



PENOBSCOT CLIMATE ACTION

PCA Committee

January 13th, 2026

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Minutes

1) Opening

- Facilitator Maddie Jensen (BACTS) explained the agenda.

Name & Affiliation (if applicable)
Government Representatives
Megan Hess, Town of Orono Anja Collette, City of Bangor
Organization Representatives
Jen Boothroyd, Northern Light Health Kristen Settele, EMDC
Individuals
Brandon Keim Amanda Neitz Ben DUnham Gerry Gross Greg Edwards Karen Marysdaughter Mary Kellogg Sharon Klein
Meeting Facilitator
Maddie Jensen, BACTS

2) Bangor Area Stormwater Group (BASWG) Presentation

- Megan Hess (Town of Orono Stormwater Coordinator, Chair of BASWG Executive Committee) shared information with the group about the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit that many towns in the region are subject to. The presentation started with a brief history of stormwater regulation and management in the United States. Megan then detailed the 6



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activities that MS4 permits require, including public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and construction site control. Group discussion ensued about the increased burden on our stormwater system from climate related stressors and how small, individual action (such as picking up litter) can improve our waterways. Learn more about the group on their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

3) Catch-Up

- The following local updates were provided by attendees.
 - Sharon Klein: Shared that the MaineCAN network is preparing a full day conference session for the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference. The session will highlight Home Energy Coaching, Community Coordinators, and Vulnerability Assessments. The conference agenda and registration information can be found [here](#). Additionally, MaineCAN has many sub-groups which meet regularly to support climate and energy action in the state. To learn more about what the network offers, visit their [website](#).
 - Jen Boothroyd: The Maine Public Health Association created [Climate Resilience Materials](#). Everyone is encouraged to view and share these resources. Jen encouraged people to regularly check into Efficiency Maine incentives as they are always changing and expanding. Finally, the City of Brewer installed public EV chargers in the parking lot of High Tide which can charge any EV vehicle.
 - Anja Collette: A sustainability intern has been hired to support numerous initiatives for the City of Bangor perhaps including a rooftop solar feasibility study and/or a municipal electric fleet transition plan. Anja is applying for a Community Action Grant to do energy audits for their municipal buildings. Anja is also working with other departments within the City to integrate the evaluation of electric alternatives during regular maintenance purchases and operation processes. Finally, the City has a new grant program to incentivize landlords to weatherize their rental units.
 - Greg Edwards: Bangor Beautiful recently completed a large mural (700ft) and native garden (4000sq/ft) with Maine Audubon along Broadway in Bangor. The Bangor Tree Board is still working on an Urban Forestry Management plan. Finally, Bangor Greendrinks has a small grant program (\$250-\$2000) which can be an easy and fast funding source for small but impactful projects in the region.
 - Maddie Jensen: BACTS is nearing completion with a regional Complete Streets plan. BACTS has also just completed the second phase of a regional culvert inventory and assessment which mapped the location of road crossing culverts and assessed their current condition. In the future, this database will be used to inform capital improvement decisions at the town level and to create hydrologic modeling to assess our preparation for increased rainfall events.

4) Working Group Update

- The following working groups updates were shared:
 - Public Advisory Working Group: The group is developing a newsletter with information on local climate activities. To populate the newsletter they reached out to nearby communities. The first volume of the newsletter will be released in February. During this update the meeting attendees also expressed interest in sharing the information from agenda items 2 and 3 more broadly with the newsletter. This suggestion will be taken to the next Public Advisory Working Group meeting to determine what capacity is available for this additional effort.



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- Resilience Hub Working Group: The group developed and released a survey targeting staff from the surrounding communities to assess the formal and informal networks used to prepare for and respond to weather related emergencies.

5) Upcoming Grants

- The group discussed how the PCA Committee should approach future grant opportunities. The consensus for our future approach includes:
 - Spread the word about any grants we come across to the PCA Google Group, PCA email list, as well as to other networks like MaineCAN.
 - Encourage the existing Working Groups to keep an eye out for funding opportunities that support their specific scope
 - Encourage new Working Groups to form around other topics so that if funding opportunities arise there is already a group prepared to pursue it.

6) Other Business

- No other business discussed

7) Closing