



MEETING NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
of the
BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

This will be a virtual meeting as allowed by An Act relative to extending certain measures adopted during the COVID-19 emergency which extended certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A sec.20, until June 30, 2027.

To participate virtually, join the Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3926128831?omn=86939315037>

Meeting ID: 392 612 8831
Dial by location, 646 931 3860, 646 558 8656, 305 224 1968

Meeting materials are on BRPC's website: www.berkshireplanning.org.
Click the calendar of events, then the meeting name, and follow the link to the materials.

AGENDA (Revised) (all times approximate)

- I. Call to Order & Open Meeting Law Statement (4:00)
- II. Roll Call of Executive Committee Members Attending the Meeting
- III. Vote to Approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of Sept. 4, 2025*
- IV. Financial Reports and Discussion (4:05)
 - A. Vote to Approve the August 27, 2025 – September 18, 2025 Expenditures Report*
 - B. Report on Accounts Receivable – September 2025
 - C. Report on the Line of Credit – September 2025
 - D. Report on Federally Funded Contracts
- V. Open Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternate Delegates, not to be further discussed at this meeting by the Executive Committee (4:10)
- VI. Items Requiring Action* (4:15)
 - A. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application to the Williamstown Community Chest for a Fund for Williamstown Grant*
 - B. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application to the MOSAIC RIZE Municipal Matching Grant Program*
 - C. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy*
- VII. Committee Updates, Reports, and Discussion (4:30)
 - A. Commission Development Committee
 - B. Environmental Review Committee
 - C. Finance Committee
 - D. Regional Issues Committee
 - E. Berkshire Brownfields Committee
 - F. Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization

- G. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee
- H. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

VIII. Executive Director's Report and Discussion (4:35)

- A. Report on New Contracts / Agreements
- B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (BTI) Update
- C. Staff Updates
- D. Seasonal Communities Advisory Council Update
- E. Passenger Rail
- F. MARPA & DLS Conference
- G. Berkshire County Municipal Officials Networking
- H. Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Siting and Permitting Regulations
- I. Site Suitability Assessments for Clean Energy Infrastructure Guidance / Draft Standards and Guidelines, Community Benefits Plans, Community Benefits Agreements
- J. FFIO's new Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) Grant Program
- K. FFIO's new Technical Assistance for Regional Planning Agencies (TARPA) Grant Program
- L. The Berkshire Housing Coalition

IX. Old Business and Discussion (4:45)

- A. Discussion about EPA's Proposed Changes to its Endangerment Finding
- B. Discussion about the Environmental Bond Bill
- C. BRPC Annual Meeting on October 16th

X. New Business and Discussion (4:50)

- A. Discussion about the Resignation of BRPC Treasurer and Executive Committee member John Duval
- B. Vote to Approve the Executive Director's FY 25 Performance Review and FY 26 Salary Adjustment*
- C. Discussion about the Executive Director's Retirement Notice and Hiring Process for the Next Executive Director
- D. Discussion about Topics for the November 20th Commission Meeting

XI. Adjournment* (5:00)

* Items Requiring Action



**DRAFT Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 4, 2025**

This was a virtual meeting as allowed by An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A sec.20 until June 30, 2027.

I. Call to Order & Open Meeting Law Statement

Chair Malcolm Fick called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. He stated that BRPC was recording the meeting and said that if anyone else wanted to record it, they needed to inform him. iBerkshires Tammy's AI note taker recorded the meeting.

II. Roll Call: Laura Brennan, Assistant Director, read the roll call:

Members Present:

Malcolm Fick, Chair, Great Barrington Alternate
Buck Donovan, Vice Chair, Lee Delegate
Mark Smith, Environmental Review Committee Chair, Lenox Delegate
Kyle Hanlon, At-Large, North Adams Delegate - 4:16 pm
Christine Rasmussen, Regional Issues Committee Chair, Stockbridge Alternate
Sam Haupt, At-Large, Peru Delegate
Douglas McNally, Commission Development Chair, Windsor Delegate

Members not Present:

John Duval, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Adams Alternate
Sheila Irvin, Clerk, Pittsfield Delegate

Others Present:

Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires

Staff Present:

Tom Matuszko, Executive Director
Laura Brennan, Assistant Director
Courteny Morehouse, Environmental & Energy Principal Planner

III. Vote to Approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 7, 2025 Minutes

Tom noted two errors with dates. The date of the meeting was Thursday, August 7, 2025 not Tuesday, July 7, 2025, and the title for the expenditures report was June 26, 2025 – July 25, 2025, Expenditures Report not the June

26, 2025 – June 20, 2025.

Doug McNally motioned to approve the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes with the changes to the dates. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Christine Rasmussen, and Doug McNally all voted affirmatively. Mark Smith and Sam Haupt abstained.

IV. Financial Reports

A. Vote to Approve the July 24, 2025 – August 27, 2025 Expenditures Report

Doug McNally motioned to approve the July 24, 2025 – August 27, 2025 expenditures report. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

B. Report on the Accounts Receivable August 2025

Tom reported we are in good shape with the aged receivables, noting none are problematic. There are no concerns about payments on the aged receivables list. Tom reported the annual assessments have been collected except the town of Peru. Sam reported that the Peru Town Administrator has been out of the office.

C. Report on the Line of Credit – August 2025

The Line of Credit has not been used.

D. Report on Federally Funded Contracts

Tom reported the \$17 million Build Grant for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail for design is still moving forward. BRPC is continuing to apply for federal applications. The concern is what is going to happen with the federal budget.

V. Open Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternate Delegates not to be further discussed at this meeting by the Executive Committee.

Doug reported at the Workforce Board meeting, Mayor Marchetti's goal for himself and his Administration is to be proactive on outreach to leaders in the communities to allow for town collaboration. Laura reported the networking events that are happening quarterly around the county. Laura along with Christine Hoyt, Adams' selectboard member are on the steering committee of these events. The collaboration is with the Selectmen's Association, the Berkshire Municipal Manager Association and BRPC. The events have been well attended.

Tom described the new accounting system called Sage Intacct which is an online accounting system with more functionality. The information is real time and streamlines our process for the audit. Tom also reported we are virtual now in terms of our network and accounting software. Our GIS remains to be updated. SharePoint is a learning curve. Part of the transition is we do not have servers now.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application to Grant Application (after the fact) to the Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network (JCOIN) for a Rapid Innovation Grant (J-RIG)

The Executive Committee was requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network (JCOIN) for a Rapid Innovation Grant (J-RIG) and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. This grant would allow for a comprehensive study of services to connect individuals with a carceral history and/or a substance use disorder to services likely to reduce future overdose, including field medical engagement under the Community EMS (CEMS) model. This 18-month grant would allow for funding of up to \$135,000 in total. Expected partners include the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and its affiliated 2nd Street Second Chances program, Brandeis University and County Ambulance Services. There is no match required. George Mason University would administer subcontracted services. BRPC contact is Andy Ottoson, aottoson@berkshireplanning.org.

Doug McNally moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application after the fact to the Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network (JCOIN) for a Rapid Innovation Grant (J-RIG) and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

For future grant applications instead of after the fact the item requiring action will be to ratify the submission of the grant application.

B. Vote to Approve the of a Grant Application to the United States Department of Agriculture's Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program

The Executive Committee was requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the United States Department Agriculture's Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. This grant would provide funding for home repair and rehabilitation construction through deferred payment, forgivable loans for up to 27 very low- and low-income homeowners in New Marlborough, Mount Washington, Otis, Florida, and Hinsdale. Tom explained this grant would supplement our current CDBG applications.

Per the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the HPG, award amounts will be based on the state's allocation and number of eligible applicants.

Massachusetts' total allocation is \$53,419 and BRPC can only request half of that total (\$26,709.50). Any funds awarded will leverage Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in those towns.

There is no match required. BRPC contact is Brett Roberts, broberts@berkshireplanning.org.

Doug McNally moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the United States Department Agriculture's Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

C. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application TD Banks's Charitable Foundation's Regional Grant Program

The Executive Committee was requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application for TD Charitable Foundation's Regional Grant program and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. The grant will be used to further BRPC's work in digital equity and implementation by recruiting directors of Councils on Aging (CoAs) and/or libraries in towns that did not participate in MBI's digital equity programs to bring the Senior Planet Older Adult Technology (OATS) Program to their communities. Grant funds in the approximate amount of \$25,000 will support BRPC staff time to oversee the work of an AmeriCorps Lead for America fellow to help with outreach; the purchase of 10 laptop computers that can be lent to CoAs or libraries to allow them to have learners try Senior Planet online; \$500 incentives to 10 CoA or library directors to participate in a short-term Senior Planet learning experience; \$900 for travel; and \$250 for supplies, posters, and/or mailings. There is no match required. The BRPC contact is Laura Brennan lbrennan@berkshireplanning.org and Wylie Goodman wgoodman@berkshireplanning.org.

Doug MacNally moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to TD Charitable Foundation's Regional Grant program and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

D. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Sick Leave Policy

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the BRPC's Updated Sick Leave Policy.

As part of an ongoing effort, BRPC staff has been reviewing and updating BRPC's policies to incorporate them into a comprehensive employee handbook. The proposed Policy incorporates the allowance to use sick leave as stated in other policies, such as the Domestic Violence Leave Act policy, standardizes the process to notify supervisors, and fix some other language consistencies, such as the consistent use of the term leave, rather than sick

time. The substantive items such as accruals and accrual limits remain the same as our current Policy.

Mark Smith moved to approve the BRPC's Updated Sick Leave Policy. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

E. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Vacation Leave Usage and Accrual Policy

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the BRPC's Updated Vacation Leave Usage and Accrual Policy.

Changes to the Vacation Leave Usage and Accrual Policy were like the Sick Leave Policy. The process to notify supervisors was updated (the current Policy requires notification on a whiteboard, which hasn't been used for years), and clearly states the eligibility and accruals for part-time employees. The substantive items such as accruals and accrual limits remain the same as our current Policy.

Doug McNally moved to approve the BRPC's Updated Vacation Leave Usage and Accrual Policy. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt and Doug McNally.

F. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the BRPC's Updated Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy.

The changes from our current Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy specify eligibility for retirement as being consistent with the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Commission, clarify pre-retirement plan benefit requirements and clarifies language around a surviving spouse. Again, there are no changes to the major substantive issue of contribution rate.

Tom suggested that an additional eligibility requirement should be added to the draft policy to state that the retiree must make their payment percentage within 90 days. If we do not receive prompt payments, it could be a problem with the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), our insurance provider.

Tom also reported that the long-term goal is to pay the retirees' benefits out of the trust for post-retirement benefits, however we have not yet funded the full obligation. The liability is calculated annually and has

increased again this year. Currently, BRPC is funding the retirees' benefits from the current year's admin expenses.

Doug McNally moved to table the motion until new language can be added to the draft BRPC's Updated Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

G. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Family and Medical Leave Policy

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the BRPC's Updated Family and Medical Leave Policy.

The current Policy is titled Personal, Family and Medical Leave Policy. Since the term Family and Medical Leave has its own meaning, our attorney recommended that we remove the word Personal. The term Personal itself has no substantive meaning in the Policy. It is simply in the title / label.

Doug McNally moved to approve the BRPC's Updated Family and Medical Leave Policy. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

H. Vote to Approve the Submission of Comments to the United States Environmental Protection Act (EPA) on Proposed Changes to EPA's Endangerment Finding

The EPA's Endangerment Finding, issued on December 15, 2009, found that six key greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride) threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations. This determination was made under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7521(a).

The foundation for the Endangerment Finding lies in the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) in Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), which held that greenhouse gases qualify as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act and required the EPA to determine whether such emissions cause or contribute to climate change that endangers public health or welfare.

This Finding was a basis for the regulation of domestic emissions from new motor vehicles based on climate change concerns rather than air pollution endangering public health.

The proposed changes would rescind the Finding and hence eliminate the basis for the greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles.

A draft comment letter was sent to all for their review. Congratulations to Courtney on a well-researched and to-the-point letter.

Courteny Morehouse, Environmental & Energy Principal Planner will put an article in BRPC's newsletter and do outreach with regional conservation groups. Christine suggested a newspaper article. Mark Smith suggested sending the letter to all the Conservation Committees in the municipalities.

Doug McNally moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit Comments on behalf of the Commission to the United States Environmental Protection Act (EPA) on Proposed Changes to EPA's Endangerment Finding. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

I. Vote to Approve the Submission of Comments to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission on Draft Social Consumption Regulations

The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (Commission) recently approved draft social consumption regulations. Under the current proposal, three different adult-use social consumption license types will be exclusively available to participants of the agency's equity programming and small businesses, including Microbusinesses and Craft Marijuana Cooperatives.

The proposed social consumption license types include:

- Supplemental, for existing Marijuana Establishments (MEs) to add on-site consumption into their operations;
- Hospitality, for new or existing non-cannabis businesses to host consumption activities in partnership with qualifying MEs; and
- Event Organizer, for qualifying MEs to organize and host temporary consumption events.

The Cannabis Control Commission is also seeking comment on the following issues:

- Responsible Vendor Training;
- Shelf-Stable, Non-Infused Food Sales;
- Total Sales Purchase Amounts;
- Prohibitions of Alcohol and Tobacco;
- Discounted and Promotional Prices;
- Ventilation Requirements; and
- Cooling Down Areas.

More information can be found at [The Cannabis Control Commission Wants Feedback from You on Draft Social Consumption Regulations and Policies - Cannabis Control Commission Massachusetts](#)

Tom pointed out that the link to the regulations is about 150 pages long. Malcolm commented that the comment letter was well measured and focused on the important issues that the towns need to face.

Doug McNally moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit comments on behalf of the Commission to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission on Draft Social Consumption Regulations. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

J. Vote to Approve the Disposal of Surplus BRPC Property including 2 servers, 15 laptops, 2 Switches, 2 docking stations, and 2 printers

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the Disposal of Surplus BRPC Property including 2 servers, 15 laptops, 2 Switches, 2 docking stations, and 2 printers.

According to our practice, BRPC's surplus property is either destroyed or recycled, or offered to municipalities. If municipalities do not want the property, it is offered to non-profit organizations. Items remaining with an estimated value over \$200 are offered for sale. Items under \$200 or not able to be sold are then offered to staff. Whatever remains is appropriately disposed of. The list included in the meeting material lists the surplus property we would like to dispose of.

Doug McNally moved to approve the disposal of Surplus BRPC Property including 2 servers, 15 laptops, 2 Switches, 2 docking stations, and 2 printers. Mark Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

VII. Committee Report and Discussion

A. Comprehensive Development Committee

The Commission Development Committee did not meet in August 2025.

B. Environmental Review Committee

The Environmental Review Committee did not meet in August 2025.

C. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet in August 2025.

D. Regional Issues Committee

The Regional Issues Committee met on August 13, 2025.

The main topic of discussion was a review of proposed 40Y Starter Home regulations.

Christine reported that August continued to be a very busy month regarding activities. The committee met on the starter homes legislation, which is very similar to other legislation dealing with Housing and making it more affordable. We're not sure where that will go, or whether many communities will be excited to adopt it. The committee will monitor the regulations.

The committee discussed the new reforms to streamline permitting processes, create general licenses, and expedite approvals for priority housing and restoration projects. The reforms include mandating property history disclosures, updating building codes for resilience. The environmental bond bill was highlighted, with \$464 billion allocated for various projects. Concerns were raised about ballot initiatives to lower the state tax base.

Christine reported that she did a synopsis on the environmental bond bill. Tom will share the synopsis with CJ Hoss and bring it forward through the regional issues committee, which could meet in September. The synopsis could also be shared with the executive committee and discussed further at the next meeting in October. Predictions that it will take the whole session before the economic bond bill will be finalized.

