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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Belchertown Land Trust  
**FROM:** Patty Gambarini, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
**SUBJECT:** Funding Prospects for the Future of the Upper Bondsville Dam  
**DATE:** March 2011

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This memo represents a summary of research on funding prospects for the future of the Upper Bondsville Dam. Information comes from electronic data bases, phone interviews, e-mails, and directly from literature and websites that describe funding programs. The discussion here includes potential funding strategies for dam repair and maintenance (beginning below) and potential funding sources for dam removal (beginning page 6). At the end of each of these sections there is also included a list of select sources that do not appear viable. They are included here for the Board's information and to avoid duplication of effort should later discussion raise questions about these sources.

### **Dam Repair and Maintenance Strategies: Potential Funding Sources -----**

As we have discussed in the past, there are no funding sources specifically for repair and maintenance of dams. There are, however, possible strategies that could be pursued and some combination of these could conceivably raise sufficient monies for repair and maintenance of the Upper Bondsville Dam.

#### ***Sale of Belchertown Land Trust Property***

As has been suggested previously, some municipal entity (water department or conservation commission) could purchase the 50 acres owned by the Land Trust located along the Swift River near the confluence with Jabbish Brook. This might be accomplished with funding through one or a combination of the three programs described below. The proceeds from this sale could provide some income to help cover costs of dam repair and maintenance.

#### The Massachusetts LAND Program

The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions in acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Municipal conservation commissions must have Open Space and Recreation Plans that are approved or currently under review. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Lands must not already be permanently protected under Article 97. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports

and closing costs. The maximum reimbursement available is based on the applicant community's equalized valuation per capita decile rank and ranges from 52% to 70% of the total project cost. Community reimbursement rates are available on the DCS website. The maximum award for any single project is \$500,000, but may be increased at the discretion of the Secretary. Grants Administrator Celia Riechel expects to have a grant round this year with applications available some time this spring and applications due in mid July. Contact: Celia Riechel, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, at 617-626-1187 or <http://www.mass.gov/envir/>

#### Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

This program awards grants to municipalities and public water systems to purchase land near water supply sources and establish conservation restrictions to protect drinking water supplies. Funding each year comes from the Environmental Bond Bill. There should be some indication by the end of March about this year's funding round and then the program could possibly issue a request for proposals as early as April. Contact: Catherine Hamilton, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program at (617) 556-1070. See: <http://my.mass.gov/dep/water/grantsfi.htm>

#### Community Preservation Act in Belchertown

The Community Preservation Act [CPA] is a state tool to help individual towns and cities in the preservation and enhancement of their community. The monies available for distribution are based on a 1.5% surcharge on property taxes and a state match. This sum is allocated to projects that specifically benefit Belchertown. Proposals are typically due December-January.

Among the four categories of projects eligible for CPA funding is acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space (preservation of historic resources is discussed below). Project proposals under this category must meet one or more of the following criteria: protect important wildlife habitat, especially areas that offer significant biodiversity or whose viability is threatened; contain a variety of habitats, with a diversity of geologic features and types of vegetation; preserve Belchertown's rural character; provide opportunities for environmental education; protect or enhance wildlife corridors and promote the connectivity of habitat; provide connections with existing or potential trails; preserve or enhance a scenic view or scenic road; protect drinking water quantity and quality; provide flood control/storage; preserve important surface water bodies, including wetlands, vernal pools or riparian zones; preserve lands currently utilized for or having the identified potential for agricultural or forest production; preserve lands that are located within the identified recharge areas of existing or potential public water supply wells; preserve lands that are located within the watersheds of surface water drinking supply reservoirs; preserve lands that enable Belchertown to connect to larger, regional systems of greenway corridors; preserve prime farmland, unique farmland, or soils of statewide importance, as defined and identified by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; benefit initiatives of the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and/or other Town boards.

#### ***Transfer of Ownership to Hydropower Developer***

There already have been conversations with two hydropower developers as to the feasibility of retrofitting the Upper Bondsville Dam for power generation with one developer indicating that it does not present a cost effective project and the other developer indicating that there is some potential for development. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center has just announced a new round of grants for hydropower projects, but this is likely not a good source of funding for a project at the Upper Bondsville Dam.

The Commonwealth Hydropower Program seeks to increase the output of the Commonwealth's hydropower assets by providing grants for ecologically-appropriate projects that can be implemented quickly and efficiently. Grants support both design and construction projects and feasibility studies. Target projects include:

- Upgrades to existing, FERC-licensed or non-jurisdictional facilities that will result in greater generation (non-jurisdictional are typically facilities that have been in continuous operation since 1935 and whose capacity has not been increased since that time).
- Development of new facilities that take advantage of the water flowing in man-made conduits, such as water distribution systems
- Upgrade or development of facilities on FERC-licensed canals

### ***Betterments***

With the help of Senator Stephen Brewer, the Town of Charlton was able to acquire a dam at Prindle Lake and assess betterments to cover the costs of repair and maintenance. Passed in February 2010, the act enables the Town to take the dam by eminent domain, borrow funds, and assess betterments under M.G.L. Chapter 80 for public improvement of the dam.

