



# The Massachusetts Proactive Coastal Relocation Workshop

June 3, 2025 | Summary Report & Proceedings

**Project Team:** The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) at UMass Boston, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW), the Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN coordinated by UMass Extension), and CH Consulting.

**Funding and additional support** provided by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM).

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## Background & Overview

The Massachusetts Coastal Relocation Network (CRN) began in response to the findings of a report on [municipal perspectives related to managed retreat](#) and feedback from an associated [webinar](#), along with several informal conversations with municipal staff who expressed a need for additional support related to this complex topic.

The goal of the CRN is to provide a platform to build relationships with other professionals across the region with whom they can exchange ideas, problem-solve around challenges, and continue their learning. Over time, the CRN has grown to include nearly 180 members.

After convening informally on zoom for nearly two years, the network was more formally launched in January 2025 with support from a Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant entitled “Proactive Planning for Collaborative, Equitable Retreat & Relocation in Massachusetts”. As described in Figure 1, this grant aims to help people across the Commonwealth think deeply and prepare to act on coastal relocation. The grant funds (1) developing a database of resources on managed retreat, (2) engaging the public to learn about their interests and concerns regarding managed retreat, and (3) supporting the growth and activities of the CRN through in-person and virtual activities, including the first annual in-person Massachusetts Coastal Relocation Workshop.

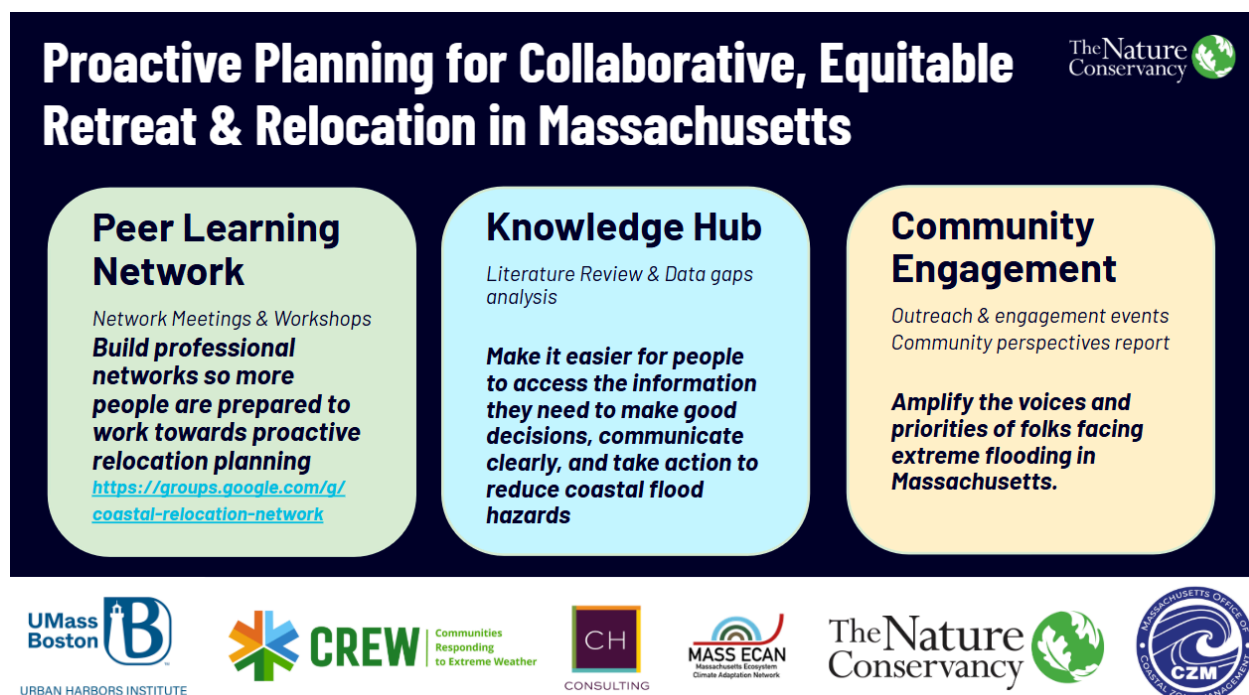


Figure 1 Project components of the Proactive Planning for Collaborative, Equitable Retreat and Relocation in Massachusetts CZM-funded project.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the project team held the “Massachusetts Coastal Relocation Workshop” which provided the first opportunity for CRN members to come together in-person. More than 70 people attended

and, among other things, (1) made new connections through activities designed to encourage engagement; (2) learned about new and forthcoming plans, tools, and resources; and (3) were encouraged to think deeply about planning for retreat, engaging communities, and using data to inform decisions.