Tom pointed out that other regional issues committee topics could be the seasonal communities regulations.

E. Berkshire Brownfield Committee

The Berkshire Brownfield Committee did not meet in August 2025.

F. Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPO)

The MPO Committee did not meet in August 2025.

G. Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS) Committee

The CEDS Committee did not meet in August 2025.

H. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Transportation Advisory Committee did not meet in August 2025.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

A. Report on New Contracts/Agreements

New Grants and Contracts received/initiated from 7/26/2025 – 8/27/25

- Dalton – Stormwater Management - \$16,060
- Adams – Economic Development Planning - \$10,000
- FRCOG - Berkshire County Medical Reserve Corps - \$22,056
- Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - SPARK: Supporting Positive Actions for Resilience & Knowledge - \$250,000

- Department of Public Health - Local Health Support Covid-19 Contact Tracing – Additional \$35,000
- Clarksburg - Digital Equity Implementation - \$4,000
- Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) - Plastics and Microplastics Reduction - \$15,000
- National Grid & Eversource / Mass Save - Municipal Energy Manager Grant - \$146,964
- Donations – Youth Prevention - \$8,000
- The Nature Conservancy - Berkshire Wildlife Linkage - \$10,000

Grants and Contracts not received.

- Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Municipal for Clarksburg Bank Stabilization.

B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (BTI) Update

The BTI Board approved the following:

- Approved the of FY 2026 BTI Officers and Directors
- Approved the Director and Officers Annual Statement of Conflict-of-Interest forms.
- Approved the BTI Check Registers, December 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.
- Approved to apply for a Berkshires Tomorrow credit card, which is more secure than the current Berkshires Tomorrow debit card.

C. Staff Updates

Open Positions:

- Office Assistant – After receiving excellent candidates, an offer letter will be sent out.
- Public Health: Part-time Title 5 Specialist, Public Health Trainer, Public Health Inspector / Administrator, Public Health Inspector, North County Community Coordinator - Public Health has also received good candidates.

D. Seasonal Communities Advisory Council Update

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) continues to work on preparing draft regulations. The regulations were supposed to be prepared in July and August. The next Seasonal Communities Advisory Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday September 11, 2025, at 11:00 am. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nantucket but there should be a virtual option. The Seasonal Communities website, [Seasonal Communities | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/seasonal-communities) should contain information about participating in the meeting, most likely when the meeting date gets closer. Tom reported that there is an effort to get all of Berkshire County eligible.

E. Passenger Rail

- West-East Rail – The US Department of Transportation Federal Rail Administration announced over \$3.5 million, matched with \$395,000 from MassDOT through the FRA's Corridor ID Program. This funding will be used to support the Boston-Albany Corridor Service Development Plan (SDP), which is an essential step in expanding and enhancing train service connecting Boston and Albany, through Pittsfield. The SDP will outline MassDOT's implementation plan for service expansion. The SDP will demonstrate the feasibility of a Boston to Albany intercity passenger rail route, and it will detail the necessary steps to implement the service. It will identify the purpose and need for the service, include a comparative analysis of viable alternatives, define the recommended capital projects to enable the service, and evaluate the operational, network, and financial impacts of the service and infrastructure investment. It will also include an operating plan, a corridor project inventory, and an investment case. Further, it will require significant engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders, and it will define a governance structure for project implementation and future operation.

MassDOT, CSX, and Amtrak have also completed the evaluation of potential infrastructure projects to improve on-time performance and have agreed on a project concept. The planning efforts have shown that adding a 3-mile siding track (second track for passing trains) in Richmond near the Pittsfield border and a new track switch in Pittsfield would bring operational benefits by increasing corridor capacity. In June, MassDOT and CSX signed an agreement which permits CSX to begin design of the track work.

Additionally, MassDOT has selected a consultant to facilitate a planning and design study for a second platform at Pittsfield Station to eliminate congestion and delay.

- Berkshire Flyer – The Berkshire Flyer train service was served by buses between Albany and Pittsfield due to a large sink hole in New York.
- Northern Tier Passenger Rail – MassDOT intends to apply to the federal Corridor ID program. MassDOT Office of Transportation continues to work with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to prepare a contract to fund the procurement of a consultant to conduct an Economic Impact Analysis.

More information on these items can be found at [Compass Rail | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/compass-rail), Tom reported Andy Koziol is doing a good job of getting the word out and moving things forward.

F. Commission on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for State-Owned Land

Gov. Maura Healey signed an executive order on August 13 creating a Commission on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for State-Owned Land to advise her on potential reforms to the PILOT program. The Commission's main charge is to evaluate potential adjustments to the state-owned land

PILOT reimbursement program, with particular attention to geographic equity, fiscal sustainability, operational feasibility, and alignment with the state's land conservation, biodiversity, and climate goals. [Governor Healey Creates Commission on State-Owned Land PILOT Program to Ensure Geographic Fairness | Mass.gov.](#)

G. MassTrails 10 Campaign

In a collaborative effort to highlight trails across the state, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR), and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) announced the launch of the MassTrails 10 Campaign. The campaign will highlight ten signature trails through a website and advertising campaign. It will showcase recreational opportunities at each trail, as well as connection options to local transit and broader trail networks. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trai is one of the trails listed. [MassTrails 10.](#)

H. MARPA & DLS Conference

Registration is open for the 2025 MARPA and DLS Conference on Tuesday, October 7. The event will be held in Worcester at the College of the Holy Cross from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Registration at: [www.mapc.org/event/2025-marpa-and-dls-conference/](#)

Tom promoted the Conference. Laura reported that the panel sessions will be categorized as transportation, energy, and technical assistance. The lieutenant governor will be there again.

I. Energy Facilities Siting Regulations

The Energy Facilities Siting Board will hold a public meeting on September 8 at 10 am to discuss draft regulations related to implementation of a clean energy and climate law passed last November.

The independent state board, supported administratively by the Department of Public Utilities, reviews proposals for power plants, electric transmission projects, intra-state gas pipelines, and natural gas storage tanks. The September 8 meeting will include presentations on revisions to the proposals listed above and provide an opportunity for public comment, time permitting. The board is expected to initiate a formal rulemaking process with additional opportunities for written and oral comments.

Revised draft regulations are expected to be made available prior to the next meeting. The in-person meeting location is One South Station, Boston, MA 02110, 3rd floor, Large Hearing Room. (Building security requires a government-issued photo ID.) Nearby transit station: South Station (Red Line).

Remote attendees can join by using [this link](#) or dial in at (646) 558 8656 (not a toll-free number) and then enter the Webinar ID: 843-8921-1751. More information about the clean energy siting and permitting reform process can be found on the [Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting Reforms](#) website, and questions can be directed to energypermitting@mass.gov.

The energy facilities regulations could also be a topic for the regional issues to review.

J. Rural Planning Workshop – Design and Affordability

The Egremont Planning Board is sponsoring a workshop with Randall Arendt, a nationally recognized expert and author, who will provide visual examples showing how towns can promote new Housing – with an emphasis on affordability and design – that fits comfortably into the community's traditional small-town rural character. The workshop is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Wednesday September 10, in person at Egremont Town Hall - 171 Egremont Plain Road, Egremont, MA 01258 or zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89917912149?pwd=YFwPdkGlgST3QZvaD4F8c51CZ1b6ii.1> Material was in the packet.

K. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Proposed Land Acquisition

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through its Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has under consideration the acquisition of an interest in 45 +/- total acres of land in the Town of Florida and Town of Clarksburg. The property currently consists of undeveloped woodland. The proposed use is for the land to remain in its forested condition for conservation and recreational purposes. A locus map marked "Exhibit A" which shows the property in which DCR is interested is included in the meeting material.

L. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) Western MA Conference

CPTC is holding a Western MA Conference for Planning and Zoning Board members and professional planners on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield MA. More information is at [Western Conference – CPTC](#) and in the material which was in the meeting packet.

M. Support for An Act Creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority

Through the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies, Tom reported he supported an Act creating a municipal and public safety building authority. The letter was included in the meeting material.

IX. Old Business and Discussion

A. Discussion about the Town of Concord vs. Rasmussen & others case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

This case was about the discontinuance of a public road and along with that the discontinuance of that road for public access. BRPC signed on to an Amicus brief for the plaintiffs, which argued that since the road was discontinued it was no longer available for a public trail. The Supreme Judicial Court found that "the 1932 discontinuance under § 32A, by which the road was adjudicated a "private way," terminated the town's obligation to maintain the road in a condition reasonably safe and convenient for travel but left the public's right to the road undisturbed

B. Discussion about the BRPC Annual Meeting

Continued work towards securing a speaker for the Annual Meeting was reported. The Proprietors Lodge in Pittsfield is the location. The date is Thursday evening October 16, 2025.

X. New Business

A. Vote to Approve the Executive Director's FY 25 Performance Review and FY 26 Salary Adjustment

BRPC's Bylaws require "On an annual basis, the Executive Director shall prepare a review of his/her accomplishments for the preceding year and goals for the upcoming years as part of his/her performance evaluation by the Executive Committee."

BRPC salaries are based on performance reviews. The Executive Committee is requested to approve the Executive Director's FY 24 Performance Review and any FY 25 Salary Adjustment.

The Executive Directors' Performance FY 25 Review and FY26 Salary Adjustment will be addressed at a future Executive Committee meeting.

B. Discussion about Topics for the September 18, 2025 Commission Meeting

Potential topics for the September 18, 2025, Commission Meeting include:

- Presentation from EOHLIC ADU Coordinator re: new ADU law and regs. Claire Morehouse will:
 - Share updated ADU resources, including pre-recorded webinars, model zoning, MLU look-up tool, and other technical assistance materials
 - Highlight key FAQs and best practices
 - Provide an overview of our office's current efforts and upcoming ADU-related initiatives—including stakeholder outreach, data collection, design competition, and more
- Address any additional Q&A from RPA and municipal staff on the new law and regulations.
- Roundtable Discussion of Municipal Items

XI. Adjournment

Doug McNally made a motion to adjourn. Sam Haupt seconded the motion. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Malcolm Fick, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Christine Rasmussen, Kyle Hanlon, Sam Haupt, and Doug McNally.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- 2025.08.07 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Unapproved DRAFT
- 2025.07.25 – 2025.08.27 Expenditures Report
- 2025.08 Accounts Receivable Report
- 2025.08 Line of Credit Report
- 2025.08.29 Executive Director Memorandum
- DRAFT Sick Leave Policy - 08.26.25
- DRAFT Vacation Leave Accrual and Usage Policy - 08.26.25
- DRAFT Cont. of Med. Ben. After Retirement Policy proposed 8.27.2025
- DRAFT Family and Medical Leave Policy - 8.27.2025
- BRPC Surplus Property Listing - 08.29.25
- Egremont Planning Workshop Poster
- DCR Proposed Acquisition Map
- CPTC Western Mass Conference Announcement
- MARPA S1650, H2571 Support letter
- July 2025 – Technical Assistance Memorandum
- Comment letter United States Environmental Protection Act (EPA) on Proposed Changes to EPA's Endangerment Finding
- Comment letter Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission on Draft Social Consumption Regulations

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8/27/25 - 9/18/25

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Department Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>
20291	8/27/2025	TD CARD SERVICES 9068	2,696.64	---	---	Credit Card 9068 Payment
20292	8/28/2025	BERKSHIRE BOUNTY INC	21,069.74	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Subrecipient
20293	8/28/2025	EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION	49.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Training - Bartley, K
20294	8/28/2025	MA STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT	14,085.06	---	---	Retirement
20295	8/28/2025	NORTH ADAMS COMMUNITY HOUSING ORG	3,400.00	785 NAD/MVPA	North Adams - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant	Working Group Stipend
20296	8/28/2025	ROOTS TEEN CENTER INC	3,400.00	785 NAD/MVPA	North Adams - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant	Working Group Stipend
20297	8/28/2025	VALLEY GREEN SHREDDING, LLC	87.50	040 ADMIN	Admin	Recycling
20298	8/28/2025	WEBSTER ELECTRIC LLC	115.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Kitchen Outlet
20299	8/28/2025	WJ BLUEPRINT & DIGITAL GRAPHICS	572.40	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Communications
20300	8/31/2025	DWAYNE MYERS	95.20	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20301	8/31/2025	GEORGE B CRANE MEMORIAL CENTER	167.28	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Venue Space
20302	8/31/2025	KELLIE MEISL	640.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20303	8/31/2025	JOCELYN LATVALLA	322.42	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Monthly Expense Form
20304	9/2/2025	SEQIRUS USA INC	11,265.28	653 BRPC/INSREIMB	Insurance Reimbursement (Private)	2025/2026 Vaccines
20305	9/4/2025	ALISON DIXON	28.00	440 MassDOT/TPL	MA Department of Transportation Planning	Monthly Expense Form
20306	9/4/2025	BLUE 20/20	231.27	040 ADMIN	Admin	Vision Insurance
20307	9/4/2025	BRIEN CENTER	11,996.31	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subrecipient
20308	9/4/2025	BRITNEY DANIALS	172.83	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20309	9/4/2025	CORNELIUS HOSS	14.98	545 EOHL/DLTA25	District Local Technical Assistance 2025	Monthly Expense Form
20310	9/4/2025	COURTENY MOREHOUSE	84.35	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20311	9/4/2025	DANIEL HASSETT	192.38	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20312	9/4/2025	DAVID KELLEY	1,150.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Cleaning Svcs
20313	9/4/2025	DENNIS BERGQUIST	368.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20314	9/4/2025	EDWARD FAHEY	355.20	283 BPHA/INSP	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Inspections	Monthly Expense Form
20315	9/4/2025	GREGORY KAMAYUE GOMES	352.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20316	9/4/2025	H TERRY DESIGNS LLC	1,582.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Website Support
20317	9/4/2025	JAZU STINE	357.93	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20318	9/4/2025	JILL DAUGHERTY	320.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20319	9/4/2025	JUSTIN DALEY	256.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor

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20320	9/4/2025	KRISTANY SKORPUT	480.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20321	9/4/2025	MA STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT	13,574.62	---	---	Retirement
20322	9/4/2025	MACFARLANE OFFICE PRODUCTS INC	652.92	040 ADMIN	Admin	Copier
20323	9/4/2025	MADALYNN WILLIAMS	288.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20324	9/4/2025	MARCUS FORD	320.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20325	9/4/2025	MIIA HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST - DENTAL	2,662.93	040 ADMIN	Admin	Dental Insurance
20326	9/4/2025	MIIA HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST - MEDICAL	72,317.57	040 ADMIN	Admin	Medical Insurance
20327	9/4/2025	MUTUAL OF OMAHA	1,559.42	040 ADMIN	Admin	Life; STD; LTD
20328	9/4/2025	NANCY SLATTERY	128.26	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Monthly Expense Form
20329	9/4/2025	RAINBOW DISTRIBUTING COMPANY INC	59.94	040 ADMIN	Admin	Water
20330	9/4/2025	SASHA CLAPP	421.82	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20331	9/4/2025	SETH JENKINS	63.00	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20332	9/4/2025	SOPHIE CARNES JANNEN	220.78	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20333	9/4/2025	ANDREW MCKEEVER	94.36	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20334	9/4/2025	ANDREW OTTOSON	301.00	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20335	9/4/2025	ANN MARIE MUTZ	800.00	646 DPH/MC3B	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - SPARK: Supporting Positive Actions for Resilience & Knowledge	Subcontractor
20336	9/4/2025	BISMARCK OSEI	336.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20337	9/4/2025	BRETT ROBERTS	119.72	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20338	9/4/2025	CHRISTIE LEWIS	138.55	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20339	9/4/2025	CHRISTINE LEMOINE	50.33	518 FRCOG/BMRC	FRCOG - Berkshire County Medical Reserve Corps	Monthly Expense Form
20340	9/4/2025	CHRISTOPHER KOWALSKI	320.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20341	9/4/2025	CITY OF PITTSFIELD	525.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Parking
20342	9/4/2025	COLIN SYKES	516.90	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20343	9/4/2025	COURTNEY TATRO	288.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20344	9/4/2025	DANIELLE COOMES	320.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20345	9/4/2025	DAVE PILL	467.47	---	Varied Projects	Monthly Expense Form
20346	9/4/2025	ELIZABETH STRICKLER	1,723.13	---	Varied Projects	Subcontractor
20347	9/4/2025	KATHRYN HEEDER HOCKER	2,120.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20348	9/4/2025	LAURA KITROSS	7.00	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20349	9/4/2025	MICHAEL WISKER	207.27	780 EOEEA/BOW	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs - Berkshires Outside Website Phase II	Monthly Expense Form
20350	9/4/2025	MICHAELA GRADY	30.00	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Monthly Expense Form