If one of the municipalities (Belchertown, Palmer or Ware) were willing to take ownership, similar legislative support could be pursued for the Upper Bondsville Dam. There is in the works a bill introduced by Senator Marc Pacheco that would essentially give all municipalities the same latitude as is in the bill enacted for Charlton (of acquisition by gift, purchase, eminent domain and of assessing betterments). This bill has been reintroduced in this new legislative session (SB367) and has been referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill also includes a provision to establish a \$20,000,000 revolving loan fund for private dam owners to inspect, repair, and remove dams.

### ***Swift River Preservation Association***

The Swift River Preservation Association (SRPA) is a non profit organization that was formed for the purpose of preserving the Upper Bondsville Dam and the Swift River. They are currently raising monies to save the dam with donations being made through the North Brookfield Savings Bank. It is not clear whether these monies are being collected to actually help with repair of the dam or for other purposes.

### ***Recognition of Recreation and Historic Values***

By far the greatest benefit provided by the Upper Bondsville Dam is the recreational value for flat water paddlers. Through the research of this project, however, there were no funding sources for such purposes identified.

A case for funding dam repair and maintenance might be made in terms of history. Though the historic value of the Upper Bondsville Dam or the Swift River was not recognized by the Towns of Palmer or Ware in their listing of priority heritage landscapes, Belchertown has not as of yet participated in the Heritage Landscape Inventory process. This program is part of the Heritage Landscape Inventory, a project spearheaded by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation. Resources on the Ware River were recognized by both Palmer and Ware, including a Native American Fishing weir and the Ware River Rail Trail.

### Community Preservation Act in Belchertown

Under the Community Preservation Act, funding can be used for acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources. Allowable spending purposes for historic resources include: building, structure, vessel or real property listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic places or determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archaeology, architecture or culture of the city or town. In Belchertown historic resources proposals should address one or more of the following criteria: protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate historic, cultural, architectural or archeological resources of significance especially those that are threatened; protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate Town-owned properties, features or resources of historic significance; protect, preserve, enhance, restore and/or rehabilitate the historical function of a property or site; project is within a Belchertown State or National Historic Register, or eligible for placement on such registers; project demonstrates permanent protection for the historic resource; project optimizes the use and enjoyment of the Town's historic resources by residents and visitors and contributes to the Town's fiscal stability; benefit initiatives of the Historical Commission, the Historic District By-law Commission, and/or other Town boards.

Real property interests financed in whole or in part with Community Preservation Fund monies must be bound by a permanent deed restriction that limits the use of the interest to a purpose consistent with the purpose of the acquisition. The restriction must conform to the requirements of M.G.L. Ch. 184, which governs deed restrictions generally. M.G.L. Ch. 44B §12(a). A deed restriction for community preservation purposes runs with the land and may be enforced by the city or town or the Commonwealth. It may also run to the benefit of and be enforced by a nonprofit, charitable corporation or foundation selected by the city or town.

### ***Watershed District***

Some proponents for repairing and maintaining certain dams in Massachusetts have used the formation of a watershed district under M.G.L. Chapter 40 as a way to raise regular funding over the long term. This occurred at Whittin Reservoir in Douglas, Massachusetts in 2008 where residents wanted to preserve a 365-acre lake. The district was established through special act of the legislature and signed by the governor, but had as a precondition consensus among Town selectboard members. The district is a legal entity with various powers and responsibilities, including the right to levy and collect taxes. Critical to the formation of a district is an active group of local and dedicated residents with time over the long term to devote to the business of running the district. In Leicester, Massachusetts, where they have perhaps the earliest example of a watershed district, Dick Johnston is a good contact for more information. He is with district clerk with the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District, which was established in 1993.