An evaluation survey following the in-person workshop noted highlights and areas for improvement that will be used to inform the next workshop slated for late winter/early spring of 2026.

## **Planning Team**

This workshop was the collective effort of a large planning team that includes: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) at UMass Boston, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW), the MA Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN coordinated by UMass Extension), and CH Consulting. CZM also has been an active participant in all aspects of the project.

## **Acknowledgements**

This workshop would not have been possible without a Coastal Resilience Grant from CZM and the input of their team, especially Julia Knisel. Additionally, this workshop relied heavily on the expertise of speakers and presenters listed in the agenda (Appendix B) and we are grateful for their time and participation. Lastly, this event was held at the Mass Audubon Boston Nature Center & Wildlife Sanctuary whose staff were incredibly helpful in ensuring the facility was able to accommodate the CRN's needs.

## Massachusetts Coastal Relocation Workshop Attendees

Seventy-one participants attended the workshop and were affiliated with 42 individual organizations. The participants represented non-government organizations (NGOs) (51.5%), municipal entities (21.2%), state agencies (18.2%), consulting firms (4.5%), regional agencies (3.0%), and federal agencies (1.5%).

A list of workshop attendees and corresponding affiliations can be found in Appendix A.

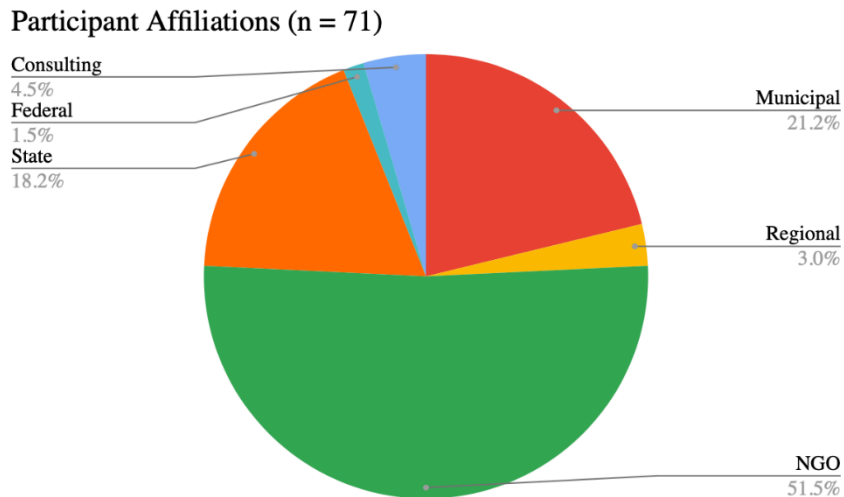


Figure 2 Organizational affiliation of workshop attendees.

## Expanding the Workshop's Reach

Coastal Relocation Network coordinators tailored the virtual network meetings surrounding the workshop to build momentum prior to the workshop, maintain momentum following the workshop, and include Network members who were unable to attend the workshop. The virtual meetings included:

- May 8, 2025: Managed Retreat 101 – This event provided an overview of managed retreat, examples of other managed retreat projects, and opportunities for managed retreat in the Northeast.
- May 12, 2025: Networking Event – This event provided attendees with an opportunity to network with other colleagues and share about their experiences.
- June 11, 2025: Insurance, Coastal Risk, and Managed Retreat – This event featured speakers from InnSure who spoke about insurance, insurability planning, and the overlap between insurance and managed retreat.
- June 25, 2025: Managed Retreat Resource Database – This event provided an overview of the CZM-funded managed retreat resource database which contains information on managed

retreat. Attendees had an opportunity to test out the database and provide feedback and recommendations to improve accessibility and usability.

