

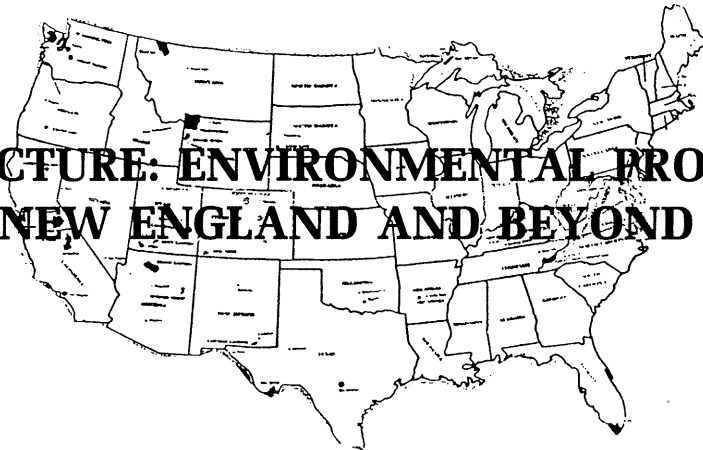


MACC Newsletter

November 1989

Vol. XVIII, No. 9

A BIGGER PICTURE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN NEW ENGLAND AND BEYOND



INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR AQUIFER PROTECTION

Local and state aquifer protection initiatives have generated many creative methods of financing the public cost of nonpoint source pollution control. These are applicable to well-head protection, broader groundwater management efforts, and watershed management programs that address both surface and groundwater protection needs. Although several innovative methods have been developed by towns in the Commonwealth, others of potential interest to Massachusetts communities have been applied in far-flung areas of the U.S.

Well-head and recharge area protection measures may focus on regulation (land use and performance controls, permitting and monitoring of new wells and zones of contribution); on management (education, contingency planning, financial incentives); or on capital-intensive actions such as land acquisition, pollution abatement, or needed capital improvements.

The financial resources themselves may come from recurrent revenues or may be collected by special purpose districts, utilities or authorities, or via standard capital financing. Following are examples of methods available for generating sufficient funds to develop and implement aggressive "source controls" while

(con't on page 13)

CONNECTICUT'S WETLANDS PROGRAM EXEMPLIFIES DIVISION OF LABOR

Connecticut's Freshwater Wetlands Law was passed in 1972, and is one of the most comprehensive pieces of wetland protection legislation in the nation. The Law provides regulatory protection for: 1) wetlands - defined by those soil types designated poorly drained, very poorly drained, floodplain or alluvial by the National Cooperative Soil Survey; and 2) watercourses - defined as swamps, marshes, bogs, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, waterways or all other natural or artificial water bodies. Because no minimum size is required before an area is considered regulated, and the limited number of exempt activities, the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act provides for conservative and comprehensive management and protection of the state's wetland resources.

Availability of published, detailed soil surveys for all counties of the state facilitated creation of the requisite regulatory maps and contributes greatly to the decision-making process. Connecticut's wetland law allows for, and since 1987 requires, delegation of regulatory authority to municipal wetland agencies or commissions.

Oversight, education and technical assistance is provided to these commis-

(con't on page 6)

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

RECYCLING NEW ENGLAND — IT'S TIME HAS COME!

The proliferation of solid waste has become a serious and costly concern to New England cities and towns. Landfills threaten water supplies and incineration leaves toxic ash to deal with as well as releasing toxic chemicals into the air. The six New England states all have passed recent legislation calling for waste management plans that promote reduction and recycling to some degree.

Many individuals and communities have been recycling for years, but few large scale efforts exist. However, increasing costs of disposing of trash have given new impetus to the recycling movement.

A brief survey of the six states show some similarities and a few very innovative approaches. Each state has a government division responsible for recycling with a small staff. All provide municipal governments with information on markets, and several are involved in market development.

VERMONT has some level of recycling in 95 of its 250 towns. It's estimated that 15% of the solid waste stream is being recycled. The goal under the 1987 Solid Waste Act is to reach 40% by the year 2000. Solid Waste Districts are developing integrated management plans with a required recycling component to meet this goal.