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20351	9/4/2025	NOE GONZALEZ ORTIZ	95.20	---	Varied Projects	Subcontractor
20352	9/4/2025	RAYNIER MEDINA OLIVO	208.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20353	9/4/2025	REBECCA DODGE	480.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20354	9/4/2025	ROUX ASSOCIATES INC	2,268.75	702 EPA/ASSESS	Environmental Protection Agency Assessment	Subcontractor
20355	9/4/2025	SOURCEPASS COMPUWORKS LLC	5,652.50	040 ADMIN	Admin	Cloud Migration
20356	9/4/2025	TD CARD SERVICES 1189	734.90	---	---	Credit Card 1189 Payment
20357	9/4/2025	TD CARD SERVICES 9068	7,083.81	---	---	Credit Card 9068 Payment
20358	9/4/2025	TPX COMMUNICATIONS	1,513.26	040 ADMIN	Admin	Telephone
20359	9/4/2025	VALERIE BIRD	321.30	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Monthly Expense Form
20360	9/4/2025	VALLEY GREEN SHREDDING, LLC	87.50	040 ADMIN	Admin	Recycling
20361	9/9/2025	ADELSON & COMPANY PC	3,000.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Accounting Services
20362	9/9/2025	BERKSHIRE BOUNTY INC	17,195.97	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Subrecipient
20363	9/9/2025	BERKSHIRE GROWN INC	64,556.12	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Subrecipient
20364	9/9/2025	GLAXOSMITHKLINE LLC	11,192.75	653 BRPC/INSREIMB	Insurance Reimbursement (Private)	2025/2026 Vaccines
20365	9/9/2025	LAMAR COMPANIES	4,250.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Communications
20366	9/9/2025	NEIW PCC	195.00	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training - Hassett, D
20367	9/9/2025	PROPRIETORS LODGE	1,689.90	040 ADMIN	Admin	Deposit - Annual Meeting
20368	9/9/2025	SHOPPERS GUIDE	447.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Subscription
20369	9/9/2025	TARA KONJOLKA-BROWN	384.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20370	9/9/2025	WB MASON COMPANY INC	39.66	040 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies
20371	9/11/2025	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	132,922.27	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Return of FY25 Unspent Grant Funds
20240V	9/11/2025	KRISTANY SKORPUT	(480.00)	---	---	Voided - Lost Check
20372	9/11/2025	KRISTANY SKORPUT	480.00	---	---	Reissued - Lost Check
20373	9/17/2025	BECKS PRINTING	2,397.00	---	Varied Projects	Printing
20374	9/17/2025	BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER CORP	5,400.00	807 NACCHO/RHAPSODI	National Association of County and City Health Officials - Reimagining Health and Public Safety Overdose Initiatives	Subcontractor
20375	9/17/2025	MCKESSON MEDICAL	1,395.08	653 BRPC/INSREIMB	Insurance Reimbursement (Private)	Vaccines Supplies
20376	9/17/2025	MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY	1,495.00	440 MassDOT/TPL	MA Department of Transportation Planning	Subcontractor
20377	9/17/2025	PFIZER INC	47,151.48	653 BRPC/INSREIMB	Insurance Reimbursement (Private)	2025/2026 Vaccines
20378	9/17/2025	STEPHANIE QUETTI	378.84	652 DPH/SORPEC25	Department of Public Health - SOR-PEC Community Circle	Subcontractor
20379	9/17/2025	TIFFANY BROUILLETTE	384.00	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	Subcontractor
20380	9/17/2025	SAMELS DELI & CATERING	1,095.00	526 BCSO/OPIOID	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office - Opioid Prevention	Catering Svcs
20381	9/17/2025	SEQIRUS USA INC	13,984.10	653 BRPC/INSREIMB	Insurance Reimbursement (Private)	2025/2026 Vaccines
20382	9/17/2025	SOURCEPASS COMPUWORKS LLC	5,445.72	040 ADMIN	Admin	IT Support

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20383	9/17/2025	WJ BLUEPRINT & DIGITAL GRAPHICS	16.00	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Printing
20384	9/17/2025	NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPERS INC	2,645.04	545 EOHLC/DLTA25	District Local Technical Assistance 2025	Advertising
20385	9/17/2025	FULL CIRCLE TECHNOLOGIES INC	8,250.00	816 NEHA/FDA/RFFM	National Environmental Health Association - US Food and Drug Administration FDA - Retail Flexible Funding Model	Computer Software
20386	9/17/2025	MARPA	5,006.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Annual Dues
20387	9/17/2025	SOURCEPASS COMPUWORKS LLC	2,993.45	040 ADMIN	Admin	IT Support
20388	9/17/2025	ZAMS LLC	12,223.51	040 ADMIN	Admin	Rent & Utilities
20389	9/17/2025	FOURSQUARE ITP INC	4,863.79	440 MassDOT/TPL	MA Department of Transportation Planning	Subcontractor
20390	9/18/2025	MA STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT	14,123.46	---	---	Retirement
1316	9/4/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	3,000.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1317	9/4/2025	CONSOLINI ELECTRIC	420.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1318	9/4/2025	CONSOLINI ELECTRIC	13,515.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1319	9/10/2025	ALEX KOMLEV	1,280.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1320	9/10/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	34,671.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1321	9/10/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	64,210.15	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1322	9/10/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	3,500.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1323	9/10/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	3,500.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1324	9/11/2025	ATLAS TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS LLC	560.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Subcontractor
1325	9/11/2025	SO BERKSHIRE REGISTRY OF DEEDS	105.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Lien
1326	9/11/2025	SO BERKSHIRE REGISTRY OF DEEDS	105.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Lien
1213	8/27/2025	BERKSHIRE MIDDLE REGISTRY OF DEEDS	205.00	710 CEDAC/HMLP	CEDAC Home Modification Loan Program	Lien
1214	8/27/2025	RYAN HARRISON	10,000.00	710 CEDAC/HMLP	CEDAC Home Modification Loan Program	Subcontractor
1215	9/4/2025	RYAN HARRISON	9,500.00	710 CEDAC/HMLP	CEDAC Home Modification Loan Program	Subcontractor
1216	9/17/2025	HENRYS ELECTRIC INC	2,923.63	710 CEDAC/HMLP	CEDAC Home Modification Loan Program	Subcontractor
1300	9/4/2025	GREYLOCK WORKS	263,770.70	716 EPA/RLF2	Environmental Protection Agency - Revolving Loan Fund 2022	Subcontractor
1412	8/27/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	47,592.00	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1413	8/27/2025	ALEX KOMLEV	13,185.00	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1414	8/27/2025	CMV CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC	37,918.21	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1415	9/4/2025	WHITE ENGINEERING INC	811.34	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1416	9/4/2025	WHITE ENGINEERING INC	2,099.34	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1417	9/10/2025	ALEX KOMLEV	9,711.00	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1418	9/10/2025	ALEX KOMLEV	39,502.80	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor
1419	9/10/2025	ALEX KOMLEV	25,402.50	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	Becket / Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Subcontractor

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Total **\$ 1,147,593.79**

Credit Card 1189 Payment Support

Card #	Date	Payee	Amount	Department	Department Description	Expense
1189	8/31/2025	UBER	43.94	816 NEHA/FDA/RFFM	National Environmental Health Association - US Food and Drug Administration FDA - Retail Flexible Funding Model	Travel - Stine, J
1189	8/31/2025	UBER	7.91	816 NEHA/FDA/RFFM	National Environmental Health Association - US Food and Drug Administration FDA - Retail Flexible Funding Model	Travel - Stine, J
1189	8/31/2025	WANDER BERKSHIRES	7.42	806 BHS/NOCOCC	Berkshires Health Systems Opioid - North County Community Coordinator	Meeting with Brien Center Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	ALLHUNGRY.COM	181.22	832 DONATIONS/YP	Donations - Youth Prevention	Yab Meeting Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	ALLHUNGRY.COM	8.00	832 DONATIONS/YP	Donations - Youth Prevention	Yab Meeting Hospitality Fee
1189	8/31/2025	BIG Y	4.99	526 BCSO/OPIOID	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office - Opioid Prevention	Feet On The Street Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	BIG Y	191.78	526 BCSO/OPIOID	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office - Opioid Prevention	Feet On The Street Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	BOSTON LOGAN AIRPORT	205.00	816 NEHA/FDA/RFFM	National Environmental Health Association - US Food and Drug Administration FDA - Retail Flexible Funding Model	Parking - Stine, J
1189	8/31/2025	MARKET 32	23.00	832 DONATIONS/YP	Donations - Youth Prevention	Yab Meeting Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	BIG Y	22.20	832 DONATIONS/YP	Donations - Youth Prevention	Meeting Hospitality
1189	8/31/2025	BIG Y	39.44	609 HRIA/CHIP	Health Resources in Action County Health Initiative - Community Health Improvement Planning	Disability Event Refreshments

Total **\$ 734.90**

Credit Card 9068 Payment Support

Card #	Date	Payee	Amount	Department	Department Description	Expense
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	103.10	652 DPH/SORPEC25	Department of Public Health - SOR-PEC Community Circle	PEC Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	44.10	652 DPH/SORPEC25	Department of Public Health - SOR-PEC Community Circle	PEC Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	47.97	040 ADMIN	Admin	Gifts for Interns
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	19.73	040 ADMIN	Admin	Gifts for Interns
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	20.40	040 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies

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9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	33.87	526 BCSO/OPIOID	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office - Opioid Prevention	Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	20.49	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention	SPARK Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	39.91	526 BCSO/OPIOID	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office - Opioid Prevention	Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	47.49	754 DOJ/BPOP	Department of Justice - Berkshire Post Overdose Program	BPOP Supplies
9068	7/31/2025	BJS WHOLESALE CLUB	60.00	010 GEN	General	Membership Renewal
9068	7/31/2025	BOXCAR MEDIA LLC	199.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Ad Charge - Being Reversed 8/13
9068	7/31/2025	CONSTANT CONTACT INC	20.00	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention	SMS Software
9068	7/31/2025	CONSTANT CONTACT INC	99.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Comp Software
9068	7/31/2025	DUN & BRADSTREET	1,731.94	040 ADMIN	Admin	Installment #2
9068	7/31/2025	MAPC	20.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Marpa/Dls Conf
9068	7/31/2025	MARKETPLACE	76.99	350 BCBOHA/SUP	Berkshire County Boards of Health Association - Support Services	BCBOHA Meeting Meals
9068	7/31/2025	META	47.21	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention	SPARK Communication
9068	7/31/2025	PITNEY BOWES	65.44	040 ADMIN	Admin	Postage Ink

Total \$ 2,696.64

Card #	Date	Payee	Amount	Department	Department Description	Expense
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	134.48	785 NAD/MVPA	North Adams - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant	MVP Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	ZOOM.COM	48.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Software Subscr
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	33.58	785 NAD/MVPA	North Adams - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant	MVP Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	1,298.59	782 MassCEC/IMP	MassCEC - Pittsfield Energy Coaching Program Implementation	Air Purifiers
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	104.99	040 ADMIN	Admin	Comp Equ - Memory For Noe
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	120.71	440 MassDOT/TPL	MA Department of Transportation Planning	TPL Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	514.15	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	134.61	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	1,182.96	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	23.51	040 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	AMAZON.COM	65.48	813 UMASS/TURI	Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) - Plastics and Microplastics Reduction	Meeting Materials
9068	8/31/2025	BIG Y	500.00	807 NACCHO/RHAPSODI	National Association of County and City Health Officials - Reimagining Health and Public Safety Overdose Initiatives	PAB Compensation

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9068	8/31/2025	BOXCAR MEDIA LLC	(199.00)	040 ADMIN	Admin	Ad Charge Reversed 8/13
9068	8/31/2025	COLE-PARMER	83.97	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	COLE-PARMER	166.67	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	CONSTANT CONTACT INC	(20.00)	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention	SMS Software
9068	8/31/2025	CONSTANT CONTACT INC	20.00	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention	SMS Software
9068	8/31/2025	INDEED	66.86	806 BHS/NOCOCC	Berkshires Health Systems Opioid - North County Community Coordinator	NOCOCO Adv
9068	8/31/2025	MAPC	20.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Marpa Conference - Roberts, B
9068	8/31/2025	NATIONAL ENV HEALTH ASSOC	471.34	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	THENOUNPROJECT.COM	119.88	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Subscription
9068	8/31/2025	POCKETLAB	663.00	785 NAD/MVPA	North Adams - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant	Audit Equ
9068	8/31/2025	STRAIGHTTALK	37.42	040 ADMIN	Admin	Brpc Monthly Cell Phone Svc
9068	8/31/2025	STRONG TOWNS	500.00	745 SHF/EOHLC/CDBGHR	Sheffield EOHLC - Housing Rehabilitation	Membership
9068	8/31/2025	ULINE	226.80	650 DPH/SS	Department of Public Health - Shared Services	Training Hub Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	WB MASON COMPANY INC	574.71	040 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	WB MASON COMPANY INC	62.86	040 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies
9068	8/31/2025	WB MASON COMPANY INC	128.24	40 ADMIN	Admin	Office Supplies

Total \$ 7,083.81

Aged Accounts Receivable

As of 9/30/25

Customer-Funder name	Invoice	Associated Project	Over 90	Total	Notes
BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER	741-033125	741 BMC/MBI/DEBERK	11,273.36	11,273.36	Linda providing extra documentation to funder
Total for BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER			11,273.36	11,273.36	
BERKSHIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOC	350-063025-04	350 BCBOHA	380.11	380.11	Laura K is following up with the
Total for BERKSHIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOC			380.11	380.11	board
BERKSHIRE COUNTY SELECTMENS ASSOCIATION	071525 BRK MUNI		0.00	70.75	
Total for BERKSHIRE COUNTY SELECTMENS ASSOCIATION			0.00	70.75	
BERKSHIRE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP	284-FY25-Q3-BHDC	284 BPHA/PHN	600.00	600.00	Payment on its way
	284-FY25-Q4-BHDC	284 BPHA/PHN	600.00	600.00	Payment on its way
Total for BERKSHIRE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP			1,200.00	1,200.00	
CITY OF NORTH ADAMS	284-FY26-Q1-NAD		0.00	2,531.04	
Total for CITY OF NORTH ADAMS			0.00	2,531.04	
CITY OF PITTSFIELD	283-073125-PTS		0.00	450.00	
Total for CITY OF PITTSFIELD			0.00	450.00	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CORP	FY2026		0.00	15,000.00	
Total for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CORP			0.00	15,000.00	
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	829-083125-01		0.00	496.86	
Total for DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			0.00	496.86	
HEARTHWAY INC	284-FY26-Q1-BHDC		0.00	600.00	
Total for HEARTHWAY INC			0.00	600.00	
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER	735-062425-2	735 MassCEC/EmPower	30,000.00	30,000.00	Sherdyl following up
Total for MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER			30,000.00	30,000.00	
MASSACHUSETTS DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	440.09-083125-11		0.00	96,747.90	
Total for MASSACHUSETTS DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION			0.00	96,747.90	
MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE	725-06-073125-03		0.00	3,032.75	
	725.02-073125-05		0.00	635.00	

