



## **Presumpscot Watershed Land Conservation Vision, Values, Priorities**

**A compilation of stakeholder information submitted by  
participants in advance of the 1<sup>st</sup> Visions, Values and  
Priorities Meeting for the Presumpscot River Watershed**

**Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
University of Southern Maine (USM) Wishcamper Center  
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Name of Organization:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Representative(s) participating in this meeting:**

**Please provide your organization's mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

The City of Portland Planning Division plans Portland's future by building upon the City's distinct historic, cultural and natural assets to achieve a livable and sustainable built and natural environment, exemplified by dignified and engaging public spaces, a strong sense of community, and a diversity of healthy neighborhoods and business districts comprising a vibrant urban center.

**Name of Organization:** Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

**Address:** 35 Main Street, Suite 3, Windham, Maine 04062

**Telephone:** 207-892-4700

**Email:** Betty-williams@cumberlandsxcd.org

**Website:** www.cumberlandsxcd.org

**Representative(s) participating in this meeting:**

Betty Williams, Senior Project Manager, Tom Gordon, Chairman of the Board & George Flaherty, Associate Board Member

**Please provide your organization’s mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

**Mission:** Assist and educate the public to promote stewardship of soil and water resources. **Vision:** The CCSWCD is a recognized and respected leader fostering the ideals of conservation through public outreach, education and on the ground implementation. Through the sharing of our technical expertise, we stand as the vanguard for conserving the natural systems that enrich the Cumberland County environment.

**Name of Organization:** Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

**Address:** USM Wishcamper Center, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300

**Telephone:** 207-228-8359

**Email:** mcraig@usm.maine.edu

**Website:** <http://www.cascobayestuary.org>

**Representative(s) participating in this meeting:**

Matt Craig, Technical Program Coordinator

**Please provide your organization's mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Watershed**

The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, one of 28 national estuary programs nationwide in 'estuaries of national significance', is devoted to protecting and restoring the water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat of the Casco Bay ecosystem, while ensuring compatible human uses. The Presumpscot River is the largest freshwater source to Casco Bay, and the Presumpscot watershed comprises a significant portion of the Casco Bay watershed. CBEP actively works with local, regional, state, and federal partners to protect and restore habitat, maintain and improve water quality, and reduce non-point source pollution within the Presumpscot River and its tributaries. CBEP is a founding member of PRWC, and has successfully raised external funding to address the CBEP is located at USM. CBEP, through USM, is the fiscal host for this project.

**Name of Organization:** Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Representative(s) participating in this meeting:**

The PRLT mission is to conserve and protect natural lands and historic landscapes for posterity in the upper Presumpscot River watershed and western shore area of Sebago Lake in perpetuity, using easements, ownership, and stewardship to preserve wild habitat, agricultural lands, undeveloped places, public access, and recreation.

**Name of Organization:** 1) Friends of Presumpscot River, & 2) Dept. of Environ. Science,  
University of Southern Maine

**Address:** 92 Mosher Road

**Telephone:** 892 1196

**Email:** rsanford@usm.maine.edu

**Website:** <http://www.presumpscotriver.org/> and <http://usm.maine.edu/esd/>

**Representative(s) participating in this meeting:**

Robert Sanford

**Please provide your organization’s mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

Restore and protect the water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and shorelands of the Presumpscot River through ongoing stewardship and advocacy.

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The Town of Cumberland’s Lands and Conservation Commission is charged with protecting the natural resources of Cumberland and provides a focal point within the town for environmental concerns. It serves as an advisory body and may offer advise on conservation matters to other local agencies and boards. It also acts to protect natural resources by acquiring conservation lands and conservation easements for the Town of Cumberland with coordination with the Town Council. The commission also monitors and manages certain properties such as vernal pools, to insure that they are properly maintained and protected.