### **Dam Repair and Maintenance Strategies: Not Viable Funding Sources -----**

#### ***Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund***

If the dam were listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a determination of eligibility for listing had been made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, then restoration of the dam might be eligible under the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. Through this funding program 50% matching grants are available to qualifying properties listed on the State Register to ensure their physical preservation.<sup>1</sup> There is an option to apply for up to 75% of the total project

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<sup>1</sup> When the MHC approves and submits projects for listing on the National Register, they are then listed on the State Register.

cost if an applicant is willing to commit an additional 25% toward an endowment fund for long-range preservation and maintenance of the property. It is important to consider the criteria for listing in the National Register. These are: a) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; b) association with the lives of persons significant in our past; c) embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or d) likelihood of yielding information significant in history or prehistory. Properties must meet at least one of the above criteria to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

### ***Community Development Block Grants***

Palmer, Belchertown, and Ware are non-entitlement communities that may compete for limited state CDBG monies through annual or bi-annual grant applications for projects that are statutorily eligible and adhere to one of the three national objectives of the program:

- 1. Assist** low and moderate income persons
- 2. Prevent or eliminate** slums and blight or
- 3. Meet an urgent community need** where no other funding is available.

Typical projects funded through the state program include housing rehabilitation, neighborhood infrastructure projects (water, sewer, streets and sidewalks), and public social services. Flood control measures, such as restoration or repair of a dam, may be technically eligible for funding as a public facilities improvement under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. However, due to the competitive nature of the MA CDBG program and the complexity of proving adherence to one of the National Objectives, the improvement or repair of a dam serving multiple communities would not be viewed as a viable CDBG project.

The first of many challenges would be to prove compliance with the National Objective. The primary objective is benefit to low and moderate income persons. A project of this kind would have to clearly demonstrate who the beneficiaries are and prove that over 51% of those individuals are low to moderate income according to HUD. Note that program officials may also consider future beneficiaries when evaluating compliance of this National Objective. The second objective relates to older Urban Renewal programs which emphasizes the elimination or spread of slums and blight in more urban or developed areas. A deteriorating dam would not likely be viewed favorably under this context, however, some additional review or consideration may be warranted under a *spot blight* designation (24 CFR 570 (c)(2)). The final objective relates to meeting an urgent community need. Among other criteria, in order to use CDBG funds under this objective, there must be serious and immediate threat to public safety and that threat must not have been known. (Chris Dunphy, CDBG Principal Planner/Manager, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission)

### ***Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program***

Administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS), the PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. There are funds for the Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (PARC) program this year. However, monies are aimed at communities with populations over 35,000. (Melissa Cryan, DCS)

***Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund***

This National Park Service (NPS) program, administered by Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS), provides matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. There are no monies in this program this year. (Melissa Cryan, DCS)

***USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater loan/grant program***

The W&W program is available to public bodies and non-profit organizations to construct or repair public water and sewer systems in rural areas. Towns qualify as “rural” with under 10,000 population (town can also include municipal districts). The project must be located in and serve rural area(s). The impoundment of Upper Bondsville Dam would need to be a municipal surface water supply, though it need not be a primary source. (Michael Rendulic, USDA, Amherst, MA)

***USDA Community Facility loan/grant program***

Funds only essential facilities such as health care, public safety, public services, and telecommunications. (Michael Rendulic, USDA, Amherst, MA)

**Dam Removal: Potential Funding Sources-----**

Prospective sources of funding for dam removal are primarily focused on habitat restoration. An appeal to the sources listed here could highlight the population of Brook Trout and restoration of other cold water species, the extensive Priority Habitat area, and the expanses of existing protected open space which contribute to a high quality watershed and ecosystem. The Upper Bondsville Dam was ranked among the top 10% in the state in terms of the ecological restoration potential with removal. The high ranking is due to the upstream watershed that has one of the lowest surrounding road densities in the state, important habitat, and extensive cold water fishery. This GIS model, developed by what is now the Division of Ecological Restoration, carries a disclaimer: that each project must be evaluated more closely on an individual basis.

Note that funding sources that focus on passage of diadromous species are not included here since the Upper Bondsville Dam is located on a system that has 8 dams located downstream.

***Riverways Program Grants for River Restoration and Revitalization Priority Projects***

Lead Agency/Organization: Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Size of Awards: \$5,000 to \$50,000

Application Deadline: Riverways expects to issue a request for proposals this April

Web Address: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/index.htm>

Contact Person: Nick Wildman, Division of Ecological Restoration  
617-626-1527  
[nick.wildman@state.ma.us](mailto:nick.wildman@state.ma.us)

This program is devoted to projects that have been designated as “priority projects” by the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DES). For such designation, an application form must be filed with DES that defines the projects’ goals and objectives. Projects are evaluated based on ecological value, which looks to the case for restoration, and local leadership and local capacity, which looks to the commitment of the property owner to the project. The project may also be evaluated this year in terms of general project readiness. DES is interested in restoring the ecological integrity of rivers and streams throughout Massachusetts working in partnership with federal, state, and municipal governments, watershed associations and other organizations. The program supports sustainable river restoration projects that restore natural processes, remove ecosystem stressors, increase the resilience of the ecosystem; support riverine habitat, promote passage of fish and wildlife through dam and other barrier removal.