Aged Accounts Receivable

As of 9/30/25

Total for MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE			0.00	3,667.75
NATIONAL ASSOC OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS	807-082025-06		0.00	30,000.00
Total for NATIONAL ASSOC OF COUNTY & CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS			0.00	30,000.00
SUNOCO	FY25 - Q2	560 COMMVEN/GPUR	421.78	421.78
	FY25 - Q3	560 COMMVEN/GPUR	1,259.47	1,259.47
	FY25 - Q4	560 COMMVEN/GPUR	880.28	880.28
Total for SUNOCO			2,561.53	2,561.53
TONY GATUSSO	071525 BRK MUNI		0.00	25.00
Total for TONY GATUSSO			0.00	25.00
TOWN OF ADAMS	284-FY26-Q1-ADM		0.00	1,091.75
Total for TOWN OF ADAMS			0.00	1,091.75
TOWN OF BECKET	779.01-063025	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	20,246.57	20,246.57 Payment in process
	779.01-063025	779 BKTDAL/CDBG	16,025.00	16,025.00 Payment in process
	283-FY26-Q1-BKT		0.00	8,895.50
	284-FY26-Q1-BKT		0.00	964.69
Total for TOWN OF BECKET			36,271.57	46,131.76
TOWN OF CHESHIRE	669-033125	669 CHS/SW	634.25	634.25 Partial payment received
	284-FY26-Q1-CHS		0.00	1,154.00
Total for TOWN OF CHESHIRE			634.25	1,788.25
TOWN OF CLARKSBURG	784-033125-01	784 CLK/BRIC	996.81	996.81
	664-033125	664 CLK/MVPA	35,073.90	35,073.90 should be on next select board
	784-063025	784 CLK/BRIC	684.38	684.38 warrant
	664-063025	664 CLK/MVPA	26,737.16	26,737.16
	284-FY26-Q1-CLK		0.00	767.62
Total for TOWN OF CLARKSBURG			63,492.25	64,259.87
TOWN OF HANCOCK	724-063025-10	724 HAN/MVP	2,691.00	2,691.00 Courteny to follow up
	721-080825		0.00	769.36
	721-031524		0.00	193.54
	284-FY26-Q1-HAN		0.00	551.25
Total for TOWN OF HANCOCK			2,691.00	4,205.15

Aged Accounts Receivable

As of 9/30/25

TOWN OF LEE	714-063025-10	714 LEE/HMMVP	498.67	498.67	Courteny to follow up
Total for TOWN OF LEE			498.67	498.67	
TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD	284-FY26-Q1-NAS		0.00	596.88	
Total for TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD			0.00	596.88	
TOWN OF PERU	FY26-PER	FY26 Assessment	728.06	728.06	Payment in process
Total for TOWN OF PERU			728.06	728.06	
TOWN OF SAVOY	283-FY26-Q1-SAV		0.00	1,968.75	
	766-083125-05		0.00	3,776.76	
	284-FY26-Q1-SAV		0.00	577.50	
Total for TOWN OF SAVOY			0.00	6,323.01	
TOWN OF WASHINGTON	283-FY26-Q1-WSH		0.00	1,250.00	
	284-FY26-Q1-WSH		0.00	577.50	
Total for TOWN OF WASHINGTON			0.00	1,827.50	
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE	284-FY26-Q1-WST		0.00	750.00	
Total for TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE			0.00	750.00	
TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN	284-FY26-Q1-WMS		0.00	1,711.73	
Total for TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN			0.00	1,711.73	
TOWN OF WINDSOR	284-FY26-Q1-WND		0.00	577.50	
Total for TOWN OF WINDSOR			0.00	577.50	
UNITED STATES DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	715-073125-23		0.00	61,465.81	
	715-083125-24		0.00	54,472.59	
Total for UNITED STATES DEPT OF AGRICULTURE			0.00	115,938.40	
WESTERN REGION HOMELAND SECURITY	796-063025-02	796 MAPC/WRHSAC/EMP	858.98	858.98	Partial payment received
Total for WESTERN REGION HOMELAND SECURITY			858.98	858.98	
			160,436.19	536,981.72	



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Accounts

Current Balance

\$0.00

Available credit

\$500,000.00

Amount Due

\$0.00

Payment Due Date

Oct 5, 2025

**It appears you don't have any recent activity.**

When available, this is where your account activity will display.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director
DATE: August 29, 2025
SUBJ: Agenda Items – September 4, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application to the Williamstown Community Chest for a Fund for Williamstown Grant*

The Executive Committee is requesting to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to Williamstown Community Chest for the Fund for Williamstown grant and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. The grant would provide funding for an innovative 6-week fall prevention program in which a trained MMA instructor would teach older adults (55+) at The Williamstown Council on Aging to fall safely through exposure to mixed martial arts (MMA) techniques that are often taught in "hard" martial arts classes like jujitsu and judo. Expected partners include the Williamstown Council on Aging and local MMA instructors. The amount requested is \$2,500. There is no match required. The BRPC contact is Sophie Carnes Jannen, scarnesjannen@berkshireplanning.org x63

B. Vote to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application to the MOSAIC RIZE Municipal Matching Grant Program*

The Executive Committee is requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the MOSAIC RIZE Municipal Matching Grant Program and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. This grant would allow for work to abate the impact of opioids in North Berkshire County. This one-year grant allows for funding of up to \$300,000. Expected partners and project specifics will be determined by community partners in the North Berkshire HEAL Coalition. There is a match required with existing municipal opioid abatement funds from the eight municipalities who have signed on to the related Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA), pending approval by the IMA's designated North Berkshire Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) Advisory Board. There would likely be subcontractors/subrecipients. BRPC contact is Andy Ottoson, aottoson@berkshireplanning.org

C. Vote to Approve BRPC's Updated Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy*

The changes from our current Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement Policy specify eligibility for retirement as being consistent with the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Commission, clarify pre-retirement plan benefit requirements, clarifies language around a surrounding spouse and requires prompt retiree share payments. Again, there are no changes to the major substantive issue of contribution rate.

VII. Committee Updates, Reports, and Discussion

A. Commission Development Committee

The Commission Development Committee did not meet in September 2025.

B. Environmental Review Committee

The Environmental Review Committee did not meet in September 2025.

C. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet in September 2025.

D. Regional Issues Committee

The Regional Issues Committee did not meet in September 2025.

E. Berkshire Brownfields Committee

The Berkshire Brownfield Committee did not meet in September 2025.

F. Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

The MPO met on September 23rd. The main agenda item was a report on the recommendations for the micro-transit study. Draft minutes are not yet available.

G. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

The CEDS Committee met on September 17, 2025. Proponents of two CEDS Priority Projects offered updates to the group, and the committee reviewed the timeline for the Year 3 Performance Progress Report to EDA. The group also reviewed a request from the BRPC Transportation Program requesting input regarding Critical Rural Freight Corridor (CRFC) designations. Draft minutes are not yet available.

H. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Transportation Advisory Committee did not meet in September 2025.

VIII. Executive Director's Report and Discussion

A. Report on New Contracts/Agreements

New Grants and Contracts received/initiated from 8/27/25 – 9/23/25

- Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Inspection Program:
 - Becket - \$35,582
 - Cheshire - 24,000
 - Dalton - 61,050
 - Egremont - 13,000
 - Peru - 12,862
 - Savoy - 7,875
 - Washington - \$5,000
- Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program – Windsor - \$2,310
- Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs - Sheffield - Housing Planning Implementation - \$32,900
- Berkshire Gas/Mass Save - Energy - Pittsfield Community First Partnership - \$102,600

- Eversource/Mass Save - Energy - Pittsfield Community First Partnership - \$153,900
- The Nature Conservancy - Berkshire Wildlife Linkage - \$10,000
- Savoy - Culvert Replacement Project on Old Main Road 4 - \$10,000
- Sandisfield - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - \$22,500

Grants and Contracts not received.

We are not aware of any grants not received.

B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (BTI) Update

- The BTI Board approved the following:
 - Approved the President to sign an agreement with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and any other contracts to support the FY2026 Vaccination Clinics, not to exceed \$10,000, including a 2% administrative fee.
 - Approved the President to sign an FY2026 agreement between Berkshires Tomorrow and BRPC for a Software Lease for the following Subscriptions: Qty 56 - Microsoft Office 365, 58 Qty - Microsoft Defender, 2 Qty - Office 365, 2 Qty -Microsoft Visio Plan 1, 1 Qty- Microsoft Azure (used for GIS). Tom Matuszko signed for BRPC. Total \$36,620.00.
 - Approved BTI to submit a grant application to the Health New England Where Health Matters Grant and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. This grant would develop and prepare for implementation of a Community EMS (CEMS) model to deliver preventive, high-value/low-risk field services for older adults in southern Berkshire County. This one-year grant allows for funding of up to \$50,000 with a 2% BTI administration fee. Expected partners include Southern Berkshire Ambulance (SBA) and others. There is no match required. There would be subcontractors. BRPC contact is Andy Ottoson, aottoson@berkshireplanning.org

C. Staff Updates

- Open Position: Public Health Trainer
- New Hires:
 - Caitlin Davis – Office Administrator
 - James Massey – Public Health Inspector
 - Jennifer Sweet – PT Title 5 Specialist

D. Seasonal Communities Advisory Council Update

As reported during the September 18th Commission Meeting, the Seasonal Communities Advisory Council met on September 11th to receive a Draft Regulation Update from EOHLIC. The presentation included an overview of key definitions and the potential conditions related to designation or revocation of Seasonal Communities status, and proposed zoning requirements or waivers thereof. The meeting also discussed Year-Round Housing and Employment-Specific (essential public employee preference) or

Vocation-Specific (artist) Housing and explored some possible uses of the \$2M included in Governor Healey's CIP for Seasonal Communities. Draft regulations will be made available for public comment for one month, as the next step.

E. Passenger Rail

- West-East Rail – No update this month.
- Berkshire Flyer – The Berkshire Flyer train service had been served by buses between Albany and Pittsfield due to track failure this summer. That service ended on September 7 2025.
- Northern Tier Passenger Rail – No update this month.

More information on these items can be found at [Compass Rail | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/compass-rail).

F. MARPA & DLS Conference

Registration is open for the 2025 MARPA and DLS Conference on Tuesday, October 7th. The event will be held in Worcester at the College of the Holy Cross from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Registration at: www.mapc.org/event/2025-marpa-and-dls-conference/.

G. Berkshire County Municipal Officials Networking

The Berkshire Municipal Managers Association, Berkshire Selectmen's Association, and BRPC continue to collaborate on quarterly networking events for elected and appointed officials. The next networking event will occur on Thursday, October 30th, at the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center from 5 to 7 pm. Our special guest will be Inspector General Jeffery Shapiro. Please register in advance on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berkshire-county-municipal-officials-networking-tickets-51001000011).

H. Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Siting and Permitting Regulations

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resource's (DOER) new Division of Siting and Permitting filed draft regulations for siting and permitting of small renewable energy infrastructure. These encompass renewable energy sources (< 25MW), storage (< 100MWh), and transmission lines (< 10 miles). These regulations are also accompanied by draft site suitability guidance and guidance for community benefit agreements.

Written comments on the draft regulations will be accepted through October 17th to this email: DOER.Siting.Permitting@mass.gov, subject line: "S&P Follow On Rulemaking Comments.

There will be a series of in-person information sessions throughout the state including one on Thursday, October 9th, 7 p.m. at UMass Amherst (551 North Pleasant St., Amherst, Olver Design Building)

In addition, there will be a virtual public hearing on Zoom October 15th at 7 p.m.. Register [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doer-small-clean-energy-infrastructure-facility-siting-and-permitting-regulations-tickets-51001000011).

For more information, visit the webpage for the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Division webpage or reach out to your [Regional Coordinator for Siting and Permitting](#).

I. Site Suitability Assessments for Clean Energy Infrastructure Guidance / Draft Standards and Guidelines, Community Benefits Plans, Community Benefits Agreements

The draft Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Siting and Permitting Regulations reference seven different guidance documents, which articulate many of the baseline conditions and requirements for the application, review, and approval processes.

The Site Suitability Assessment Guidance describes the methodology for determining the suitability of sites for energy infrastructure.

The Community Benefits Guidance describes how a proposed energy facility should engage the Community.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is holding a public webinar on Oct. 9 at noon to explain its draft Guidance on Site Suitability Assessments for Clean Energy Infrastructure and the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity's draft Standards and Guidelines for Community Benefits Plans and Agreements. These will impact both the local and state siting and permitting process. Registration is at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Feedback on the draft site suitability guidance can be submitted to EnergyPermitting@mass.gov through Oct. 24, 2025.

J. FFIO's new Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) Grant Program

This competitive grant program is designed for all Massachusetts local governments and federally recognized tribes, as well as regional organizations whose membership is exclusively composed of municipal governments, community development corporations and other development authorities or agencies seeking technical assistance for infrastructure, climate, and economic development projects. To qualify for funding under this program, applications must be intended for projects that are seeking or have received federal funding. This program prioritizes requests from rural communities, Gateway Cities, and localities with financial and capacity needs in similar underserved communities. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the FFIO, and successful applicants will receive up-front funding. [More information is available on the FFIO website.](#)

K. FFIO's new Technical Assistance for Regional Planning Agencies (TARPA) Grant Program

This formula-based grant program is for Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) with resources for direct technical assistance to cities and towns, particularly for moving infrastructure, climate, and economic development projects forward to help rural communities, Gateway Cities, and localities with

financial and capacity needs in similar underserved communities. These projects should have a regional scope and impact. To qualify for funding under this program, applicants must be one of the state's 13 RPAs seeking or have received federal funding. The FFIO oversees the program, which allocates grant funding to the RPAs on an opt-in basis.

Berkshire Housing Coalition

L. The Berkshire Housing Coalition

The Berkshire Housing Coalition (BHC) is an open group that shares concern for the availability, affordability, and quality of housing in the Berkshires.

The group is administered by Hearthway, Inc., the county's regional housing organization that exists to find housing solutions for all people across the Berkshires.

BHC members receive regular updates via email on housing advocacy, challenges and solutions, and other important information related to the housing needs of the Berkshires. BHC also meets, as needed, to hear updates from key housing partners and engage in dialogue with other stakeholders and advocates. To join BHC sign up at [Berkshire Housing Coalition | Hearthway](http://Berkshire%20Housing%20Coalition%20%7C%20Hearthway).

IX. Old Business

A. Discussion about EPA's Proposed Changes to its Endangerment Finding

EPA's Endangerment Finding is the basis for regulating Greenhouse Gas emissions. The BRPC Executive Committee approved submitting comments from BRPC at the September meeting. Several members of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies also submitted comments, which I also signed.

B. Discussion about the Environmental Bond Bill

At the September Executive Committee meeting interest was expressed about getting a summary of the Environmental Bond Bill. That summary is attached.

