

Maine Wetland Protection Coalition Fact sheet for Conservation Partners

April, 2006



The Maine Wetland Protection Coalition, a group of federal, state and non-governmental conservation groups with a statewide commitment to permanently protect Maine's wetlands, was established in 1989 to implement wetland conservation priorities of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in Maine, using funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The purpose of the Coalition has evolved and expanded to maximize the permanent protection of wetlands and associated upland buffer that will be nationally competitive for available funding sources – with particular emphasis on Large and Small NAWCA grants and National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants). Highest priority wetlands typically include those with important biological values for waterbirds and federally endangered species.

Coalition members work cooperatively and synergistically, capitalizing on the skills of conservation biologists and land protection specialists from multiple federal, state and

private conservation organizations so that together, we can accomplish more than any of our organizations could achieve independently. Coalition members provide input to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the lead Coalition agency, regarding management, prioritization and implementation of wetland protection projects in Maine.

The Maine Wetland Protection Coalition's goal is to permanently protect as much high value wetland habitat in Maine as possible. To achieve this goal, the Coalition:

- prioritizes state-wide wetland protection projects, based on grant requirements;
- coordinates potential wetland protection projects with all partners to avoid unproductive competition and make the greatest use of all funding sources;
- identifies projects where the expertise of Coalition members can support local partners in successful development and implementation of well conceived and nationally competitive grants;
- conducts outreach to ensure strong support for wetland conservation projects in Maine and nationally;
- ensures that projects are coordinated with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and other appropriate partners.

Coalition Members

Coalition members include the following agencies and organizations with statewide interest and expertise in wetland and land conservation issues;

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

* Ken Elowe ken.elowe@maine.gov 207-287-5252

Leon Bucher leon.bucher@maine.gov 207-287-5252

The Nature Conservancy (Maine Chapter)

** Will Brune wbrune@tnc.org 207-729-5181 ext. 207

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

** Chris Fichtel cfichtel@mcht.org 207-729-7366

Maine State Planning Office

Jim Connors jim.connors@maine.gov 207-287-8938

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Ray Whittemore rwhittemore@ducks.org 603-487-2175

Trust for Public Land

Sam Hodder sam.hodder@tpl.org 207-772-7424

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Stewart Fefer stewart_fefer@fws.gov 207-781-8364 ext. 17

*Coalition Coordinator

** Administrative Subcommittee members

Meetings

Coalition members meet a minimum of three times a year, in early December, early March, and early October to accommodate the typical NAWCA and Coastal Wetlands grant application cycles -- early March and late July for Standard NAWCA, early June for Coastal Wetlands, and late-Nov./early Dec. for Small NAWCA deadlines.

Meetings with local and regional partners on grant-funded projects are scheduled on an as-needed basis, but happen at least once a year. The purpose of these meetings is to review progress toward proposed conservation goals, to assist in setting acquisition priorities (based on biological values, landowner opportunity, and available funding), or to develop and/or implement specific grants within the project area.



Working with the Coalition to Support Projects

Potential applicants for NAWCA and Coastal Wetlands grants are encouraged to work through the Coalition to benefit from the considerable expertise and experience of Coalition members and to work cooperatively to minimize undue competition for limited pools of funding while maximizing opportunities to protect high value wetlands. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact at least one statewide Coalition member very early in the development of their grant proposal to alert the Coalition to the potential project and to learn about key factors that lead to a successful proposal. The earlier Coalition members know about your project, the more likely Coalition members will be able to provide support for high priority projects. Potential applicants will be encouraged to complete and submit a brief Project Summary Form and accompanying map to a Coalition member at least two weeks in advance of either the December, March or October Coalition meeting, depending on which grant program is being applied for. This is intended to simply facilitate communication and should not be construed as a time-consuming part of the grant application process. If possible, submit the information digitally to facilitate Coalition information exchange.

Potential applicants may be asked to attend the appropriate Coalition meeting in order to answer questions about their project. Potential applicants will be notified within two days of the Coalition meeting as to whether the Coalition will support their proposal. For projects the Coalition supports, decisions will also be made about the specific level and kinds of support local partners can expect to receive from the Coalition in preparing and implementing the grant.

