

# Welcome!

**Please register your attendance**

**New Participant?** [Join mailing list here!](#)

**See your contact info:** [MxG Organizational Partners Contact List](#)

**MxG Shared Materials and Meeting Notes** can be found [here](#)

**Please paste any announcements** re events or activities at the [bottom of this document](#).

Welcome!

**What is MxG?** Maine Accelerates Growth (MxG) is a statewide network of organizations and individuals that support entrepreneurs and innovators to scale in Maine and beyond. We believe that a vibrant, inclusive innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem will result in a more abundant, equitable, and sustainable economy and make Maine a great place to live, work and play.

**We work together** to share expertise, seek best practices, and to address system gaps. We promote the successes of Maine startups and entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs), and collaborate to attract talent and inspire innovation.

**Our values** are to be inclusive, action-oriented, and metric-focused. We think long-term and system-wide, and seek ways to be more collaborative.

**Our monthly meetings** highlight the activities of Maine Technology Institute, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, organizations that support startups, and startups in Maine.

By “**Entrepreneurial and Innovation Ecosystem**” we mean a system of cultural, financial, technical, policy, and relationship networks that can support innovation-driven enterprises (IDEs): entrepreneurs and innovators with ideas & technologies that have the potential to spread, scale, and change life in positive ways for large numbers of people.

**MxG is a project of MTI.**

**Attendees:** Celina Gauthier, Tom Kittredge, Charles Walsh, Brian Doyle from the City of Lewiston, Bill Card from the SBA, Ben Titcomb, Emma Richardson, Mike Roughton, Janice St. Onge, Paul Styslinger, Eric Weidman, Caroline Pryor, Noreen, Startup Biotech, Erica Watson, Jon Steuber, Susan Morris, Raj Saha, Virginia Schaeffer, Martin Grohman, Santi Zindel, Kate Dickerson, Caroline Pryor, Kevin M., Joe Migliaccio, Jeane Christie, Laurie Johnson, Mike Wing, Bobbie Lamont, Chris Linder, Stella Hernandez, and Megan Banner.

## **Agenda**

**10:55** Small Networking Groups

**11:05** Welcome and MTI Updates

**11:10** Eric Weidman, [Department of Economic and Community Development](#)

**11:15** Susan Ruhlin, [Dirigo Labs](#)

**11:25** Megan Banner Sutherland, [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#)

**11:35** Virginia Shaffer, [Lady Oyster](#)

**11:45** Santi Zindel, [The Roux Institute](#)

**11:55** Community Announcements

## **Meeting Notes**

Notes are a contemporaneous capture of main points, and available to all participants and non-participants for corrections and additions. Presenters are invited to provide links to supplemental info (registration links, pitch deck url, contact info, etc.) for follow up. Help MxG thrive by adding to our shared meeting notes!

## **MTI Update**

**Tom Kittredge, Senior Investment Officer/MxG Manager**

[tkittredge@mainetechnology.org](mailto:tkittredge@mainetechnology.org)

### **Discussion:**

Competition 1.5 Million Dollars Apply for \$300,000 for \$100,000 per year. Programmatic Offerings that support entrepreneurs. Matching Funds. Application Portal to go live at the end of April. Angel Groups for more formalized engagements.

Comprehensive Update on the 25 Million R&D Program.

Startup Maine Week May 19 - May 22

[MTI Portfolio Showcase Application](#)

## [Startup Maine Agenda](#)

PRESENTER: Tom Kittredge, MTI

No MTI updates this month, but Tom will be sending a survey in the next 1-2 months asking for feedback on the structure of MxG meetings.

PRESENTER: Eric Weidman, [Department of Economic and Community Development](#)

*Contact Information: [eric.p.weidman@maine.gov](mailto:eric.p.weidman@maine.gov)*

New Co-Working Development Fund 5 days left to apply

Forestry Industry - Mass timber conference in Oregon

PRESENTER: Susan Ruhlin, [Dirigo Labs](#)

Building

*Contact Information: [Susan@centralmaine.org](mailto:Susan@centralmaine.org), [www.Dirigolabs.org](http://www.Dirigolabs.org), 318-6585*

Three cohorts complete.

Launched fourth

Virtual incubator that is launched.

Partnered with Maine Street Skowhegan

Employed Camoin Institute to completed an Impact Survey

SeaScale is in the cohort. Alivo is in the Dirigo Lab cohort.  
Continue to work with them long after their residence at the cohort.

Nomination for Commissioner is Mike Duguay and Hearing is tomorrow.

Must be a Maine Business

PRESENTER: Megan Banner Sutherland, [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#)

Leverage the Gulf of Maine  
Interdisciplinary approach for  
Climate change and Healthy EcoSystems

Blue economy is deeply rooted in Marine Biology

Startup Programs

BlueTech Booth Incubator includes 5 h  
Non-diluted grants available  
Applications have not opened. Applications will open in August -  
September. No fees for the program. Microgrant funding that will match  
MTI Funding. Technical expertise available.

Seascale gave an endorsement regarding the programs.

