

CHAPTER 189

RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSIONS

§4461. River corridor commissions encouraged

1. Findings. The Legislature finds that:

A. The effectiveness of local governments in implementing their responsibilities under shoreland zoning can be enhanced by coordination and cooperation among municipalities; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

B. River corridor commissions have proven their effectiveness as one mechanism to bring about such coordination and cooperation; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

C. Additional river corridor commissions are not likely to be formed without state encouragement and incentives; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

D. Such cooperation serves state interests as stated in Title 12, section 402 and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 2-B. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Purpose. It is the policy of the State to encourage the formation of river corridor commissions. The purpose of this law is to:

A. Clarify the procedures for forming river corridor commissions; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

B. Delegate authority to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to approve acceptable proposals to form the river corridor commissions; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

C. Grant additional powers to those river corridor commissions beyond those provided for in chapter 115; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

D. Provide a portion of the funding for the operation of the river corridor commissions. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

§4462. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

1. Commission. "Commission" means a river corridor commission granted approval by the commissioner under section 4463 and authorized by Title 5, chapter 379, or as established under Title 38, chapter 6.

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

3. Department. "Department" means the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 6 (REV).

§4463. Approval of river corridor commissions

The commissioner may grant commission status and all the privileges and powers enjoyed by the commissions, as specified in this chapter, when the commissioner finds that: [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

1. Occupation of shoreland by 2 or more municipalities. Two or more municipalities, which collectively occupy enough of the shoreland on a river segment to be effective in managing the shorelands of the river, have entered into an agreement under chapter 115, which satisfies the requirements of section 4464;

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Comprehensive plan. The same municipalities have prepared a comprehensive plan which satisfies the requirements of section 4465;

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

3. Ordinance. The same municipalities have prepared an ordinance to implement the comprehensive plan which satisfies the requirements of section 4466; and

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

4. Other commissions. No other commission exists on the same river, or the distance between the proposed and existing commissions makes the formation of one larger commission impractical.

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4464. Interlocal agreement

In addition to the requirements of section 2203, the interlocal agreement must be consistent with rules adopted by the commissioner under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375. These rules may include, but are not limited to: [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

1. Minimum duration. The minimum duration of the agreement;

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Members; appointment. How members may be appointed;

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

3. Municipal responsibilities for financing. What the municipalities' responsibilities for financing the commission are; and

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

4. Withdrawal. How and under what circumstances municipalities may withdraw from the commission.

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4465. Comprehensive plan

The comprehensive plan must be consistent with rules adopted by the commissioner under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375. These rules may include, but are not limited to: [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

1. Resources; problems. What resources or problems the plan must address; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Information; analyses. Information and analyses the plan must contain; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

3. Specificity; clarity. The degree of specificity and clarity sought in the plan. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4466. Ordinance

The ordinance to implement the plan must be at least as restrictive as the State's guidelines for municipal shoreland zoning ordinances and shall supersede existing shoreland zoning ordinances. The ordinance must contain adequate procedures for processing permit requests and for considering appeals of a decision made by the commission. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4467. Powers of a river corridor commission

Notwithstanding section 2203, subsection 8, an approved commission may: [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

1. Amendment to comprehensive plan. Amend the comprehensive plan, after notice and hearing on the proposed amendment in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

2. Adoption of rules or ordinances. Adopt and amend rules or ordinances covering an area up to 500 feet from the normal high-water mark necessary to implement the comprehensive plan, after notice and hearing on the proposed amendment or adoption, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

3. Issuance of permits. Issue permits, subject to reasonable conditions for activities requiring permits, or may deny permits under ordinances and rules adopted by the commission; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

4. Fees. Assess fees for permit or variance applications, or for any publications of the commission; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

5. Suit. Sue and be sued; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

6. Enforcement. Enforce the rules or ordinances of the commission by instituting any lawful action, injunction or other proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct or abate any violation of its rules or ordinances, and may impose fines as permitted under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter I, article 2-A.

[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4468. Commission budget; financing; staff

The commission shall prepare and submit to the commissioner a biennial budget sufficient to cover its operating and other expenses. Provided the commission continues to satisfy the requirements of section 4463, the commissioner shall request funds to match the funds raised by the commission. In no event may the state contribution exceed \$25,000 for any one commission in any year. The commission may accept contributions of any type from any source to assist it in carrying out its assigned tasks, and make any agreements with respect to the administration of those funds, not inconsistent with the purpose of this law, that are required as conditions precedent to receiving the funds, federal or otherwise. Staff of the commission are not considered employees of the State. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

§4469. Appeals to Superior Court

Except where otherwise specified by law, any party or person aggrieved by any order or decision of the commission may, within 30 days after notice of the filing of that order or decision, appeal to the Superior Court by filing a notice of appeal stating the grounds for appeal. The appeal shall be taken under Title 5, section 11001. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A45,C10 (NEW).

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