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Casco Bay Currents, an email newsletter of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

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Fall 2020



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Welcome,

to the Fall 2020 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).

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Autumn on Long Marsh, Harpswell

Join the Maine Coastal Program Coastal Clean-Up 2020!



Volunteers with the WCLZ Back Cove Cleanup.

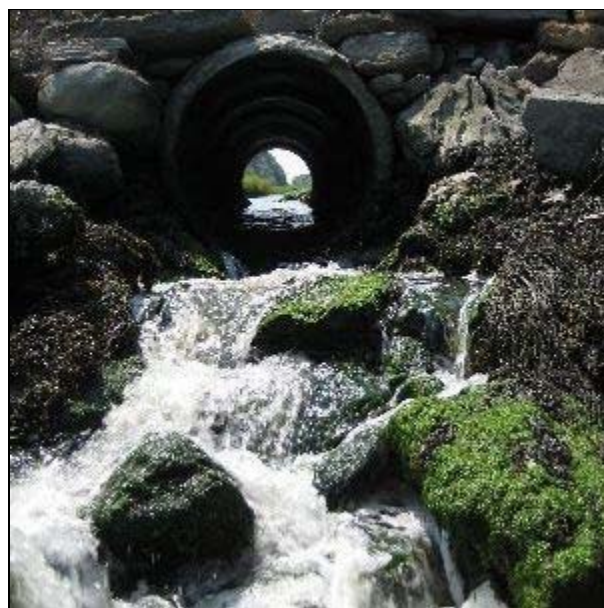
Photo credit: Portland Radio Group

The Maine Coastal Program and partners invite you to join Maine's largest single volunteer event. The Coastal Clean-up includes volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who clean our coastal shoreline and associated waterways of trash. Each year over a thousand participants clear hundreds of miles of thousands of pounds of trash. What is collected is recorded and this data then becomes part of the international ocean trash index which is compiled by Ocean Conservancy. Your efforts continue to ensure that our coastal waters and habitats remain healthy and trash free.

This year, it is the 35th Anniversary of the International Coastal Clean-up - Maine has been participating for 32 years!

Register [here](#).

Announcement: Municipal Culvert and Stream Crossing Grants



The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is administering \$5 million dollars in a single round of grant funding to assist municipalities with stream crossing upgrades and replacements. These monies fund competitive grants that match local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings which to date has resulted in financial assistance to over 100 projects statewide. The projects awarded will provide public infrastructure benefits by replacing culverts that are currently failing and at risk of complete washouts, opens or improves fish spawning habitat, eliminates undersized and other impassable culverts and reduces some of the worst erosion impacts to streams, brooks, and lakes. The grant RFP application is available starting September 1, 2020, with proposals due by November 16, 2020.

To help municipalities and others involved with these projects better understand the grant program and requirements, a pre-recorded online workshop is now available. This workshop is highly recommended for anyone applying for a grant and is available on the DEP's Stream Crossing Grants

Program web page: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/grants/stream-crossing-upgrade.html>

The RFP, Application, Question & Answer Summary, and other information related to this RFP can be obtained at the following website: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants>

FMI, contact John Maclaine, Non-Point Source Training Coordinator, at (207) 615-3279 or via [email](#).

Maine Climate Council Still Accepting Written Feedback

Governor Mills has made combating climate change and encouraging clean energy policy one of her top administration priorities. The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is coordinating the work of the **Maine Climate Council**. The goals of the Climate Council are bold emissions reductions, mitigation, resilience, and transition. A four-year State Climate Action Plan will be completed by December 2020.

According to the Maine Climate Council Coordinator, Cassandra Rose, the Council received over 4,000 total responses from online feedback surveys about climate change and the draft strategies.

The Council will continue to accept written comment (letters, emails, etc.) until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24. Please email submissions to maineclimatecouncil@maine.gov, or mail to Maine Climate Council, c/o GOPIF, 181 State House Station, Augusta, ME, 04330.

The written comment deadline of Sept. 24 ensures all remaining feedback on the draft strategies are provided to the Council for its first October meeting on Thursday, October 1.

Upcoming Council meetings (schedule is subject to change):

- Thursday, Oct. 1
- Wednesday, Oct. 21
- Thursday, Nov. 12

[Registration for each meeting \(link\)](#) is now open.

Long Creek Watershed Main Stem Restoration Project Video



Long Creek contractor and design team reviewing the project plans as they construct a log jam in the Main Stem of Long Creek in South Portland. Photo: Long Creek Watershed Management District

South Portland Community Television produced a great video about the Long Creek Watershed Management District restoration project. CBEP's Curtis Bohlen

and CBEP Management Committee member Fred Dillon share their expertise.

You can find the video [here](#).

Casco Bay Coastal Academy: Maine Climate Council & Your Community 9/29



WHAT: Come hear members of the Maine Climate Council speak about proposed actions that may change the funding and technical assistance opportunities for climate initiatives available for your communities in the future.

Engage in small group discussions about climate adaptation projects your community is planning and the challenges and successes you are facing.

Presentations by Maine Climate Council Working Group Chairs:

Judy East, Executive Director, Land Use Planning Commission

Kathleen Leyden, Director, Maine Coastal Program

WHO: Conservation commission members, planning board members, other municipal board members, municipal staff, interested citizens

WHEN: Tuesday, September 29 , 3:30— 5 p.m.

WHERE: Via Zoom (link provided after registration. Registration below.)

FMI: Contact: victoria.boundy@maine.edu



FREE: Register Here

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