

Date: January 20, 2023 10-11am

Facilitators: Roger Berle (Cliff Island) and Brenna Cohen (Island Institute)

Attendance:

MIC: Kendra Chubbuck (Co-Chair, Isle au Haut), Donna Wiegler (Swan's Island), Faith York and Ellen Mahoney (Peaks), Mark Greene (Long), Gabe McPhail (North Haven), Bob Earnest (Chebeague), Jim Buccheri (Monhegan), Jennifer Fox and Katie Ford (Great Diamond), Eva Murray (Matinicus)

GLIA: Angel Welke and Bob Anderson (Beaver Island), Peter Huston (South Bass Island), Matt Preisser (Michigan), Lisa Brush (The Stewardship Network)

Maine Seacoast Mission: Douglas Cornman

Legislators: Sarah Lawrence (Rep. Pingree)

Island Institute: Nick Batista, Lisa Millette, Abby Roche (notetaker), Alex Zipparo

Island Fellows: Olivia Jolley (Swan's)

Welcome – Roger and Brenna

- Baby Tavalya is a beautiful and joyful addition to the island family

Updates

Federal delegation

- Sarah Lawrence, U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree: Portland district office phone number is 207-774-5019 and my email is sarah.lawrence@mail.house.gov.

SeaCoast Mission (Douglas)

- 1 year comprehensive plan initiative - Inviting island partners to join the conversation. Look out for emails. Will host a conversation with the community in the community and/or over Zoom.
- Hiring a nurse to replace Sharon who gave 22 years of service. Information to come on how to participate in the finalist interviews.

Partner Orgs

- GLIA
 - Angel Welke, Steering Committee Chair of GLIA -been in the position for 2 days!
 - Matt P., wrapping up 2022 and looking forward to 2023 –looking to MIC as a sister/cousin network; great opportunity for growth
- Island Institute
 - Sea Level Rise -Abby Roche
 - [Community Resilience Planner](#) – Part time contract role for Town of Islesboro
 - ShoreUp Grants information sharing
 - Background on ShoreUp. The Island Institute's ShoreUp Grant offers flexible funding and support so that communities can plan for the assistance they need to start taking the steps that are right for them. ShoreUp Grants offer funding support (up to \$10,000) for Maine island

and coastal communities as they assess, implement, and/or plan for sea level rise. Sea level rise preparedness projects might include (but are not limited to): risk assessments, infrastructure and natural resource planning, and community engagement programs related to sea level rise. You can explore more here on our website.

<https://www.islandinstitute.org/priorities/climate-solutions/sea-level-rise/>

- Questions? aroche@islandinstitute.org, 701-200-2346
- Fellows – Lisa Millette
 - Fellowship host sites due 01/31 - contact Caroline Moore (cmoore@islandinstitute.org)
 - Fellows applications due 03/17. Please spread the word! I'm available with any questions, lmillette@islandinstitute.org
- Island Innovation -leadership training program for island residents
 - <https://islandinnovation.co/programs/ambassadors-program/>
- Policy -Nick Batista
 - Jan. 31 hearing -Maine Service Fellows hearing to add additional funding for these programs
 - <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>
 - New government relations staff person, Stephanie Welch
 - OpEd on Whales - <https://www.bangordailynews.com/2022/12/30/opinion/opinion-contributor/maine-lobster-rules-opportunity/>
 - Fathoming article from Susie on the strong climate signal related to the current plight of Right Whales - <https://www.islandinstitute.org/working-waterfront/climate-is-the-real-culprit-in-whale-saga/>
 - Roger is planning/coordinating in person Augusta policy meeting for island communities
 - Sarah Lawrence - Here are the particulars of the "regulatory pause": <https://pingree.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=4406->
- Blue Economy Team – looking to invite young fishermen to II's Climate Roundtable (day before Fishermens Forum), please suggest names and contact info to Brenna (bcohen@islandinstitute.org)

Island News

- Donna W.: Swan's Island was recently awarded a nearly \$1.7 Million grant for a fiber broadband project from the Maine Connectivity Authority.
- Roger Berle -SLR photo tracking of sea level rise; Cliff Island <https://www.chronolog.io/>
- Bob E. - storm hammered Chebeague, the hook got "blasted", the road is completely gone/washed out; FEMA was out to look around, submitted \$1.5 million grant application for public property damage (road issues); making progress on "phase 1" of housing with workshop in late February to listen and learn, which II will help facilitate

