



Kara Runsten, MVP Director  
Hillary King, MVP Central Regional Coordinator  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, EOEEA  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

March 19, 2026

Dear Ms. Runsten:

The Devens Enterprise Commission submits this letter of support in support of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission's **FY27 ECO One-Stop** application for the project titled "***Upstream Insights Lead to Downstream Flood Solutions for Leominster: Bridging Landscapes and Communities through Nature-based Solutions, Community Networks, and Cross-Sector Collaboration***". The project will help address flood impacts of the 2023 Leominster Flood and enhance long-term community resilience by applying lessons learned from "*Looking Upstream, Learning Downstream*" and will directly address the following critical needs that have been identified:

- Thoughtful long-term planning and wise land use decision making based on the lessons learned from the 2023 Flood Event.
- Design of appropriately sited nature-based solutions, particularly "upstream" of flood-prone areas.
- Education, tools, & resources to overcome flood-related social barriers and vulnerabilities, especially in known climate-burdened areas and among minority populations and linguistic-isolated residents.
- Education, tools, & resources and cross-sector collaboration among governmental entities and private-sector commercial, industrial, and residential owners, managers, and developers to increase capacity and willingness-to-adopt Nature-based Solutions.

Specifically, the project will include a site-tour of sustainability and stormwater nature-based solutions and best practices at Devens, led by staff of the Devens Enterprise Commission. This tour is a comprehensive look at a number of real-world applications of Nature-based Solutions in a relatively small area. With support from the Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network, this tour is now available [virtually](#) as well.

We are proud to support MRPC's efforts and share our experiences and lessons learned deploying Nature-based Solutions in hopes that more municipalities, developers, and landowners will see the economic, social, and environmental benefits of these approaches and incorporate them into their own development and redevelopment projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Angus", written over a horizontal line.

Neil Angus, FAICP CEP, LEED AP  
Director/Land Use Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Suedmeyer", written over a horizontal line.

Beth Suedmeyer,  
Environmental Planner

