

HQ HAPPENINGS

Time	Topic	Leader
10:00	Public Comment: No public for the public comment section We have Penthea Burns, Program Manager from Wabanaki Reach who is here to discuss their work and what opportunities for collaboration Panthea Burns speaks: • Founder of Wabanaki Reach, board member for 7 years, 1 year ago took on role of program manager • Wabanki led organization, maj of staff, board, leadership are Wabanaki people. Nonnative member of the reach team • Overview of Reach Work: ○ Child Welfare, turned into creation of a truth & reconciliation commission – completed its work and issued findings 10 years ago ○ Beyond the claims- oral history project that investigated ○ Wabanaki Community engagement - support restoration of Wabanaki traditions, deepening connection to traditional ceremonies, providing access to ceremonies and healing circles for incarcerated tribal members. Supporting sovergnty, protecting fisheries and clambeds, Grandmother's Love organization that sends Wabanaki children to summer camp, backpack program, and emergency support for families • Reach in Maine – Truth, Healing, and Change – begins with an acknowledgement of the truth. Upon program creation, we ask, how will this benefit Wabanki people, and that is the focus of the work. ○ Talk about Truth Seeking: Principles are Learning, Processing, Greiving, and Celebrating done within a Wabanaki framework based on generosity, love, (too fast) ○ For non-native people, Truth Seeking enables us to understand what we know and what we don't know, recognize what actions and incactions have happened throughout history, acknowledging impacts and harms of those actions and inactions, and ultimately enables us to make a choice to stop committing harms to Wabanaki people. This allows us to move on to repairing harms, grounded in understanding the root causes of causing harm. If we are doing those things, we can honor and thank those who are telling the truth. • Reach website has a long list of ed programs, Penthia will focus on 3-4 • Interacting with Wabanaki Maine History – “the map activity” – some commission members have participated. 2 hour program, highly interactive, canvas map laid out in pieces, program narrates and acts out the events of history over the past 400 years of colonization of Wabanaki people. Highlights moments that represent wider history and helps us to see the patterns of actions and inactions of how this country was formed, relevancy for everyone in the program. 45 minutes to tell the story in active participatory story telling, followed by individual reflection and group discussion in a talking circle. Popular because it is impactful and has a short	Proulx-Curry

time commitment for participants.

- Longer program – 6 hours – starts with Interacting with Wabanaki History and then moves into presentation, discussion, activities that focus on deepening our privilege, and colonization and decolonization – how to bring that to life in ourselves and in our communities. Used with community-based organizations, can be tailored for particular focuses for some orgs, like land trusts and church communities, tailored for their focus and level of understanding and engagement at start of program. Can be tailored for the context of the org.
- Using the film Dawnland (documentary) – they make the doc available for a showing or streaming and then have a panel discussion with people who were part of the Truth and reconciliation committee. Nov 16th, there is a showing at the 1st congregational church of Camden, ME will show the film at 2pm on the 16th, it's free, you are welcome to attend.
- One program in revision process is Healing Begins with Truth, 2 hour program that they expect to be available again in the Spring.
- For people who do the Map activity, they will be launching self-guided discussion group guides that communities can use after participating in the activities (also for Healing Begins with Truth). Conversation and discussion guides.
- Penthea opens for questions, discussion –
- Luke Shorty: Thank you for the presentation- You had mentioned the Wabanaki framework that undergrids all the work the Reach group does. What has been the most surprising as you have rolled out this framework across the state:
 - Early on and periodically, we run into the clash of world views. People of European descent partnering with Wabanaki people – first recognition that we see the world in different ways, while I have grown to understand that, I love the beautiful way that Esther describes what that world view is, sometimes I can only get glimpse of it. Really just coming to be able to deepen my awareness of differences in world views occur, that I can only represent that to a certain extent, and that partnership with the Wabanaki people is (missed)
 - Developing these frameworks within a Wabanaki organization, we did some research that we thought was so powerful, and we brought it to the Wabanaki people and they grounded it in the way we wanted it to be grounded. (Discussion of the European habit of victimizing a population that was incredibly strong, resilient, and resistant to colonization).
 - This is a profound challenge for Wabanaki people who need to protect their peace and also cannot be everywhere to share with the larger non-native population.
- Pamela Prolux-Curry – thank you for that
- Diane Lebson – I have enjoyed learning about your programs. Thinking of our current moment in time, people might say that harms done to Wabanaki people are a casualty of progress. Can you point to some things in the Wabanaki culture that are relevant today?