## Key Workshop Discussion Themes

Several themes emerged throughout the in-person workshop and are highlighted below. While ideas are organized into different categories, readers will note that there is overlap in many cases, reflecting the complex nature of the topic.

### Choice of Terminology & Framing:

It is widely acknowledged that the term “managed retreat” is not ideal for a wide variety of reasons; however suitable alternatives may best be identified in different contexts—meaning there may not be a “one size fits all” vocabulary to use when talking about retreat.

Beyond any specific terminology, communication on this topic depends greatly on tone and framing of the concept. Workshop participants highlighted a number of situations in which “retreat” was framed as an opportunity to shape the future of a place, including by encouraging people to think about what is actionable and fundable, how costs and risk can be lowered, and how to create and/or sustain public access to the water and coast, and what people would like to see a place look like for future generations. Additionally, participants stressed the importance of framing managed retreat as a tool people can use proactively (i.e., before flood-related damages occur) to reduce risk to people, infrastructure, and natural resources.

### Education & Community Engagement:

Workshop sessions highlighted some best practices for engaging coastal residents and other community members with discussions of retreat, including identifying audiences and desired outcomes, understanding the interests and needs of the audience, engaging community members in data collection (e.g., through MyCoast), making connections meaningful and accessible (e.g., translators, compensation), providing opportunities to build community through “give-back” and “play” events, working with trusted community partners, and setting conversations in local contexts.

The question of whether someone would – or should – buy a property at risk from flooding, erosion, or another climate impact was a common topic of discussion in workshop sessions. In these sessions, people learned about and discussed efforts to require disclosure of risks to potential homebuyers, including potential challenges and drawbacks. Educating people about the vulnerabilities of an at-risk place can be especially difficult in communities where the population is largely seasonal and may not physically be present during storms. It can also be especially challenging for areas with many residents who are new to the community and unaware of the risks.

Beyond education, the workshop highlighted why community engagement is important in planning for managed retreat for several reasons, such as creating buy-in and support, ensuring that plans reflect local priorities, and elevating under-represented voices.

### **Local Context:**

While sea level rise is impacting places and people along the entire coastline, workshop participants repeatedly emphasized the importance of acknowledging the local context in retreat-related efforts. For example, participants noted that:

1. Understanding and working within the local context and community is critical to productive and meaningful engagement and planning outcomes
2. Community character and history—such as the significance of vulnerable historic structures (e.g., the House of Seven Gables and downtown Nantucket), potential places for people to relocate, the desire/need to maintain water-dependent uses—must be taken into consideration when thinking about retreat
3. The seasonal and second-home nature of some vulnerable areas may complicate retreat and other resilience measures when summer homes are held by trusts/multiple people and some owners are not present year-round to witness storms, flooding, and erosion.
4. The specific coastal features of a place will influence the most relevant types of risks, timelines, and resilience measures.

### **What Happens after Retreat:**

Planned retreat should ensure that measures are in place to achieve the intended goals for the site once infrastructure is removed. Workshop participants highlighted the importance of engaging others, including under-represented voices, in discussions about a site's future, along with considering long term (200+ year) timeframes for a place. Specific examples of topics include understanding how nature might “take back” a place, whether there were opportunities to create benefits for the community (e.g., public access, flood control), who would take responsibility for future management of a site, and how that management would be funded. In addition to ensuring that the long-term goals are met, discussions highlighted the fact that identifying a desirable future for a site post-retreat may allow for acceptance of the strategy and facilitate healing related to any feelings of loss or grief.

Additionally, several presenters and participants noted that community members leaving their flood-prone homes and neighborhoods often prioritize or are motivated by post-retreat land uses that bring nature and natural systems back to the coast. Post-retreat habitat restoration and open-space development are often factors which increase community buy-in for retreat programming. This is especially important in places where the threat of gentrification and economic displacement raises concerns about current residents being “pushed out” to make space for more expensive housing developments and wealthier residents.

## **Funding:**

Throughout the workshop, people recognized the various grants, including those provided by the Commonwealth, that have enabled them to engage in retreat-related planning and projects; however, the larger theme regarding funding was the need for significantly more funding to address the scale of the challenge. One workshop session highlighted proposed legislation that could create funds for buy-outs and other resilience measures. Other sessions highlighted the need for funding to cover planning, meaningful community engagement, staff time, and data collection.