For projects designated as priority, DES commits to bringing the project to fruition, providing technical assistance and grants. Grants from their program are available to public agencies and 501(c)(3) certified non-profit organizations, including, but not limited to state agencies, cities and towns, regional planning agencies, watershed organizations, and land trusts for work on selected priority projects. Priority project designation will also help with other project fundraising. See funder next page, where projects are identified first by DES for funding.

### ***The Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund***

Lead Agency/Organization: Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund

Size of Awards: \$50,000 or more; will not consider requests for less

Application Deadline: Two-step system of application, beginning with an online concept application and progressing to a full grant proposal. Concept applications are due on **March 15** and September 15. Applicants who have submitted a concept application and been asked to submit a complete proposal must do so by July 1 (March applicants) or January 5 (September applicants).

Web Address: <http://www.jbcoxtrust.org/>

Contact Person: Kirstie David, Program Manager  
[kdavid@gmafoundations.com](mailto:kdavid@gmafoundations.com)

Phil Hall, Administrator  
617-391-3097  
[phall@gmafoundations.com](mailto:phall@gmafoundations.com)

The Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund makes grants in the six New England states in the fields of education, environment and health. Environmental giving focuses on habitat conservation, concentrating on preservation of fresh and marine waters through natural habitat conservation. Protecting functioning ecosystems, including core habitats, buffer zones and wildlife corridors are of primary importance to the Trust. Priorities are as follows:

- Significant conservation areas as identified by habitat assessments, eco-regional planning, or evidence of pervasive threats suggesting urgent conservation action.
- Smart growth strategies.
- Support and strengthening of citizen-based networks and alliances that collectively establish priorities and take action.
- Science-based tools and research to aid conservation campaigns.

- Partnerships with large-scale health, economic, education, recreation and sports, environmental, and cultural initiatives.
- Connections between environmental action and the Trust's other interests in the fields of health and education.

Total giving in FY2008 was \$3 million. This foundation is actually a Charitable Lead Trust that will spend out its holdings by 2017. The grants administrator has advised that should a proposal be submitted that it focus on programming and staffing and not on construction costs.

### ***Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership***

Lead Agency/Organization: Consortium that works with guidance from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Application Deadline: Rolling basis. Recommended to submit concept paper to Tim Purinton and cc George Olson. The members of the Partnership meet monthly to discuss projects.

Web Address: <http://www.cwrp.org/massachusetts.html>

Contact Person: Tim Purinton, Acting Director, Division of Ecological Restoration  
617-626-1542  
[tim.purinton@state.ma.us](mailto:tim.purinton@state.ma.us)

George L. Olson, MA CWRP Chairman  
(617) 463-2449  
[olson.gl@pg.com](mailto:olson.gl@pg.com).

In 1999, EPA Region 1, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and The Gillette Company jointly launched the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, the first CWRP chapter in the nation. CWRP leverages the collective resources, skills and processes of the private and public sectors through dam removal and river projects such as fill removal, channel clearing and enlarging, fish passage construction, and replanting. The first CWRP project restored 40 acres of the Sagamore Salt Marsh in Bourne, and was achieved with a donation to the CWRP from The Gillette Company, which added to primary funding by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Geological Survey Service (federal Coastal America agencies), and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. This program helped to fund the Ballou dam removal in Becket.

### ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program***

Lead Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Size of Awards: maximum of \$25,000 though agreement could include \$25,000 for one year for design and then possibly another \$25,000 for removal

Application Deadline: Submit one-page summary of project status, including projected timeline and current partners

Web Address: <http://www.fws.gov/partners/contactInfo5.html>

Contact Person: Melissa Grader, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/New England Field Office  
c/o Connecticut River Coordinator's Office  
103 East Plumtree Road  
Sunderland, MA 01375  
413-548-8002, ext. 124 (ph) 413-548-9622 (fax)  
melissa\_grader@fws.gov

Partners for Fish and Wildlife is a national U.S. Fish and Wildlife program that works with private landowners and other organizations to protect, enhance and restore important fish and wildlife habitats on private lands. Grants are made on a reimbursement basis and the recipient must enter into a cooperative agreement that outlines the cost-sharing formula for the project. Funding recipient can be entity other than landowner. For example, on several dam removal projects USF&WS has agreements with the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration. Melissa Grader indicates that chances of funding would be higher with explicit commitment to dam removal.

Through voluntary agreements, the Partners program provides expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives to private landowners to restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitats on their land. Restoration projects include reestablishing fish passage for migratory fish by removing barriers (dams) to movement. This program helped to fund the Silk Mill Dam removal in Becket and is helping to fund the Bartlett Rod Shop Co. Dam removal on Amethyst Brook in Pelham.

