

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alexandre Mas, TNC Associate State Director-Conservation, MNRCP Manager

Re: **2017 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 \$16,829,879 in resource compensation fees have been received.

On November 6, 2017 the MNRCP Review Committee was convened by DEP to evaluate 13 full proposals that were received in response to an RFP posted in June 2017. 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 November 29, 2017 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 eighth 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: 
Paul Mercer

Date: 11/29/2017

Concur: 
Ruth Ladd

Date: 11/29/2017

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program 2017 Funding Allocations

Region	Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
<u>Aroostook Hills & Lowlands</u>				
	Meduxnekeag River Instream Restoration	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	\$213,486	\$0
		Region Total:	\$213,486	\$0
<u>Central & Western Mountains</u>				
	Magalloway River - Howe	Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust	\$175,000	\$175,000
		Region Total:	\$175,000	\$175,000
<u>Central Interior & Midcoast</u>				
	Penjawoc Marsh - Walsh	Bangor Land Trust	\$242,500	\$242,500
	Smelt Cove Wetlands	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$150,000	\$150,000
	Surry Forest Wetland Crossings Remediation	Blue Hill Heritage Trust	\$100,000	\$45,500
	Branch Lake Stream Dam Removal	Downeast Salmon Federation	\$47,978	\$0
	Cooper's Mills River Dam Removal	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Council	\$89,000	\$0
		Region Total:	\$629,478	\$438,000
<u>Downeast Maine</u>				
	Bell's Brook Conservation	Downeast Coastal Conservancy	\$26,000	\$26,000
	Smelt Brook Intertidal Restoration	Downeast Salmon Federation	\$133,456	\$133,456
		Region Total:	\$159,456	\$159,456
<u>Southern Maine</u>				
	Garey Mill Road Wetlands	York Land Trust, Inc.	\$140,500	\$140,500
	Hansen Pond 2	Three Rivers Land Trust	\$407,000	\$407,000
	Walnut Hill IV - Roberts	Three Rivers Land Trust	\$129,375	\$129,375
	West Branch Restoration Project	Town of Falmouth	\$273,375	\$0
		Region Total:	\$950,250	\$676,875
Total Number of Full Proposals considered for funding		13	Grand Total:	\$2,127,670
				\$1,449,331