Founder Flex Program  
Flexible Ad-Hoc Support for Startups

Blue Ocean is a partnering Impact Fund

Investment Readiness that GMRI has education on.  
Programs that work with private sectors

Businesses can reach out to Bold Ocean Ventures Directly

PRESENTER: Virginia Shaffer, [Lady Oyster](#)

[virginia@theladyoyster.com](mailto:virginia@theladyoyster.com)

[www.theladyoyster.com](http://www.theladyoyster.com)

(617) 943-9425

Follow us on Instagram! [@lady\\_oyster](#)

Involved in Top Gun Program

Currently looking at grants.

I think we are increasing Market Share and Word of Mouth. Expand other ways to grow the business. Avenues to grow

Maine Farmed Seafood Coalition

<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2025/03/13/hancock/hancock-business/new-group-forms-to-defend-maines-aquaculture-industry/>

Santi Zindel, [The Roux Institute](#)

s.zindel@northeastern.edu

**Apply to the Roux Founder Residency Applications by April 30th!**

<https://roux.northeastern.edu/entrepreneurship/founder-residency/>

This year-long accelerator program is designed to help early-stage tech startups and focuses on supporting underrepresented founders. The program is free to attend, with no fees or equity requirements.

RSVP for our Info Sessions on [March 26th here](#) or [April 14th here](#).

**Join us for an event celebrating female entrepreneurs as part of Women's History Month! "Breaking Barriers: Lessons from Female Founders Changing the Game"**

<https://rouxevents.northeastern.edu/breakingbarriersfemalefounders>

This panel event and networking reception will be hosted at the Roux Institute on March 24th from 4-6pm.

**The Roux Founder Residency Venture Showcase will be Kicking off Startup Maine Week this year!**

<https://founderresidencyshowcase2025.splashthat.com/>

Come hear pitches from the impressive startups coming out of this program. The event will also feature the keynote speaker for Startup Maine Week, NPR's Theo Balcomb, creator of *The Daily* at *The New York Times*, as well as the kickoff networking reception after the pitches.

## Events & Announcements

**Innovate for Maine company application deadline 2/23! (free intern assistance for eligible companies)**

<https://umaine.edu/innovateformaine/>

**Job at UMaine**

<https://umaine.edu/hr/employment-university-maine/>

## Maine Angels Calendar

has links to ecosystem events and also to opportunities for Founders:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4ejet3t>

Please feel free to connect on LinkedIn and share events for the “of interest” calendar. Bobbie Silber Lamont

## Downeast Innovation Network

If you are interested in being on the mailing list for Downeast Innovation Network (DEIN) please email Sarah Strickland at [sbs4940@gmail.com](mailto:sbs4940@gmail.com)

## Maine Funding Network

One stop shop for businesses looking for funding. Maine Funding Network is looking

<https://www.maineftundingnetwork.com/>

SCEC - Partners in Entrepreneurship - Machias - Spring 2025

<https://mainestreetbusiness.org/pathways-beyond-the-business-plan/>

The **Maine Science Festival** has kicked off! Full program available at <https://www.mainesiencefestival.org/2025program>; MTI is the sponsor for our Headliner Event, 5 Minute Genius™ (<https://www.mainesiencefestival.org/5-minute-genius>). All events available free of charge to attendees, thanks to our sponsors. We have some start-up folks involved in a number of programs, including Brian Harris from MedRhythms at Science on Tap tonight and Asheesh Lanba at 5 Minute Genius on Saturday at 7pm, The Gracie Theater.

[www.flexiblecapitalfund.com](http://www.flexiblecapitalfund.com)

[www.nnewin.org](http://www.nnewin.org)

<https://www.startupmaine.org/program/>

**Next MxG Meeting: Thursday, March \_\_ , 2025 at 11am.**

## Evergreen Zoom link for MxG Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88513647732?pwd=RTFSMmh1Qzh5LzF5MVVDMG42VXdFZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 1364 7732

Passcode: 141648

The **Coworking Development Fund** and its accompanying program support the success of collaborative workspaces by providing financial assistance and opportunities for collaboration. For more information check out the website

<https://www.maine.gov/decd/business-development/financial-incentives-resources/resources/coworking-development-fund-program>

International Mass Timber Conference in Oregon (3-25-3/27) next week if anyone has forest products questions or news to share, have them reach out.. [International Mass Timber Conference | March 25–27, 2025](#)

Governor's Conference on Tourism. April 16-17 in Bangor  
<https://www.mainetourismconference.com/>

Trade Day from MITC May 7<sup>th</sup> in Freeport  
<https://www.mitc.com/education-events/trade-day-2025/>

### **Principle 6 Conference: Cooperatives Build a Better Maine**

Organized by the [Cooperative Maine Business Alliance \(CMBA\)](#)

Sat., May 3rd 9:00am - 4:00pm

Edward Little High School, 77 Harris St, Auburn, ME 04210

<https://maine.coop/events>

*Some topics of note to be covered: 1) co-ops as business startups and 2) business transitions/owner retirements to employee owned cooperatives.*

*If any questions, contact Chris Linder at the Cooperative Fund: [chris@coopfund.coop](mailto:chris@coopfund.coop)*