***National Fish Habitat Action Plan / Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture***

Lead Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Size of Awards: \$10,000 to 50,000 with 1:1 match

Application Deadline: Next request for proposals may come in the next couple of months. Timing has been complicated since there is not yet a Federal budget.

Web Address: <http://www.easternbrooktrout.org/index.aspx>

Contact Person: Martha Naley, Restoration Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/New England Field Office  
c/o Connecticut River Coordinator's Office  
103 East Plumtree Road  
Sunderland, MA 01375  
413-548-8002, ext. 123

Ryan Roberts, NFHAP Communications Coordinator  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 725  
Washington, DC 20001  
202.624.5851  
[rroberts@fishwildlife.org](mailto:rroberts@fishwildlife.org)

In 2005, in recognition of the need to address regional and range-wide threats to brook trout, a group of public and private entities formed the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) to halt the decline of brook trout and restore fishable populations of this iconic species. The EBTJV directs

locally-driven efforts that build partnerships to improve fish habitat, working to ensure healthy, fishable brook trout populations throughout their historic eastern United States range.

Federal funding available under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be used to fund the top ranked proposals. All proposed projects should be developed in coordination with the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Resource Office. Funds can only be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects and related design and monitoring activities. They can not be used for acquisition in fee or easement.

### ***Massachusetts Environmental Trust***

Lead Agency/Organization: Massachusetts Environmental Trust

Size of Awards: \$5,000 to \$100,000

Application Deadline: Letter of inquiry typically due October 15, 2010. The letter must follow the format provided in the RFR (posted on Comm-pass: <http://www.comm-pass.com>. Successful applicants invited to submit full proposal typically for March deadline

Web Address:

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeceasubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Grant+%26+Loan+Programs&L3=Massachusetts+Environmental+Trust+\(MET\)&sid=Eoecea](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeceasubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&L2=Grant+%26+Loan+Programs&L3=Massachusetts+Environmental+Trust+(MET)&sid=Eoecea)

Contact Person: Bill Hinkley, Program Coordinator  
(617) 626-1177  
[william.hinkley@state.ma.us](mailto:william.hinkley@state.ma.us)

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) is one of the state's largest sources of funding for water quality initiatives. Goals are to improve and safeguard the quality of the waterways throughout the Commonwealth. General Grants, funded solely by the revenue generated from the sale of three environmental license plates, support nonprofit organizations and municipalities in efforts to restore, protect, and improve water and water-related resources of the Commonwealth. Proposals are accepted once annually for programs and initiatives that address threats to the health of the state's water bodies and watersheds.

These grants provide funding to support programs, research, and other activities that promote the responsible stewardship of the Commonwealth's water resources. MET's goal is to encourage development of new approaches and ideas and to spur innovation among grantees or partnering organizations. To achieve these outcomes, the Trust supports projects that: improve water quality or quantity, conserve aquatic habitat and species, reduce runoff pollution, mitigate the effects of climate change on water resources, promote human health as it relates to water resources, and/or other efforts consistent with the Trust's mission.

In general, the Trust prefers those projects that:

- Support new programs and projects rather than the operation of existing programs;
- Involve collaboration with other non-profits, municipalities, or private partners;
- Leverage additional funding or in-kind resources to maximize the impact of MET grant funds;
- Include outreach to the media and general public, other non-profits, municipalities, and community leaders to share project approaches and results;

- Recognize the interdependence of land and water; Address issues with a cross-boundary approach (local, regional, state);
- Address global issues at a local level;
- Address social/environmental justice concerns;
- Build and strengthen the capacities of organizations and partnerships; and
- Define clearly expected outcomes and include metrics for measuring success.

***Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program***

Lead Agency/Organization: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Size of Awards: \$50,000 in each contract year (could conceivably do \$50,000 for construction in one year and \$50,000 for restoration in next year)

Application Deadline: Rolling basis year-round, but are ranked and funded periodically. Typically best to submit in summer or fall so that NRCS staff can see site without snow cover. Then decisions typically made in the following winter/spring to meet deadline of April 1 to obligate funds. Application consists of filling out eligibility forms and then NRCS staff will help with the rest.