- Mark Green, Long Island -storm hit hard; Re-evaluation work is wrapping up, shoutout to Island Fellow, Melanie Nash
- Jim B. - Monhegan experienced significant storm surge on in our harbor during the big late December storm. Damaged a few buildings, washed over our wharf, losing gravel, and banging our metal boat access ramp around. The whale issue has been a bit more complicated for us due to the UMaine wind power test project off our southwest coast. Broadband has been stop and go, due to some FCC things as well as CCI's lack of cooperation. We are erecting a brand new tower to support the new broadband equipment. Spring 2023 we hope to really get moving on it. Our ferry service, Monhegan Boatline, historically ran three days per week in the winter, starting January 1st, 2023, the schedule was unfortunately reduced to two days per week. MBL cited rising costs and lack of fall/winter income. MISCA, Monhegan Island Sustainable Community Association, selected two couples to build two affordable houses on a donated, subdivided lot.

Lobster regulations: How are they impacting your island? What do you want to learn more about?

- What are you hearing about how it is impacting your island?
 - Chebeague, Bob E: leaning on scientific data with what's going on with right whales -this is difficult. More that Nick's work and others can confirm what is "actual science" and what is "conjecture"
 - Swan's Island, Donna W: been appreciating Il's presentations and calls; still trying to stay on top of it and concerned about lobstermen and their futures -prices are poor this still hurts
 - Long Island, Mark Greene -water temperatures and keeping track of it; concerned about the 45-degree ocean;
 - Isle au Haut -Kendra Chubbuck, fishermen are frustrated by the price, spend a lot of money on bait and gas; cost of the rope (\$900k) concerns about the longevity of it; generally feeling pretty bummed ; they feel for the whales but "are they even here yet?"

Main Topic – GLIA and MIC

History of relationship

- Bob Anderson, Beaver Island -Jon Allen used to vacation on the coast of Maine and then started working in Michigan, connection to Beaver Island; saw what Maine was doing with MIC and wanted to do similar "things"; Kate and Karen traveled to Great Lakes region to share about MIC.
- Matt Preisser -20ish islands in the great lakes; before GLIA there were no point of communication among the islands; in 2015 they set up a system to share information -it took time to build trust and buy in. Very powerful to see islanders in the same room to support their communities.

Kendra and Brenna @ GLIA Summit

- Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut -well organized, visited 5 islands in 4 days; South Bass, Middle Bath, Kellys, Ontario, CA; met many very hardworking people; relationships continue with

sharing bird photos and tips/tricks; interested in the infrastructure of the islands -interested in the islands historical societies and got to go into a couple to take pictures and see how they are set up -been able to meet with their historical society. Loved the pavilion at Middle Bass -would love to put one up on Isle au Haut. Big thank you to Brenna and Island Institute for supporting the trip.

- Brenna, Island Institute -lots of stand out experiences, storytelling of history; incredible hospitality and connections to Maine Island.

Peter, Bob, and Matt (and other GLIA members in attendance)

- Peter Huston -lots of great overlaps; challenged by being bi-national with several states; working hard to find what unites us; education is a big one. We need to do more to help support island schools -we have schools among our members.
 - Governance is a big topic for GLIA. Our islands are in three states (MI, WI and OH) and the province of Ontario.
- The conversations were amazing! Up and at 'em at 7am and conversations continuing to 9, 10, and beyond into the night.

Questions/connections from other members

- Governance/advocacy for these communities
 - Islands = indicator species
 - The need for online/Zoom options for meetings and hearings
 - If the pandemic has done any good, it has been the acceptance of Zoom meetings by everyone and every organization.
 - Helpful to have islanders such as Hannah Pingree in the legislature
- How can GLIA and MIC continue to grow our relationship?
 - Feels like "home" when talking to other MIC people because we can connect about issues and ideas
 - Every time we visit another island we can learn about approaches and ideas; problem solve; conversations are off the charts
 - Sense of excitement and connection
 - There are good connections between Maine and the Great Lakes through the Sea Grant organization.
 - Could each island come up with a list of "3 things we do awesomely" ?