- Penthea – if we don't love this earth where we belong, we are doing ourselves in. Tells a story of selling a few acres of her land in Lewiston while she was in a time of hardship. Walking in the woods, feeling melancholy, sad that the land wouldn't belong to her -then caught herself and realized that we belong to the land and we do not own land. Reflects on the learnings from the Wabanki culture/her cultural background. All of us need to live together in this place if we could move forward in a different way with each other.
- Betsy Sawyer Manter: We did a land acknowledgement at a land-breaking ceremony at our new space in Lewiston, led by a native person on our board, and there were federal people there and I felt threatened by the perception that the land acknowledgement is not welcome by them. How do we respond to people who say that this is political correctness.
- Penthea – if I feel nervous I feel like I'm standing in the right place. It is important for us to have more privilege to stand for others... the closer to the feds the scarier it gets is my experience, making sure that we have each others backs at this level, too – when you think of the hierarchy, there are just a few of them at the top and a lot of us at the bottom. I appreciate you doing that moving forward even when you felt uncomfortable. When we make land acknowledgements real, we make them valuable. When they are tied to action or landback we are disrupting the way things have been going, that is good work.
- PPC: any other questions?
- Ninett Irabaruta: I am thinking about the youth, this whole thing came to be because of that population. When I think about where we are in the world, how this population of young people continue to feel hopeless in many ways, I'm trying to figure out what can you share with us that we can then share with the young people that are crying out for help that is not coming? I'm in my 30's and I feel like the world is crashing out but at the same time it's better than its ever been, and when you talk to elders that have had hard times..like I said, it's a question that is so many layers.
- Penthea – We are restarting a radio show called Dawnland Signals on WERU. We were talking about having elders share with young people some of the things that they know from the many years that they've walked on this world. What do the elders need to learn from the young people because they are living in a different world. We are excited to have the back and forth learning. Asking young people as well as trying to give them something. Also, anything that they can do with their hands in the dirt, or engaged with the earth and they're learning things. Brian Alteveder is working in restoring fisheries, 2 years later the eagles are back, it is contributing to the larger power of life. Finding ways to engage young people in that way. Also, when we do Engaging with Wabanaki with college people, they students ask "Why didn't we ever learn about this" – sharing some of this in a a really methodical way gives context to history.
- Penthea – I want to say one more thing – website is wabanakireach.org – programs is in the menu, you can see the descriptions of programs and a program request form- if you ever heard that we are slow at responding, that is true. We're on top of it now, so come back at us again if you've

	experienced delays in the past. We are scheduling a few months out now, we would be delighted to work with you to make programs happen. • Reiterates invite to Camden for film showing. • Janet May – Are there things that you’ve learned about Volunteer Maine that could be enriching of the work that REACH is doing? • Penthea – I might have answers at another time- how to engage people in different volunteer Roles – describes volunteer engagement and could have discussion about what it motivating people, what keeps them engaged, and how do we understand the impact of how it happens. • PPC: we will reach out to you , we are involved in considering a land acknowledgement, and we can certainly use some of the programming you offer, you’ll be hearing from us in the future • Penthea – on the website we have a news leak, a blog, marvelous writings about land acknowledgement – also WERU in their archives, look up Dawnland Signals is an episode about land acknowledgement • PPC – thank you for being with us today.	
10:10	AmeriCorps Program Briefing: N/A	N/A
Business Meeting		
10:10	Call to Order: PPC – calls meeting to order –	Proulx-Curry
10:12	Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Adjustments 1. Introductions - introductions: Jamie McFaul, Maureen, Chelsea, Kelly, Jenn Burke, Nikki, Scott, Luke, Pam, Britt, Mary, Celeste, Janet, Ruben, Kelsey, Betsy, Michael A., Mike W., Ninette, Diane 2. Quiz Answer – 4 responses! 2 people got it right- Moose Prize – Ninette and Scott - Mary & Kelly also responded 3. Recognition of Commissioner Luke Shorty, Immediate Past Chair A. Celese enters into the record, a tribute on this date 10/17/2025 – when we are led with compassion, with respect, with intellice, with optimism, we must count on that as Good Fortune. (CHECK TRANSCRIPT FOR FULL TEXT) *Ever ASSURED not Ever Short B. LS: Thank you all very much, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve you all. 4. Announcements A. Reminder: Protocols for hybrid business meetings B. Conflict of Interest awareness in Board actions C. Other: none 5. Appreciation(s): Jennifer Burke- appreciation for Bill Guidon who is serving with MEMA in Alaska after the devastating natural disaster they are experiencing (PPC) our thoughts and hearts are with him A. Diane: I appreciation Celeste for arranging the program this morning 6. Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None 7. Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Luke motion, Michael W seconds – consent vote by voice (not present, Bill G,)	Proulx-Curry

Consent Agenda

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| 10:30 | <p>A. Business Minutes
Moved that the minutes of the Commission meeting on September 26, 2025</p> <p>B. Executive Committee
Moved that the report of the regular Executive Committee from October be accepted.</p> | |
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Planning and Future Initiatives

