

MEMORANDUM

To: Melanie Loyzim, Acting DEP Commissioner, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair
Taylor Bell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair

From: Bryan Emerson, TNC, MNRCP Mitigation Program Manager

Re: **2020 Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funding Allocations**

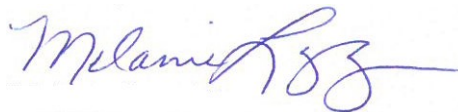
The Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) was created in 2007 to manage the allocation of funds collected by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through its In Lieu Fee Compensation Program. This voluntary program allows entities that are impacting natural resources, 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, a total of \$26,694,049 in resource compensation fees have been received.

On November 4, 2020, the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 13 full proposals that were received in response to an RFP posted in July 2020. 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. The committee then developed recommendations for grant funding from MNRCP.

On November 18, 2020, 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 twelfth 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 authorization signed 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: _____
Melanie Loyzim

Date: 12/17/2020

Concur: 
Taylor Bell

Date: 12/10/2020

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2020 Funding Allocations

Region	Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
<u>Aroostook Hills & Lowlands</u>				
	Pollard Flat Wildlife Management Area - Sherman Acquisition	Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	\$201,375	\$201,375
			Region Total:	\$201,375
<u>Central Interior & Midcoast</u>				
	Little Cobbossee Lake, Weston	Kennebec Land Trust	\$44,562	\$44,562
	Littlefield Woods	Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, Inc.	\$80,000	\$69,000
	Outlet Stream Alewife Restoration Initiative: Morneau	Maine Rivers	\$78,120	\$78,120
	Rouse Island	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	\$90,000	\$75,000
	Strawberry Creek Project	Harpswell Heritage Land Trust	\$100,000	\$100,000
	Lawrence Wetland Crossing Mitigation	Blue Hill Heritage Trust	\$180,000	\$0
			Region Total:	\$572,682
<u>Southern Maine</u>				
	Ann Thurlow Forest	Western Foothills Land Trust	\$840,500	\$840,500
	Charles Pond Acquisition	Greater Lovell Land Trust	\$120,000	\$120,000
	Deering Watershed Wetlands	Three Rivers Land Trust	\$444,700	\$444,700
	Hoopers Brook	Great Works Regional Land Trust	\$138,350	\$138,350
	Willow Brook Culvert Replacement	Town of Cape Elizabeth	\$343,281	\$343,281
	Merriland River - Storer Lane	Town of Wells	\$450,000	\$0
			Region Total:	\$2,336,831
Total Number of Full Proposals considered for funding:		13	Grand Total:	\$3,110,888
			\$3,110,888	\$2,454,888