

Meet Your Presenters:

Morning Sessions - Group

9:00am – 10:15 am

**Jeff McCabe – Director, Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation
Climate Change & Outdoor Recreation**

Jeff McCabe is the Director of the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, part of the Department of Economic and Community Development. With over two decades of experience in Maine's outdoor economy, Jeff is a registered Maine Recreational and Whitewater Guide and has held leadership roles with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Lake George Regional Park, and the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. He also served eight years in the Maine House of Representatives, including a term as Majority Leader, and most recently worked as Director of Politics and Legislation for the Maine State Employees Association. A graduate of Unity College, he lives in Skowhegan with his wife and three children. At Planning Day, Jeff will share how the Office of Outdoor Recreation is leveraging Maine's outdoor heritage to grow the state's outdoor economy, strengthen Maine's brand, and support rural development through partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit sectors. He will also discuss the growing impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation in Maine and how communities can adapt to ensure continued access, sustainability, and economic opportunity.

10:30am – 12:00pm

**Brian McDonald, Director of IT & Administration, Maine Municipal Association
Shaping Responsible AI Policies for Your Organization**

Brian McDonald is the Administration Director of Information Technology at the Maine Municipal Association, where he brings extensive experience in IT strategy, infrastructure management, and public sector technology leadership. Over the course of his career at MMA, he has advanced through key roles—including Network Analyst, Network & Systems Administrator, and IT Manager—demonstrating a strong focus on aligning technology initiatives with the needs of Maine's municipalities. Prior to MMA, he worked as a Computer Technician and Web Developer at TMAC Computers, gaining hands-on technical

experience. Brian holds a Bachelor of Science from Kaplan University, an Associate of Arts and Sciences from Central Maine Community College, and an Advanced College Diploma from Monmouth Academy, along with a HIPAA Awareness for Business Associates certification. At Planning Day, Brian will lead a practical workshop on developing clear, responsible, and ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) policies. Through real-world case studies and key historical examples, participants will learn the components of effective AI governance, explore emerging ethical concerns, and gain tools for training staff and managing AI thoughtfully in municipal and organizational settings.

Afternoon Sessions - Concurrent

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Mark King – Organics Management Specialist, Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Composting

Mark King is a dedicated Environmental Specialist at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) and a passionate advocate for sustainable organics management. A Winthrop, Maine native, Mark's been with MEDEP since 1991 and has a B.A. in biology from the University of Maine and a Masters in zoology from Southern Illinois University.

Mark's expertise guides Maine's Organics Management Program, promoting composting as a practical solution for communities and businesses. As Director of the Maine Compost School, he has educated countless individuals on best practices for composting, empowering them to reduce waste and create valuable resources.

His experience extends beyond the local level, working as a composting Subject Matter Expert for USDA-APHIS during animal mortality events like avian influenza outbreaks and disaster response, demonstrating composting's crucial role in emergency management.

Back in Maine, Mark provides technical assistance to composting facilities, assisting businesses and farms in implementing effective and sustainable composting practices. He's currently leading an initiative to expand food waste composting statewide, creating economic opportunities while reducing the burden on landfills.

1:00pm – 2:00pm

**Doug Beck – Outdoor Recreation Program Manager, Bureau of Parks & Lands
Trail Bonds**

Doug Beck leads outdoor recreation initiatives for Maine’s Bureau of Parks & Lands, where he oversees the planning, development, and enhancement of public recreation opportunities across the state. His work spans a wide range of programs, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP), which support the creation and improvement of parks, trails, and access points for a variety of outdoor activities.

With a focus on expanding access and promoting the sustainable use of Maine’s natural resources, Doug collaborates with municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and other partners to ensure recreational investments reflect local needs and long-term environmental stewardship. His leadership helps advance equitable access to outdoor spaces, fosters economic development through tourism and recreation, and supports the health and well-being of Maine’s communities.

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Brad Miller - Director of Programs & Services, Maine Preservation

Brad brings over eight years of experience in historic preservation to his role at Maine Preservation. Prior to joining the organization, he spent five years with Indiana Landmarks—America’s largest statewide preservation nonprofit—most recently serving as Director of the Northwest Field Office. In that role, he worked closely with communities, local governments, and property owners to preserve historic buildings across a four-county region. His earlier experience includes positions with the Somerville, Massachusetts Historic Preservation Commission and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Brad has also served on the boards of the Calumet Heritage Partnership and the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association and was an advisor for the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program. He holds an M.A. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University and a B.A. in History from Gettysburg College. At Planning Day, Brad will share how the tools of historic preservation can support community revitalization and planning efforts across the Kennebec Valley region.

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Tara Ayotte - Dam/IEMAC Administrator, MEMA

Steve Mallory – Director, Operations & Response Division, MEMA

Dam Safety Program & Legislature

State law regulating the safety of dams in Maine is [Title 37B MRSA, Chapter 24](#), entitled “Dam Safety” which assigns administration of the Maine Dam Safety Program (DSP) to the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, with duties to:

- Inspect existing dams and reservoirs to determine their hazard potential
- Review the design and construction of new and reconstructed dams
- Assist dam owners develop emergency action plans (EAP’s) to minimize the effect of dam failure
- Take all necessary actions in emergency situations of probable dam failure to protect life and property.

The Maine Dam Safety program facilitates Emergency Action Planning with owners of all high and significant hazard dams in Maine, inspects State-regulated dams for both hazard and condition, and recommends action on inspection findings. Maine has signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC) and we are not permitted to release any information on federal regulated dams.

The Program is funded by the State and FEMA grants. The principal grant is the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) grant administered by FEMA.