

October 23, 2009

This document is the proposal that was submitted by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust for a study regarding the Upper Bondsville Dam. PVPC was subsequently awarded a partial grant to conduct the study.

It is important to note that this study does not outline a definitive course of action for the Belchertown Land Trust and simply provides us with information that can be used in our decision-making process. The BLT will be looking at a number of options and gathering information from a number of sources – this is only one in that whole process.

No decision will be made quickly, without public input, without due consideration of public safety, the potential impact upon the environment, recreational activities and funding.

The following is a timeline prepared by the Belchertown Land Trust regarding the activities surrounding the Upper Bondsville Dam that is being included for illustrative purposes and was not a part of the original PVPC proposal.

Belchertown Land Trust
Board of Directors

- February 2008 Received order from Division of Dam Safety with a compliance order to have a series of inspections undertaken and all repairs to the dam completed by November 1, 2009.
- May 2008 BLT contacted dam safety staff by letter requesting meeting with no success
- June 2008 - August 2008 Contacted all area state legislators seeking assistance to secure a meeting with Dam Safety
- August 13, 2008 BLT initiated meeting with Representative Smola and Senate/House legislative aides and Belchertown Selectman Rocanti re dam issue.
- September 2008 Letter from area state legislators to DCR Dam Safety requesting a meeting be arranged between Dam Safety and BLT.
- February 2009 BLT contacted dam safety staff by letter requesting meeting with no success
- March 2009 Springfield Republican reporter contacted DCR regarding the inability of BLT to meet with Dam Safety staff
- March 10, 2009: Dam Safety Director William Salomaa meets with BLT
- May 2009 Belchertown Town Meeting approved dam inspection funds by BLT. DCR contracts with Tighe & Bond to conduct a Phase 1 inspection while BLT applies for CPA funds to reimburse DCR.
- March 2009 Inspection of dam conducted by Tighe & Bond
- May 5, 2009, Tighe & Bond report issued
- March 2009 PVPC applied for grant by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to review options for BLT
- July 2009 PVPC awarded grant
- August 6, 2009 Meeting by PVPC staff and BLT representatives with Palmer officials to outline the project
- August 12, 2009 Inspection of the river impoundment and dam
- August 17, 2009 Meeting by PVPC staff and BLT with Ware officials to outline the project
- August 19, 2009 Meeting by PVPC staff and BLT representatives with Belchertown officials to outline the project
- October 1, 2009 Public meeting held at Belchertown High School and attended by approximately 115 people

Pending Activities

- BLT requests extension of November 30, 2009, deadline from Dam Safety for dam resolution.
- June 2010 PVPC study completed (estimated)

The Fate of the Upper Bondsville Dam: A Public Outreach Project

1. Summary of organization's history and goals: The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is the legally designated regional planning agency for the Pioneer Valley region in Western Massachusetts. PVPC was organized in 1962 under Massachusetts enabling legislation to serve a planning district comprising 43 member cities and towns and more than 600,000 residents. PVPC's mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life for individual member communities and for the region as a whole by:

- Working to develop policies, programs, and projects that support public and private efforts throughout the region to resolve issues, solve problems, meet needs, and exploit opportunities whenever and wherever such efforts can benefit from sound planning.
- Serving as an advocate for the regional community as needs and circumstances dictate.
- Engaging an open and broadly participatory planning process solidly grounded in ethical principles and a commitment to dedicated, high-quality public service.

Because it is critical to the quality of life in member communities, environmental planning has been a major focus area for PVPC. PVPC's environmental planning professionals work with community organizations, municipalities, state and federal agencies, non-profit groups, and private sector partners to define and direct solutions to problems that cannot be solved by member communities working alone. PVPC's work entails promoting economically and environmentally healthy communities, and encouraging sustainable land use through local action and regional cooperation.

2. Overview of organization's structure and programs, including board, staff and volunteer involvement: PVPC is a consortium of local governments that have banded together under the provisions of state law to address problems and opportunities that are regional in scope. The Commission itself, which meets 5 times each year, is composed of 43 commissioners, representing each of the 43 member municipalities, plus an alternate. With over 100 on-going projects at any one time, PVPC works with numerous volunteers, generally serving as project advisory committee members. PVPC's staff of 41 full-time and 12 part-time employees work within 7 departments to provide services in a range of planning areas. PVPC departments are: Land Use and Environment, Transportation, Community Development, Economic Development, Data Management, GIS and Graphics, and Communications.

