

MEMORANDUM

To: Avery Day, Acting DEP Commissioner, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair
Ruth Ladd, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair

From: Alexandre Mas, TNC Director of Strategic Initiatives, MNRCP Manager

Re: **2015 Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funding Allocations**

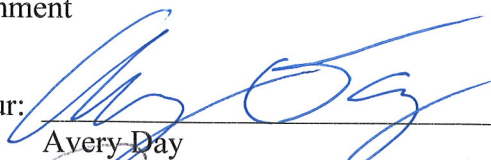
The Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) was created in 2007 to manage the allocation of funds collected by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through its In Lieu Fee Compensation Program. This voluntary program allows entities that are impacting natural resources, primarily wetlands, to make a payment directly to DEP as an alternative to the traditional mitigation process. Fees collected by DEP are deposited in a Natural Resource Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC). To date, TNC has received a total of \$13,438,223 in resource compensation fees from DEP.

On November 3, 2015 the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 19 full proposals that were received in response to an RFP posted in June 2015. The Review Committee evaluated the proposals for consistency with core program requirements, and ranked all proposals based on the review criteria included in the RFP. They also developed recommendations for grant funding from MNRCP.

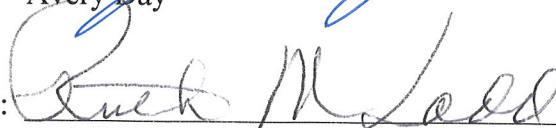
On December 8, 2015 the MNRCP Approval Committee was convened by DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (the Corps) to consider the Review Committee recommendations and to approve the sixth round of funding from MNRCP. Attached is the resulting list of projects approved to receive funding, and the funding amounts, for your concurrence.

Upon receipt of this signed authorization by the Approval Committee Co-Chairs, and prior to the release of any MNRCP funds, TNC will enter into project agreements with each of the approved project sponsors. The project agreements shall be in general conformance with the sample "Agreement" included in Appendix C to the "State of Maine In Lieu Fee Program Instrument" between DEP and the Corps, unless otherwise authorized by DEP and the Corps.

Attachment

Concur: 
Avery Day

Date: 12/23/15

Concur: 
Ruth Ladd

Date: 12/8/15

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2015 Funding Allocations

Region	Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
<u>Central Interior & Midcoast</u>				
	Basin Preserve Wetland Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	\$18,825	\$18,825
	Boothbay Region Source Water Protection	Boothbay Region Water District	\$85,630	\$85,630
	Caribou Bog - Birmingham Land Acquisition	Orono Land Trust	\$185,000	\$185,000
	Little River Habitat Restoration	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	\$65,500	\$65,500
	Outlet Stream Restoration	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	\$148,300	\$148,300
	Atkins Bay Wetlands Protection	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$154,000	\$0
	Barrow's Point	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	\$102,500	\$0
	Bog Brook	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	\$145,000	\$0
	Branch Bog Wetlands Protection (2)	Medomak Valley Land Trust	\$56,700	\$0
	Meadow Brook Wetlands Protection	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$146,500	\$0
	Sheepscot Headwaters Habitat II	Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance (now part of Midcoast Conservancy)	\$250,000	\$0
			Region Totals:	\$1,357,955
				\$503,255
<u>Southern Maine</u>				
	Crooked River Watershed - Green	Western Foothills Land Trust	\$190,000	\$190,000
	Tatnic Turtle Crossing	Great Works Regional Land Trust	\$164,045	\$164,045
	Walnut Hill-Sousa B Wetland Restoration	Three Rivers Land Trust	\$26,347	\$26,347
	Brave Boat Headwaters-Gavin (2)	Kittery Land Trust, Inc.	\$90,000	\$0
	Driscoll Wetlands Project	York Land Trust, Inc.	\$82,750	\$0
	Little River Conservation Bridge (Chretien)	Saco Valley Land Trust	\$92,700	\$0
	Ogunquit Headwater Wetlands	Great Works Regional Land Trust	\$128,400	\$0
	Smithfield Meadows - Gelardi (3)	Saco Valley Land Trust	\$317,700	\$0
			Region Totals:	\$1,091,942
				\$380,392
Total Number of Full Proposals considered for funding		19	Totals	\$2,449,897
				\$883,647