



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2019, Issue 1

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Welcome to the first quarterly issue of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Newsletter. The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) grant program provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The Commonwealth awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities.

Our new MVP funding round is now open!

MVP Grant Request for Responses (RFRs) can be found at the following links:

- [MVP Planning Grant RFR](#) - proposals accepted on a rolling basis until **January 15, 2020 at 4pm EST**.
- [MVP Action Grant RFR](#) - proposals due by **November 14, 2019 at 2pm EST**.

MVP Program Update:

MVP Action Grant deliverables from the FY18 round can be found on [mass.gov](#). Follow [this link](#) to view.

Meet the new MVP Team!



This month, we are excited to introduce our new MVP Program Manager, **Kara Runsten**, and 4 new Regional Coordinators! Kara will be managing the grant administration process, coordinating the work of our new regional coordinators, and identifying ways to expand and strengthen the MVP program. Most recently, Kara was a Sustainability Specialist at Kim Lundgren Associates, Inc. where she worked with municipalities across Massachusetts and the broader U.S. on their climate action planning processes - including several MVP planning and action grant recipients. Prior to that, she was a fellow at the City of Boston working on the Climate Ready Boston initiative during graduate school. She holds a Master in City Planning from MIT and a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University.



Carolyn Meklenburg, the new Regional Coordinator for the Greater Boston region, comes to the MVP program with five years of experience in the environmental field throughout the Commonwealth. She most recently worked with the City of Medford's Office of Energy & Environment on their climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, while earning a Master of Arts in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy from Tufts University. Her thesis work focused on the opportunities and challenges of collaborating at a watershed scale on climate adaptation planning. Before graduate school, Carolyn worked for an urban conservation organization in Lowell, the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, and, prior to that, served with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. She graduated from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, and is a native of Westford, MA. She currently resides in Boston, and is excited to work with communities in the Greater Boston region on their MVP projects. Carolyn's office is located at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in Boston.



Michelle Rowden, the Northeast Regional Coordinator, is a Merrimack Valley native with twenty years of experience in environmental science. With a focus on coastal processes, Michelle has a tremendous amount of experience working with municipalities on environmental issues. She was the Conservation Agent in Salisbury for nearly 14 years, providing technical assistance to the Conservation Commission and outreach to the community, managing town programs such as FEMA's Community Rating System and participating in regional tasks forces, coastal studies and

initiatives. Before that she spent time in Southwest Florida working on stormwater research, data collection, and environmental regulation. She earned her bachelor of science degree in Marine Biology from the University of West Florida. Her new office is located at the Wall Experiment Station in Lawrence.



Hillary King is eager to assist the 55 Central Region communities with MVP Grants and Certification from her new office at MassDEP's Central Regional Office in Worcester and throughout the Commonwealth. Hillary joins the MVP Program with over 15 years of land-planning experience at nationally recognized design firms. Her professional background includes site analysis, community planning, and environmental documentation for both public and private clients. Whether working on public transportation and water/wastewater infrastructure projects or conservation development and regional landscape plans, Hillary's focus is on helping create environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, vibrant communities. Hillary is a New England native – she was born and raised in New Hampshire, studied at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture, and has lived in a handful of lovely Massachusetts communities over the last 17 years.



Courtney Rocha is the MVP Regional Coordinator for the Southeast region. Courtney administers and provides technical assistance to communities through MVP planning and action grants. Before joining the MVP program, Courtney worked as a Coastal Engineer in the private sector, designing and permitting coastal infrastructure, homeowner resilience renovations, and dredging projects in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and California. She obtained her B.S. in Ocean Engineering at the University of Rhode Island and her M.S. in Coastal and Resource Engineering from the University of Hawai'i with a focus on the effects of waves and storm surge on coastal features and structures, and climate science. Courtney's office is located at MassDEP's Southeast Regional Office in Lakeville.

