

## MEMORANDUM

To: Melanie Loyzim, 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: **2023 Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funding Allocations**

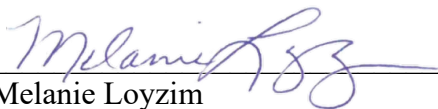
The Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) was created in 2007 to manage the allocation of funds collected by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through its In Lieu Fee Compensation Program. This voluntary program allows entities that are impacting natural resources, 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 \$39,701,860 in resource compensation fees have been received.

On October 31, 2023, the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 12 full proposals that were received in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) released in July 2023. 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 14, 2023, the MNRCP Approval Committee (Interagency Review Team [IRT]) 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 fifteenth 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 (IRT) Co-Chairs, and prior to the release of any MNRCP funds, TNC and DEP 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 – MNRCP 2023 Funding Allocations

Concur:   
Melanie Loyzim

Date: 11/14/23

Concur:   
Taylor Bell

Date: 11/15/23

## Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2023 Funding Allocations

Region and Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
<b>Central and Western Mountains</b>			
Whitten Woods	Somerset Woods Trustees	\$ 599,000.00	\$ 599,000.00
<b>Region Total:</b>		<b>\$ 599,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 599,000.00</b>
<b>Central Interior and Midcoast</b>			
Hockomock Marsh Enhancement	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	\$ 139,525.50	\$ 139,525.50
Little River Marsh Enhancement	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	\$ 243,675.50	\$ 243,675.50
Musquash Pond Restoration	Midcoast Conservancy	\$ 1,349,500.00	\$ 1,349,500.00
Penobscot Mill Creek	Town of Penobscot	\$ 304,165.00	\$ -
Three Ponds One Forest	Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust	\$ 523,000.00	\$ 523,000.00
Weskeag Marsh Restoration	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 720,130.00	\$ 720,130.00
<b>Region Total:</b>		<b>\$ 3,279,996.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,975,831.00</b>
<b>Downeast Maine</b>			
Jordan River Restoration	Frenchman Bay Conservancy	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
MDI Salt Marsh Enhancement	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 52,500.00
<b>Region Total:</b>		<b>\$ 352,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 352,500.00</b>
<b>Southern Maine</b>			
Goosefare Marsh Enhancement	US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 766,329.00	\$ 654,468.00
Spruce Creek - Major Preserve	Kittery Land Trust	\$ 277,000.00	\$ 210,000.00
Spurwink Marsh Restoration	Town of Cape Elizabeth	\$ 1,590,000.00	\$ 1,590,000.00
<b>Region Total:</b>		<b>\$ 2,633,329.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,454,468.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 6,864,825.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,381,799.00</b>