C. Discussion about the BRPC Annual Meeting

We have reserved the Proprietors' Lodge in Pittsfield for Thursday, October 16, 2025, as the date for our annual meeting. Please reserve your tickets prior to October 9th on Eventbrite. The Annual Meeting will include presentation of the 2025 Kusik Award to the following four honorees: Meg Bandarra, Unpaved Trails for All; Ellen Kennedy, Berkshire Community College; Jane Winn, BEAT; and Rene Wood, Town of Sheffield.

X. New Business

A. Vote to Approve the Executive Director's FY 25 Performance Review and FY 26 Salary Adjustment*

BRPC's Bylaws require "*On an annual basis, the Executive Director shall prepare a review of his/her accomplishments for the preceding year and*

goals for the upcoming years as part of his/her performance evaluation by the Executive Committee.”

BRPC salaries are based on performance reviews. The Executive Committee is requested to approve the Executive Director's FY 25 Performance Review and any FY 26 Salary Adjustment.

B. Discussion of Topics for the November 20 Commission Meeting

Potential topics for November 20, 2025, Commission Meeting include:

- Roundtable Discussion of Municipal Items

XI. Adjournment*

Additional Meeting Material:

- 2025.09.04 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Unapproved DRAFT
- 2025.08.27 – 2025.09.18 Expenditures Report
- 2025.09 Accounts Receivable Report
- 2025.09 Line of Credit Report
- 2025.09.26 Executive Director Memorandum
- DRAFT – Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement - Policy
- Resumes – Caitlin Davis, James Massey, Jennifer Sweet
- Comments on Proposed Rule Rescission Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-019
- Environmental Bond Bill Summary
- August 2025 – Technical Assistance Memorandum

Continuation of Medical Benefits After Retirement - Policy



Policy

A retired BRPC employee (retiree) is eligible to continue the existing level (single or family plan or equivalent) of medical and/or dental benefits after retirement provided the retiree:

- Has met all the requirements for retirement as specified by the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Commission;
- Has completed a total 10 years of employment with BRPC;
- Was enrolled in the same BRPC medical and/or dental plan a minimum of one year prior to retirement and at the time of retirement; and
- Continues uninterrupted coverage in retirement up until the point coverage is discontinued.
- Provides payment of the retiree monthly share within 90 days.

A retiree who is enrolled in a family plan, for either medical or dental coverage, at the time of retirement or any point thereafter, may remain in a family plan or equivalent, or elect to change to a single plan. Retirees enrolled in a single plan at the time of retirement, or at any point thereafter, are not permitted to change to a family plan.

If the retiree dies, the surviving spouse may continue coverage. If the surviving spouse has dependents, the surviving spouse may continue with a family plan. If there are no dependents, the surviving spouse must convert to a single plan.

BRPC will pay a percentage of the contribution toward the plan premium compared to an active employee's contribution as follows:

BRPC	Retiree
Percentage <u>of Contribution</u>	Percentage <u>of Contribution</u>
75%	25%

If the active employee contribution rate is modified in the future, the contribution rate for retirees would be changed accordingly.

When a retiree and/or their spouse are eligible for Medicare, they both are required to enroll in Medicare, both Parts A and B, as their primary carrier. Any medical coverage provided by BRPC will be a secondary carrier.

Caitlin Davis



PROFILE Strong administrative, writing, editing and time management skills; Detail-oriented; Excellent organizational and multitasking skills; Adaptable office administrative professional with a wide-ranging skill set.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

MCLA, North Adams, MA
Human Resources Administrator
January 2024-Present

- Manage student employment hiring process and payroll
- Support and serve as primary backup for the Payroll and Benefits Manager
- Serve as back-up for other administrative tasks including completion of onboarding human resource/payroll forms, i.e., 1-9, personal data form, federal/state tax forms, etc.
- Point of contact for employees regarding self-service time & attendance issues, as well as payroll, benefit, and union questions

Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA
Executive Assistant- Institutional Advancement
June 2023-January 2024

- Update donor database with contact reports and biographical information
- Gift processing and tracking; acknowledgement letters; online donations; general foundation board accounting and check requests through BCC and Foundation Board
- Support and staff Advancement and College events, including list management, registration, and other coordination
- General technology knowledge including Microsoft suite and database management
- Provided Administrative support to the temporary advancement VP and staff

Center for EcoTechnology, Florence, MA and remote
Executive Assistant and HR Generalist
March 2021- June 2023

- Provide executive administrative support to three executive team members and respective team members
- Provide financial, budgeting, expense management support
- Act as liaison with employees, partners, clients, and other stakeholders
- Staff onboarding for new hires; Phone screening potential candidates for open positions; reference checks, and other HR duties as assigned
- Building and facilities management and maintenance- spearheaded Berkshire office move, and Florence office downsize between 2021 and 2022

Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst, MA
Office Manager
March 2020-2021

- Supervise reception, support, data entry and maintenance staff
- Manage office coordination, including the maintenance of telephone and security services, as well as equipment inventory, oversight of building and grounds maintenance, and the purchase or leasing of supplies and equipment

- Manage the Stavros records systems, including the filing of consumer records and application information for prospective personal care attendants
- Provide technical support to staff for the office systems such as phones and computers, virtual meetings. etc.
- Manage all remote connections and access for staff to work from home

The Trustees, Florence, MA

Executive Assistant and Office Manager

March 2016-March 2020

- Direct administrative and financial support to Vice President, Director of Business Operations and Western MA regional staff
- Oversee and manage operations for Regional Office
- Administrative support and account management to Business Units within organization
- Event coordination, monthly regional, quarterly, and statewide event, meeting and marketing planning, social media, and community relations
- Assist with monthly governance committee meetings
- Provide financial, budgeting, expense management support for VP and office

Massachusetts Library System, Marlborough, MA

Operations and Communication Coordinator for Statewide Delivery System

May 2013-March 2016

- Front office support for MLS staff and operations
- Assist and coordinate day to day delivery operations of member services as primary contact to member libraries
- Managed statewide delivery issues between member libraries and vendor delivery company
- Maintained statistical information/databases of MLS services, including statewide satisfaction surveys, schedules, warehouse operations logs, accounting for lost/damaged item claims
- Event and meeting planning

Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Visitor Service Representative, Membership/Department Assistant

June 2011-May 2013

- Greet Museum Visitors; provide information and answer inquiries regarding exhibitions, events, the Museum, etc.
- Use POS software and register to sell Museum admission tickets and memberships
- Answer telephone, email, and in person inquiries and re-direct phone calls to staff as necessary
- Provide visitors with information in a courteous and respectful tone with Museum policies
- Train and supervise volunteers and interns for VSR department
- Provided clerical and office assistance to VSR manager

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Office Applications: Microsoft Office Suite, Teams, Zoom, Doodle Poll, Paycom, FileMaker Pro, NetSuite, BambooHR, Asana, Ellucian Colleague, HR/CMS, Interview Exchange, Mobius, TimesheetX, Banner

Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Yammer, Pingboard, Slack

Customer Relations Management: Laserfiche, Salesforce, Sugar, Wild, Raiser's Edge/Blackbaud

EDUCATION

College of St. Joseph Rutland, VT

- *Bachelor of Arts, History and Political Science*

Graduated *Cum Laude*
Member of *Phi Alpha Theta*

Newcastle University Newcastle upon Tyne, England
• Study Abroad Program, Areas of Study: History and Art

JAMES MASSEY

EXPERIENCE

HEALTH INSPECTOR & ANIMAL INSPECTOR, TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON.

July 2024 – PRESENT

- Responsible for inspecting and permitting 120+ food service establishments, retail food, catering, mobile food operations and temporary food vendors. Upholding the MA Food Code 105 CMR 590.000 and 105 CMR 500.00 Good Food Manufacturing Practices.
- Responsible for inspecting and permitting large-scale and small-scale seasonal events that offer food and retail food. Such as, Berkshire Grown Farmers markets-Winter & Summer, GB Car Show, BIFF, Berkshire Arts Festival, VFW Summer Music Festival, and the Latino Arts Festival.
- Responsible for administering annual permits, temporary permits and inspection scheduling using the Alliance Permiteyes System. Categories include, lodging, tattoo parlors, nail salons, tobacco, wells, building demolitions, pool operators, camps, septic installers, septic haulers, well drillers, funeral home directors, beaver removal, percolation and TTLV witnessing.
- Responsible for inspecting pre-rental and housing complaint investigations in accordance with housing code 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code Chapter II) for the town of Great Barrington and village of Housatonic totaling 8,254 residents. Administering correction orders based on violations found. Working hand in hand with the GB Board of Health, occupants and owners to resolve the issues.
- Responsible for upholding Town of Great Barrington bylaws under the Board of Health Purview.
- Maintaining a strong line of support for Great Barrington residents with other complaints or nuisances that involve the Health Department.
- Responsible for inspecting, tracking and registering 30 Farms in the town of Great Barrington and Village of Housatonic. Works closely with Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and GB Animal Control Officers on bite reports and quarantine investigations.

CONSULTING CHEF & PERSONAL CHEF, BERKSHIRE COUNTY/NEW ENGLAND

AUGUST 2022 – PRESENT (Part-Time)

- Food and beverage consulting for multi-location fast casual brands, contemporary style restaurants and Inns.
- Support and train Head Chefs, KM's, Sous Chefs, cooks. Also supporting FOH leadership and teams as well to foster strong cohesive food and beverage learning environment.
- Create a new culinary programming. Including seasonal menu creations, tasting menus, banquet & catering menus.
- Systems: complete operational analysis. Brand development, development of food and beverage cost controls and system implementation to support corrective action if needed.
- Work with owners and culinary teams to hire and train new staff members.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL EXECUTIVE CHEF / R&D PROPRIETARY CONCEPTS,

TRINITY HEALTH SERVICES

APRIL 2020 - JUNE, 2022

- Oversaw 6 healthcare locations and culinary teams throughout NY, MA, and CT.
- \$21 million dollar FANS Regional Operation Revenue.
- Developed a regional 4-week retail and patient menu for all locations.
- Worked hands on with culinary teams to roll out the new regional culinary programming.
- Successfully developed stronger organized operational function and financial viability for all locations.
- Achieved goals set to increase revenue, lower cost per adjusted patient day and increased scores.
- Worked with regional dietitian and content team to implement new Delegate Nutrition software for patient menus for the New England region.

- Established strong vendor relations for region and increased compliance/rebate percentage.
- Spear-headed proprietary concept development for Trinity Corporate. New menu and station concepts to include recipes, flow charts, production lists and order guides. Also developed new sustainability practices, culinary training, and audit programs.
- Transitioned the largest account in Trinity Health portfolio to a successful and smooth grand opening. Along with regional menu rollouts.

DIRECTOR OF CULINARY EXPERIENCE, ESSEX RESORT AND SPA; ESSEX, VT

MAY 2019 - APRIL 2020

- Oversight of high-volume resort with a restaurant "Tavern" featuring gastro pub fare, an upscale Chef inspired open kitchen "Junction", bakery with artisanal bread program, grab and go, onsite and offsite events & catering, and a Cook's Academy that features two demonstration kitchens.
- \$8 million dollar Food and Beverage operation.
- Full brigade culinary operation and development of new and existing team.
- Had positive and effective indirect management of the FOH team developing service flow and systems.
- Worked with an onsite gardening team to grow seasonal produce to enhance vision and guest experience.
- Approximately 70 wedding events per year.
- Worked with Blodgett, Viking, and subsidiary companies to secure a partnership to equip and refresh demonstration kitchens and culinary outlets.
- Worked with local programs to build community support to reach local businesses and farms.
- Featured on Outstanding in the Field in 2019 due to being selected as a Chef to farm supporter. Also selected to be featured in OITF 2021 Berkshire Region with Woven Roots Farm.

EXECUTIVE CHEF/OWNER, FIELD AND CELLAR; GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

MARCH 2016 - APRIL 2019

- Upscale farm to table restaurant with an a la carte menu; responsible for overseeing the front and back of the house operations.
- Culinary vision is based on multi-generational farming family and Native American heritage.
- The culinary vision is focused on culinary integrity and quality using from scratch cooking, baking with modern cooking techniques.
- Weekly rotation of menus items and special features.
- Use of sustainable seafood that is recommended by the Monterey Bay Seafood Watch Program.
- Grew Native American seeds to harvest and local farms to feature on the menu. Also, seasonal foraging creates a true farm-to-table experience.

EXECUTIVE CHEF, CANYON RANCH RESORT; LENOX, MA

SEPT 2011 - APRIL 2016

- Responsible for oversight of an all-inclusive, multiple outlet food and beverage operation for a world-renowned health resort and spa.
- \$8 million dollar Food and Beverage operation.
- The outlets consisted of a farm to table restaurant, main dining room with action station, a demonstration kitchen with cooking classes, outdoor café (seasonal), bake shop and employee cafe.
- Had continual creation seasonal and themed menus that rotate to optimize menu diversity and quality.
- Implemented a new culinary vision for the property by creating strong relationships with local farmers and businesses that focused on local products including meet the farmer.
- Remodeled and re-concepts all outlets, with developed new artisanal bread program, culinary vision followed the Monterey Bay Seafood Watch Membership and EWG Dirty Dozen Plus commitment.
- Active in community events including Food and Wine Festivals, harvest suppers to support local farmers and other fundraising benefits.
- Effectively raised the bar over a five-year period all while maintaining strong budgetary guidelines.
- Successfully managing with a lead by example philosophy a Chef brigade of a "from scratch" operation.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

University of Arizona: Tucson, AZ 2001-2002. (non-degree) Secondary Education, US History and Athletic Coaching.

Pima Community College: Tucson, (AA/transferred to U of A) AZ, 1997-1999. Business Administration and Management, General Education.

ServSafe Managerial Certification: 20244127 Exp. 2026

Allergen Awareness Certification: 4930639 Exp: 2026

Tier I Food Training: Currently working on FDA portion and Tier III Food completion.

Tier II Housing Certification: 2025- Working to schedule Tier III Housing w/ Dan Hassett.

Certified Pool Operator Certification: C-141233 Exp: 2030

Other Continuing Education Plans:

2026: TTLV Inspector Certification and Soil Evaluator Certification.

Jennifer Sweet



Professional, licensed Title 5 inspector and septic installer with experience building a variety of engineered systems. On-site supervisor and laborer. Maintain relationships with local engineers and inspectors ensuring system installs, repairs, and upgrades meet code. Experienced in real estate sales from listing, home inspections, to final closings. Formerly licensed ServSafe for 10 years with ability to recertify as needed. Will pursue further education in the field beginning with a soil evaluation class and other opportunities that allow advancement in the field and personal fulfillment.

Experience

Nov 2021 – Present Berkshire Pittsfield Septic Lanesboro, MA

Licensed Septic Installer and Inspector

Licensed Title 5 Inspector

Responsibilities include reviewing site plans and preparing work site according to plan/print for contracted projects. Review all specifications, variances, materials, parts, and elevations. Ensure all materials, parts, and tools required for the job are available and ready for transport each day. Manage work site safety and clean up. Ensure all components of the system are in place and complete prior to inspections. Conduct end of day project review and plan for the next day's work. Train and conduct on site supervision of laborers. Ensure employees' licenses and educations are up to date.

Experience in installing several different types of soil absorption systems, tanks, pump chambers and pumps, including Eljen, Infiltrator, Puraflow modules, pipe and stone, pressure system with manifold, drip systems, and Jet-bac tanks. 100% approval rate on all installations from engineers and inspectors. 100% test score for system design on Title 5 exam.

Currently managing the septic upgrade for the Berkshire Village Trailer Park in Cheshire, MA.

Oct 2021 – Feb 2022 MCLA North Adams, MA

COVID Operations / Testing Center Support

Responsibilities included registration of students, faculty, and staff for COVID testing on campus and adherence to testing guidelines. Issued result emails. Reviewed lists for inconclusive results to ensure retesting was completed. Shared positive testing results with COVID operations manager.

