



Wetlands Protection: Writing Effective Orders of Conditions & Passing Local By-Laws to Better Protect the Bay

May 13, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Bay State Conference Center
101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Offered in collaboration with the [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions \(MACC\) Fundamentals Certificate Training Program with Credit for required Unit 105.](#)

This workshop provides training to Conservation Commissions and Agents on the following topics:

- Protecting the interests of the MA Wetlands Protection Act;
- Boilerplate and special conditions for Orders of Conditions;
- Denials and appeals with lessons learned from two recent wetland decisions affecting Buzzards Bay;
- Amendments and extensions;
- Certificates of compliance; and
- Passing local wetland by-laws and supporting regulations to better protect the Bay.

For Conservation Commissions and Agents in the Buzzards Bay watershed and beyond, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and Regulations have provided a critical statutory and regulatory framework for the protection of our sensitive wetland resource areas. Implementation of the Act is a challenging job that requires Conservation Commission's to write effective Orders of Conditions to protect our wetlands and waterways to the fullest extent possible under state law. Failure to issue well-written Orders can result in appeals and adverse impacts to water resources.

While the MA WPA has been key to protecting wetlands throughout the Commonwealth for decades, it is limited in scope. Passing wetland protection by-laws with supporting regulations provides communities with the opportunity to set their own reasonable standards for wetlands protection based on local environmental needs. Communities with local wetland protection by-laws are empowered to better protect wetlands and waterways on a regular basis and in the event of an appeal. This workshop will provide Commissions and Agents with the tools needed for enhancing wetland protection through writing more effective Orders and passing meaningful wetland protection by-laws. Case studies from the Buzzards Bay watershed will provide lessons learned from recent wetland appeals and decisions under the MA WPA.

Speakers

Maureen Thomas, Water Resource Specialist – Buzzards Bay Coalition

Michele Girard, Associate Director & Education Coordinator - MACC

Andrea Langhauser, MACC

Korrin Petersen, Senior Attorney - Buzzards Bay Coalition

Greg Bibler, Bibler Law Firm, PLLC - Coalition Attorney on Mattapoissett wetland case

Jeremy Meisinger, Foley & Hoag, LLP - Coalition Attorney on Westport wetland case

Details

Date: Monday, May 13, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Bay State Conference Center (#8 on attached map)

101 Academy Drive

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Parking: At the Beachmoor parking lot (#25 on attached map) – signs will direct participants to the Bay State Conference Center

Cost: Free with continental breakfast provided

Earn MACC Credit: Participants receive credit for Fundamentals Training Unit 105

RSVP To: Maureen Thomas at thomas@savebuzzardsbay.org or 508-999-6363, ext. 230
by May 6th

Agenda

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome & Breakfast	Maureen Thomas, BBC & Michele Girard, MACC
8:30 – 8:35 a.m.	Introduction of Workshop & Speakers	Maureen Thomas, BBC
8:35 – 10:30 a.m.	Writing Effective Orders of Conditions	Andrea Langhauser, MACC
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Introduction of Case Studies Mattapoissett Case Study Westport Case Study	Korrin Petersen, BBC Greg Bibler, Bibler Law Firm Jeremy Meisinger, Foley & Hoag
11:30 – 12:15 p.m.	Passing Wetland Protection By-Laws	Maureen Thomas, BBC
12:15 – 12:30 p.m.	Wrap Up and Questions	All

Instructional Materials

Instructional materials are currently being prepared but shall include:

- MACC Unit 5 Course materials
- MACC Model Wetlands Protection By-Law
- Background on Mattapoisett & Westport Case Studies
- Speaker presentations