

STEWG Governance and Structure

1. Governance of the Coalition at large

A. We are guided by the following Vision, Mission Statement, and Goals:

Vision:

The future looks bright! Pipelines and highways are nowhere in sight! Stop the East-West Corridor is succeeding in our motto: No Corridor, No Compromise!

Mission Statement:

Stop the East-West Corridor is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations from Maine, including the indigenous peoples of the territory, who are dedicated to raising awareness, fostering open communication, and requesting transparency about the proposed East-West Corridor. Our mission is to stop the East-West Corridor by demonstrating that the project is not in the current or future best interest of people who live here, and that Maine resident stakeholders do not want it.

Coalition Goals:

Educating the public

Building a broad movement

Discouraging potential investors

Influencing legislators

Attracting media locally, nationally, and globally

Advocating for the public by demanding accountability and transparency of our public officials, MDOT, Peter Vigue and Cianbro, contractors, investors

B. We will work cooperatively, with mutual respect and honesty

C. Our motto is "No Corridor, No Compromise!"

2. Organization of the Coalition

A. Members

Any individuals or organizations subscribing to the vision, mission, and coalition goals stated above may become a member of the Coalition. We ask members to submit to the Steering Committee their name along with some contact information of their choice (e.g., phone number(s), e-mail, postal address, etc.).

B. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will coordinate, advise, and make decisions on strategy and structure for STEWC consistent with the vision, mission, and goals, while being responsive to the needs of the Coalition. The Steering Committee, following a consensus decision-making model,¹ and is empowered to exercise oversight of the Coalition's activities. Steering Committee responsibility includes ongoing sensitivity to its own operations and as well as successfully addressing any potential conflict among work groups (see below) as the Coalition work proceeds.

Steering Committee Membership: The Steering Committee will be no more than 12 members, striving for 3 seats for the western region, 3 seats for the eastern region, 3 seats for the central region and 3 seats for those organizing "at large".

"Western Region" shall mean west of the Kennebec River within Maine's second congressional district. "Central Region" shall mean east of the Kennebec River and West of the Penobscot River within Maine's second congressional district. "Eastern Region" shall mean east of the Penobscot River.

Steering Committee members will join through self-selection. In the event of too many volunteers by category, membership will be determined by lottery. If in any given year any regions' seats are not filled, other potential members may step forward, but a single vacant regional seat should be left open for any emergent regional Steering Committee volunteer. Length of term is one year. Renewal is permitted unless there are more candidates than regional seats, in which case the lottery will be used. Chronic non-attendance at Steering Committee meetings, or matters arising from any apparent conflict with the provisions in Section 1 of this document, will be considered on a case by case basis.

Steering Committee Process:

- i. Steering Committee meetings will always be open to the Coalition members.

¹ Consensus decision-making model (flow chart) is available on the website at www.stopthecorridor.org

ii. Meeting notices will be posted to Coalition members with agendas in advance.

iii. Each meeting will include general discussion time to allow new ideas to flow and to grow the Coalition with new members.

iv. The Steering Committee conducts the meetings, reserves space for the meeting, takes minutes, posts them on the list serve, and maintains STEWC resources, including but not limited to the list serve, website, and printed brochure. The Steering Committee may fulfill these responsibilities by delegating tasks to working groups (see below).

v. Leadership of the Steering Committee meetings is conducted on a rotating basis:

– A facilitator and a note taker for each meeting is designated at the preceding meeting and noted in the minutes.

– The facilitator is responsible for receiving and posting the agenda, confirming the meeting location, and for conducting the meeting.

--The note taker (a) distributes a draft to the Steering Committee, (b) corrections/ additions are submitted promptly to the note taker who addresses them, (c) re-submitting to the Steering Committee any changes for their final review (with mandatory acknowledgement of receipt by all Steering Committee members), culminating in (d) posting to the listserve and/or to the website as appropriate. The aim is to post minutes no more than a week after the preceding meeting.

To aid the Committee and Coalition members, the website has STEWC resources available as well as downloadable templates for meeting signup sheets and Steering Committee agendas.

C. Working Groups

One part of STEWC's organizational effort to date has been finding ways for individuals to engage and contribute. The resulting work groups lend focus to individual efforts:

Legislative and Legal matters

Print and Media

General Outreach

Administration (especially list serve and website)

Special Events

If specific emergent needs or goals arise, the Steering Committee will signal the need to launch or resume working groups. Individuals are encouraged to organize themselves into these groups, considering their interests and talents. With Steering Committee support of working groups as defined in 2B of this document, the Coalition will have an immediate structure in place to coordinate efforts of individuals who want to be part of a statewide team to Stop the Corridor.

STEWEC fully supports individuals and organizations working to stop the Corridor outside of the Coalition, but requests that individuals and organizations ask permission from the Steering Committee to use STEWEC's name to avoid misrepresentation and ensure the quality of the Coalition's information."

The effective date for these revisions is January 11, 2016.