



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

North River Restoration Projects

Distribution of Funds from the Massachusetts Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Trust Informational Presentation

The Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Resource Damages Assessment and Restoration Program will hold a pre – Grant Application and Announcement (GAA) Informational Presentation to discuss an upcoming grant opportunity for restoration projects in the North River. We recommend potential applicants attend to discuss project ideas before the North River Restoration GAA is issued in January 2016.

The Presentation will be made at the Select Board meeting in Colrain at the Town Office, 55 Main Road, on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

A total of \$30,000 is available for habitat restoration projects as part of a 2003 settlement agreement between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Normand Simard Transport, Inc. and Somavrac, Inc., associated with a 1999 release of approximately 700 gallons of sulfuric acid which impacted the North River in Colrain.

Proposed projects must restore coldwater fisheries, aquatic life, sediment-dwelling organisms and their supporting habitats in the North River and/or its tributaries. Projects must be located in the North River subwatershed of the Deerfield River watershed. The North River and its watershed are delineated and described in the “DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED 2003 WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT” (Report Number: 33-AC-1) by the

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, Worcester, Massachusetts, October 2004 . The North River segments include MA33-19, MA33-27 and MA33-06. Tributaries to the North River include Tisssdale Brook (MA33-24), Foundry Brook (MA33-25), and Taylor Brook (MA33-31). The link to this document is:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/resources/07v5/33wqar.pdf>.

Restoration projects can encompass a wide range of strategies to restore, enhance, and protect natural ecosystems. Restoration projects may include habitat and/or water quality improvements that address the degradation of aquatic habitats and result in meeting water quality standards and/or restoring beneficial uses. Projects may include components to improve community capacity for sustaining ecosystems through ongoing stewardship.

The Commonwealth's procurement rules prohibit MassDEP from consulting with potential applicants to develop project ideas once the GAA is issued. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MassDEP before the GAA issue date to refine project ideas and obtain feedback. Contact Karen Pelto (617-292-5785 or karen.pelto@state.ma.us) for a discussion of ideas and settlement objectives.