soils are classified by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS,) what are soil Orders, Series, and Mapping Units, what are predominant Hydric Soil Indicators for New England, and some other practical guidelines for understanding how soil classification "works" in wetland boundary determinations. The soil texture component will include samples for determining textures based on the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil textural triangle.

**Speaker:**

Colin Duncan, Senior Soil and Wetland Scientist, Permitting Lead, New England Region, EDR  
Rachel Foote, Field Ecologist, Environmental Design and Research, DPC

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## Workshop Series B

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

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### **B2. Supporting Land Conservation through the Division of Conservation Services' Grant Opportunities**

The Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services (DCS) provides resources and support for land conservation across the state. Conservation commissions are a key partner in this work, as many commissions are instrumental in protecting and stewarding conservation land in their own communities. In this workshop, we will focus on two grant opportunities offered by DCS to advance land protection: Local acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Land Conservation Assistance. The LAND grant, which has existed in different forms since 1961, is a program specifically for conservation commissions to protect land in their municipalities, and we will share the scope and details of that program with workshop attendees. The Land Conservation Assistance grant is a new program designed to assist communities with fewer resources in applying for grant funds for land conservation, or to take other necessary first steps before acquiring land, and we are looking forward to sharing details about this new program with participants. In addition, we will touch on other DCS and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) grants that may be of interest to conservation commissions, including Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Landscape Partnership, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program.

#### **Speakers:**

Darya Mattes, Grants Administrator, Resilient Lands Initiative, Division of Conservation Services, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Vanessa Farny, Manager, Forest and Land Grant Programs, Division of Conservation Services, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

### **B3. Impact of the New Climate Bill on Conservation Commissions**

Governor Maura Healey signed a climate and energy bill into law promoting a clearer path to a renewable energy future with better outcomes for people and nature. The new law expedites land-based renewable energy siting and permitting, provides improved environmental standards, and enhances community engagement. Conservation commissions will play a key role in implementing the new law under a **local consolidated and time-bound permitting process** for smaller clean energy projects. They will also play a role in participating in a similarly time-bounded consolidated permitting process before the Energy Facilities Siting Board for larger energy projects. The new law changes requirements by requiring energy developers to conduct earlier community engagement and requiring local review of environmental guidelines to meet standards for biodiversity, forest carbon, community resilience and environmental justice. It also provides communities with the options of intervening and to ensure that projects take sequential steps to avoid and minimize impacts and undertake conservation actions to offset impacts to nature and people.

This is an important workshop for conservation commissioners, conservation agents, attorneys, and consultants.

**Speakers:**

Michael Judge, Undersecretary of Energy, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Stephen Long, Director of Policy and Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy Massachusetts

**B4. Salt Marsh Restoration through Tidal Restrictions Removal - Lessons Learned and Project Planning Considerations**

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) and the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) have been working to restore salt marsh ecosystems and the services they provide for over 20 years. They have partnered on numerous tidal restoration projects, where undersized tidal crossings are replaced with larger openings to restore tidal flow to upstream habitats. We will discuss the results from long-term monitoring of completed projects which show how systems generally respond to restored tidal flow, and we will share how we are applying the lessons learned from those results to current and future projects. The goal is to provide conservation commissioners and agents with guidance and questions to consider when reviewing or planning for salt marsh restoration projects, including the consideration of adaptive management, planning for sea level rise, and improving restoration designs and monitoring plans.

**Speakers:**

Cristina Kennedy, Coastal Wetlands Restoration Specialist, Division of Ecological Restoration  
Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game  
Jordan Mora, Lead Ecologist & Science Advisor, Association to Preserve Cape Cod

**B5. State-wide Hydraulic Model and StreamStats Tool for Road-Stream Crossing Design**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with MassDEP and UMass Amherst, is developing and implementing a Statewide Hydraulic Model that estimates stream flows and bankfull widths at road-stream crossings and provides preliminary crossing designs that will pass 10-year, 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year flows, as well as designs for meeting the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards. The model will be integrated into StreamStats and, in addition to proposed crossing designs, provide basic information about the drainage basin for each crossing, data from the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), and information relevant for determining what type of crossing would meet the Stream Crossing Standards to the “maximum extent practicable.” An early version of the tool will be demonstrated and USGS is looking for your feedback. Bring a laptop or tablet to the workshop and give it a try.