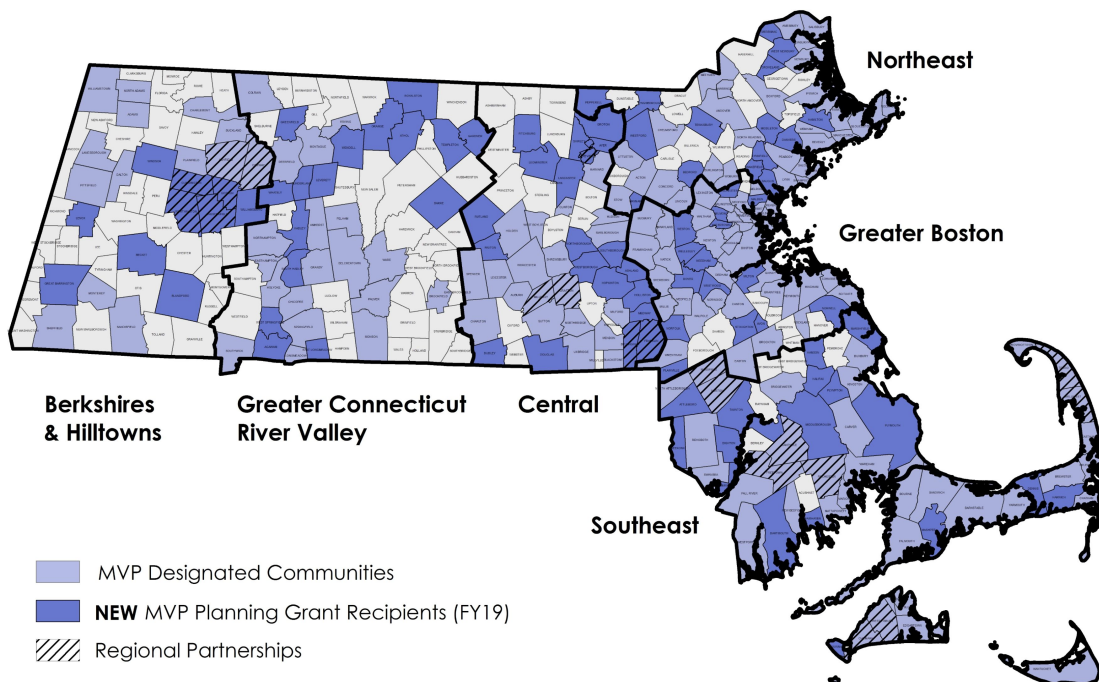
Andrew Smith is a long-time resident of the Connecticut River Valley, where he lives with his wife and three energetic children. Serving as the Greater Connecticut River Valley Regional Coordinator for the MVP program is the natural continuation of a career that has allowed him to work on matters of climate adaptation and climate mitigation during his



tenure as the City of Holyoke's first Director of Conservation and Sustainability. Throughout the arc of Andrew's career - whether working on permitting, urban forestry, climate-driven migration or land acquisition - the role a municipality can play in making our Commonwealth more resilient in the face of climate change has served as the organizing principal of his work. He received a M.R.P. from the University of Massachusetts with a focus on Environmental Planning. Andrew's office is located at the MassDEP Western Regional Office in Springfield.

Wondering which region you are in?