3. Organization's qualifications to perform work proposed and key related achievements: PVPC has been working for more than 30 years to restore and protect the region's waterways and has extensive experience in successfully managing and completing grant-funded projects, and in facilitating public meetings on many environmental issues. Almost every one of the planning initiatives noted below includes a public involvement and outreach process for which a variety of techniques have been used, depending on the project. These methods have ranged from consensus building on the development of vision and goals to SWOP analysis (strength/ weakness/ opportunity/ problem) to surveys. Consensus building, for example, was a hallmark strategy of the Clean Energy Plan for the Pioneer Valley region. During the development of the plan in 2007-2008, the very heated controversy over the proposed biomass facility for Russell spilled into the regional clean energy conversations. PVPC and project partners built consensus with a focus on identifying mutually agreeable criteria for evaluating energy projects throughout the region and used a variety of forums, including large public meetings, smaller deliberative community planning meetings, and an ongoing on-line discussion.

Key related achievements:

- PVPC has been managing a compact of seven municipalities to prioritize and eliminate CSO discharge locations along the Connecticut River for the past 15 years. For this regional effort to clean up the Connecticut River, PVPC has secured more than \$17 million in grants and local funding. CSO projects completed or presently underway have reduced the annual volume of untreated CSO discharge into the Connecticut River from 1.4 billion gallons per year to 0.7 billion gallons per year, a 50 percent reduction.
- Currently, PVPC is leading a \$1.4 million EPA Targeted Watershed Initiatives project on the Connecticut River with four partner organizations located in three states. Project work includes water quality monitoring, riverbank erosion control, installation of stormwater best management practices in three communities and at two farms, and the development of stormwater utilities in two communities.
- Completion of numerous Section 319 water pollution control projects, including projects serving Lake Lorraine in Springfield, Mill River in Hatfield, stormwater runoff in Chicopee, Nashawannuck Pond in Easthampton, and most recently in 2008 at Congamond Lakes in Southwick.
- Completion of numerous Source Water Protection Plans, including plans for Chester, Russell, Huntington, Hatfield and Easthampton.
- Administration of several U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grants for projects in Chester, Easthampton, Middlefield, Worthington, Monson, Brimfield, Spenser, and West Springfield. PVPC's Brownfield staff offers assistance to communities in all 43 towns and cities in Hampshire and Hampden counties on inventorying brownfield sites and planning for assessment and cleanup.
- Staffing and facilitation of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC)—including ongoing review of large development projects and oversight of a grant to sample surface water in the Barnes region, and a public information and education effort designed to educate business owners about the need for, and means to, protect groundwater quality.
- Completion of Section 604b watershed assessment projects for the Westfield River, Chicopee River, and Connecticut River watersheds.
- Development of the region's land use and growth management plan, *Valley Vision II*, in 2008.
- Elaboration of build-out scenarios for the towns of Agawam, Hampden, Amherst and the City of Northampton, as part of EOEAs growth planning initiative.
- Completion of the *Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan*, a plan to revitalize the lower Connecticut River and improve recreation opportunities under an EOEAs grant in 2005.
- Completion, under contract with EOEAs and DHCD, of 19 Community Development Plans for communities in the Pioneer Valley region in 2004.
- Serving as the region's GIS center.

Work on dam related issues is admittedly a developing area for PVPC, but it seems an appropriate fit with the agency's environmental planning expertise. Recent changes in state policy on dams, combined with the condition of many dams across the 43-town region, have created an important opportunity and a need to work with dam owners and communities in determining the future for these aged structures. The potential for advancing vast improvements in the health of many rivers and streams is unprecedented. The dialogue required for understanding and agreement in our communities about the future of dams involves a process that has many of the same attributes of other environmental planning endeavors.

4. Description of project constituents (population, age, race/ethnicity, income levels, geography, language spoken): Because the Upper Bondsville Dam stretches across the Swift River between Palmer and Belchertown, and the impoundment extends into Ware, considerations about the dam's future affect all three communities. Should the dam fail, neighborhoods downstream of the dam in Belchertown and Palmer are at greatest risk. Teens within the three towns are the segment of the population most at risk of harm due to the higher likelihood of their trespassing in and around the dam. Two teens have died as a result of falls from the crest of the dam. Looking at an area with a 1-mile radius from the dam, relevant demographic information is shown below. Please note that though Spanish is the predominant foreign language within this 1-mile radius area, this only involves .22% of the population (those who speak Spanish and do not speak English well).

