

**Town of Brunswick, Maine
Maquoit Bay Water Quality Task Force**

Background. Nitrogen and fecal coliforms have been identified as potential sources of contamination to Maquoit Bay and are presumed to affect the bay's water quality and shellfish resources. Stormwater runoff from land uses within the watershed surrounding the bay has been suspected as one of the major potential pathways for contaminants. Shellfish bed closures have resulted from excessive concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria. Fish kills result from an algal bloom which may in part have been prompted by watershed-derived nutrients, primarily nitrogen. Establishing the baseline quality of water within and entering Maquoit Bay, evaluating the water quality impacts associated with existing and future land uses in the watershed, and developing water quality loading models is essential to assessing present and future loadings of nitrogen and fecal coliforms from these land uses. Predicted pollution loadings from the model, in conjunction with the water quality monitoring data, could be used as a basis for recommending measures to modify sources or pathways to reduce pollutant loading originating within the watershed. It is the Council's intent that the task force investigates both land and marine based water quality impacts.

Task Force Members. The Task Force shall be comprised of two (2) Town Councilors who shall be non-voting, and four (4) members from the following disciplines, appointed by the Town Council Chair, for a total of six(6) members:

- Oceanography
- Biological Sciences
- Municipal and/or State Environmental Agencies
- Natural Resource Conservation
- Marine Science

The Task Force shall select a chair and vice chair who shall conduct meetings and be the primary contact for staff.

Task Force membership is limited to the six(6) members listed above. However, the Task Force shall proactively engage with the groups, communities, and professionals it deems necessary in order to seek the broadest representation of views to assist the Task Force in meeting its responsibilities. The following entities are identified as resources: Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Maine Department of Marine Resources; Maine Department of Transportation, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership; and Friends of Casco Bay.

Scope of Work. The Task Force is tasked with assisting Town staff in establishing a baseline of the quality of water within and entering Maquoit Bay, evaluating the water quality impacts associated with existing and future land uses in the watershed, and developing water quality loading models to assess present and future loadings of nitrogen and fecal coliforms. This will be achieved through the following tasks:

- Development, review, and approval of the final RFP delineating the study's scope of work.
- Participation in the selection process of the consulting firm hired to perform the study
- Public review of study results via presentation to Town Council
- Brainstorm ways in which to utilize study results / make recommendations to Town Council as to how to address noted non-point source pollution problems noted in study results.

Committee Meetings. This Task Force shall meet on an “as needed” basis. Meeting shall be publicly noticed by the posting of agendas and related materials on the Town’s website. It is the Town Council’s intent that Task Force meetings be scheduled so that they can be televised on one of the Town’s two cable tv channels and recorded for on-demand streaming from the Town’s website.

Reporting. The Task Force shall report on its activities to the Town Council, at least quarterly. The reports shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements for inclusion in Town Council meeting agenda packets.

Staff. The Town Manager shall select the staff that will provide administrative and technical support for the Task Force. At a minimum, the staff shall include the Town Project Engineer and Environmental Planner. Staff shall also be responsible for preparing agendas and minutes, posting public hearings, handling correspondence, and maintaining all official records.

Proposed to Town Council: June 5, 2023

Adopted by Town Council: June 5, 2023