



Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

protecting wetlands, open space and biological diversity through education and advocacy

MACC MEMBER BENEFITS GUIDE FOR NEW CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS

- **Orientation for New Conservation Commissioners.** As a new commissioner and MACC member, you receive one year of access to an online interactive Orientation Program that will give you the basics you need to understand the roles and responsibilities of a conservation commissioner and the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act. The orientation includes five chapters to read, informative videos to watch, links to additional information, and quiz questions. We consider it essential reading for each new commissioner. When you complete the orientation you will receive a free one-month subscription to *Protecting Wetlands and Open Space: MACC's Environmental Handbook for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners*.
- **Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners.** This is the Certificate Training Program designed to provide conservation commissioners with the essential information they need to be effective commissioners. We provide the course units in various locations throughout Massachusetts, at our conferences, and some via webinars. <http://maccweb.site-ym.com/page/EDMACCFUNDAMENTALS>. The current schedule of courses is posted on our website; look for upcoming events under the Education tab. http://maccweb.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp. You will receive the Fundamentals Certificate when you complete five required units and three elective units.
- ***Protecting Wetlands and Open Space: MACC's Environmental Handbook for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners*.** This is the legal, scientific, policy, and technical reference for conservation commissioners. Its 20+ chapters provide practical information on every aspect of your job as a conservation commissioner. <http://maccweb.site-ym.com/page/PubEhandBook>. Some commissions provide each commissioner with his/her own subscription to the Handbook. As explained above, you will receive a free one-month subscription to the Handbook upon completing Orientation for New Conservation Commissioners. After that, the cost is only \$15 per year for this essential resource (the cost is \$50 per year if you are not a MACC member).
- **MACC Annual Environmental Conference.** This is the largest annual environmental conference in New England, with approximately 750 attendees, 24 workshops, and 40 exhibits each year, all created for conservation commissions. You can take Fundamentals units here, attend workshops on relevant topics, hear and learn from outstanding speakers and experts, and connect with other commissioners. The next conference is scheduled for Saturday March 3, 2018, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.
- **MACC Fall Conference.** This conference may focus on one important topic and offer a few Fundamentals units, or may be the MACC Academy with several Fundamentals units and one or two advanced workshops offered. It is another opportunity to take Fundamentals units, get in depth information on a relevant topic, hear and learn from outstanding speakers and experts, and connect with other commissioners.
- **MACC Workshop Training Programs.** We offer a variety of workshops with field components on topics such as wetlands delineation; hydric soils identification; and wetland plants identification.

The current schedule is posted on our website; go to upcoming events under the Education tab. http://maccweb.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp. It is a good idea to look regularly because we update the listings as workshops are scheduled.

- **MACC website** (<http://www.maccweb.org>). Our website includes:
 - An electronic reference library of materials;
 - A current schedule of conferences, trainings, and workshops;
 - A bookstore, where you can purchase the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, MACC publications created for conservation commissioners, and materials that we have selected for their relevance to conservation commissions;
 - Conservation Connections, the MACC moderated web forum where you can ask questions, get answers, share experiences, and be part of the conservation conversation;
 - Advocacy information;
 - And more.

Be sure to visit often and remember to sign on when you are there so you get your member discounts and access to the members-only portions of the website.

- **Conservation Quarterly.** This is the MACC members-only quarterly magazine you will receive by email. It contains articles of interest for conservation commissions and information on upcoming programs and events. To read back issues of Conservation Quarterly, go to their page on our website from the Resources tab (be sure you are signed on), where you can download the most recent issues. <http://maccweb.site-ym.com/page/MACCQUARTERLY>. You will also receive our twice-monthly eMACCs via email.
- **Massachusetts Runoff, Erosion & Sediment Control Field Guide.** Available for purchase in the online store on our website.
- **MACC Helpline.** Email us (staff@maccweb.org) with questions you would like answered by our experts.
- **Member Discounts.** MACC members receive special reduced rates to attend our conferences, workshops, and training programs and to purchase books and other materials from our website. Be sure to sign on to our website to get those discounts there.

We created Orientation for New Conservation Commissioners and the 10th edition of *Protecting Wetlands and Open Space: MACC's Environmental Handbook for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners* with funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust through the sale of the state's three environmental license plates. Please visit www.mass.gov/eea/met for more information about the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and about the environmental license plate program.