## **Phasing toward Retreat:**

Workshop participants noted that planning during or immediately following a crisis can be challenging, and it is helpful to instead be proactive. One of the advantages to planning ahead is that it allows people to prepare for retreat over time or based on specific triggers and timelines. For example:

- The House of Seven Gables project includes a five-phase plan to be completed by 2070.
- Nantucket set planning horizons for 2050, 2070, and 2100
- Manchester by the Sea included a near term scenario (up to 2050), a medium scenario (2050-2070), and a long-term scenario (2070 and beyond).
- The ResilientCoasts draft plan, which includes retreat as a phased adaptation approach, has a 50-year planning horizon.

Others discussed the possibility of triggers for retreat such as the distance of a dwelling from an eroding bank. Workshop presenters noted that a longer and phased approach helped with having difficult conversations about retreat.

## **Data:**

Various presenters highlighted the need for and role of data to inform conversations about retreat. Several workshop sessions focused on efforts that incorporated projections from the Massachusetts Coastal Flood Risk Model. Other data sources of note included SLAMM modeling for marsh migration, MyCoast, the Managed Retreat Knowledge Hub database being developed as part of this larger CZM-funded project, and more site-specific work such as a project to model stormwater and groundwater interaction with buildings.

## **Policies, Laws, and Regulations:**

Workshop participants noted the need for new policies, laws, and regulations to enable and advance work on managed retreat. Discussion points included the role of triggers for retreat, streamlining regulatory reviews to help facilitate retreat, establishing policies for land swaps, clarifying municipal responsibilities for infrastructure and people in high-risk areas, creating resilience districts and betterments, creating mechanisms to prohibit development in vulnerable areas, requiring property

owners to have escrow accounts that can facilitate retreat and removal of structures and debris, and developing policies for rolling easements and transferable development rights.

In addition to a session by the Conservation Law Foundation on several pieces of retreat-related pending legislation, including those related to [Climate safe buildings](#) (H. 1004, S. 583), [flood disclosure](#) (S.753 / H.1345), [Affordable Housing and Environmental Adaptation](#) (SD. 846, HD. 2997), [sustainable and equitable climate funding](#) (SB.472/HB.750), and a [statewide flood risk protection program](#). The Cape Cod Commission shared its work [on model wetland bylaws and regulations and zoning bylaws](#) designed to promote undevelopment and prevent new development in existing and future floodplains.

## Participant Feedback Summary

Of the 20 participants who completed a post-workshop evaluation survey, nearly all (16) said they had learned something which will help them better incorporate coastal relocation into their work; the remaining 4 stated that they *may* have learned something useful. Concrete examples of useful takeaways included:

- Forming connections with and learning from others involved in coastal relocation efforts. 65% of respondents said they'd met a new colleague or potential collaborator who could help advance their work on coastal relocation.
- Learning about resources and tools available to support their work
- Learning relevant information that they can apply to their work such as resources and tools to support their work and concrete examples of existing and ongoing work on the topic.

Benefitting from learning about risk communication (3) and a perspective change in seeing managed retreat as a tool for community resilience (1).

## Next Steps & Final Thoughts

The Massachusetts Coastal Relocation Network workshop was an important step in advancing the use of managed retreat to address the impacts of climate change. Following the in-person workshop, CRN members will continue to meet virtually as coordinators plan for the next in-person event, which will likely happen in late winter/early spring 2026. Responses to a post-workshop survey will be used to inform the specifics of that event.

The project team is encouraged by the interest in and response to the workshop. During the event, the participants had important conversations, built new relationships, and shared knowledge and perspectives about this important topic. This foundation will certainly be beneficial as the region moves forward with exploring and implementing strategies to address climate impacts in coastal areas.