Population: 1,622

Teens (ages 10 to 17): 210

Median household income: \$61,117

% below poverty line: 9.4%

5. Description of the community and/or regional need(s) and/or challenges that this project will address, including: The proposed project seeks to initiate a process that will result in the restoration of important ecological values to the Swift River and elimination of a serious public safety hazard. In 2005, the Belchertown Land Trust took possession of an abandoned property to safeguard public access to open space along the Swift River. As part of this acquisition, the Land Trust became owners of the Upper Bondsville Dam, which spans some 120 feet across the Swift River between Belchertown and Palmer, and forms a 58-acre impoundment.

The dam, built in 1900 and long abandoned as a power source, presents serious public safety concerns. The Office of Dam Safety has rated the dam as a significant hazard and during its last inspection of the dam in 1999 deemed it to be in poor condition. The dam is also an especially dangerous attraction for local teenagers as described in #4 above.

Despite pressure from the Office of Dam Safety to bring the dam into compliance, the Belchertown Land Trust is hard pressed to come up with monies not only to inspect the dam, but repair and maintain the dam over the long term. Members of the land trust met with the Office of Dam Safety this week and the land trust is currently making arrangements with an engineering firm to perform the inspection, the financing for which will come from either part of a Community Preservation Act grant request that has been submitted to the Town of Belchertown or from the very limited monies in the land trust's bank account.

Board members are eager to explore the options for the future and are intent on avoiding a long and protracted debate. This project is aimed at generating information for decision-making and building understanding among stakeholders about the financial constraints associated with the dam's future, and as such aims to minimize conflict. A letter of support for this proposed project from the Belchertown Land Trust is attached. The Trust has also submitted a proposal for funding to the Community Preservation Act program in Belchertown. If awarded, funding would help to provide additional monies for public outreach and the alternatives analysis.

The Towns of Belchertown, Palmer, and Ware are also interested in resolving the hazards created by the dam and developing a strategy for the future. All have submitted letters requesting local technical assistance as part of the work of this project (please see letters enclosed). As part of the local technical assistance work, PVPC will meet with town officials at

the start of the project to understand specific concerns and desires related to the dam's future, and then work with the public in each of their towns.

For the region, this project will provide a model for managing decision-making about a dam's future. It will also build additional capacity within PVPC for working with other communities in addressing some of the 300 or so other dams in the Pioneer Valley.

6. Project description

Location of project: The project will directly address the future of the Upper Bondsville Dam, which is located on the Swift River 10 miles downstream of the Quabbin Reservoir. The dam spans the Swift River between the towns of Palmer and Belchertown, Massachusetts, and the impoundment created by the dam extends upstream into Ware, Massachusetts. Please see enclosed map showing project location.

Specific request and project summary: \$25,000 to conduct a public outreach project and an alternatives analysis on the fate of the Upper Bondsville Dam. PVPC proposes to work with the Belchertown Land Trust, the Riverways Program, American Rivers, and local stakeholders. Outreach will begin with meetings with town officials in each of the three towns affected by the dam to understand concerns, and then two tri-town public meetings, including a first meeting that presents the history of the dam and river, introduces the financial and liability problems faced by the Belchertown Land Trust and their inability to continue as owners. Public outreach will provide context for decision-making about the dam's future, and also examine the pros and cons of various scenarios, and explore and address the concerns and desires of stakeholders. The project will also include the development of an alternatives analysis, which is integral to informing decision-making about the dam's future. This outreach process is intended to help reduce conflict and to advance the decision-making process within the Belchertown Land Trust about the dam's future. Work for this proposed project follows the recommendations from the June 2007 site reconnaissance survey on the Upper Bondsville Dam commissioned by the Riverways Program.

How project connects to improvement of Massachusetts water resources: Dam removal at the Upper Bondsville Dam presents a tremendous opportunity to restore ecological values as is evidenced by the restoration potential model developed by the Riverways Program. The model indicates that as a dam the Upper Bondsville Dam ranks among the highest for potential restoration values in the state. This ranking is due to an upstream watershed that has one of the lowest surrounding road densities in the state, and a cold water fishery that has been identified as Core Habitat for Living Waters. Removal of the dam would restore 10 miles of free-flowing waters on a premiere trout stream, and connect a drainage area of some 4,680 acres.