**Speakers:**

Scott Jackson, Extension Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst; Conservation Commission Chair, Town of Whately  
Gardner Bent, Surface-Water Specialist, U.S. Geological Survey, New England Water Science Center  
Meghan McCallister, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, New England Water Science Center  
Christina Wu, Environmental Engineer, Wetlands Program, Boston, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

## **B6. Vernal Pools: What They are and How to Protect Them in a Changing Climate**

Vernal pools are an important component of healthy ecosystems across the state, and they receive a host of legal protections under federal, state, and local wetland regulations. Their ecological values are at the root of why we protect them; their variety, temporary nature, and fluctuations are at the root of why we're often confused about how we protect them. This presentation will explore and explain the function of vernal pools and get deep into the muddy regulatory protection for these important wildlife habitats. This workshop does not specifically focus on vernal pool certification methodology. Bring your questions and examples to this important presentation.

### **Speakers:**

Carolyn Gorss Holowczak, PWS, Ecological Project Manager, BSC Group

Susan Erickson, Ed.D., Curriculum Specialist, K-5 Science and Social Studies, Weston Public Schools; Conservation Commissioner, Town of Maynard

## **B7. ABCs of Issuing Tickets to Wetland Violators**

Join us to dive into the critical topic of issuing tickets to wetland violators under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and local wetland bylaws/ordinances. This session will provide valuable insights into how conservation commissions can effectively use ticketing as a tool to enforce wetland protections. Our presenters will guide you through the legal framework surrounding wetland violations, including an in-depth look at the WPA, local enforcement options under a bylaw, and the procedures for issuing tickets. Learn about the potential benefits and challenges of ticketing and explore real-world examples of successful and unsuccessful implementation. This session will also cover the role of documenting evidence in support of violations and ensuring compliance. Whether you're a seasoned commissioner or new to the field, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and practical strategies needed to strengthen your community's approach to wetland conservation. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your enforcement toolkit and safeguard Massachusetts' vital wetland ecosystems. Bring questions and your successful or unsuccessful stories of ticketing!

### **Speakers:**

Brandon Faneuf, Ecosystem Solutions; MACC Director

Caroline E. Smith, Esq., Associate Attorney, McGregor Legere & Stevens PC

## **B8. Wetlands Protection Act Trivia**

The MassDEP Circuit Rider Program is back with another set of easy to moderately challenging questions in our Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) Trivia. Questions are designed to test your knowledge and include several common misconceptions to stump contestants. Prizes will be awarded for all levels of expertise: from "Participation" and "Almost an Expert" to the highly coveted "World's Best Regulator". Hot tip: Participants should study 310 CMR 10.02, 10.04, and 10.05, and be ready to dominate!

### **Speakers:**

Alicia Geilen, Circuit Rider, Northeast Region, Wetlands Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Mia McDonald, Circuit Rider Program Coordinator, Wetlands Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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## Full Afternoon Workshops

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### Afternoon Fundamentals Unit

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

#### Unit 105: Writing Effective Orders of Conditions

This is an important required class for the MACC Fundamentals Certificate Program. Participants will learn about protecting Interests of the Wetlands Protection Act as well as information about boilerplate and special conditions, denials and appeals, amendments and extensions, and certificates of compliance. This is a useful class for all commissioners!