## Appendix A: List of Participants

Participant	Organization
Adriane Marchand	Town of Salisbury
Alan Bartels	Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston
Alex Maxwell	Fuss & O'Neill
Ali Hiple	Conservation Law Foundation
Allison Novelty	Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston
Andrew Laquerre	Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston*
Bala Balachandran	Sustainable Solutions Lab, UMass Boston
Barbara Warren	Salem Sound Coastwatch
Ben Matusow	Boston Planning Department
Bryan McCormack	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant/Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Caroline Bean	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Carri Hulet	CH Consulting
Cat Pedemonti	Mystic River Watershed Association
Catherine (Cat) McCandless	City of Boston Office of Climate Resilience
Celeste De Palma	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Chance Perks	City of New Bedford
Christian Thiim	City of Salem
Curt Spalding	GZA GeoEnvironmental
Dani Boudreau	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Deanna Moran	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Diya Wheeler	Town of Westport
Elisa Rivero	UMass Amherst/Professionals of Color in the Environment
Emma Gildesgame	The Nature Conservancy*
Evan Paris	Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Heather McElroy	Cape Cod Commission
Ilana Haimes	City of Boston Planning Department
Jamie Vanucchi	Cornell University
Jane Healey	Newburyport Resiliency Committee
Jason Burtner	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Jes Szetela	UMass Amherst Extension*
Joanna Yelen	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Julia Carlton MacKay	Conservation Law Foundation
Julia Knisel	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management*
Julia Wyman	Marine Affairs Institute & Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program
Julie Conroy	Conroy Environmental

Justine Rooney	Woods Hole Group
Kaely Larkin	Marine Affairs Institute & Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program
Kai Lo Muscio	Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island
Katie Kahl	UMass Amherst Extension / Gloucester Marine Station
Katie Paight	MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Flood Hazard Management Program
Kelly Sherman	City of Boston Office of Climate Resilience
Kim Dimes	Town of Winthrop Conservation Commission
Kimberly Starbuck	Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston*
Kristin Uiterwyk	Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston*
Leah Hill	Town of Nantucket
Leigh Meunier	Communities Responding to Extreme Weather / Better Future Project*
Lexi Lafferty	Communities Responding to Extreme Weather*
Linda Orel	Boston Harbor Now
Maria Fortes	Groundwork Southcoast
Maureen Aylward	TownGreen
Melissa Ocana	UMass Amherst Extension*
Michael Burris	Town of Westport
Michael Enko	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Molly Perkins	Marine Affairs Institute & Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program
Nadia Madden	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Nicole Beetham	UMass Amherst
Pallavi Mande	<a href="http://tamraparni.org">tamraparni.org</a>
Paola Stuparich Nouel	The Nature Conservancy
Patricia Bowie	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Paul Wright	The House of the Seven Gables
Rebecca Haney	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Sabit	City of Boston
Sarah White	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Sean McCanty	Neponset River Watershed Association
Shannon Hulst	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Sea Grant / Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Shelly McComb	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant/ Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Stephanie Tsui	The Nature Conservancy / Northeastern
Steve Brandt	InnSure
Susan Baker	The House of the Seven Gables
Van Du	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Wendy Garpow	Milton Conservation Commission

\* = Part of the planning team

# Appendix B: Agenda for June 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop

June 3, 2025

## **7:45 – 8:30: Optional Bird Walk**

Join Kim Starbuck, UHI outside Mass Audubon building for a casual walk around the Boston Nature Center

## **9:00 – 9:30: Registration & Breakfast**

Meet in the Exhibit Hall for get started for the day, eat some breakfast, and meet fellow participants

## **9:30 – 9:50: Opening Remarks**

Opening Remarks from Emma Gildesgame, TNC & Kristin Uiterwyk, UHI

## **9:50 – 10:30: Keynote Address**

Planning Is a Form of Hoping  
Carri Hulet, CH Consulting

## **10:30 – 10:45: Refreshment Break**

Join in the Networking Activity for a chance to win prizes!

## **10:45 – 12:00: Case Study Round Tables**

Each participant will be able to attend two round table discussions. The first discussion will go from approximately 10:50 - 11:25 and another from approximately 11:25 - 11:50.

