

Buzzards Bay



*National Estuary
Program*

August 5, 2008

Distribution: Boards of Selectmen, Buzzards Bay Action Committee Representatives, Shellfish Officers, Natural Resource Officers, Conservation Commissions, Public Works Departments, Planning Boards, Boards of Health in the Buzzards Bay watershed

Re: Summer 2008 Municipal Mini-Grants available

Dear Municipal Official:

The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, a planning and technical assistance unit of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, is again making available funding to assist eligible Buzzards Bay watershed municipalities in the protection of open space, rare and endangered species habitat, and freshwater and saltwater wetlands; to help restore tidally restricted salt marshes, to develop designs and remediate stormwater discharges threatening water quality, to provide support for mapping stormwater drainage networks, to construct pump-out facilities, to update town parcel data, to digitize wetland boundaries approved in permits, to assist in the monitoring of water quality to prioritize stormwater remediation, to address problems in migratory fish passage, and to implement other recommendations contained in the watershed management plan for Buzzards Bay.

This work is being conducted in accordance with a Cooperative Agreement with the US EPA using federal funds. A total of \$135,000 in federal funds is being made available. An additional \$50,000 in state funds may be added to this total to take into account recent legislative earmarks. These funds are provided in accordance with US EPA National Estuary Program Cooperative Agreements, and through the Massachusetts State Legislature pursuant to implementation of Ch.182 of the Acts of 2008, and are part of an ongoing Buzzards Bay Watershed Municipal Grant Program implemented by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program.

Eligible municipalities include: Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Rochester, Mattapoisett, Marion, Wareham, Middleborough, Carver, Plymouth, Bourne, Falmouth, and Gosnold. However, specific restoration and protection projects must lie principally within the Buzzards Bay watershed (see map at www.buzzardsbay.org/funding.htm). For participation in the stormwater program, the discharge must be contributing to an existing impairment.

Enclosed is the RFR application. All forms are available at www.comm-pass.com. [At the bottom of this page, click the link "search for solicitations." On the search page type "Buzzards" on the keyword line, and on the 4th line down select "open" in the document status pull down



box, then click the "search" button. Click on the link at the top of the page that says "x solicitations matching your search criteria were found", and click the link to the Buzzards Bay watershed minigrants.]

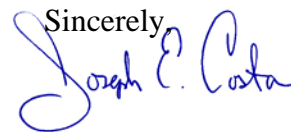
The funds will be distributed in the following categories:

- 1) Stormwater remediation designs
- 2) Implementation and construction of existing stormwater designs
- 3) Stormwater mapping support
- 4) Wetland-open space-habitat restoration, preservation, acquisition or protection
- 5) Town parcel GIS data acquisition or update or digitizing of wetland boundaries from wetland permits
- 6) Migratory fish passage and habitat restoration
- 7) Water quality testing in support for establishing priorities for stormwater remediation
- 8) Construction of a boat pump-out facility in a municipality or harbor where none exists
- 9) Creation of online reporting systems for tracking the operation, maintenance, and monitoring of Innovative and alternative septic systems
- 10) Other activities in support of the Buzzards Bay management plan.

Municipalities must submit separate application forms for each grant proposal. Municipalities may submit any number of applications in any grant category. However, no single project award can exceed \$35,000, and no municipality may be awarded more than \$50,000 through this solicitation. Municipalities may submit applications in partnership with other public or private organizations, or subcontract tasks; however, contracts will be awarded only to municipalities.

The submission deadline is 4 PM, Wednesday September 10, 2008. Grant applications, and questions about the application must be submitted in writing to Sarah Williams, Regional Planner, Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. For your convenience, questions about the solicitation can be emailed to sarah.williams@state.ma.us.

If needed, project end dates may be as late as December 2009, so we are encouraging towns to apply whether or not projects will be completed in this fiscal year.

Sincerely,


Joseph E. Costa, Ph.D.
Executive Director