

Working Group to Develop Recommendations for
Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to the Wabanaki Nations
[Resolve 2025, chapter 165](#)

**Meeting #1 — Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Maine State House, Room 438 (Judiciary Committee Room)**

AGENDA

10:00 am Welcome

- *Chairs, Senator Rachel Talbot Ross & Representative Amy Kuhn*

Working Group Member Introductions

**Review of Authorizing Legislation, Freedom of Access Act, Background
Materials & Working Group Rules of Procedure**

- *Legislative Staff*

10:30 am * Goals & Issues to Resolve – Working Group Member Perspectives
(approx.)

- *Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians*
- *Chief Kirk Francis, Penobscot Nation*
- *Craig Sanborn, Esq., Mi'kmaq Nation*
- *Rena Newell, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik*
- *Chief William J. Nicholas, Sr., Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk*
- *Assistant Attorney General Kim Patwardhan, Esq.*
- *Jerry Reid, Esq., General Counsel to Governor Mills (written material only)*
- *Commissioner Darren Ranco, Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission*

**To be
followed
by *** **Discussion and Planning for Future Meetings**

- Including identification of October meeting dates

** The Working Group may take a lunch break at
an appropriate time during the meeting*

Meetings can be livestreamed or viewed as an archived video after the meeting has concluded at the following link by selecting the appropriate meeting date: <https://legislature.maine.gov/Audio/#438>.