### **Case Studies**

- Private/non-profit efforts to retreat with a focus on historic preservation
  - Paul Wright & Susan Baker, House of Seven Gables
- Strategic Retreat and Relocation Program on Nantucket
  - Leah Hill, Town of Nantucket
- Model bylaws and regulations to promote undevelopment on Cape Cod
  - Shelly McComb & Shannon Hulst, Cape Cod Extension & Heather McElroy, Cape Cod Commission
- MA legislation for flood resilience and buyouts
  - Ali Hiple, Conservation Law Foundation
- Resilience planning including managed retreat in Sandwich
  - Julie Conroy, Independent Consultant
- Manchester-by-the-Sea Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan
  - Alex Maxwell, Fuss & O'Neill

## **12:00 – 1:00: Lunch**

Lunch from Clover Food Lab - all items are vegetarian and there are gluten free and vegan options as well. Look for signs describing allergens.

## **1:00 – 1:15: CZM ResilientCoasts Update**

Deanna Moran, CZM

## **1:15 – 2:05: Risk Communications & Building Trust**

This interactive training will help you build a better understanding of how people respond to risk and develop new communication skills for discussing hazards with communities.

Dani Boudreau, NOAA

## **2:05 – 3:20: Breakouts: Trainings, Discussions, and Resource sharing**

Each participant will be able to attend two breakout sessions. The first session will go from approximately 2:10 - 2:35 and the second from approximately 2:35 - 3:10.

### **Breakouts:**

- Resources for planning and decision making
  - Andrew Laquerre, UHI & Julia Knisel, CZM
- Coastal R&R - Relocation & Resilience: Community Engagement lessons, strategies, and brainstorming
  - Leigh Meunier & Lexi Lafferty, CREW
- Post-Buyout Land Management
  - Jamie Vanucchi, Cornell University & Carri Hulet
- The Good Ancestor Project
  - Kristin Uiterwyk, UHI

## **3:20 – 3:30: Refreshment Break & Networking**

## **3:30 – 4:00: Moving Forward Together**

Closing session with Emma Gildesgame, TNC & Kristin Uiterwyk, UHI

## **4:30 – 6:30: Optional Group Outing**

Come and share a beverage and some snacks with fellow workshop participants at The Substation Beer Hall! [4228 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02131](https://www.substationbeerhall.com/)

We will provide some snacks but are unable to cover anyone's bar tabs. Non-alcoholic and gluten free options available.



## Appendix C: Case Study Descriptions

### Private/non-profit efforts to retreat with a focus on historic preservation

Paul Wright & Susan Baker, **House of Seven Gables**

They will discuss how managed retreat could affect the preservation of cultural sites and resources. Areas of concern at The House of the Seven Gables include but are not limited to monitoring the hydrology of the site to understand how storm water flows and how best to protect our historic resources, making seawalls resilient enough to handle rising sea levels, and investigating how to protect utilities and critical infrastructure from future water inundation. Their final climate adaptation plan includes a phased managed retreat from the present until 2070. The plan takes into consideration the context of the National Register Historic District and its surrounding neighborhood and seeks to maintain integrity in keeping with Secretary of Interior Standards as it transforms.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

### Strategic Retreat and Relocation Program on Nantucket

Leah Hill, Town of Nantucket

On an Island that experiences one of the highest rates of erosion in Massachusetts, has 50% of the land in conservation, and only about 2% left of buildable land, a Strategic Retreat and Relocation Program is a must. Nantucketers have been retreating and relocating structures for hundreds of years with no formal or proactive island-wide program. A high priority within the Town's Coastal Resilience Plan, this program will create opportunities to start conversations with the community, develop protocols, procedures, prioritization and maps for retreat, and update/develop bylaws to facilitate retreat and relocation.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

### Model bylaws and regulations to promote undevelopment on Cape Cod

Shelly McComb, Shannon Hulst, Heather McElroy, **Cape Cod**

They will discuss their project to develop model bylaws and regulations that promote undevelopment and reduce new infrastructure in future floodplains. Most flood plain regulations focus protection measures on geographic areas and predicted flood elevations delineated on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps ("FIRM"), which are developed based on observed prior flood conditions. These maps do not consider expected changes that will occur with sea level rise and increasingly intense storm events. These regulations help manage development activity within future floodplains to reduce the impacts of storm-related damage to both the natural and built environment.