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program



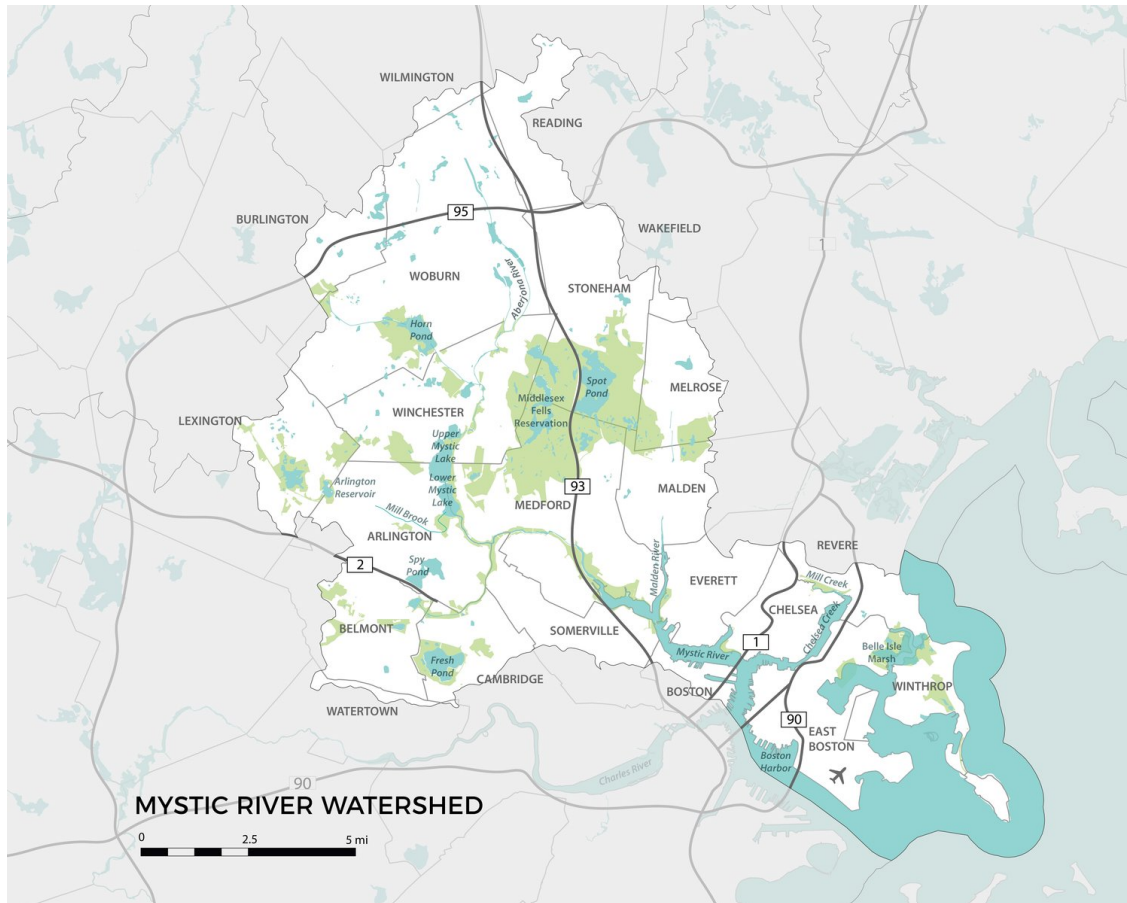
Updated 09-23-2019

MVP Project Highlight

Working Regionally through MVP: The Resilient Mystic Collaborative's Stormwater Management Analysis

As we know that climate change impacts don't stop at municipal boundaries, we're encouraging cities and towns to work together on both MVP Planning and Action Grant projects. Presently, the City of Cambridge is the municipal lead on a regional action grant project with other municipalities in the Mystic River Watershed as a part of their participation in the Resilient Mystic Collaborative

(RMC). The group is working to identify opportunities for site-specific green infrastructure to manage stormwater within the watershed. This project is data-driven, based on a watershed-wide stormwater model that Cambridge and the RMC previously developed with support from the Barr Foundation. As the Greater Boston region is seeing increased flooding due to precipitation as a direct result of climate change, this watershed-level project is a positive step towards effective stormwater management.



Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Grant Opportunities

Want to share details of your event in our upcoming MVP newsletters? Submit to vallery.b.cardoso@mass.gov.

- **MVP Action Grant proposal deadline** - November 14, 2019 at 2pm. Request for responses (RFR) can be found [here](#).
- **Mass.gov Community Grant Finder** - Learn about other state grant opportunities available to Massachusetts cities and towns. The grant finder can be found [here](#).
- **The sponsors of Mass Save** are seeking cities and towns interested in committing to set energy-saving goals in both residential and small business communities. By teaming up with their Mass Save sponsor, selected municipalities will receive energy efficiency expertise and marketing support. Applications for the **Municipal Partnership** are due November 6, 2019. Mass Save will also be hosting a webinar on 10/30/19 from 10-11am for those interested in the program. Those interested in the webinar can register [here](#). To find out more information and/or apply visit: <https://www.masssave.com/learn/partners/municipal-partnership>
- **The FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program** applications are now open. The **PDM grant** provides funds to states, territories, tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects before a disaster. The **FMA grant** provides funds to assist state agencies and local governments in implementing measures that reduce or eliminate the long-

term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. The application deadline for both the PDM and FMA grants is 3:00pm EST on January 31, 2020. Click [here](#) for more information on these programs and how to apply.

- **Information about a Better City's "Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Resiliency Planning and Investments in Boston II"**, a panel discussion on progress made in climate-resilient planning, design, and implementation, can be found [here](#). This discussion will be held from 12:00 - 2:00 pm on Friday, November 1, 2019.
- **Click [here](#) to register for the Environmental Business Council's "Building Climate Resilience into Infrastructure"**, a forum that focuses on incorporating climate resilience into planning, financing, and maintaining infrastructure systems. This forum will be held on November 22, 2019 from 7:15 - 11:45 am.
- **The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Massachusetts Department of Transportation will join stakeholder groups Our Transportation Future and MA TCI Table** in hosting five regional workshops in the coming weeks to seek public input on a proposed regional low-carbon transportation policy for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Information on the remaining workshops can be found at the links below.
 - [Register for the Greater Boston Workshop](#) (October 30, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 pm)
 - [Register for the Western Massachusetts Workshop](#) (November 4, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Have a question? Reach out to our new MVP Regional Coordinators.*

Courtney Rocha
MVP Southeast Regional Coordinator
Phone: (508) 946-2837
courtney.rocha@mass.gov

Michelle Rowden
MVP Northeast Regional Coordinator/Acting Berkshires & Hilltowns Regional Coordinator
Phone: (978) 242-1358
michelle.rowden@mass.gov

Carolyn Meklenburg
MVP Greater Boston Regional Coordinator
Phone: (617) 626-7825
carolyn.meklenburg@mass.gov

Hillary King
MVP Central Regional Coordinator
Phone: (508) 849-4016
hillary.king@mass.gov

Andrew Smith
MVP Greater Connecticut River Valley Regional Coordinator
(413) 755-2242
andrew.b.smith@mass.gov

Kara Runsten
MVP Program Manager
Phone: (617) 626-7826
kara.runsten@mass.gov

***We are in the process of hiring one more regional coordinator for our Berkshires and Hilltowns region. Information is forthcoming.**

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