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Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 12:30 PM

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Subject: Biddeford/Saco River Partnership Meeting Proposal

[CAUTION: THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY OF SACO DOMAIN]

Mayors Lafountain & MacPhail and Administrators Dever & Prescott,

First, I hope you all are having a peaceful and productive holiday month. The big news of the week is, with the big assistance of York County, we have convinced the Federal Government (FEMA) to allow shoreline remediation projects to properly move forward, including those in Old Orchard (combined with Saco) and the dredging for Wells and Saco, as well as (we believe) Biddeford's \$80k for Biddeford Pool. The Army Corps is about to sign off on the final bid for the jetty install in 2026, which will bring enormous attention to our area as we prepare to bring hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sand in 2027. It will be imperative that municipalities utilize the county dredge in 2027 to not only maximize sand for not only Saco Jetty project, but where we can benefit Scarborough (a sand source to clear their harbor), Old Orchard (clear Goosefare, Ocean Park sand placement) and Biddeford (Hills Beach placement, other river material removal) UNE is also a key partner as they may able to monitor/record wave activity during this work, plus everything else they do for our communities, including their students and faculty hanging lights, hosting special events, planting dune grass, studying the coastlines, hosting beach walks, proposing a nature based solution on the river, etc . A larger pier research vessel is critical in providing even more benefit to our greater shoreline communities.

We are greatly troubled that the city of Biddeford has now taken the position that NO pier should be allowed due to a misreading of the 250ft buffer zone (see below listing). . We are

quite confident the SRCC permitting process will be upheld, as there have been many permits approved for UNE within the 250ft buffer in the last 20 years. The goal of the UNE opposition group was never about the location of the pier, they simply did not want UNE to have any presence on the river and held anti-ordinance meetings without notice to put Biddeford in this current predicament. They utilize slick PR guys, often posing as the "press", that ignore process and written ordinances, trashing long-time Biddeford staff and send weekly emails unsigned to avoid ownership of blatant lies and threats. Hate on UNE, hate on those of us who want to share the river and protect our shoreline for all, is what fuels this opposition. And to govern based on hate, on lies, on fruitless legal pursuits should be avoided. Instead, we (Biddeford and Saco) should be partners on the river and beyond.

Therefore, we ask the cities to convene a meeting in January to have open dialogue on productive cooperation on the river in 2026. We suggest including the respective shoreline councilors (congrats on their recent elections, cc'd above) to be part of a meeting that could include:

1. UNE Pier use and final design: Location is one thing, but clear discussion by UNE on usage, boat traffic and how the pier is constructed for all uses....and to know if other moorings are truly affected.
2. Moorings locations (on both sides): Permits are annual (March renewal) with locations NOT fixed. As a good neighbor, UNE should consider to facilitate and pay for any required mooring moves. And since many mooring owners utilize Camp Ellis entry, Saco should be at the ready to assist with locations.
3. Shared Harbormaster: I am personally proud how Biddeford and Saco can share an administrator of the largest portion of our city budgets: School Superintendent. An easy shared position would be a Harbormaster, and Saco's new Harbormaster is revered by both sides of the river. His salary is a full time salary, originally meant to cover the entire river, but in no means the cost is shared 50/50.
4. Collective Dredging Plan in 2026-27 dredge season: Setting a future meeting that could include Scarborough, OOB and the Army Corps

There are major shoreline initiatives occurring in 2026, and UNE is a critical partner to these efforts. Now that the FEMA approvals are resolved, our communities will be receiving resiliency funding from the 2024 storms and dredging for Camp Ellis will occur by February.

\$24 million of economic activity is coming to our collective area for the Army Corps placement of a barrier jetty starting in April. Attention to this shoreline area will never be greater in our lifetimes (at least for us on the older side of life). Let's be on the right side of history, doing things the right way and follow facts, not fiction. Thank you and have a great weekend.

Kevin

Kevin Roche

President, SOS Saco Bay

SRCC 250ft Buffer Zone Approvals for UNE

Date	Project	Approval Vote	Permit#
Yes/No 250ft Buffer Mentioned*	Other Notes		
2/28/07	Foot Shed 8 x 20	Unanimous	20-279
No	Former Saco Mayor and SRCC rep Mark Johnston made the motion to approve, only the 100ft buffer mentioned in minutes		
7/23/08	Vegetative Clearing at Main Entry	10 to 1	20-299
Yes	Alan T presenting, many commissioner questions		
7/23/14	Generator Pad 6 x 14	6 to 2	20-342
No	Alan T presenting, many commissioner questions, amendment for low impact practices approved		
7/22/15	Seasonal float and pier	13 to 1	20-355
No	Alan T presenting, many commissioner questions, in residential district		
6/28/17	Waterfront Green on Saco River View	11 to 1	20-267
Yes	Alan T presenting, many commissioner questions, removed parking lot for signage, green space and (seasonal) tent		

*Bottom line is every project above was within the 250ft buffer, implicit in each project but mentioned explicitly in the minutes on 2 of the 5 projects. (it could have been referenced in all 5 projects, but did not get recorded in the minutes).