Web Address: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>  
<http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WHIP/index.html>

Contact Person: Vince Snyder (to begin sign up process)  
 District Conservationist  
 (413) 585-1000, ext. 133  
 Beth Schreier (with general questions about WHIP)  
[beth.schreier@ma.usda.gov](mailto:beth.schreier@ma.usda.gov)  
 413-253-4393

Authorized under the Farm Bill, the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to create or improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers WHIP to provide both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP cost-share agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from one year after the last conservation practice is implemented but not more than 10 years from the date the agreement is signed. For dam removal, the conservation practice is typically providing fish passage. The state objective for WHIP is to enhance, restore and manage upland, wetland and aquatic habitats that are critical to maintaining the biodiversity of the Commonwealth. To accomplish this objective, NRCS has formulated the following goals:

- Focus restoration and/or management efforts on native aquatic, upland and wetland habitats that are important for *at-risk*\* wildlife species.
- Emphasize restoration and/or management efforts that will benefit at-risk wildlife species.
- Work as part of a coordinated effort to help accomplish the goals of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Note that dam removal is listed among the strategies for habitat restoration and Brook Trout is listed as an at-risk species in the appendix to the State Plan. WHIP has funded several dam removals in Massachusetts, including the Billington Street Dam removal in Plymouth and the Briggsville Dam removal in the Berkshires.

Timing with WHIP funding is important since some construction must occur within the first 12 months of any contract. Notify the District Conservationist if a decision for removal has been made, but an application to WHIP should not happen until the process toward construction is further along.

***Five Star Restoration Grant Program (Charter Grant Program)***

Lead Agency/Organization: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Size of Awards: Generally smaller-scale, one-year projects are eligible for grants \$10,000 – \$25,000. Two-year, larger-scale projects are eligible for grants \$10,000 – \$40,000. Average grant: \$20,000 – \$25,000. In 2010, \$990,000 in grants awarded to 37 community-led wetland, stream and coastal restoration projects nationwide

Minimum 1:1 match of cash or in-kind/contributed goods and services to funds requested is expected.

Application Deadline: Last round deadline: February 2011

Web Address:

[http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter\\_Programs\\_List&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=60&ContentID=17901](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=60&ContentID=17901)

Contact Person: Amanda Bassow, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
(Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast )  
amanda.bassow@nfwf.org  
(202) 595-2476

The Five Star Restoration Grant Program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. Partnerships must include at least five organizations (“*Five Stars*”) that contribute to project success through funding, land, workforce support, technical support and/or other in-kind services.

All Five Star-funded projects must: (1) include On-the-Ground Restoration: Projects must include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in stream and/ or coastal habitat restoration; (2) integrate meaningful environmental education into the restoration project either through community outreach, participation, and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum; and (3) result in measurable ecological and educational/social benefits.

Nominal funding is available nationwide from EPA, as well as from corporate sponsors targeting several southeastern states and 12 U.S. cities. In 2011, NFWF anticipates the following funding will be available:

US EPA Office of Water: Approximately \$200,000 is available for projects throughout the United States, with a focus on regions not served by other funders.

Southern Company: Approximately \$200,000 is available from Southern Company and its operating companies (Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Gulf Power, and Mississippi Power) to support projects in the Southern Company service area, which includes: Georgia (excluding Union, Fannin and Towns Counties); Alabama (excluding Lauderdale, Colbert, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, Jackson, DeKalb, Cherokee and Cullman Counties);

The Florida Panhandle (west of the Apalachicola River); Southeast Mississippi (23 counties, from Meridian to the coast, with the west boundary running from Pearl River County to Union County)

FedEx EarthSmart Outreach: Approximately \$375,000 is available from FedEx's EarthSmart Outreach program to support urban conservation and restoration in the following 11 metropolitan areas: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Memphis, Newark, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C.

***Bring Back the Natives*** (Charter Grant Program)

Lead Agency/Organization: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

In collaboration with Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and Trout Unlimited

Size of Awards: Awards between 12-22 matching grants annually evaluated on a national competitive basis; average grant size is about \$60,000; can support direct project-related salaries, contractual services and materials needed for on-the-ground restoration, protection, and enhancement

Applicants must provide non-federal cash or in-kind match of at least \$2 for every \$1 of grant funds requested. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, and/or volunteer labor.

Application Deadlines: Last cycle Pre-proposal due: January 14, 2011  
Full Proposal due: March 11, 2011

Web Address:

[http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter\\_Programs\\_List&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=18470](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=18470)

Contact Person: Krystyna Wolniakowski, Director, Western Partnership Office  
(503) 417-8700 x 6005  
[Krystyna.Wolniakowski@nfwf.org](mailto:Krystyna.Wolniakowski@nfwf.org)

Kara Rose, Western Partnership Office  
(503) 417-8700 x 6008

For this program National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) accepts proposals from nonprofit organizations, universities, Native American tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies interested in restoring, protecting, and enhancing native populations of sensitive or listed aquatic species, especially on lands on or adjacent to federal agency lands. Funding for the BBN program is administered through NFWF from federal agencies cooperating to support this program. Since 1991, BBN has supported 279 projects and benefited over 120 species, 29 of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

The BBN program seeks projects that initiate partnerships with private landowners, demonstrate successful collaborative efforts, address watershed health issues that would lead to restoring, protecting, and enhancing habitats and are key to restoring, protecting, and enhancing native aquatic species and their migration corridors, promote stewardship on private lands, and that can demonstrate a 2:1 non-federal to federal match.

