

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 12FY 78/79
DATE May 9, 1979

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAINE
LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

WHEREAS, there are many State and regional agencies with planning and management authorities and responsibilities for Maine's land and water resources, and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for coordination and integration of these agency programs in order to establish new, and effectively implement existing, State policies for the management of Maine's land and water resources, and

WHEREAS, cooperation among these agencies is strongly encouraged under provisions of the State Planning Act, as well as Federal law, and

WHEREAS, regional and local levels of government, and the private sector need access to, and guidance from, a natural resources policy making body, and

WHEREAS, coordination among the several State land and water programs will help to assure efficiency in the use of public funds,

THEREFORE, I Joseph E. Brennan, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order that a Maine Land and Water Resources Council be created as follows:

Membership

The Chairman of the Council shall be the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation.

The membership of the Council shall include the following:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture
2. The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation
3. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection
4. The Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
5. The Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources

6. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation
7. The Director of the State Development Office
8. The Director of the State Planning Office
9. The Director of the Office of Energy Resources
10. The Vice President for Research and Public Services,
University of Maine at Orono
11. A member of the Maine Senate
12. A member of the Maine House of Representatives
13. The Chairman of the Regional Planning Commission's Director's
Association

Purposes

The fundamental task of the Council shall be to advise the Governor, Legislature and State agencies in the formulation of policies to direct the planning for management of Maine's land and water resources to achieve State environmental, economic and social goals. Any State, Federal, regional or local agency, or private organization, is invited to interact with the Council in fulfilling this mission.

Specifically, the Council shall:

1. Recommend coordinated State policy regarding major programs or proposals which both affect the environment of the State and involve the concerns of more than one State agency.
2. Initiate the development of an integrated program to provide a substantially improved land and water resources information base for planning purposes. The Council shall define information needs, standards, and relative priorities for data collection, and investigate the increased use of data processing systems to expedite information storage and retrieval.
3. Develop a program to interpret and analyze this information base to facilitate the development of planning and management programs.
4. Provide direction to the State's land and water use planning and management programs and encourage coordination of these efforts through review and comment on agency program plans, specific projects, and legislative proposals that involve interagency concerns.
5. Periodically evaluate, in consultation with affected interests, Maine's environmental regulatory system, including legislation, regulations and procedures, and recommend appropriate action, if any is needed, to improve service to applicants.
6. Study specific land and water resource management issues and problems of State level significance in order to develop sound, coordinated policies.
7. Seek cooperation from Federal agencies with responsibilities for land and water resources management to ensure that their programs and projects serve the best interests of the State of Maine.

Procedures

The Council shall meet at least quarterly. In addition, the Council shall prepare a work plan for each year establishing priorities for its efforts. The work plan and progress reports on the previous year's work shall be submitted to the Governor annually and at such other times as the Governor may direct. The State Planning Office or Council member agencies shall provide funding for activities of the Council, including support for the Executive Secretary, who shall serve as the Council's principal staff. Additional staff support may be provided by member agencies and other affected organizations as appropriate.



JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor

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