Methodology and approach: While the costs of inspection, repair and maintenance of the dam, combined with the great public safety and ecological benefits of dam removal, seem to preclude the consideration of other alternatives, PVPC is sensitive to the homeowners who live upstream of the Upper Bondsville Dam. Because of the impoundment, some residents have boats and docks that give them greater access to the river. Upstream residents also enjoy a certain aesthetic that comes with the impounded waters of the river. Concerns about property values, and loss of a familiar recreational asset will likely be foremost in their minds.

Timing seems an important component in reducing the potentially contentious nature of decision-making about the dam's future. The public is being engaged early in the process, while

there are still many questions to be answered. They will learn along with town officials and with the members of the Belchertown Land Trust about the major issues and considerations. PVPC will proceed with a tender attitude, embracing a strategy of collaboration with homeowners and other stakeholders in exploring their concerns about the dam's future. This process, at the same time, will involve some education on the potential benefits of dam removal.

Project goals and objectives: The project has two goals and six objectives. They are as follows:

Goal #1: Promote understanding and learning, and minimize conflict among stakeholders in Belchertown, Palmer and Ware

Objective: Engage with town officials and the public early in the process of decision making so that they too can share in learning about the issues

Objective: Hear and take careful note of concerns expressed by stakeholders so that town officials and other members of the public feel they have been heard, and address select major concerns within the alternatives analysis

Objective: Explain clearly the cost considerations faced by the Belchertown Land Trust

Objective: Show the values of dam removal by drawing on the experiences of other places

Goal #2: Produce an alternatives analysis that provides the information most critical to the Belchertown Land Trust in decision-making about the dam's future

Objective: Take careful note of each member's comments about what he/she needs to know in order to make a decision

Objective: Identify the obstacles to decision making for each member of the land trust

Tasks and deliverables to be completed under award: Work for all tasks described below, unless otherwise described, will be completed by the Pioneer Valley Commission. Lead staff on the project is Patty Gambarini, who will work in consultation with Chief Planner Chris Curtis. PVPC will manage day-to-day activities of the entire project, including the community meetings, and work with the media and the alternatives analysis consultant. PVPC and its partners are fully committed to the overall project strategy and the project goals.

Task 1: Meet with Belchertown Land Trust to review project plan, and to establish a steering committee that will work directly with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and other project partners. At this meeting PVPC will also engage board members to talk about their specific concerns and desires with regard to the dam's future to identify what is the most important information for them in making a decision.

Deliverable:

- List of BLT Board members to serve on project steering committee
- List of concerns and desires with major obstacles identified for decision-making that will help inform scope of work for the alternatives analysis and public outreach

Task 2: Collect all available background information on the Upper Bondsville Dam and upper reach of Swift River. This will include outreach to the owners of the Lower Bondsville Dam to

understand what plans they may have for their dam. Ownership of this dam has not been entirely clear, but assessor's records currently indicate the owner is the Chenango Corporation.

- Deliverable:*
- Index of all available background information on dam and upper reach of Swift River along with file containing copies of all referenced information
 - Notes from conversation with owners of Lower Bondsville Dam and recommended next steps if appropriate

Task 3: Conduct one meeting for each town (Palmer, Ware, and Belchertown), inviting town officials to share their concerns and desires related to the dam's future and to talk about the planned public outreach process.

- Deliverable:*
- List from town officials of concerns and desires related to the dam's future that will help inform public outreach and possibly scope of work for the alternatives analysis

Task 4: Prepare for and conduct 1st public meeting. Preparation will include identifying venue, working with media, and developing presentation with maps. The meeting for stakeholders will describe background and set context for decision-making about dam's future, and solicit comments from the public about their concerns and desires.

- Deliverable:*
- Articles in media about first public meeting
 - Powerpoint presentation about Upper Bondsville Dam
 - List from stakeholders of concerns and desires related to the dam that will help inform public process and possibly scope of work for the alternatives analysis

Task 5: Define scope for alternatives analysis and issue request for proposals. The alternatives analysis is integral to informing decision-making about the dam's future. The analysis will likely focus on some initial surveying to produce sediment volume calculations, cost estimates for future options, and renderings.

- Deliverable:*
- Request for proposals to conduct the alternatives analysis on the Upper Bondsville Dam

Task 6: Work with project steering committee to evaluate proposals and select consultant for alternatives analysis. Make announcement to local media.

- Deliverable:*
- Consultant selected for alternatives analysis
 - Article in local media about consultant selection and what planning to learn with alternatives analysis

Task 7: Prepare and send interim report to MET.