It is most interested in on-the-ground efforts to restore, protect, and enhance native aquatic species to their historic range. Projects should involve partnerships between communities, agencies, private landowners, and organizations that seek to rehabilitate streamside and watershed habitats. Projects should focus on habitat needs of species such as fish, invertebrates, and amphibians that originally inhabited the waterways across the country. Special emphasis is placed on **cutthroat trout restoration, protection and enhancement** with specific preference given to projects that will protect or re-establish migration corridors between breeding populations. **Other eligible species** include, but are not limited to, bull trout, redband trout, Apache trout, steelhead trout, desert pupfish, grayling, chub, sturgeon, Pacific tree frog, and several species of salamanders and salmon, that are keystone or indicator species of the health of aquatic communities. Preference is given to stream restoration, protection, and enhancement projects on land where the causes of degradation and the health of the entire watershed have been addressed. Preference will also be given to support projects that will keep sensitive or declining species off of the Endangered Species List, or for listed species that have a chance for recovery and de-listing within five to ten years. Supported activities include in-stream, riparian, and wetland restoration, protection and enhancement, fish passage improvements and barrier removals, watershed management plan development, applied research, survey and inventory, monitoring, and public and landowner outreach.

### ***Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Section 206***

Lead Agency/Organization: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Size of Awards: Median award amount is \$300,000; Federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$5,000,000 per project

ACOE provides the first \$100,000 of study costs. A non-Federal sponsor must contribute 50 percent of the cost of the feasibility study after the first \$100,000 of expenditures, 35 percent of the cost of design and construction, and 100 percent of the cost of operation and maintenance. The sponsor receives a credit for the value of real estate necessary to implement the project. The entire non-Federal share of the project cost may be credited as work in kind, but, to receive credit, the services must be provided after a formal Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement or Project Cooperation Agreement is signed.

Application Deadline: Submit letter of intent at any time. Sample letter is provided on web site. If current federal budget passes with funding for Section 206, there are existing projects in the queue. Submitting letter of intent is a good way to get on ACOE review list of potential projects. If other funding is lined up in the meantime, can always get off the list.

Web Address: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/pservices/206.htm>

Contact Person: Larry Oliver, ACOE Project Planning Section, New England District  
(978) 318-8347

Under the authority provided by Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Corps may plan, design and build projects to restore aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife. Projects conducted in New England under this program have included eelgrass restoration, salt marsh and salt pond restoration, freshwater wetland restoration, anadromous fish passage and dam removal, river restoration, and nesting bird island restoration. This program has also involved dredging behind dams to restore fish habitat and/or create habitat for waterfowl. Eligible organizations are: nonprofit groups, conservation districts, water and wastewater utilities, local governments, and state/territorial agencies. Projects must be in the public interest and cost effective and are limited to \$5 million in Federal cost.

The process for Section 206 projects begins after a non-federal sponsor requests Corps of Engineers assistance under the program. When funding is available, the Corps of Engineers prepares a feasibility study, beginning with an estimate of the overall scope and cost of the study and a determination of whether the project is in the federal interest. The feasibility study formulates alternatives to achieve the restoration, evaluates the environmental effects of the alternatives, documents the project requirements, and provides a scope and cost estimate for project implementation. If the feasibility report recommends a plan for implementation, the Corps of Engineers prepares detailed project plans and specifications and obtains any required federal permits. The Corps of Engineers then manages construction of the project by a private contractor.

Requests for assistance should be in the form of a letter describing the location and nature of the problem and requesting assistance under the program. The request should be submitted by a state or local government agency<sup>1</sup> to Mr. John Kennelly, Chief, Planning Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. For more information call Larry Oliver of the Project Planning Section at 978-318-8347.

<sup>1</sup>Non-Federal sponsors must be public agencies or national non-profit organizations capable of undertaking future requirements for operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation (OMRR&R), or may be any non-profit organization if there are no future requirements for OMRR&R. All potential sponsors must be able to provide any required lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and dredged or excavated material disposal areas (LERRD). The affected local government must consent to the non-profit entity being a sponsor.

### ***Embrace-A-Stream***

Lead Agency/Organization: Trout Unlimited

Size of Awards: In 2010, the average grant award was \$5,200; maximum grant award is \$10,000; 1:1 match required.

