

June 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Colrain Select Board,

We are pleased to announce that work is underway for the 2024 Franklin County Regional Pollinator Plan Update project for Franklin County! This will expand on the work we did with eight Franklin County Towns in 2021 on Town Action Plans, the Franklin County Regional Pollinator Plan, and a Regional Pollinator Habitat Corridor Implementation Toolkit (<https://frcog.org/publications/regional-and-local-pollinator-plans/>).

With funding from an Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Planning Grant and 2023 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), FRCOG will be working with Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Deerfield, and Shutesbury to map local pollinator habitat and resource areas, develop pollinator-friendly land-use regulations and landscape management practices, and create a conceptual pollinator habitat design for a municipal property. We will be working directly with each community's Planning Board on the zoning task to develop pollinator-friendly land use regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The sustainability of our local ecosystems, farms, and food systems is linked to pollinators. This initiative will engage community and regional stakeholders in identifying opportunities for expanding pollinator resources and developing beneficial landscape management practices and long-term stewardship recommendations for proposed pollinator corridors. Local level, community-engaged strategies such as these are critically needed to respond to declining populations of wild, native pollinator species. We have asked your Town Administrator for assistance in reaching out to other town boards, committees, and community members who might have an interest in this project to invite them to participate.

If you have any questions about this project or stakeholder outreach, please email me at KMacPhee@frcog.org, or call me at (413) 774-3167 x. 130. We appreciate your involvement and support.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Noake MacPhee, P.G., CFM
Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager
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