- Deliverable:*
- Interim report

Task 8: Get two knowledgeable people to contribute guest columns speaking to the experiences of other places regarding decision-making on dams: one to focus perhaps on costs and another on recreation. Also work with local cable access channels to air at least one project-related video. American Rivers and other organizations have produced some material that will be useful in this regard.

- Deliverable:*
- Two guest columns in local media

- Project-related video aired on local cable access channels

Task 9: Work to ensure that consultant has needed background information and that work progresses according to schedule. To do the surveying, it will be important for the consultant to get into the field before the end of November. The study should be complete by March.

Deliverable: ▪ Alternatives analysis

Task 10: Prepare for and hold public meeting to present results of alternatives analysis, and to answer questions and hear concerns. Before meeting’s end, participants will be asked to complete a brief survey about remaining concerns.

- Deliverable:* ▪ Articles in local media about meeting
 ▪ Notes and survey results from meeting that will help to inform how to proceed with public outreach in the next phase

Task 11: Prepare and send final report to MET.

Deliverable: ▪ Final report

7. Timeline:

TASKS YEAR 1	MONTH											
	1 Jul	2 Aug	3 Spt	4 Oct	5 Nov	6 Dec	7 Jan	8 Feb	9 Mar	10 Apr	11 May	12 Jun
Task 1-project initiation	█											
Task 2-research	█	█										
Task 3-meets w/ officials	█											
Task 4-1 st public meet		█	█									
Task 5-RFP for alt. analysis			█									
Task 6-select consultant				█								
Task 7-guest columns, tv					█		█		█			
Task 8-MET interim report						█						
Task 9-work w/ consultant				█	█	█	█	█	█			
Task 10-2 nd public meet										█		
Task 11- MET final report											█	

8. Description of media outreach efforts:

Given the loss of life that has occurred at the dam, this project will likely generate great media interest. To capitalize on the opportunity to inform the public in at least three municipalities, PVPC will work with reporters to frame the major issues involved in decision-making and promote at least two guest columns in local newspapers. PVPC will also work with local cable access channels to air at least one project-related video. Press releases with accompanying information will be sent out before each of the public meetings. At least three major issues will be framed:

1. The costs of repairing and maintaining a dam over the long term versus removal and the practical issues at hand;
2. The threats to public safety posed by the dam;
3. The potential value of the Swift River as a recreational resource even without the dam;

PVPC will rely primarily on newspapers and local cable access channels, but will also engage commercial radio and television where possible.

9. Evaluation

Accomplishment or product that will result from the completion of this project: The overarching aim of this project is to produce a decision about the Upper Bondsville Dam that favors the health of the Swift River and the safety of the public. Given that this project is at its earliest stage, that overarching aim is not likely attainable within the scope and budget described here. The work in this first year, however, is critical to establishing a process that promotes understanding and learning and minimizes conflict. This is invaluable to laying the groundwork for good decision-making about the dam’s future and setting a good example for other communities in the region faced with similar decisions.

Criteria for success of this project:

<i>Short-term success</i>	<i>Evaluation method</i>
A significant number of stakeholders attend the two public meetings	Quantify attendees with sign-in sheets
Stakeholders feel included in the process and informed about the issues	Survey before the end of 2 nd public meeting
Stakeholders understand the financial constraints faced by the Belchertown Land Trust, and some of the possible benefits of dam removal	Survey before the end of 2 nd public meeting
Media is engaged in the issue and framing the issues well	Four good newspaper articles
<i>Longer-term success</i>	<i>Evaluation method</i>
Belchertown Land Trust makes an informed and swift decision	Time to making a decision about the dam’s future
Public opposition is minimal	Each town endorses Land Trust decision Permitting process goes smoothly
Swift River regains free flowing waters for the 10 miles in the uppermost reach	Dam is removed

10. Description of staff and qualifications: PVPC staff for the proposed project all have extensive experience in public education and outreach, including engaging people from diverse outlooks, facilitating public discussions, and working with the media. (Resumes are enclosed.)