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| 10:35 | <p>A. Wabanaki Reach Programming</p> <p>1. Overview and Discussion</p> | Branham, Burns |
| 10:55 | <p>B. Update on federal issues</p> <p>1. Government shut down update:
BGH – no substantial update, was hoping for an update about the shutdown, but for now no noticeable impact on VM – we may start to feel impact due to no staff at AmeriCorps, the longer it goes on the more likely an impact. Luke: Are the staff furloughed or laid off? BGH – let me investigate, as far as I know there is no plan, there have been statements, but haven’t heard that there is a plan, that is a very good question, I will respond to commission in basecamp. BSM – there is a judge that has made an injunction that that is illegal Michael A: There has been an impact on AmeriCorps service in maine, but not the programs we fund – Ending Hunger (DACF) & Goodwill – 4 out of every 5 Vistas are funded by federal govt, being asked to continue service without pay, not 100% what is happening, Vistas received their last paycheck from the prior shutdown today, it will only be half of their regular pay, a significant number of AmeriCorps funds, the 5th member is paid by local cost share, those individuals are not impacted.</p> | Gleixner-Hayat |
| 11:00 | <p>C. ServeMaine.org</p> <p>1. Overview and brainstorm on outreach opportunities: Michael Ashmore shares screen – (BGH – I want to give a preface, this is going to be about a 20 minute discussion, we talked about this in the retreat – this is a priority for VM, along with the 3 year plan)</p> <p>Michael shares screen with ServeMaine.org page – notes that it is a .org site and not a .gov site to support broader acceptance.</p> <p>Gives overview of how the page works, how to sign up as a volunteer, and the basic functions of the site as a blueskies platform that also acts as a disaster volunteer site, how to sign up as an agency and the approval process,</p> <p>Kelly P suggests having training workshops at larger conferences</p> <p>Michal responds that he will create youtube videos to train (1.5 – 2 minute videos) and that the help menus are really helpful.</p> <p>Luke asks “I’m an agency that has a vulnerable population, does any vetting happen on this site to protect the target population? How does that work under the tort claims act – we make clear and the agency sign up makes clear</p> | Ashmore |

that the review of volunteers remains with the agency – this is just the way for you to connect with the agency”

Kelsey – and to that point, luke, you can have private opportunities and only the people who have access can see”

Betsy – many of us are required to do background checks

Michael – we make clear that this is just a platform to help you connect

Betsy – the agencies sign up and then they are accepted or not – why would not get accepted?

Michael – if they are not non-profit or if they don’t complete the information. If they don’t complete – if incomplete, we send an email to see if they need help or want the partial account deactivated

Mary – As a dotgov that is masquerading as a dotorg, if a municipality embeds this url on their site would they share any liability?

Michael – nope, municipalities are also shielded by the tort claims act in maine

Michael resumes overview showing manager functions – highlighting the difference between agency managers (agencies) and site managers (this is Volunteer Maine staff), demonstrates an agency review

Michael reviews Volunteer Maine profile to see what it is like as an agency
Questions from the board around the functions, answered by Michael A and Kelsey who is also working on the site.

Michael discusses the plan for how to engage agencies and volunteers – what we want to do is get a set of agencies here first, then in Nov early December get messaging to the public to register as volunteers.

- We are working with United Ways, Catholic Charities, the AAAs , the CAP agencies, MANP, (Britt is talking to them in November)
- Jenn – have you reached Good Shepherd Food Bank?
- BGH – we should meet with Good Shepherd Food Bank, we need a stock email for invitation for Commissioners to send to agencies,
- PCC – what about orgs like Bangor Savings that encourage volunteering in their employees, Credit unions, chamber of commerce, State level agencies, MATCH – getting the Maine Broadcasting, Maine Library Assn, Maine State Library,
- Chelsea – share with DOE for Tuesday Tidbits,
- BGH – emailing maine needs next week
- Michael A – we are having conversations with United Ways around the state who have a similar program, they can ignore us or join us through datashare and their positions would show up on our site, or the could shut their sites down and import all agencies into our site and we can then provide them with reporting. This would populate the site immediately and have a lot of volunteer opportunities and keep folks from having to keep multiple sites updated.
- Ruben – is the website also part of the google translate option? Or is it separate from the state;s translation?
- Michael – I believe you can (translate)
- Jenn – Maine Calling might do a whole segment on this – you’ve already got

	a relationship there • Chelsea – the integration, if UW integrates, would members be notified? • Yes, we would engage in an MOU if they closed their site and ask them to retain a site manager to assist with some of the duties that are required • Chelsea – we will retain quality control? • Michael – Yes • PPC – if you have other ideas email Britt and Michael • BGH – this will be	
11:20	D. MMA Conference 1. Readout and reflections Maureen K shares MMA readout	Kendzierski

11:30	E. Maine Volunteer Foundation 1. MOU signed and circulated – Celeste – Board met, welcomed new member Vicky Restbald, formerly with EMDC – expert in grant writing and grant management, and grant instruction, no finance report available, you do have the MOU, happy to answer any questions about the Plan of Work. BGH – appreciation to Celese and Diane to get us to this point with the MOU, document represents a lot of good thinking. We are continuing to try to extend that board – thank you	Branham
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Focus on Mission Responsibilities

11:35	A. N/A	
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Business Reports

(Reports submitted are posted.)