Jul 2018 – Sep 2020 BFair North Adams, MA

Community Living Service Coordinator

Responsibilities included coordinating care for individuals transferring out of short- and long-term care. Secured housing and all related living necessities. Coordinated care and in home staffing. Maintained medical care appointments and recording of the same. Secured transportation as needed. BCAC and AdLib liaison.

Jul 2017 – Oct 2018 G. Fuls Real Estate North Adams, MA

Licensed Real Estate Associate

Mar 2010 – Oct 2017 **United Cerebral Palsy** **North Adams, MA**

Individual and Family Support Advocate

Responsibilities included providing individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers with support in navigating community resources, such as medical treatment, legal aid, guardianship, housing or financial assistance. Maintaining financial records, medical records, case notes and a timely schedule to meet the expectations of the caseload according to Massachusetts state laws and guidelines. Knowledge of medical conditions and diagnoses to ensure needs are met accordingly. Taking the lead on the planning of skill building programs and implementing goals. Also planning social calendar events, such as dinners, dances, open houses and fundraisers.

Respite Care Provider

Responsibilities included providing a toddler, diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, with socialization, age-appropriate activities, and managing and correcting behavioral issues. Attended a conference and received training in young child play and behavior.

Jun 2006 – Feb 2010 **Greyluck Animal Hospital** North Adams, MA

Receptionist – Client Care

Responsibilities included extensive customer interactions. Answering multi-line phone system. Scheduling pet appointments. Answering medical inquiries from pet owners, recommending pet care products and filling prescriptions. Updating and maintaining accurate, confidential medical records. Conducting financial transactions in cash, credit and check forms. Processing end of day reports (cash-outs) and verifying accuracy of same. Work independently at the hospital's satellite office in Adams, MA. As vet technician, conducted blood draws, administered vaccinations, and trimmed nails. Also acted as the hospital's Pet Insurance Specialist, finding plans and companies to suit clients and their pet's needs.

Oct 2003 – Jun 2006 **Tunnel City Coffee** **Williamstown, MA**

Barista/Key Holder/Shift Manager

Responsibilities included customer service both in-person and by telephone, cashing out and closing retail space at the end of the evening. Maintaining inventory and placing orders. Assignment of daily tasks to coffee shop employees. Training new employees on all aspects of daily shop responsibilities including customer service, counter service, cash register operation, cash handling, and cleaning. Calculate hours for schedule and weekly pay. Highly customer oriented.

Office Assistant and Retail Sales Associate

Performed clerical duties including filing, copying and shredding of confidential and time sensitive documents for the Executive Assistant to the CEO and the Director of Human Resources. Processed bulk mailings. Created and maintained Excel spreadsheets. Assisted with the planning and holding of sample and return merchandise sales. Performed receptionist duties on a part-time basis.

Retail sales responsibilities included daily opening and closing of the retail space, merchandising, receiving and stocking of inventory, reporting on sales activity and inventory for restocking recommendations. Troubleshoot cash overages and unders, and resolve customer issues and complaints. Coordinated and advertised special store events. Trained new sales associates. Was a member of the store opening team and provided coverage for the store manager during absences. Created a procedure manual of store operations, including cash register functions, credit card and check processing procedures, and returns acceptance. Consistently produced the highest sales in the local retail store. Maintained a professional and courteous manner.

Licensing and Certifications

- Berkshire County Licensed Septic Installer
- MA Licensed Title 5 Inspector
- ServSafe Certified (lapsed)
- MA Real Estate License (lapsed)

Education

- Drury Senior High School, North Adams, MA
- Steepleview Real Estate School
- MA Title 5 Inspector Course

Specialized Training

MA Department of Developmental Services

ISP Building Learning Experiences	Person Centered Individual Service Plan
Basic Human Rights	Human Rights System
Strategies for Community Integration	Applied Non Violence 1 and 2
Beginner Sign Language	Swallowing and Dysphagia
Positive Behavior Supports	Teaching Sexuality in Every Day Life
See Me As a Whole Person	Relationships, Touch and Professional Boundaries
Self Determination and Informed Choices	Respecting Diversity
Teaching Social Skills	Facilitating Effective Meetings
Self- Care and Emotional Wellness	Disabled Persons Protection
Non-Abusive Psychological & Physical Intervention Harassment	
First Aid/CPR/AED for Adults/Children and Infants	
Serve Safe	
Autism Applied Behavioral Analysis with Dr. Tom Byrne of MCLA	

Software Experience

Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook, Internet Explorer, RetailPro, Corner Stone, SharePoint, Precision Care, Icentrix, Cyber Sport

Volunteer Experience

Northern Berkshire Youth Hockey League – 2011 to 2023 - VP of Off Ice Operations, Treasurer and Fundraising Committee: Keep track of all financial records, player registration, medical information, Player USA Hockey numbers and maintain the leagues budget.

Research and apply for grants. Solicit and communicate with local businesses for donations and sponsorship. Plan and coordinate player recruitment and fundraising events. Maintain communication with the City of North Adams relative to the program, schedule, and financial payments.

September 22nd, 2025

Administrator Lee Zeldin
EPA Docket Center
WJC West Building, Room 3334
1301 Constitution Avenue
NW Washington, DC 20004

Attn: Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We write in regard to the recently released Proposed Rule Rescission Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-019 and the opportunity to offer comments on the proposal. We have grave concerns about the impacts that this rescission could have on our Commonwealth's health and safety, economic well-being, and preparedness for future environmental disasters.

For almost 20 years, the United States has recognized that greenhouse gases (GHGs) are covered by the Clean Air Act's definition of air pollutant through the Supreme Court's ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), setting the legal precedent that these emissions from vehicles and other sources endanger public health or welfare and are subject to regulation under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act. In response to the Court's ruling, the EPA issued an Endangerment Finding in 2009. Since then, this Endangerment Finding has stood up to judicial scrutiny—most notably when the decision was upheld in 2012.¹

In the Proposed Rule, EPA erroneously contends that it no longer holds the authority to regulate GHGs and further contends that the robust scientific evidence that justified the Endangerment Finding is false. Contrary to EPA's contentions—and its total reliance on the single, non-peer-reviewed Climate Working Group draft report, the body of scientific literature supporting the link between GHGs and climate change and the potential impacts on the environment, public health, and welfare has only strengthened since 2009. The impacts of climate change have already been demonstrated across the United States and will continue to amplify absent continued action from the EPA in accordance with its statutory responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.

Public Safety & Protection

For 50 years, our armed forces have recognized the threat that climate change poses to our national security. In fact, it was under then [President George H.W. Bush](#) in 1991 that environmental security concerns were officially identified in our National Security Strategy. A decade later, in 2001, the [Department of State publicly recognized](#) that environmental security was a critical driver of regional and national security. They stated that environmental security “encompassed the mitigation and prevention of energy threats...and

¹ [Coalition for Responsible Regulation Inc. v. EPA](#), No. 09-1322 (D.C. Cir. 2012), and more recently in [Concerned Household Electricity Consumers Council v. EPA](#), No. 22-1139 (D.C. Cir 2023).

environmental risks and related stresses that directly contribute to political and economic instability or conflict in foreign countries or regions of importance to the United States.”

More recently, in 2017, Naval Facilities Engineering Command issued a [Planning Handbook on Climate Change Installation Adaptation and Resilience](#). In 2018, DoD completed an [initial infrastructure vulnerability assessment survey](#), which identified climate and extreme-weather vulnerabilities to DoD infrastructure, followed by a [Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense](#) in 2019, which highlighted current and future climate risks to 79 priority installations. These efforts culminated in the DoD’s [Climate Adaptation Plan](#) in 2021. In 2018, the Government Accountability Office developed a [comprehensive report](#) summarizing long-range emerging threats facing the United States identified by 45 government agencies, which highlighted the “imminent and longer-term threats that will require collective action to address” posed by climate change.

The EPA’s contention that available scientific data and analysis reflect uncertainties around the adverse impacts of climate change are at direct odds with the robust and forward-thinking DoD planning and investments to ensure the nation’s continued security in the face of negative domestic and global impacts from a changing climate.

Cost for States and Consumers

The impacts of climate change are negatively affecting our residents as well as state and local finances.

Over the last few years, we have seen a disturbing trend as home insurance premiums have increased [8.7% faster than the rate of inflation in 2018-2022](#), and [24% over the past three years](#). The states that saw the biggest percent increases in their premiums were Utah, Arizona, and Pennsylvania, while Florida residents saw the largest dollar over dollar increase in their premiums. However, it is not just premium price increases that should be of concern. Some insurers are leaving states all together—primarily due to increases in the frequency and cost of extreme weather events. Right now, [Arkansas, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Washington](#) are just a handful of the states impacted, but if premiums keep increasing, it is possible that other states may be impacted, too.

In 2024, the Congressional Budget Office issued a report on the [Risks of Climate Change to the United States in the 21st Century](#), estimating that climate change will reduce real GDP by 4% (and as much as 21% in the worst case) than it would have been in the absence of continued temperature increases. Sea level rise resulting from climate change could cause the loss of nearly \$1 trillion in residential properties, and the average wildfire losses could increase five- to ten-fold. These impacts will be catastrophic to the lives and livelihoods of affected communities and cause rippling effects throughout the economy,

[Consumer Reports](#) studied the impact of climate change on individual’s net income. In their 2024 report, they estimate that individuals born in 2024 could lose as much as \$200,000 over the course of their lives due to tax increases as government revenues decrease and expenditures increase due to climate change. This report also specifically points to high GHG emissions as a key driver that will contribute to significant losses in individual net income beginning in 2044.

We need a continued, economy- and government-wide approach to continue mitigating the worst impacts of climate change on American communities—an approach that will be greatly compromised by the Proposed Rule and the elimination of EPA's regulations of GHG emissions.

Local Impact

Massachusetts is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events as we have the [2nd oldest building stock in the country](#), [8,229 miles of rivers](#), and [1,500 miles of coastline](#). Additionally, average temperatures across the Commonwealth have steadily increased. Five of the Commonwealth's most populated counties temperatures increased by as much as [3 degrees Fahrenheit over the last 55 years](#) while the Commonwealth warmed on average 2.75 degrees. Along with these increases in temperature, Massachusetts has seen [increases in the frequency of statewide droughts](#), with droughts becoming a common occurrence and instances being recorded almost yearly, in contrast to past historical data. Residents are bearing the brunt of these changes. [In 2023 alone, natural disasters resulted in 105,000 displacements in Massachusetts](#), and [one in three individuals](#) were displaced for one to four weeks. Additionally, warming seas, [driven primarily by increases in GHG emissions](#), are impacting Massachusetts' fishing industry, forcing crucial sea life to migrate farther north and into deep waters. This has also led to a [drop in the harvestable weight of scallops, one of the industry's most valuable mollusks](#). At the same time, lobster hauls have also decreased. [Between 1994 and 2014, catches](#) in southern New England declined by 78% and the number of young lobstermen in [the Atlantic states has decreased 39 percent since 2016](#).

From a public health perspective, we have seen first-hand how a warming climate is impacting Massachusetts communities. Massachusetts residents have historically not needed air conditioning, with [less than one third of Massachusetts homes having central air conditioning](#) compared to a national average of 67%. However, the number of homes with central cooling [increased by over 30% from 2008-2018](#), highlighting the increasing need for residents to maintain comfort and avoid heat-related illnesses as average temperatures rise and the frequency of extreme heat events increase. Moreover, [periods of poor air quality frequently coincide with periods of extreme heat](#), leading to [substantially greater mortality](#) than their impacts individually. Lower income residents may also not be able to afford to install or operate air conditioning, placing them at greater risk of heat-related illnesses. [Studies in Massachusetts](#) have highlighted the elevated risks of heat-related hospitalizations to lower income communities.

While the Proposed Rule cites the Climate Working Group report in claiming that a reduction in cold-related mortality will outweigh an increase in heat-related mortality, [heat-related deaths are already on the rise in Massachusetts](#), and a [recent peer-reviewed study](#) projects that heat-related deaths will exceed any reduction in cold-related deaths in the absence of extreme adaptation and GHG mitigation efforts—efforts that this Proposed Rule seeks to undo.

The 2009 Endangerment Finding provided a sound scientific basis for regulating greenhouse gas emissions. In the 16 years since then, the scientific evidence of endangerment and the climate impacts to the United States and our communities have only grown. Moreover, the EPA's authority and obligation to continue regulating greenhouse

gases through *Massachusetts v. EPA* and Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, as well as the legality of the Endangerment Finding, remains legally sound. Repealing the Endangerment Finding, particularly through reliance on the findings of a single report developed behind closed doors without peer review would be arbitrary and capricious and would cause direct harm to the residents of Massachusetts.

Climate change continues to pose present and future threats to our nation's security, health, and financial well-being. Repealing the Endangerment Finding would be a monumental mistake, and we urge the EPA to withdraw the proposed rule. We appreciate your consideration of this letter, and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lizzi Weyant
Acting Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Kimberly H. Robinson
Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Leslie Woodson Snell
Director of Planning
Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission

Jennifer Raitt
Executive Director
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Thomas Matuszko
Executive Director
Berkshire Regional Planning Council

Kristy Senatori
Executive Director
Cape Cod Commission

Glenn P. Eaton
Executive Director
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

Linda Dunlavy
Executive Director
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

SENATE 2542 MA READY ACT/ENVIRONMENTAL BOND BILL

Note: It is anticipated that this legislation will start being reviewed this fall. With its potential impact on the Berkshires, it may be worth considering.

Governor Maura Healey introduced the MA Ready Act, also known as an Environmental Bond Bill, with a stated purpose to aim to "build resilience for Massachusetts communities" by authorizing \$2.9 billion in funding over five years for various environmental and climate change-related programs.

- Investments: The proposed funding would support infrastructure improvements and environmental preservation efforts, including:
 - Protecting water and nature.
 - Investing in farms and local economies.
 - Climate change adaptation and resiliency. and Land conservation and recreational assets
 - Improvements to dams, bridges, and culverts.

A significant portion of the Mass Ready Act is dedicated to enhancing and modernizing the state's infrastructure to withstand climate change and natural disasters.

- Dams and flood control: \$308 million for high-risk state-owned or abandoned dams, inland flood control systems, and coastal infrastructure. Another \$93.5 million is allocated for municipal and publicly owned dams.
- Coastal resilience: \$200 million for implementing the state's Resilient Coasts recommendations.
- Recreation and parks: \$587 million is designated for investments in parks, trails, beaches, and historic sites.
- Transportation: \$177 million will be used to improve transportation infrastructure, including bike lanes, greenways, and pedestrian bridges.
- Solid waste: \$28 million is allocated for solid waste management and pollution reduction.
- Resilience Revolving Fund: A new fund is established to provide low-interest loans to municipalities and utilities for climate-resilient projects like stormwater management.

As you read the details and consider their impact, note that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expected to specify the categories and criteria for eligibility further. It will likely use the new authority granted under the Mass Ready Act to define what constitutes a "priority" project for expedited review. This will likely occur through a formal regulatory process following the bill's potential passage into law.

What is the timeline for Mass Ready Act funding allocation?

Legislative status:

- The bill is currently before the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The Legislature's formal session runs through the end of 2026, so a vote could occur at any time before then.
- Drawing on experience with similar environmental bond and development bills provides a general sense of how these processes Passing a bond bill in Massachusetts, like the Mass Ready Act (S.2542), typically takes anywhere from several months to the full two-year legislative session.