Chief Planner Chris Curtis, directs environmental planning at PVPC, and will participate in key aspects of the project and provide ongoing oversight. Chris has been involved in many signature environmental projects for the region during his tenure at PVPC, including the designation of the Westfield River as the first National Wild and Scenic River in Massachusetts, securing and managing over \$17 million in federal water pollution control grants to correct combined sewer overflow problems in the greater Springfield metropolitan area; the development and implementation of a regional revitalization strategy for the Connecticut River, including riverfront zoning bylaws, economic development and water quality improvement strategies; and the establishment of a regional compact for protection of the Barnes Aquifer, and its designation as a Sole Source Aquifer by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Principal Planner Anne Capra has spearheaded key regional projects, serving as project manager during the past 8 years on many MA DEP Section 319 grants for the design and construction of stormwater infrastructure improvements, creating and managing the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a consortium of nine municipalities working cooperatively to implement a multimedia public education campaign entitled *Think Blue MA.*, and facilitating the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee, a group devoted to the protection of this important sole source aquifer. Anne will especially help with procurement for this project as she is a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Officer.

Environmental Planner Patty Gambarini will serve as project manager, overseeing and implementing all project tasks. Patty has helped to facilitate community discussions on two dam projects in Rhode Island and she has received a national award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for her graduate research and design work on Defining New Futures for Industrial Mill Ponds. Since joining PVPC in 2007, Patty has been working successfully on two scenic byway projects that involve multiple communities on a range of resource protection issues.

11. Project budget:

Task 1- project initiation	8 hours @ \$55/hour	\$440.00
Task 2 - research	22 hours @ \$55/hour	\$1,210.00
Task 3 - meetings w/ officials	15 hours @ \$55/hour	\$825.00
Task 4 - 1st public meet	60 hours @ \$55/hour	\$3,300.00
Task 5 - RFP for alt.analysis	28 hours @ \$55/hour	\$1,540.00
Task 6 - select consultant	14 hours @ \$55/hour	\$770.00
Task 7 - MET interim report	4 hours @ \$55/hour	\$220.00
Task 8 - guest columns, tv	20 hours @ \$55/hour	\$1,100.00
Task 9 - work w/ consultant	10 hours @ \$55/hour	\$550.00
Task 10 - 2nd public meet	34 hours @ \$55/hour	\$1,870.00
Task 11 - MET final report	8 hours @ \$55/hour	\$440.00
	Total personnel	\$12,265.00
	Travel	\$385.00
	Engineering consultant	\$14,000.00
	Technical assistance	\$1,400.00
	Total project costs	\$28,050.00

Match

Local Technical Assistance request from Belchertown, Palmer and Ware (15 hours on Task 3 and 15 hours on Task 4 @ \$55/hour)	\$1,650.00
Riverways in-kind technical assistance	\$1,000.00
American Rivers in-kind technical assistance	\$400.00
	Total match
	\$3,050.00

TOTAL MET REQUEST **\$25,000.00**

Please note too that the Riverways Program has already committed \$2,750 for a site reconnaissance survey of the Upper Bondsville Dam that was completed in June 2007.

12. Pending funding:

As mentioned above in section 5, the Belchertown Land Trust has a grant request pending with the Belchertown Community Preservation Act for \$25,000. If awarded, funding will be used to expand on the work described above.

13. Partner organizations: For the project, PVPC will form a steering committee of project partners to help guide the community meetings and alternatives analysis. As owner of the dam, board members of the Belchertown Land Trust will participate in this steering committee, providing input throughout the course of the project. The Riverways Program and American Rivers will also provide technical assistance in shaping the community meetings and alternatives analysis. Letters of support from partner organizations are enclosed.

Belchertown Land Trust, Daniel Beaudette, Counsel
251 Cold Spring Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
(413) 253-4318 / Dan.Beaudette@ma.usda.gov

Riverways Program, Beth Lambert, River Restoration Scientist, MA Dept. of Fish and Game
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1526 / Beth.Lambert@state.ma.us

American Rivers, Brian Graber, Associate Director, River Restoration Program, NE Region
37 Phillips Place #2, Northampton, MA 01060
phone: 413.585.5896 / email: bgraber@amrivers.org

14. Plan to sustain this effort and strategy for building funding base: Board members of the Belchertown Land Trust are under tremendous pressure from DCR's Office of Dam Safety to inspect and repair the Upper Bondsville Dam. Because the land trust lacks the funds to repair and maintain the dam over the long term, board members must make a decision about how to move forward. MET funding will provide critical information for this decision and help to bring the public along in the process. Additional monies, possibly through Belchertown's Community Preservation Act program, will fund the generation of any additional information required to make a decision, and continued work on public outreach. The land trust, PVPC, and other project partners will continue to seek other funding for this phase of the project. For the implementation phase, project partners will promote the high values for ecological restoration, and work together to raise funds.