

Dam Busters Conference Agenda, September 18, 2026, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Regis College, Weston, MA

- **8:00 – 9:00**: Optional site visit to Natick Dam (pre-registration required, see conference registration form)
- **9:00 – 10:00**: Registration, Coffee/Breakfast, and Networking
- **10:00 – 10:30**: Welcome and Keynote Address
 - **Welcome**: David McGlinchey, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
 - **Keynote Address**: Jillian Wilson-Martin, Director of Sustainability, and Claire Rundelli, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent, Town of Natick
- **10:45 – 12:15**: Four Concurrent Breakout Sessions–Attendee Choice:
 - **Emergency Dam Removal-Comparing Alternative Approaches and Outcomes**. Case studies from Dudleyville Pond Dam, Shutesbury, MA; Burke's Pond Dam, Pepperell, MA; Estabrook Dam, Concord, MA. Facilitated by Susie Bresney, MA DER.
 - **Managing Sediment and Site Remediation**. Case studies from Thousand Acre Reservoir Dam, Athol, MA; Church Manufacturing Co. Dam, Monson, MA; Bel Air Dam, Pittsfield, MA; and Whitney Pond Dam, Ashburnham, MA. Facilitated by Alex Hackman, Mass Audubon.
 - **Mitigating Potential Impacts to Infrastructure**. Case studies from Chandlers Pond Dam, Marshfield, MA; Wheelwright Pond Dam, Hardwick and New Braintree, MA; and Larkin Dam, Newbury, MA.
 - **Outreach and Community Engagement**. Case studies from Ipswich Mills Dam, Ipswich, MA; Main Street Dam, Slater Mill Dam, and Elizabeth Webbing Dam, Blackstone River, RI; Barberville Dam, RI. Facilitated by Jessica Veysey Powell, Nashua River Watershed Association.
- **12:15 – 1:15**: Networking Lunch
- **1:15 – 1:45**: Discussion from Mass ECAN Dam Removal Case Study Group on case study gathering and sharing to increase capacity for dam removal projects.
- **1:45 – 3:30**: Concurrent Trainings
 - **Project Management 101**. Learn how a manager keeps a project on track and identifies the tasks needed to complete a dam removal project.
 - *Featuring Chris Hirsch, MA DER, and David Gould, Town of Plymouth.*

- **Freshwater Mussels.** An introduction to species, sampling, and the knowledge needed for dam removal practitioners.
 - *Featuring Alexa Hershberger, UMass Amherst, and Jason Carmignani, MassWildlife.*
- **Dam removal and the Commonwealth's Biodiversity Initiative: how to tell the story at the local level about the benefits of dam removal using science and storytelling.** This session will set local dam removal projects into the context of the Commonwealth's Biodiversity Initiative, provide scientifically grounded information on the ecological benefits of dam removal, and tools you can use to answer questions about how river restoration benefits fish and wildlife.
 - *Featuring Jen Ryan, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives and Climate Policy, MA DFG, with staff from MA DMF, Mass Wildlife, and nonprofit staff.*
- **Alternative Funding for Dam Removal Projects.** A review of lesser-known funding sources for dam removal projects including Clean Water Act Sections 319 and 604(b) grants, MA In-Lieu Fee Program, The Nature Conservancy, and Mass Wildlife Management Grant Program.
 - *Featuring Commonwealth agency and TNC staff.*
- **3:30 – 4:00:** Reconvene, Closing Remarks by Beth Lambert, Director, MA DER.