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Gulf of Maine Coastal Program is one of 21 Coastal Program offices in the United States, established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to build partnerships to identify, protect and restore nationally significant habitat for fish, wildlife and people. We direct our attention to conservation projects in the coastal watersheds of Maine that provide habitat for migratory birds (especially waterbirds), searun fish and federally threatened and endangered species. We work closely with other federal and state agencies, non-government conservation groups, willing landowners and other local partners to identify and assess, protect and restore:

- seabird, wading bird and eagle nesting islands,
- coastal wetlands and upland buffer, with an emphasis on high value waterbird habitat,
- estuaries, rivers and riparian corridors that support all of Maine's native diadromous (searun) fish,
- rivers and riparian corridors that support Atlantic salmon in federally listed rivers,
- lands and waters that support other coastal federally endangered and threatened species, such as: shortnose sturgeon, bald eagle, roseate tern and piping plover,
- large blocks of contiguous and intact habitat, and
- lands that support the purposes of Maine's coastal national wildlife refuges.

Using a voluntary, collaborative approach, and by working with others who have similar goals, we seek opportunities to protect and restore high value habitat. We are committed to working in respectful partnerships, with flexibility, creativity, and a "we-can-do-it-together" outlook.

Since the early 1990s, we have worked with many partners in the Presumpscot watershed to identify, protect and restore important riparian habitats. As part of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, we

supported efforts to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Presumpscot and worked to help implement the plan including strategic restoration projects to support reestablishment of sea run fish including the removal of Smelt Hill dam and provision of fish passage at Highland Lake. These projects enabled fish populations to utilize the lower river to meet conditions for the State of Maine to order passage at Cumberland Mills which will trigger further passage up river at licensed hydroelectric dams. In addition, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has supported Federal grants for habitat protection of riparian areas of the Presumpscot through land trusts. Information from the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has been provided for several Land Trust planning efforts.

Using a voluntary, non-regulatory approach and by identifying individuals and organizations with common interests and goals, we have achieved far more than any of our organizations could have accomplished alone.

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As Stormwater Program Coordinator I oversee Portland's MS4 Program and implementation of its Stormwater Program Management Plan. I work with the Department of Public Services, Planning Department, and other departments to establish policies and practices that promote stormwater pollution prevention, protect and restore surface water quality, and encourage watershed stewardship. Portland is also an active participant in the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group, a coalition of 14 municipalities that share resources and collaboratively address regional stormwater management issues.

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Portland Trails is a nonprofit land trust that preserves green space for public access and connects people with places. Our goals are to: 1) Create and maintain a 50-mile network of trails in greater Portland, 2) Engage the participation of neighborhoods, schools, and the business community in trail use and land stewardship, 3) Make Greater Portland a model for people-powered recreation and transportation.

Portland Trails is working to preserve as much of the Presumpscot River shoreline in Greater Portland as possible and, where appropriate, create opportunities for public access.

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**Please provide your organization’s mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

Stormwater runoff from over half of the Town of Standish flows into the Presumpscot River watershed. Standish contributes to the regional economy that supports us all.

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**Please provide your organization's mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

Our open space protection initiative is preserving land throughout our community, particularly land within the Presumpscot watershed.

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The Maine Land Trust Network provide communication, networking, training and other resources to Maine’s 100 land trusts. By attending this meeting I hope to able to add a small amount of the experience learned from other land trusts to your situation, and similarly learn from your process and bring that experience back to the rest of the land trust community.

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**Please provide your organization’s mission statement and/or a brief description of the work you do and how it influences the Presumpscot River Watershed:**

GPCOG’s mission is to provide responsive service and leadership to our municipal members and community partners through regional cooperation and collaboration.

State enabling legislation and our mission allow us to provide a variety of services including land use and transportation planning. Planning services are provided at both the municipal and regional scale through largely collaborative efforts. Land use and transportation planning, decision making and action impact the watershed as well as the community, economy and broader environment.



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The mission is to permanently protect the open space and rural character of Falmouth and to educate its citizens regarding the value of donation, stewardship and enjoyment of the protected lands.

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Mission: “Stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems”

I participate in the management of marine and diadromous fisheries in the Gulf of Maine (including the Presumpscot River Watershed and Casco Bay) from the marine and coastal perspective.

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