#### Instructors:

Claire Rundelli, Natick Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent; Off-Board Member of MACC Education Committee and MACC DEI Committee

Lisa Moore, Environmental Education, Outreach and Compliance Coordinator, Natural Resources Commission, Town of Wellesley

### Series C & D Double Session Workshop

2:15 PM– 4:30 PM

#### C1 & D1. Soils of Massachusetts and Wetlands

How did the soils of Massachusetts get to be the way they are, and how does that affect where and how wetlands form? The speaker will provide an overview of soil formation in the glaciated northeast and the resultant widespread characteristics and variabilities with emphasis on soil parent material; the stuff from which the soil developed. The objective is to provide a context for wetland formation under different soil-landscape scenarios and background information for “Soils of Massachusetts and Wetlands, Part B.” This workshop will be useful to all commissioners and consultants alike; be sure to sign up early for this popular workshop. **Participants must attend both sessions C1 and D1.**

#### Speaker:

Al Averill, Certified Professional Soil Scientist, State Soil Scientist, United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## Workshop Series C

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

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### **C2. Wetlands Restoration: Aligning Progress with Goals and Urgency**

The Commonwealth has ambitious goals for coastal and inland restoration, in support of goals for climate mitigation and resiliency, biodiversity, and Environmental Justice (EJ). The goals should include 5,000 acres of salt marsh, 3,500 acres of cranberry bogs, 1,000 dams, many thousands of culverts, extensive amounts of riparian areas, floodplain reconnections, shorelines, and invasive plants everywhere. The pace of project completion needs to be greatly accelerated, and efficiencies must be achieved to meet these targets. This workshop will share examples of successes and challenges in restoration and upcoming opportunities for conservation commissions to learn more and advance restoration in their communities.

#### **Speakers:**

Nick Nelson, CERP, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Regional Director, Interfluve

Julianne Busa, PhD, CSE, PWS, Associate/Senior Resilience Scientist, Fuss & O'Neill

Alex Hackman, Director of Ecological Restoration, Mass Audubon

E. Heidi Ricci, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Mass Audubon; MACC Officer

### **C3. Protect, Promote, and Empower Conservation Using Urban Forestry**

This presentation will provide important information about how common urban forestry practices, tools, and techniques can help protect and improve conservation lands in the face of a rapidly changing climate. It will discuss tree and forest resource inventories, GIS-based urban tree canopy assessments of tree health and canopy cover, baseline reporting and management plans, and how conservation commissions can use these tools to inform property management and improvement, bolster land resilience to climate change, and advocate for funding to manage and improve conservation properties.

#### **Speaker:**

Moriah Day, Urban Forestry Project Manager, Davey Resource Group

### **C4. Delineating Primary Frontal Dunes**

This workshop will provide training on the methodology for delineating and reviewing delineations of primary frontal dunes for purposes of review under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations. Primary frontal dunes are per se significant and are critical for storm damage prevention and flood control. Appendix C in the Coastal Manual developed by DEP and CZM provided guidance on this topic. The workshop will review the methodology and offer tips for complex delineations, particularly in developed areas where the topography has been altered.

**Speakers:**

Rebecca Haney, Coastal Geologist, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management  
Nate Corcoran, Coastal Policy Analyst, Wetlands Program, Boston, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**C5. Environmental Law Update: Need to Know Developments, 2024-2025**

Conservation commission members, agents, volunteers, consultants, and peer reviewers will learn how recent developments in environmental, land use, real estate, municipal, and constitutional law affect their work. Keeping current on your evolving duties, powers and procedures, and knowing the new laws and rules on the books, helps you be effective and stay out of trouble. This is an important topic presented by an experienced attorney, and it fills up quickly, so be sure to register early for this class!

**Speaker:**

Gregor McGregor, Esq., Partner; McGregor Legere & Stevens PC; MACC Director

**C6. Creative Solutions for Improving Wildlife Habitat Functions**

Wildlife habitat is included as one of the eight primary interests protected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. In this workshop, we will review what wildlife habitat is, what its functions and features are, and its importance to the environment. Participants will learn how different wildlife habitat features can be included to improve projects and will explore methods of developing solutions to improve available wildlife habitat on the landscape.

