



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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May 23, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$132,638 in federal funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund a project to engage municipalities on stream crossing assessments and develop a flood planning and high quality wetlands preservation planning tool, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is to be budgeted as follows:

Wetland Improvement Grants
 03-44-44-442010-22050000
 Fiscal Year 2024

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
000-404646	Federal Funds	\$0	(\$132,638)	(\$132,638)
Expenditures				
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$0	\$8,258	\$8,258
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$0	\$132	\$132
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$2,713	\$2,713
050-500109	Personnel Temp	\$0	\$57,835	\$57,835
060-500601	Benefits	\$0	\$23,358	\$23,358
066-500554	Employee Training	\$0	\$550	\$550
070-500705	In-State Travel	\$0	\$2,155	\$2,155
072-500573	Grants Federal	\$0	\$36,850	\$36,850
080-500710	Out of State Travel	\$0	\$787	\$787
TOTAL		\$0	\$132,638	\$132,638

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EXPLANATION

EPA administers a Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) program to provide funds to states to conduct projects that promote and coordinate training, demonstrations, and technical tool development to enhance and preserve wetlands and surface water resources. During the past 15 years, multiple state agencies in New Hampshire have worked together to collect data on the state's stream crossings (culverts) to identify those at greatest risk for failure and to have the data to prioritize the most at-risk culverts, both from a flood risk and aquatic resources perspective. To date, the state has surveyed 71% of New Hampshire's 20,780 stream crossings. Two of the next steps in the state's stream crossing assessment and management efforts include: (1) directly engaging municipalities in the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the collected stream crossing data; and (2) utilizing the collected data to prioritize stream crossings for properly sized replacements while preserving those that may be mitigating downstream flood risks and attenuating watershed flood flows (flood planning and wetlands preservation tool).

The work will be focused in southwest New Hampshire, an area that has experienced multiple flood-induced culvert failures in recent years. Within this area, the towns of Marlborough and Winchester have expressed interest in assuming a role in stream crossing data management to support their municipal infrastructure capital planning efforts. The Southwest New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) has worked for years on stream crossing assessment work with their member municipalities and provides them direct technical assistance in hazard mitigation and municipal capital planning. NHDES has enjoyed a long-term strong relationship with SWRPC on the issue of stream crossings. The University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center (UNH-T²) maintains the state stream crossing database and supports state agencies, regional planning commissions and municipalities on this database and asset management concerns. This grant will allow all these partners to continue to work together and enhance their long-standing relationships while fostering closer technical support to municipalities and advancing the state's stream crossing efforts to the next level.

NHDES will utilize existing staff to develop the flood planning and wetlands preservation tool, and provide technical assistance throughout the project. The WPDG grant program has a 26% non-federal match requirement. NHDES will achieve this match requirement through the time of general funded staff participating in this project. These funds were not included in the 24/25 Operating Budget as the grant was not yet available at the time the Operating Budget was assembled.

NHDES is requesting to budget these funds as shown below:

- Class 040 To cover the program share of statewide indirect costs.
- Class 041 To cover the cost of Audit Set-Aside charges related to the federal grant.
- Class 042 To cover the program share of additional fringe benefit costs.
- Class 050 These funds will support time for three positions who will perform stream crossing assessments in the Marlborough and Winchester watersheds to ensure a complete dataset to support the flood planning tool. These funds will be used to replace funding for the following positions, which are currently budgeted:

Position Number	Title	Account 03-44-44-	Funding Mix	Amount
43496	Environmental Scientist 3	440010-1551	100% Other	\$42,001

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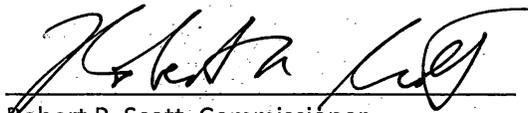
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TMPPT6360	Environmental Science Tech	440010-9114	100% Federal	\$7,918
TMPPT6362	Environmental Science Tech	440010-9114	100% Federal	\$7,916
			Total	\$30,825

- Class 060 To cover benefits for personnel.
- Class 066 To cover costs of registration for attending a national conference to present results.
- Class 070 To cover use of state vehicle use for stream crossing assessments and direct municipal technical assistance provision.
- Class 072 For grants with SWRPC, UNH-T², and to Marlborough and Winchester.
- Class 080 To cover costs of travel to out-of-state conference to present grant results.

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this effort.

We respectfully request your approval of this item.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

**WETLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT
FISCAL SITUATION FY24
03-44-44-442010-22050000**

Total Federal Award	\$ 132,638
Less Expenditures thru 6/30/23	-
Remaining Authorization to Budget	132,638
Less Current FY24 Budget Authorization	-
Total Available for Budgeting	132,638
REQUESTED ACTION	132,638
Available to Budget at a later date	\$ -

Grant Award Number	<u>Award Amount</u>	<u>Expenses to 6/30/23</u>	<u>Balance</u>
00A01392	132,638	-	132,638

	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Grant Agreement		GRANT NUMBER (FAIN): 00A01392 MODIFICATION NUMBER: 0 PROGRAM CODE: CD	DATE OF AWARD 05/09/2024
			TYPE OF ACTION New	MAILING DATE 05/14/2024
			PAYMENT METHOD: ASAP	ACH# 10108
			RECIPIENT TYPE: State	
RECIPIENT: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF PO BOX 95 CONCORD, NH 03302-0095 EIN: 02-6000618		PAYEE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095		
PROJECT MANAGER Shane Csiki 29 HAZEN DRIVE CONCORD, NH 03302-0095 Email: Shane.J.Csiki@des.nh.gov Phone: 603-271-1975		EPA PROJECT OFFICER Jean Brochi 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109 Email: Brochi.Jean@epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1536		EPA GRANT SPECIALIST Trevor Tavano Grants Management Branch 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109 Email: Tavano.Trevor@epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1235
PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION Enhancing New Hampshire's Wetlands Program - Engaging Communities on Stream Crossing Assessments While Preserving Wetlands and Mitigating Flood Risk See Attachment 1 for project description.				
BUDGET PERIOD 03/01/2024 - 02/28/2026	PROJECT PERIOD 03/01/2024 - 02/28/2026	TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST \$ 179,338.00	TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST \$ 179,338.00	
NOTICE OF AWARD				
Based on your Application dated 11/16/2023 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$ 132,638.00. EPA agrees to cost-share <u>73.96%</u> of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$ 132,638.00. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.				
ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)			AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE	
ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 1, EPA New England 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912			ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 1, EPA New England R1 - Region 1 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912	
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY				
Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official Arthur Johnson - Director, Mission Support Division				DATE 05/09/2024