Supporting Materials: [Google Document](#)

## **Resilience planning including managed retreat in Sandwich**

Julie Conroy

Working with the Woods Hole Group, Julie helped to prepare the Climate Change Vulnerability / Risk Assessment and Adaptation Study Town of Sandwich (2020). The study/report recommends a 50-year tiered managed retreat planning process (2020-2070), based upon hydrologic modeling results of sea level rise and coastal flood conditions. This approach considers short-term, near-term, and long-term actions that will shift current development patterns out of the floodplain and into upland areas of Town. Most importantly, this tiered approach will give the Town time to plan for gradual retreat, rather than immediate or forced retreat that is generally contested because it is initiated at the state or federal level as a response to a disaster, rather than as a proactive and positive adaptation mechanism.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

## **MA legislation for flood resilience and buyouts**

Ali Hiple, Conservation Law Foundation

Come learn more about Conservation Law Foundation and their partners' current legislative advocacy in Massachusetts related to property buyouts, climate resilient buildings, and flood mapping.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

## **A Roadmap for Action: The Development of Manchester-by-the-Sea's Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan (CVAP)**

Alex Maxwell, Fuss & O'Neill

The Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea already experiences frequent flooding in the downtown core from both coastal hazards and riverine flooding of the Sawmill Brook where it connects with the inner harbor. Through a series of longitudinal planning scenarios, the Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan (CVAP) was developed as a conceptual roadmap for Manchester to reduce coastal flood risks and increase coastal resilience by establishing targeted, action-oriented mitigation measures at the site- and neighborhood-scale for short-, medium-, and long-term planning scenarios.

These scenarios included the incorporation of common techniques for coastal flood risk reduction (e.g., dry floodproofing and elevation of critical municipal infrastructure) to address near-term vulnerabilities – along with more novel actions, including a remotely deployable flood barrier along a low-lying road, transition to a floodable park to act as a sponge for coastal inundation, and Sub-area retreat and restoration of coastal flood marshes.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

## Appendix D: Breakout Session Descriptions

### Resources for Planning and Decision Making

Andrew Laquerre, UHI & Julia Knisel, CZM

Whether you are introducing the idea to your community or if you have already begun the managed retreat process, whether you're a municipal leader, planner, community property owner or concerned citizen, we will be discussing resources to help *you* at every consideration along the way.

Discuss and learn about resources for you and your community as you embark on your managed retreat process. We will be presenting on a CZM funded project to produce a resource and knowledge hub for all, sharing open conversations and collecting feedback about the direction of the project led by your needs and desires!

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)

### CREW on Community Engagement

Leigh Munier & Lexi Lafferty - Communities Responding to Extreme Weather

Effective response to climate change impacts begins (and continues!) with meaningful community engagement. CREW and The Nature Conservancy are holding community events ("Coastal R&R") across Massachusetts coastal communities, to discuss coastal relocation and other retreat and response strategies and to help residents prepare for rising waters and flooding.

Curious what meaningful community engagement looks like? Have your own engagement experiences and insights that others could benefit from hearing? Join CREW in this breakout session to learn about the events we're organizing, the community members' insights, data collected, and the lessons learned so far, and adjustments we're making based on participant feedback. We'll also share engagement strategies that we and local partners have used in other projects with great success, and want to hear what's worked for you!

Supporting Materials: [Google Slides](#)

### Restoration & Reconciliation for Post-Buyout Land

Jamie Vanucchi (Cornell University) and Carri Hulet (CH Consulting)

What happens to the land after a buyout takes place? For the most part, the land has to remain undeveloped. But what does "undeveloped" look like in different places and why? (Please note our strong preference for you to do air quotes with your fingers when you read that last sentence.)

Carri and Jamie will share what they learned when a research team from Cornell and TNC set out to gather and review data on post-buyout land from four buyout programs in Austin, TX; Houston, TX;

Washington State; and Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC. They discovered a significant link between the programs' goals and public involvement strategies and what they do with their land. The team developed a typology for the outcomes that places them along a spectrum from restoration to reconciliation.

Supporting Materials: [Google Slides](#)

## **Good Ancestor Project**

Kristin Uiterwyk, Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston

This interactive and reflective session will push you to think about what decisions have led a place to become what it is today, and how our decisions might influence what a place will look like for future generations. We will explore how planning timeframes, values-based decision making, and the impacts of decisions might be useful in conversations about managed retreat.

Supporting Materials: [Google Drive](#)