Factors influencing the timeline:

- Controversy and amendments: The more contentious the details of a bond bill, the longer the debate. The Mass Ready Act contains policy provisions on permits and regulations that could be debated and amended.
- Competition for resources: Lawmakers often prioritize smaller, targeted bond bills or the annual operating budget, which can slow down larger, multi-purpose bond bills.
- Legislative session schedule: The biennial legislative session runs from January of odd-numbered years until the end of December of the following even-numbered year. Formal sessions end in July of the second year (July 31, 2026, for the current session), meaning bond bills can face time pressure.

Drawing on experience with similar environmental bond and development bills provides a general sense of how these processes work. Passing a bond bill in Massachusetts, like the Mass Ready Act (S.2542), typically takes anywhere from several months to the full two-year legislative session.

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- Legislative session schedule: The biennial legislative session runs from January of odd-numbered years until the end of December of the following even-numbered year. Formal sessions end in July of the second year (July 31, 2026, for the current session), meaning bond bills can face time pressure.
- Bond bill structure: As a bond bill, the Mass Ready Act does not immediately disburse funds upon passage. Instead, it authorizes the state to borrow money for its programs over a specified period. The bill text states that the bond authorizations will be made available until June 30, 2032. This indicates the funding will be spread out over several years.
- Allocation process: Funding will be disbursed for specific programs outlined in the legislation, such as improvements to dams, culverts, and state parks, as well as investments in water infrastructure and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. The bill contains several funding sections, each for specific purposes.
- Funding process after passage:
 - The state will initiate funding cycles for individual programs covered by the Mass Ready Act.
 - Specific agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), would administer the funds.
 - Cities, towns, or other entities would then apply for grants and loans through established state processes.
 - The exact timing for a specific project would depend on when its administering agency starts its application process.

What parts of the Mass Ready Act might cause debate?

Streamlining environmental permitting

Conservation groups and others have expressed concern over the bill's provisions that would streamline and accelerate environmental permitting.

- Reduced MEPA review: The bill allows priority housing and restoration projects to receive Chapter 91 waterways licenses in as little as 60 days, potentially bypassing the full Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review process. Critics worry this will weaken environmental oversight for new development projects.
- Wetlands Protection Act changes: Proposed changes to the Wetlands Protection Act would eliminate duplicative administrative appeals for wetlands regulations. It would send local appeals for certain projects directly to the superior court, a move intended to expedite the process but which critics view as limiting public input.
- Exemptions from environmental impact reports (EIRs): The bill would allow the EEA Secretary to exempt specific housing and natural restoration projects from requiring an Environmental Impact Report. This measure, opponents argue, could reduce environmental scrutiny.

Prioritizing climate resilience:

The bill would add "climate resilience" as a protected interest under the Wetlands Protection Act.

- Interpretation and application: While proponents view this as a positive step toward preparing for climate change, there is potential for debate over how broadly this is interpreted and applied, and how it might be used to approve projects that bypass traditional environmental review.
- Potential for loopholes: Critics may worry that prioritizing climate resilience could create loopholes that allow for development in areas that would otherwise be subject to more stringent environmental protections.

Scope and scale of funding

As a large bond bill, the Mass Ready Act allocates \$2.9 billion across multiple areas, which could lead to debates over spending priorities.

- Central vs. coastal priorities: The bill allocates specific funding for projects in Western and Central Massachusetts, including the creation of a

Connecticut River Valley Resilience Commission. This could lead to debates over how funding is balanced between inland communities and more visible coastal areas that also face climate threats.

- Project specifics: While the bill outlines general funding areas (e.g., dams, infrastructure, open space), legislators may debate the specifics of which projects get funded and at what level.

Potential for legislative changes:

The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources has broad latitude to change the bill. This suggests that the final version of the bill could be substantially different from what was initially filed by Governor Healey.

Opposing and skeptical organizations.

- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)
As the primary organization representing local conservation bodies, MACC closely scrutinizes legislation that affects wetlands and environmental law enforcement. MACC often participates in legislative processes to influence changes to environmental laws. While no public statement of formal opposition is available, their work involves pushing back on "bad bills" that would harm wetlands or limit local commissions' authority.
- RENEW Northeast : This group, which represents clean energy generators, has taken an active stance against potentially counterproductive environmental regulations. In July 2025, it testified against legislation that could "slow Massachusetts clean energy progress," though this was in the context of the 2024 Climate Act and not specifically the Mass Ready Act. Still, RENEW's general stance could align with concerns about hasty permitting changes, particularly those that might add unnecessary burdens or risk slowing down projects, even if the intent is acceleration.
- Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) CRWA has voiced support for the funding portions of the Mass Ready Act, specifically for projects that would aid its work in the Charles River basin. However, similar to other environmental groups, it is vigilant regarding any changes that could

undermine environmental protections. It supports the investment in climate resilience but is focused on ensuring that any "streamlining" does not come at the expense of environmental standards.

- Mass Audubon The organization publicly applauded the Healey-Driscoll Administration for filing the bill and supports its focus on biodiversity and climate resiliency goals. However, Mass Audubon is also actively working with the committee on other provisions, and noted aspects that it considered "missing" from the original bill, suggesting its advocacy work includes influencing reforms.
- Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) While not providing a public statement specifically on the Mass Ready Act's permitting, CLF is a vocal and active environmental advocate in Massachusetts. Its mission to protect New England's environment suggests it would be highly critical of any reforms that weaken existing environmental laws, particularly regarding waterways and coastal resilience.

Specific concerns regarding the reforms: Opposition is centered on three main areas:

- Weakened MEPA Review: Reforms would allow certain priority housing and restoration projects to receive Chapter 91 (waterways) licenses without a full review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), a key tool for environmental oversight.
- Streamlined Wetlands Appeals: Proposed changes to the Wetlands Protection Act would send local appeals for certain projects directly to the superior court, skipping an administrative review process. Opponents believe this limits public input and local oversight.
- Exemptions from Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs): The bill would allow the EEA Secretary to exempt certain housing and natural restoration projects from requiring an EIR, raising concerns about reducing environmental scrutiny.

It is important to note that many of these organizations are engaging with the legislative process by using the committee review period to advocate for changes

that will protect environmental safeguards while still advancing the bill's stated goals of increasing housing and resilience.

SPECIFIC CHANGES WITHIN THE LEGISLATION:

Investing in farms and local economies

The bill directs investments towards strengthening local food systems, supporting agriculture, and empowering communities to prepare for climate impacts.

- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: \$315 million for this flagship grant program that helps communities identify climate hazards and implement resilience plans.
- Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) program: \$125 million is authorized to help farmers and food producers connect to the food system.
- Agriculture and food security: \$68 million for the Department of Agricultural Resources to protect farmland and ensure food security.

Protecting water and nature:

The Mass Ready Act includes substantial authorizations for conserving natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring clean water.

- Land conservation: \$340.5 million is authorized for state land acquisition for restoration and stewardship efforts.
- Biodiversity conservation: \$20 million is dedicated to biodiversity conservation, aligning with the state's broader ecological goals.
- Clean water and PFAS: Funds are allocated for critical clean water initiatives and addressing contamination from PFAS.
- Forestry: \$30 million is designated for forestry and tree planting programs.

Supporting vulnerable communities

The legislation includes targeted efforts to support specific communities, particularly those most at risk.

- Western and Central Massachusetts: The bill focuses on delivering critical investments to these regions, including the creation of a Connecticut River Valley Resilience Commission to develop a regional flood risk mitigation strategy.

Wetland Protection Act -The Mass Ready Act (S.2542) proposes several significant changes to the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), primarily to accelerate permitting for climate resilience, ecological restoration, and priority housing projects.

What project types would qualify for expedited wetlands approval?

Based on the filing and supporting documents for the Mass Ready Act (S.2542), the following project types would qualify for expedited wetlands approval under the bill's proposed reforms:

Ecological restoration and climate resilience

Projects that focus on environmental restoration or building resilience to climate change impacts would receive priority. Examples include:

- Salt marsh restoration: This includes projects that help restore tidal exchange, remediate ditches, and address other issues impacting these important coastal wetlands.
- Culvert replacements: The bill would speed up the permitting process for replacing outdated culverts, which is crucial for improving fish passage and reducing flood risk.
- Dam removals: Removing unnecessary dams can restore natural river flow, improve habitat, and increase flood resilience.
- Invasive vegetation removal: Small-scale, non-chemical removal of invasive plants in wetland areas would qualify for a simpler, quicker administrative approval process.
- Other nature-based resilience projects: The bill's language adds "resilience for changing climate conditions" as a protected interest under the Wetlands Protection Act, creating a pathway for other nature-based solutions that offer ecological benefits.
- Priority Housing Projects: The bill explicitly links housing and restoration projects for streamlined permitting. Projects that fit the description of "priority housing" would also receive expedited approval.
- General Waterways and Infrastructure: The bill aims to modernize permitting for various activities impacting state waterways, which would affect associated wetlands.
- Chapter 91 projects: The general license permit system would expedite projects impacting tidelands, rivers, and ponds, including activities like

housing, marsh restoration, and dredging.

Note: For specific projects, the final regulations and the definitions of terms such as "priority housing" and "significant ecological benefits" will be key. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) would likely outline the specific criteria in the coming months, based on the final legislative language.

Other key changes and reforms:

- Climate resilience as a protected interest: The bill adds "resilience for changing climate conditions" as a new protected interest under the WPA. This addition is intended to elevate the importance of climate resilience and simplify the permitting process for related projects, such as ecological restoration.
- Streamlined administrative appeals: For certain projects, the bill proposes eliminating the duplicative administrative appeals process for wetlands regulations. This would allow local appeals concerning ecological restoration, priority housing, and other defined project categories to go directly to the Superior Court. The Healey administration estimates this could save six to nine months of review time.
- Expedited approval pathway: The legislation seeks to create a faster approval route for projects that provide significant ecological and resilience benefits. These projects would be able to move through the permitting process more quickly than others.
- Streamlined local approvals: The bill also aims to enable the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to support streamlined local approvals. This includes specifying certain smaller-scale activities that local conservation commissions can approve without requiring a full Notice of Intent.

Potential impacts and reception:

- Accelerated projects: The reforms are designed to significantly reduce permitting timelines and provide greater regulatory certainty for qualifying projects. The goal is to speed up necessary construction and restoration.

- Balancing interests: These changes reflect an effort to balance the need for new housing and climate-resilient infrastructure with traditional environmental protections.
- Environmental concerns: Despite the stated benefits, some environmental and conservation organizations have expressed concern over whether the streamlining of permitting could weaken ecological oversight. Groups like the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) are working with the legislative committee to influence the final version of the bill and address potential negative impacts.

How does the Mass Ready Act define 'priority housing'?

The specific criteria for what defines "priority housing" for streamlined permitting under the Mass Ready Act (S.2542) have not yet been fully detailed within the bill's public summaries. However, based on official statements and policy summaries, priority housing is intended to include projects that help address Massachusetts' housing crisis.

Expected criteria for priority housing:

The definition of priority housing is likely to align with the goals of other state housing initiatives and take the following factors into account:

- Affordable housing: The bill is expected to prioritize housing for low- and moderate-income residents.
- Energy efficiency: Projects must meet modern, energy-efficient building standards.
- Resilience: New housing must be built to withstand future climate conditions and extreme weather.
- Transit-oriented: Priority may be given to projects that are near transit options, a strategy promoted in other housing legislation like the Housing Choice Act.
- Location: The bill is intended to support housing and resilience in areas with high need, including gateway cities.

- Development type: The expedited permitting may apply to projects that require multiple state environmental permits, such as a Chapter 91 waterways license, which previously added significant time to the process.
- Exemptions from Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs): The bill would allow the EEA Secretary to exempt certain housing and natural restoration projects from requiring an EIR, raising concerns about reducing environmental scrutiny.

Who will define the details? The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expected to specify the categories and criteria for eligibility further. It will likely use the new authority granted under the Mass Ready Act to define what constitutes a "priority" project for expedited review. This will likely occur through a formal regulatory process following the bill's potential passage into law.

Reforms to Chapter 91 Waterways Licenses:

Based on legislative testimony from environmental groups like the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC), the potential downsides of streamlining Chapter 91 waterways licenses:

- Weakened environmental oversight and protection.
- Reduced public input and accountability.
- Increased potential for conflicts of interest.
- Unintended consequences for public trust rights.

1. Weakened environmental oversight and protection

The current Chapter 91 licensing process involves a thorough review by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), often complemented by reviews under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). This review ensures projects account for potential impacts on navigation, public access, fisheries, and other protected interests.

- Risk: Streamlining could lead to less scrutiny of projects in sensitive areas like tidelands, great ponds, and navigable rivers. Environmental advocates are concerned that expedited reviews might miss critical impacts related to flooding, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

- Context: The Mass Ready Act proposes that certain projects, including priority housing and ecological restoration, can receive a Chapter 91 license in as little as 60 days and be exempted from a full MEPA Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This could bypass the most rigorous part of the environmental review process.

2. Reduced public input and accountability

The established permitting process for Chapter 91 licenses includes public notification requirements and opportunities for public comment. This allows citizens and local organizations to provide feedback on projects that affect public waterways.

- Risk: Expediting the process could shrink the public comment period or reduce the administrative avenues for citizens to voice concerns. This could lead to a less transparent process and make it more difficult for the public to challenge projects with potential negative impacts.
- Context: A separate provision in the Mass Ready Act would eliminate duplicative administrative appeals for wetlands regulations, forcing local appeals directly to the superior court and potentially limiting avenues for local input.

3. Increased potential for conflicts of interest

Currently, the multi-stage review process, which can involve MEPA, Chapter 91, and local conservation commissions, provides checks and balances.

- Risk: Concentrating more authority in the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to exempt projects from a full MEPA review could create a potential for a conflict of interest, where political or economic considerations are prioritized over environmental safeguards.
- Context: As a bond bill, the Mass Ready Act balances multiple interests: climate resilience, housing development, and economic growth. Environmental groups worry that the push for housing may override environmental priorities without sufficient checks and balances.

4. Unintended consequences for public trust rights

Chapter 91 is an expression of the Public Trust Doctrine, which guarantees public rights to tidelands and other waterways. Over the years, the regulations have been used to secure public benefits and public access.

- Risk: Expedited permitting could inadvertently diminish public access rights or other public benefits, which can be overlooked when prioritizing speed. A faster process might fail to ensure that private development adequately accommodates public needs in a given area.
- Context: Concerns about maintaining public benefits have arisen in the past. For example, a 2022 Supreme Judicial Court decision invalidated the use of municipal harbor plans to override Chapter 91 standards, underscoring the importance of robust regulation to protect public trust rights.

Climate Resilience is a proposed new category of regulation:

- Climate resilience as a protected interest: The bill adds "resilience for changing climate conditions" as a new protected interest under the WPA. This addition is intended to elevate the importance of climate resilience and simplify the permitting process for related projects, such as ecological restoration.
- Streamlined administrative appeals: For certain projects, the bill proposes eliminating the duplicative administrative appeals process for wetlands regulations. This would allow local appeals concerning ecological restoration, priority housing, and other defined project categories to go directly to Superior Court. The Healey administration estimates this could save six to nine months of review time.
- Expedited approval pathway: The legislation seeks to create a faster approval route for projects that provide significant ecological and resilience benefits. These projects would be able to move through the permitting process more quickly than others.
- Streamlined local approvals: The bill also seeks to empower the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to facilitate more efficient local approvals. This includes designating certain smaller-scale activities that local conservation commissions can approve without needing a full Notice of Intent.

Potential impacts:

- Accelerated projects: The reforms are designed to significantly reduce permitting timelines and provide greater regulatory certainty for qualifying projects. The goal is to speed up necessary construction and restoration.
- Balancing interests: These changes reflect an effort to balance the need for new housing and climate-resilient infrastructure with traditional environmental protections.
- Environmental concerns: Despite the stated benefits, some environmental and conservation organizations have expressed concern over whether the streamlining of permitting could weaken environmental oversight. Groups like the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) are working with the legislative committee to influence the final version of the bill and address potential negative impacts.

