Going Green – Furthering Living Shorelines in Maine
April 6, 2018 Workshop Summary

On Friday, April 6, approximately 50 stakeholders from around Maine gathered at the Greater Portland Council of Governments office in Portland, ME to learn and share information on "living shorelines" in Maine. The workshop, funded by NOAA and organized by the Maine Coastal Program (MCP), Maine Geological Survey (MGS), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (WNERR), included a variety of participants, including consulting geologists, engineers, and landscape architects, state and federal regulators and scientists, municipal planners and engineers, and coastal property owners.

After an introduction and orientation to the workshop by MCP Director Kathleen Leyden and WNERR Director of Coastal Training Christine Feurt and participant introductions, the day kicked off with a field trip to visit unstable bluffs at Mackworth Island. MGS Marine Geologist and field trip coleader Peter Slovinsky provided several background slides before participants boarded vans to head in the field. Field trip leaders Troy Barry of Headwaters Hydro 5, LLC (formerly of Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District) and Peter Slovinsky of MGS led participants through cold, windy, and icy conditions to observe several failing bluffs, learn about factors causing erosion, and ways to assess instability. Participants completed an instability assessment rating form developed by Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District and adapted by Headwaters Hydro. The field trip set the stage for group discussions on evaluating potential living shoreline solutions once we returned to a warm office!

Figure 1. Participants braved cold and icy conditions to observe several bluff failures along Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME. Image by Troy Barry.

After returning, attendees broke out into four different working groups, each evenly comprised of engineers, architects, scientists and regulators, to work on discussing what they saw in the field and develop potential living shoreline solutions at one of the observed sites at Mackworth Island. Each group then presented its results to all participants and an open discussion on potential techniques followed. Troy Barry ended the session presenting proposed engineering designs at Mackworth Island using living shoreline techniques.

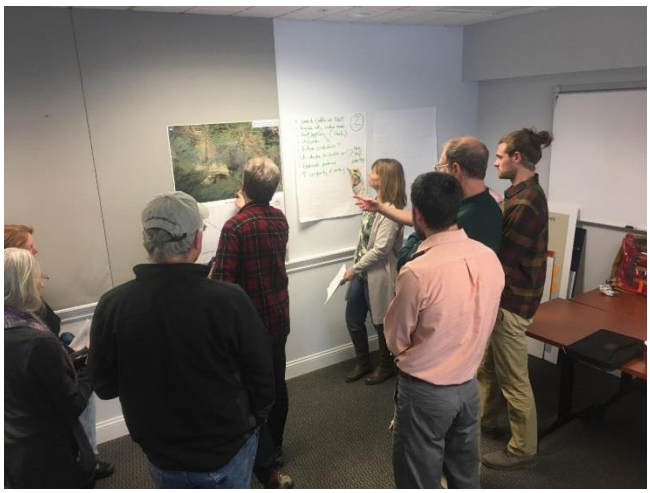

Figure 2. Participants of Working Group 2 discuss potential living shoreline solutions for Mackworth Island. Image by Troy Barry.

After lunch, Marybeth Richardson of Maine DEP and Jay Clement of the US Army Corps of Engineers discussed with the audience the latest issues related to permitting of living shoreline techniques. Afterwards, Peter Slovinsky of MGS and Curtis Bohlen of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership provided presentations on an ongoing NOAA-funded northeast regional project geared

towards furthering living shorelines in New England. This was followed by a presentation by Joel Ballestero of the University of New Hampshire providing updates on NH's efforts on the same project.

Next, living shoreline practitioners provided updates on their experiences with living shorelines in Maine, challenges encountered, and lessons learned. Presenters included Charlie Hebson of Maine DOT, Barney Baker of Baker Design Consultants, Jon Edgerton of Wright-Pierce, and Troy Barry of Headwaters Hydro. This was followed by an "expert panel" in which the audience and presenters from the entire day had an open discussion on common themes, challenges, and logical next steps for living shorelines in Maine. The day ended with an evaluation of the workshop. Minutes from the overall workshop are available here, thanks to excellent notetaking by the WNERR's Emily Greene. Thanks to all who attended and see you at the next workshop!

Figure 3. The audience participates in the afternoon expert panel. Image by Troy Barry.

This workshop was made possible through a NOAA Grant, "Advancing Green Infrastructure and Living Shorelines Applications in the Northeast," supporting coastal resilience and living shorelines work in northeastern states from Connecticut to Maine.