**Speaker:**

Chase Bernier, Senior Natural Resources Team Lead, SWCA Environmental Consultants

**C7. Protecting and Restoring Aquatic and Terrestrial Connectivity**

Effective land conservation requires a strategic approach targeting land of high conservation value and connecting those parcels into viable conservation networks. Climate change makes this more complicated because the distribution of ecosystems and species is likely to be different in the future than it is today. Landscape connectivity is an important strategy for the long-term protection of biodiversity by ensuring that species and ecosystems can shift and change with the climate. As long, linear ecosystems, river and stream networks stretch out over the landscape and are particularly vulnerable to fragmentation by aquatic barriers such as dams and culverts. In this workshop, you will learn about culvert assessment, connectivity modeling, available aquatic and terrestrial connectivity data, techniques for protecting and enhancing connectivity, and tools that can be used to prioritize conservation action to protect/enhance connectivity.

**Speaker:**

Scott Jackson, Extension Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst; Conservation Chair, Town of Whately; former MACC Director

## **C8. Post-Construction: The Beauty and Benefits of In-situ Restoration**

Access to and through wetland resource areas is often necessary to complete energy maintenance, asset repair and upgrade projects. Where wetland access cannot be avoided, construction matting is used to create a safe and stable surface within wetlands to allow equipment access, minimize vegetation removal, and reduce soil disturbance and rutting in wetland soils. Most commonly when mats are removed, resource areas are allowed to restore naturally. These areas are regularly monitored by an ecological scientist, and in-situ restoration is found to be successful by the following growing season. This presentation will demonstrate several examples of successful in-situ restoration, illustrating the ecological benefits over several years of monitoring.

### **Speakers:**

Corey Schutzman, Lead Environmental Scientist, National Grid  
Siona Patisteas, Ecological Project Manager, BSC Group

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## **Workshop Series D**

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

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## **D2. Pollinate Now: Bioregional Strategy for Habitat Restoration in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed and Beyond**

The largest pollinator corridor plan in the United States, spanning 51 Hudson Valley communities across four watersheds, Pollinate Now is a roadmap for biodiversity and ecological resilience in New York State built by community and based on science. While the designs, plant lists and management guidelines are based on the prevalent landscape conditions in the Hudson Valley, their relevance stretches far beyond the boundaries of a single property, town or watershed and into neighboring states such as Massachusetts. The product of a year-long collaboration between designers, planners, scientists, activists, educators and citizens, this project endeavors to make pollinator habitat creation easy, exciting and aesthetically pleasing — and inspire landowners to view their properties as integral parts of a network of ecosystems that stretches throughout the watershed and beyond, into surrounding communities and across the wider bioregion.

### **Speaker:**

Evan Abramson, MSc., Founder and Principal of Landscape Interactions

## **D3. Wetland Replication Projects: Tips for Good Planning**

This workshop focuses on small scale, commonplace wetland replication projects that are often mandated as compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to a wetland. The workshop is divided into three segments, covering Planning, Permitting, and Monitoring. Planning focuses on recording baseline datum, site selection, hydrology, grading, soil amendments, invasive species management, and native planting plans. Permitting focuses on regulatory standards for replication, wildlife habitat evaluations and how conservation commissions should review and add Special Conditions for

restoration in issued permits. Monitoring covers what metrics to record in monitoring, content of good monitoring reports, and adaptive management.

**Speaker:**

David Cowell, PWS, CERP, CWB, Associate Senior Wetland Scientist, Hancock Associates

**D4. Regional Coastal Resilience: Best Practices - Working with Municipal Neighbors**

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) launched the Coastal Resilience Grant Program in 2014 to support coastal communities' efforts in advancing strategies to reduce risks from coastal storms and sea level rise. Regional resilience projects have emerged as a grant program priority that can help neighboring communities tackle similar coastal issues. In this workshop, participants will hear from local project managers that are working with their adjacent communities to effectively manage larger stretches of shoreline to enhance natural protection from coastal storms and sea level rise. The workshop will discuss approaches to initiate and manage a partnership project, including how complex projects can be phased to maximize grant funding. It will describe lessons learned and best practices for public engagement, and highlight developed and forthcoming educational resources for municipal staff. Additionally, CZM will discuss the anticipated FY26 grant program priorities and application requirements, including tips for developing competitive grant proposals.