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Permitting Reform:

In addition to funding, the Mass Ready Act aims to accelerate critical projects by streamlining permitting processes.

- Expedited review: The bill allows for the expedited approval of priority housing and natural restoration projects by reducing review timelines and streamlining licensing.
- Flood risk disclosure: New provisions require the disclosure of flood risk and past damage during home sales and leases to inform buyers and renters.

Projects Receiving Priority Status include:

Projects that focus on environmental restoration or building resilience to climate change impacts would receive priority. Examples include:

- Salt marsh restoration: This includes projects that help restore tidal exchange, remediate ditches, and address other issues impacting these important coastal wetlands.
- Culvert replacements: The bill would speed up the permitting process for replacing outdated culverts, which is crucial for improving fish passage and reducing flood risk.
- Dam removals: Removing unnecessary dams can restore natural river flow, improve habitat, and increase flood resilience.

- Invasive vegetation removal: Small-scale, non-chemical removal of invasive plants in wetland areas would qualify for a simpler, quicker administrative approval process.
- Other nature-based resilience projects: The bill's language adds "resilience for changing climate conditions" as a protected interest under the Wetlands Protection Act, creating a pathway for other nature-based solutions that offer ecological benefits.

Priority Housing Projects

The bill explicitly links housing and restoration projects for streamlined permitting. Projects that fit the description of "priority housing" would also receive expedited approval.

General Waterways and Infrastructure

The bill aims to modernize permitting for various activities impacting state waterways, which would affect associated wetlands:

- Chapter 91 projects: The general license permit system would expedite projects impacting tidelands, rivers, and ponds, including activities like housing, marsh restoration, and dredging.

For specific projects, the final regulations and the definition of terms like "priority housing" and "significant ecological benefits" will be key. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) would likely outline the specific criteria in the coming months, based on the final legislative language.

While the details are being determined, these criteria are being reviewed

- Energy efficiency: Projects must meet modern, energy-efficient building standards.
- Resilience: New housing must be built to withstand future climate conditions and extreme weather.
- Transit-oriented: Priority may be given to projects that are near transit options, a strategy promoted in other housing legislation like the Housing Choice Act.

- Location: The bill is intended to support housing and resilience in areas with high need, including gateway cities.
- Development type: The expedited permitting may apply to projects that require multiple state environmental permits, such as a Chapter 91 waterways license, which previously added significant time to the process.

Who will define the details?

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expected to further specify the categories and criteria for eligibility. It will likely use the new authority granted under the Mass Ready Act to define what constitutes a "priority" project for expedited review. This will likely occur through a formal regulatory process following the bill's potential passage into law.

What are the potential downsides of streamlining Chapter 91 Waterways licenses? Based on legislative testimony from environmental groups like the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC), the potential downsides of streamlining Chapter 91 waterways licenses are

:

- Weakened environmental oversight and protection.
- Reduced public input and accountability.
- Increased potential for conflicts of interest.
- Unintended consequences for public trust rights.

1. Weakened environmental oversight and protection

The current Chapter 91 licensing process involves a thorough review by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), often complemented by reviews under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). This review ensures projects account for potential impacts on navigation, public access, fisheries, and other protected interests.

- Risk: Streamlining could lead to less scrutiny of projects in sensitive areas like tidelands, great ponds, and navigable rivers. Environmental advocates are concerned that expedited reviews might miss critical impacts related to flooding, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

- Context: The Mass Ready Act proposes that certain projects, including priority housing and ecological restoration, can receive a Chapter 91 license in as little as 60 days and be exempted from a full MEPA Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This could bypass the most rigorous part of the environmental review process.

2. Reduced public input and accountability

The established permitting process for Chapter 91 licenses includes public notification requirements and opportunities for public comment. This allows citizens and local organizations to provide feedback on projects that affect public waterways.

- Risk: Expediting the process could shrink the public comment period or reduce the administrative avenues for citizens to voice concerns. This could lead to a less transparent process and make it more difficult for the public to challenge projects with potential negative impacts.
- Context: A separate provision in the Mass Ready Act would eliminate duplicative administrative appeals for wetlands regulations, forcing local appeals directly to the Superior Court and potentially limiting avenues for local input.

3. Increased potential for conflicts of interest

Currently, the multi-stage review process, which can involve MEPA, Chapter 91, and local conservation commissions, provides checks and balances.

- Risk: Concentrating more authority in the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to exempt projects from a full MEPA review could create a potential for a conflict of interest, where political or economic considerations are prioritized over environmental safeguards.
- Context: As a bond bill, the Mass Ready Act balances multiple interests: climate resilience, housing development, and economic growth. Environmental groups worry that the push for housing may override environmental priorities without sufficient checks and balances.

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faster process might fail to ensure that private development adequately accommodates public needs in a given area.

- Context: Concerns about maintaining public benefits have arisen in the past. For example, a 2022 Supreme Judicial Court decision invalidated the use of municipal harbor plans to override Chapter 91 standards, underscoring the importance of robust regulation to protect public trust rights.

Agriculture Proposals:

The Mass Ready Act includes several proposals focused on strengthening agriculture, improving food security, and supporting local farmers and fishermen. These initiatives primarily involve bond authorizations for grants and strategic programs administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

Funding and grant programs

- Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG): The bill authorizes \$125 million for this program. FSIG provides funding to farmers, fishermen, and other local food producers to strengthen the food system and ensure a more resilient supply chain.
- MDAR Funding: The legislation includes \$68 million for MDAR to protect farmland, foster food security, and ensure the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture.

Policy reforms and program enhancements

- Food Policy Council: The Massachusetts Food Policy Council would expand its membership to include representation from the Division of Marine Fisheries and the UMass Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment.
- Climate-smart agriculture: The act supports investments in climate-smart agriculture and land and water conservation to help farms adapt to a changing climate.
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program: The bill provides new authority for MDAR to protect whole farms within the APR program when land is sold. It also includes a fund for transferring development rights, which helps preserve agricultural land.
- Dairy farmer support: The Milk Producers Security Fund would be enabled to provide support to dairy farmers through existing MDAR grant programs,

offering aid during cyclical price downturns.

- Regulatory updates: The bill proposes several regulatory reforms:
 - Animal health enforcement: It grants MDAR the authority to issue enforcement fines for violations.
 - Commercial feed standards: It aligns MDAR with regional and national partners to better respond to foodborne illnesses linked to animal feed.
 - Animal welfare: It allows MDAR to enforce against the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horse-drawn competitions.
- Western and Central MA focus: The act dedicates specific investments to support farms, forests, and the agricultural economy in Western and Central Massachusetts.

How does the bill define climate-smart agriculture, and what practices does it promote?

The Mass Ready Act (S.2542) does not include a specific new definition for "climate-smart agriculture" in its text; the bill references and funds existing grant programs and practices already promoted by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). The aim is to support farmers in adapting to climate change, mitigating emissions, and building overall resilience.

Existing Massachusetts climate-smart agriculture programs

The Mass Ready Act allocates \$68 million for MDAR to sustain agricultural economic viability and foster food security, which funds existing "Climate Smart Agriculture" initiatives. MDAR's Climate Smart Agriculture Program (CSAP) integrates several grant categories:

- Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE): Focuses on projects that help the agricultural sector adapt to and mitigate climate change.

- Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP): Funds agricultural conservation practices that prevent environmental damage while maintaining sustainability and productivity.
- Ag-Energy Program (ENER): Supports projects that improve energy efficiency and promote renewable energy.
- Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP): Facilitates composting best management practices on farms.

Practices promoted through MDAR funding:

The funds allocated by the Mass Ready Act would support the implementation of several key practices by farmers, such as:

- Improving soil health: Practices like no-till farming and the use of cover crops sequester carbon and make soil more resilient to droughts and heavy rainfall.
- Improving water management: This includes investments in rainwater harvesting and more efficient irrigation systems.
- Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy: On-farm energy projects like solar panel installation are funded to reduce both emissions and operational costs.
- Utilizing composting systems: Proper waste management on farms reduces the amount of material sent to landfills and enhances soil health.
- Implementing agroforestry: This includes planting trees and shrubs on farms to improve resilience and sequester carbon.
- Enhancing farm safety: Programs support improving food safety practices on farms.

In addition to funding these programs, the bill also provides other support for the agricultural sector, including \$125 million for the Food Security Infrastructure

Grant program and reforms to protect farmland.

Programs Aimed At Forests:

The Mass Ready Act encompasses several programs designed to protect and enhance forests, with a focus on land conservation, climate resilience, and supporting rural economies.

Funding and investments

- \$30 million for forestry and tree planting programs: This authorization, specifically highlighted for Western and Central Massachusetts, supports a range of projects to enhance forest health and expansion.
- \$340.5 million for land conservation and acquisition: This broad investment, which includes land managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will help protect forests and other open spaces for future generations.
- \$587 million for state parks and trails: A portion of this funding is directed toward woodlands, trails, and other recreational investments that enhance forests while expanding access to nature.

Policy reforms:

- Carbon sequestration: The bill updates the state's Current Use tax program (Chapter 61, 61A, 61B) to allow carbon sequestration and storage as an eligible forest management goal. This acknowledges the value of forests in mitigating climate change by storing carbon.
- Forest reserve designation: The legislation supports the Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative by codifying a process to designate forest reserves on state land officially. This ensures that certain areas of mature forest remain in their natural state for their climate benefits.
- Right of first refusal: When a property is removed from a Current Use tax program, the Mass Ready Act strengthens the state's ability to ensure that valuable forest land is retained for future generations if a municipality doesn't exercise its right of first refusal.

Recreational and economic support:

- Bike paths and trails: The bill includes funding for the development and upgrade of woodland trails and multi-use routes, supporting both recreation and local economies.

- Support for forest-based businesses: The Mass Ready Act supports incentive programs to assist private landowners and forest-based companies in maintaining and expanding their operations.
- Ecosystem services: The bill explicitly recognizes and protects the "ecosystem services" of forests, such as clean air and water, in the context of Current Use tax programs.

What are the specific requirements for a forest to be designated as a forest reserve?

Under the Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative, which the Mass Ready Act (S.2542) aims to codify and expand, the designation of a forest reserve is guided by ecological principles rather than a single set of requirements.

The goal is to set aside forested areas where natural processes dominate and commercial timber harvesting is excluded, allowing for old-growth characteristics to develop.

Eligibility criteria:

A forest must demonstrate several characteristics to be considered for reserve designation. These are often based on guidance developed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

Location and size

- Contiguity: To maintain ecological integrity, areas that are part of large, unfragmented forest blocks are prioritized.
- Ecological condition: Sites with low levels of past or present human disturbance, such as extensive roads or invasive species, are preferred.
- Scale: Reserves are designated at both large and small scales:
 - Large (matrix) reserves are intended to represent a diversity of intact forest landscapes.
 - Small (patch) reserves conserve sensitive, localized resources like steep slopes or rare species habitat.

Ecological characteristics

- Dominant natural processes: A core principle is that the forest is managed to allow natural ecological processes—such as succession, nutrient cycling, and disturbance—to operate freely.
- Biodiversity maintenance: Priority is given to sites that help conserve biodiversity, especially habitat for rare, endangered, or late-successional species that thrive in mature, intact forests.

- Carbon sequestration: The area must contribute to long-term carbon sequestration and storage, a key goal of the Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative.
- Old-growth potential: The inventory and selection process, managed by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, includes explicitly identifying and selecting areas that exhibit the characteristics of future old-growth forests.

Other factors

- Public access: Sites that can accommodate passive recreational activities like hiking and wildlife observation are encouraged, provided they do not conflict with the primary goal of allowing natural processes to dominate.
- Partnerships: The state seeks to achieve its reserve goals through partnerships with private landowners, land trusts, and municipalities, not just through new state land acquisitions.
- Permanent protection: For parcels acquired under the Land Acquisition for Forest Reserves Grant Program, the protection must be permanent, typically through a conservation easement.

The designation process

1. Inventory: The state conducts an inventory to identify old-growth stands and potential future reserves.
2. Nomination: The Commissioner of Conservation and Recreation or the Commissioner of Fish and Game can nominate areas for designation.
3. Review and public hearing: The Secretary of EEA reviews the recommendation. A public hearing is required before designation.
4. Codification: The Mass Ready Act explicitly includes codifying existing forest reserves and the designation process into law to ensure their permanence

Money for Berkshire County: The Mass Ready Act (S.2542) includes significant funding and programs that would directly benefit Berkshire County, according to the Massachusetts government website (mass.gov)

- Infrastructure: The bill authorizes \$2.9 billion in bond funds for infrastructure improvements statewide. This includes funding for state-owned or abandoned dams (\$308 million) and municipal dams (\$93.5 million). The Mass Ready Act also complements the separate \$1.2 billion transportation bond bill, which increases Chapter 90 funding using a formula

that benefits rural communities, potentially increasing funding for some Berkshire towns by 75% to 90%.

- Climate Resilience: Berkshire County communities can access funds for climate resilience and adaptation projects through several programs, such as an increased investment of \$315 million in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. A new Resilience Revolving Fund will also offer low-interest loans for projects, and \$30 million is allocated for forestry and tree planting.
- Farms and Local Economies: The bill authorizes \$125 million for the Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) program to help local food producers and allocates \$68 million to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to support agriculture. Investments in the act also particularly benefit rural areas.
- Land Conservation and Recreation: The act authorizes \$340.5 million for state land acquisition, restoration, and stewardship. It also dedicates \$587 million to state parks and trails, including funds for bike paths, accessible trails, and woodland trails within Berkshire County.

Governor Healey has also highlighted that the transportation bills will provide additional funding for Berkshire County infrastructure. Furthermore, the administration has awarded grants for woodland restoration and tourism in Western Massachusetts, according to mass.gov. Like previous bills, this legislation provides broad categories of authorization and programs that Berkshire County communities can apply for or benefit from, rather than specific line-item appropriations for each town.

AI contributed to this review and appears accurate, but mistakes may be found, which I can now blame on AI instead of my feeble brain cells.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Delegates and Alternates, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

FROM: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

DATE: September 24, 2025

RE: **August 2025 Assistance Activities**

This report highlights technical assistance provided by BRPC staff for August 2025. This assistance was in response to requests identified in the Board/Organization column. Responses were supported by local assessment or grant funds, if available and permitted by the funding agencies. This report is intended to inform municipal officials about how local assessment funds are used and indicate the types of local and technical assistance BRPC can provide. If assistance may be useful to your community, please feel free to contact us for details.

Town/City/State	Municipal Technical Assistance	Board/Organization
Clarksburg	Provided technical assistance regarding Middle Road Bridge and RTAP funding opportunity	Selectmen
Lenox	Provided technical assistance related to a Road Safety Audit and Southern Berkshire Bike Path scope of work development.	Town of Lenox
Pittsfield	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant closeout of reimbursement and match documentation.	Open Space Program Manager
Sandisfield	Provided technical assistance with addresses.	Assistant Town Clerk
Savoy	Field work preparation to assess town culverts.	Select Board and Highway Superintendent
Stockbridge	Open Space Recreation Plan development	Recreation Committee
Williamstown	Provided technical assistance with an RFP.	Grant Specialist

Assistance Recipient	Municipal Technical /Assistance	Organization
Berkshire County	Provide information on ADUs in Berkshire County and Zoning requirements in Berkshire County communities.	Resident
Organizations	Regional Culvert replacement strategy	The Nature Conservancy, Farmington River Association and Housatonic River Association