Application Deadline: Last round deadline was December 13, 2010

Web Address: <http://www.tu.org/conservation/watershed-restoration-home-rivers-initiative/embrace-a-stream>

Contact Person: Local TU Chapter must be applicant  
Rob Roberts, National Embrace-A-Stream Coordinator  
[rroberts@tu.org](mailto:rroberts@tu.org)  
(406) 543-1192

Pioneer Valley Chapter contact: Paul Beaulieu, President  
(413) 335-9128

Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) is a matching grant program administered by the national office of Trout Unlimited (TU) that awards funds to TU chapters and councils for coldwater fisheries conservation. Since its inception in 1975, EAS has funded over 962 individual projects located in 16 states and included many worthy projects such as native fish passage in Wyoming and Idaho and brook trout restoration in Tennessee and New York. In 2006, the local Pioneer Valley Chapter of TU was successful in getting \$5,000 to remove relic bridge abutments located on the Swift River downstream of the Route 9 crossing.

The EAS grant program supports the conservation projects of TU chapters and councils. A TU chapter or council must be the primary applicant, but government agencies, non-profits, and other groups are strongly encouraged to partner with TU. There must be significant TU involvement in the planning and execution of the project to warrant funding. Applicants have two years to complete a proposed project.

For the 2011 funding cycle, TU chapters and councils are asked to submit proposals for projects that best address the needs of native and wild trout following TU's Protect, Reconnect, Restore and Sustain conservation model. Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) conservation impact; 2) strengthening TU impact; 3) public education and outreach; and 4) technical merit. Throughout the history of the EAS program, it has been our experience that the most effective and successful projects have included these elements and have focused on a more holistic approach to coldwater conservation.

### ***Orchard Foundation***

Lead Agency/Organization: Orchard Foundation

Size of Awards: Maximum environmental grant in 2009 was \$20,000

Application Deadline: Look at website end of March. Concept paper requested in the past.

Web Address: <http://www.orchardfoundation.org/>

Contact Person: Ms. Brigitte L. Kingsbury, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2587  
South Portland, ME 04116  
Phone: (207) 799-0686

The Orchard Foundation is developing new guidelines that will be posted on their website at the end of March. In the past, they have supported the following areas: 1) environment (air quality, global climate change, biodiversity, fresh and coastal waters, and forests. Legal & legislative advocacy projects are given preference; 2) children and family advocacy; child literacy. Their geographic focus is Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont. Total Grants in FY 2009: \$1,000,000

### **Dam Removal: Not Viable Funding Sources -----**

#### ***All NOAA and NOAA partner grants***

All such grants are focused on marine resources, including passage of diadromous fish. Given the Upper Bondsville Dam's location on a system that has eight downstream dams, the project would not qualify for these funds.

#### ***National Fish Passage Program***

Launched by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1999, the National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary, non-regulatory effort that provides financial and technical assistance to remove or bypass these artificial barriers that impede the movement of fish and contribute to their decline. Upper Bondsville Dam project would not be competitive as this program gives priority to migratory fish projects. (Martha Naley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

***Federal Emergency Management Agency and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program Guidance***

MEMA has endeavored to convince FEMA to include dam removal as an eligible expense, but have made no headway. A decision on the removal of Upper Roberts Meadow Dam is still pending, but now rules at FEMA have tightened even more so dam removal is entirely off the list of possibilities. Anything to do with dams, dikes, and levies will not be funded by FEMA, even upgrades to spillways, etc. (Scott MacLeod, Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordinator, MEMA)

***Keystone Initiative Grants - Freshwater Fish***

A National Fish and Wildlife Foundation program, the Keystone Initiative Grants on Freshwater Fish focuses on species and habitats that occur in the U.S. that have been identified as high priorities for the nation. There is a business plan associated with each keystone initiative. For the Eastern Brook Trout, the plan reads as follows: Brook trout are the only trout native to much of the eastern U.S. They persist in only the coldest and cleanest waters and are therefore indicators of watershed health. The mid-Atlantic region has seen the greatest decline in brook trout populations, where they are now found only in scattered headwaters streams. Thus this initiative focuses on specific watersheds and threats: abandoned mine drainage impacts found in Kettle Creek and Cooks Run tributaries to the West Branch Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania and coldwater springs found throughout the headwaters of the Shenandoah River in Virginia and West Virginia and the North Fork of the South Branch Potomac River in West Virginia that have been severely impacted by centuries old agricultural. Key partners for this initiative are The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture a partnership of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is the lead implementation group, and includes representatives from 17 state and federal fisheries departments plus the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Forest Service.

***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching Grant Program***

In the past, this National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant program has supported the Billington Street dam removal in Plymouth, and Silk Mill dam removal in Becket. According to the Foundation's website it appears grants have been reorganized and the general matching grant program no longer exists.