

MEMORANDUM

To: Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Grace Moses, Chief, Technical Support Branch, ACOE New England District

From: Bryan Emerson, Mitigation Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Re: **2024 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 \$42,588,659 in resource compensation fees have been received.

On November 7, 2024, the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 3 full proposals that were received in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) released in July 2024. 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.

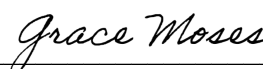
On December 4, 2024, the MNRCP Approval Committee (Interagency Review Team [IRT]) was convened by DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (ACOE) to consider the Review Committee recommendations and to approve the sixteenth round of funding from MNRCP. Attached is the resulting 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 ACOE, unless otherwise authorized by DEP and ACOE.

Attachment – MNRCP 2024 Funding Allocations

Concur: 
Melanie Loyzim, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair

Date: 12/13/24

Concur: 
Grace Moses, MNRCP Approval Committee Co-Chair

Date: 12/04/2024

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2024 Funding Allocations

Region and Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
Central Interior and Midcoast			
Center Point Rd Tidal Enhancement	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	\$ 468,807.00	\$ 468,807.00
	Region Total:	\$ 468,807.00	\$ 468,807.00
Southern Maine			
Granite Point Marsh	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$ 345,250.00	\$ 345,250.00
Smith Preserve Wetland Restoration	Kennebunkport Conservation Trust	\$ 464,125.00	\$ 464,125.00
	Region Total:	\$ 809,375.00	\$ 809,375.00
	GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 1,278,182.00	\$ 1,278,182.00