

January 15, 1998

Board of Selectmen
Town of Falmouth
Town Hall Square
Falmouth, MA 02540

Dear Honorable Board Members,

As you know, the Buzzards Bay Project, in partnership Falmouth Conservation Commission, received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Section 319 Non-Points Source Pollution Program for a proposal titled "Buzzards Bay Cranberry Bog Initiative". A major portion of the funding under this proposal includes funding to physically isolate the Coonamessett River from the town owned cranberry bogs that the town commercially leases. The Town of Falmouth Conservation Commission, which owns the bogs on behalf of the town, supported the Buzzards Bay Project in this proposal.

After having met with the Conservation Commission's Cranberry Bog subcommittee, I am proposing to submit to DEP a revised scope for the Project. Specifically, I am proposing to drop from our scope the inventory of flow-through bogs (like Falmouth's) in Southeastern Massachusetts, and instead redirect nearly our entire grant to the town bogs remediation. This means that the total grant money that would be available to the town under this initiative may exceed \$80,000.

Should the town wish to pursue this work, it must immediately send a letter to the Commissioner of DEP. Should the town fail to immediately communicate its intent to DEP, it is my belief that the funding for this initiative will be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Costa, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc. Conservation Commission
attachment

David B. Struhs, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
1 Winter St.
Boston, MA 02208

Dear Commissioner Struhs,

The Town of Falmouth wishes to proceed with the work to isolate the Coonamessett River and herring run from 60 acres of cranberry bog owned by the Town Conservation Commission.

While we recognize that the contamination of this site with Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) poses many unresolved questions about the future of this site as a viable cranberry bog, we believe there are many elements of the proposed work that are worthwhile to proceed with, whatever the future of these bogs.

Specifically we wish to focus on improvements to the herring run and the design and separation of portions of the Coonamessett River from the bog complex that are consistent with our long term goals with the property.

The Buzzards Bay Project has indicated that it wishes to make this demonstration the exclusive task under your Section 319 grant award announced last year. It is our hope that you understand the unusual circumstances that the Town of Falmouth faces at this site, and approve the proposed project changes.

Sincerely

Board of Selectmen

cc. Elizabeth McCann Office of Watershed Management, DEP-Boston
Arthur Screpetis Office of Watershed Management, DEP-Boston