11:35	A. Public Policy 1. Update, if needed. – Ruben – Tade has left the chair, Ruben has taken chair position, communication taskforce has been merged into PPtask force - we have identified a number of leadership legislators that we are reaching out to – goal is to have meetings with leadership in the lead up to the new year and as session starts we will meet with more legislators to identify new heros for their causes – Ruben will be giving a presentation next month = supporting and training on how to talk to our legislators – training in next meeting	Sullivan, Torres
11:40	B. Grant Selection and Performance Task Force 1. Update on RFA (if needed) Jamie – we have one application – it is the Hospice Volunteers of Somerset county – if they get out of committee will move forward for approval	Guindon
11:45	C. Executive Committee 1. See minutes, discussion, if needed. 2. PPC – sent a survey re: retreat, please respond if you have not	Proulx-Curry

	3.	
11:50	D. Three Year Service Strategy 1. Update on membership - Put together a strategic planning planning group – Scott volunteers to join, celeste, Chelsea, Bill and Pam and anyone else – that task force has been stood up on basecamp Vacant seats on the commission – the seats that are looking to fill are Service Program for Youth, Someone with expertise with education dev training needs for youth - this is for an adult involved with youth, expert in the delivery in education to communities or people- representative of native American tribes and natives or a representative of out of school or at risk youth. We have a statutory requirement to have no more than 50% of members be from one political party. Extra emphasis of seeking them out, if you know that colleagues you are talking to are republicans. Minutes are published	Proulx-Curry
11:55	E. Communications Task Force 1. Update, if needed.- has been acquired by public policy	Torres
12:00	F. Service Programs Task Force 1. Maureen shares re: MSF retreat AmeriCorps Conference - Read out & Reflections – Jamie shares info about the LAA conference – very successful, well attended, BGH – appreciates Jamie pulling together this conference and for taking on so much of the responsibilities of Michael as he transissions out Jamie shouts out Andreas as pivitol BGH went to AmeriCorps Alumni conference in Portland yesterday featured Britt as a special guest – would love to have commissioners attend Kelly d – not at last retreat – AmeriCorps service luncheon, when do we want to reschedule it - don’t know if volunteer ambassador list had been given out – do we have same or new orgs for the coming year BGH – talked about list last meeting, did not follow up with assignments, will be completing this now. Stay tuned for updated list of assignments. Get in touch with Britt, Jamie, Michael for the 411 about the org before engaging. Jamie is getting GPRs this month, may have info to share with you before your contact. National Service Luncheon – could be a fun picnic in the summer – BGH - let me talk to the team about when it makes sense. Michael A – re: ambassador program – in the past iterations we have given you contact info for staff, but have not been providing your contact info by staff – we have been asked by staff and we point them to the website – do you want us to give your contact info to staff –PPC – why don’t you send out an email and ask that question and we will ask that question and we will answer it.	Preecs, McFaul

12:15	G. Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability 1. Update, if needed. Celeste – arranged Wabanaki Reach presentation today – will debrief this presentation and what next steps might be that we might take as a result of the presentation. PPC – how do people feel about the monthly lift ups – Generally good response	Branham
12:20	H. Financial Task Force 1. Update, if needed. Luke: did not meet this last month, no access to data we need – good news for commission – we have gone through the start of the new fiscal year, have info from commission staff and BGH that makes us comfortable with our fiscal standing at this moment. Commend the work of BGH and team making sure that the spreadsheet is easy to read. Will meet 11/17	Shorty, Gleixner-Hayat
12:25	I. Commission staff reports (items here are in addition to published reports) 1. Board member questions about published staff reports 2. Other (if needed) 3. BGH – failed to add moca transition to agenda – has been very good in terms of support we have had from Samantha Horn, addressed all issues directly and seriously – little bumpy – not going into established agency, the support staff are brand new, Prism transition is complicating posting of Management Analyst position, no access to financial data, contracts not generally in the right place yet, wobbly – we are giving each other grace during transition.	Various staff
Business Wrap Up		
1:00 pm	A. Check-in on hybrid meeting experience B. Adjourn	Proulx-Curry

Background

MOU Between Maine Volunteer Foundation and Volunteer Maine