

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Machias Downtown Resilience and Renewal - Draft Recommendations - Community Meeting

Are you a business owner, resident or property owner in downtown Machias? Are you concerned about flooding and erosion issues in downtown Machias? Please make time for a community meeting on October 15 from 5-7PM in Science 102 at the University of Maine at Machias.

We will hear from the team of consultants working on flood and erosion protection alternatives for downtown Machias. The area under study stretches along the river near the foot of Center Street to the boat launch near the dike, and near the wastewater treatment plant. Rich in history, this shoreline has changed significantly over time. The work of this study is looking back over 100 years as well as forward to the next 100 years. While this study is separate from Maine DOT's proposed renovations to the dike, it is obviously related and our work will be coordinated with Maine DOT.

This is the second of two community meetings, the first was last June.

Project work will be presented on three tasks nearing completion. The first will provide design alternatives that would protect downtown businesses and infrastructure under a variety of flooding scenarios. The second will evaluate the economic impacts on downtown structures, businesses and infrastructure in the event of these same flooding scenarios. This will give the town the ability to complete a benefit cost analysis on future investments in flood protection measures – a requirement for pre-disaster mitigation grant funding from FEMA. And the third will summarize the oral histories being assembled to capture the story that needs to be told along the river as a river walk is incorporated into any future flood protection structure.

This work is funded by a Coastal Communities grant from the Maine Coastal Program.

For more information please contact the project manager Judy East, Executive Director of the Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG). WCCOG is a municipal membership organization that provides local and regional land use planning and technical assistance to municipalities in Washington County. Our purpose is to support local self-government; combine resources to meet challenges that may exceed the capacity of municipal government; facilitate communication and coordination among governments and agencies; identify opportunities and bring resources into the county; and provide a regional voice for the people of Washington County.