



Washington County Council of Governments Washington County Resilience

Washington County Adaptation & Resilience - **Implementation**

Using Coastal Communities grants...

Rain Gauges expansion
Washington County Regional Resilience

- Eastport Toll Bridge Rd, Middle Street (WWTP pump station)
- Machiasport – Drainage, safety, expanded working waterfront
- Jonesport – road bed serving working waterfront
- Milbridge – culvert serving cut off peninsula

Machias Resilience



PARTNERS

Island Institute, Towns of Eastport, Jonesport, Machiasport, Milbridge

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (completed December 2019)

The goal of this project is to avoid infrastructure failure and increase resilience to coastal flooding and future sea-level rise in the most significant working waterfronts and largest coastal service centers in Washington County. The project includes several subcomponents including, addressing roadbed and culvert vulnerabilities in Eastport and Jonesport, procuring culvert designs in Eastport and Milbridge, and resolving serious safety and drainage issues at an expanded working waterfront access point in Machiasport.

THE CHALLENGE and PROJECT APPROACH

By combining projects in a regional framework, economies of scale were achieved through coordinated procurement of high-quality survey and engineering services. The project enhances the competitiveness of applications for other funding sources to correct identified problems. Results of this regional resilience project were shared among all Washington County communities through outreach materials and a presentation at the 2019 WCCOG Annual General Meeting. Note this outreach included descriptions of several other resilience projects in the planning, update, and/or implementation stage that are funded or proposed for funding by the Maine Coastal Program, Maine DEP, FEMA, and Community Development Block Grant programs.



RESULTS

The project provided final construction documents for the city of Eastport, and the towns of Jonesport and Milbridge for road bed assessment and culvert designs. It also provided a Site Grading and Drainage Plan to address the drainage and safety problems associated with the existing working waterfront site at Pettegrow Point (Machiasport). In outreach efforts, particularly the WCCOG Annual General Meeting of 2019, WCCOG provided Washington County communities with the results of this grant and several other resilience efforts of the past several years. This included information on Maine's Climate Council, Washington County Adaptation and Resilience Efforts, and Mitigation Options offered by passage (in June of 2019) of LD 1711, An Act To Promote Solar Energy Projects and Distributed Generation Resources in Maine.

NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WCCOG is assisting the city of Eastport with a CDBG Public Infrastructure application to construct the road and culvert improvements for which designs are in hand as a result of this CCG grant. The town of Machiasport will pursue a Shore and Harbor grant application in the Spring of 2020 to complete the site plan and design work on the expanded working waterfront site. The towns of Jonesport and Milbridge did not apply for funds from the Maine DEP Stream Crossing program **due to ineligibility** and cost respectively. The towns of Milbridge and Jonesport may consider completing town wide income surveys in order to correct the (notoriously) inaccurate American Community Survey income figures that resulted in the 2014 determination that each was no longer greater than the 51% low to moderate (LMI) income threshold rendering them ineligible for CDBG program funding.

LESSONS LEARNED

In small rural towns with limited financial capacity, the Island Institute ShoreUp Maine grant awards are of great utility in providing non-federal match to Coastal Communities grants. The intent of achieving an economy of scale in securing and providing engineering services for multiple towns was definitely realized in this project. In complex regional projects such as this one it is important to be flexible and responsive to local conditions when providing design services. The adjustments in project scope afforded by the Maine Coastal program as this project progressed are very much appreciated.

APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

This project is transferable to other regions with the assistance of a regional planning council who can gauge the needs and challenges of the rural coastal municipalities that they serve. As noted, the ShoreUp Maine grants from the Island Institute are an extremely useful source of matching funds.

COASTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS: Coastal Resiliency

Recommendations to the MCP

Continue to support regional planning commissions and councils of governments in their efforts to coordinate the resilience efforts of multiple municipalities.

For additional information

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*Petit Manon Light, **Milbridge** Maine
.. the first light seen by ships from
Canada or Europe using the northern
shipping lanes.*

FY19 CCG – 67
1.27.20.

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