**Speakers:**

India Mackinson, Coastal Resilience Grant Specialist, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Tricia Bowie, Coastal Resilience Specialist, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

William Grafton, Conservation Administrator, Town of Brewster

Greg Guimond, Town Planner, Marshfield

**D5. Management Strategies for Mitigating Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms: When, Where, How, and Why to Permit these Projects**

Harmful algal blooms of cyanobacteria (cyanoHABs) have impacted water quality in a significant number of Massachusetts ponds, limiting recreational access and impacting aquatic life. Projected climate change is anticipated to exacerbate cyanoHABs in New England due to increased temperatures combined with increases in both total precipitation and precipitation intensity, which favors runoff generation and subsequent transport of sediment and nutrients to receiving waters. Several different approaches to mitigating these blooms - most requiring the introduction of chemicals or engineered devices into the ponds - have been presented to Conservation Commissions for project approval. This workshop will present real-world examples of management strategies when there is limited data on potential adverse impacts to the pond or surrounding wetlands.

**Speakers:**

Nancy Leland, Research Scientist, University of New Hampshire Center for Freshwater Biology

Kimberley Crocker Pearson, Environmental Science and Policy Consultant; Chair, Natural Resources Advisory Commission, Brewster; Conservation Commissioner, Brewster

## **D6. How Beaver Coexistence Techniques Enhance Climate Resiliency**

Beaver Coexistence techniques have over 25 years of tremendous success in the Commonwealth. Over 2,000 human beaver conflicts have been successfully managed nonlethally. What is less well-known however, are the climate resiliency benefits of coexisting with beavers. In this engaging talk, Mike Callahan and John Egan will share their vast experience managing beaver issues and how these efforts are creating a more climate resilient state for us all.

### **Speaker:**

Michael Callahan, President, Beaver Institute Inc.

John Egan, Beaver Solutions LLC

## **D7. Emergency Certificate for Dam Removal: A Case Study of the Dudleyville Dam in Shutesbury**

Dam removal is an effective approach for restoration of aquatic habitat and connectivity and eliminating risks to natural resources and the public from dam failure. Massachusetts has thousands of dams that no longer serve their intended purpose, and in many cases, are substantially deteriorated. While Massachusetts has been a national leader in dam removal, the dam removal design and permitting processes require substantial amounts of time and money to complete. In some cases, public safety and environmental threats posed by hazardous dams necessitates rapid action. This workshop presents and explores opportunities for expedited dam removal following removal of Dudleyville Pond Dam in Shutesbury, MA in 2024.

### **Speakers:**

Susie Bresney, Ecological Restoration Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration

Gordon Clark, Associate, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Steve Fuller, Team Lead, SumCo Eco-Contracting

## **D8. Protecting and Rewilding Golf Courses: Opportunities for Land Conservation and Restoration**

In Massachusetts, several towns and land trusts have purchased golf course properties for conservation, restoration, and recreational purposes. This panel will explore the variety of perspectives that come with owning and managing a former golf course. Panelists will discuss local decision-making that led to a land purchase, funding mechanisms for land acquisition, and local goals for each site. Specific sites to be discussed include Pine Grove in Northampton, Hickory Ridge in Amherst, and Stow Acres in Stow. Each golf course has a different land use legacy and landscape context, which affects decisions about applicable restoration practices to employ to achieve ecological goals. Community engagement and recreational access are discussed as threads throughout the process of land protection and management that vary based on local community needs. Although this panel will focus on golf courses, there is broader applicability to agricultural and other lands that may be conserved and rewilded.

### **Speakers:**

Kate Bentsen, Ecological Restoration Specialist, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Sarah LaValley, Assistant Director, Office of Planning and Sustainability, Northampton; MACC  
Director  
Kathy Sferra, Conservation Director, Town of Stow  
Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Conservation and Development, Town of  
Amherst