Vermont provides a strong educational effort through schools and communities, including a model program. Several private collection programs exist, and an Association of Vermont Recyclers has been organized to share ideas and market information. Development grants for new markets and technical and financial assistance to carry out a waste assessment are available to businesses. Some of the programs being promoted statewide include: collection of used oil, "Merry Mulch" - chipping Christmas trees at regional sites, and a paint "Swap & Drop".

NEW HAMPSHIRE divided the state into Solid Waste Districts and called for management plans by January 1, 1990. Districts are encouraged to include recycling, but there is no mandate. Out of 235 towns, 148 recycle at least one item, and 100 of these collect more than one item. Aluminum cans are the most recycled product and produce some income for the community. A private marketing group collects plastics, glass and steel cans from several communities.

MAINE passed legislation this year which expands the bottle bill to include liquor and wine bottles immediately and all beverage containers under a gallon size by 1991. It bans use of plastic bottles for beverages as well as plastic rings. In a potentially controversial move, cardboard juice brick packaging was also prohibited. Stores are required to provide paper bags unless plastic is requested.

Currently, there are approximately 50 recycling programs in Maine, some of them regional. Several are in the planning stage. Brunswick has had a curbside program for two years.

CONNECTICUT passed a mandatory 25% recycling requirement in its 1987 Solid Waste Act. Regulations call for recycling of nine items by January 1, 1991 (glass, metal, newspaper, office paper, scrap paper, oil, storage batteries, leaves and cans). The state is conducting recycling workshops and offering grants for implementation at the regional level.

RHODE ISLAND has a mandatory recycling program. All 39 communities will be participating in a curbside collection by the end of 1990. The state funds the program for three years and provides coordinators and necessary containers. A Solid Waste Management Corporation, set up by the state, operates the Materials Recycling Facility as well as the landfill which serves 90% of the state. No tipping fee is charged for recycled material as an incentive to the community to keep participation levels above the required 15%. Aluminum, glass, tin, plastic and newspapers are collected in one container for ease of the residents. Commercial establishments are also required to recycle. Landfill deliveries, containing more than 30% recyclable materials, are fined.

MASSACHUSETTS passed its Solid Waste Act in 1987. Reduction and re-use of waste is the waste management plan's first priority. The plan projects a minimum of 45% of Massachusetts' waste will be handled through source reduction, recycling, and composting by the year 2000. To achieve this goal, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) says it will develop recycling as an integral component of solid waste management, initiating extensive market development to attract industrial users of recyclables to the state, and encouraging composting.

The state is assessing the need for additional incineration programs and has imposed a moratorium on further licensing-until such need is ascertained. Excess capacity is recognized as a serious disincentive to recycling, as well as an unnecessary risk to public health. Approximately 50% of the state's waste is presently being incinerated, and the goal is to incinerate all that is not being recycled by 2000.

By January 1, 1990, when the Springfield regional Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) goes into operation, approximately 175 of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts will have some level of recycling in operation. Only about 7% of the waste stream is recycled today and much of that is a result of bottle returns.

Of the 6.1 million tons of waste generated each year in Massachusetts, 48% is residential and 52% is commercial. Almost 40% of the waste stream is paper. The market for recycled paper has recently declined because newspapers have found recycled paper lacking in sufficient strength for use in their high-speed equipment. Leaves and yard waste, representing 18% of the total waste, can be removed by composting. Presently 75-80 composting programs exist throughout the state, and 100 more are in the planning stages. To increase this number the state has developed guidelines for siting, design, and operation. DEP's Compost Program offers technical assistance, multi-media workshops and written materials for interested communities.

Much of Massachusetts' efforts to implement statewide regional recycling centers have come to a standstill due to severe budget problems. A local grants program to assist in setting up recycling programs remains unfunded.

Below are listed some resources if your community is among the 176 communities not presently operating a recycling program. With a relatively small investment, you can start a composting program. Join together with neighboring communities and help get with it!

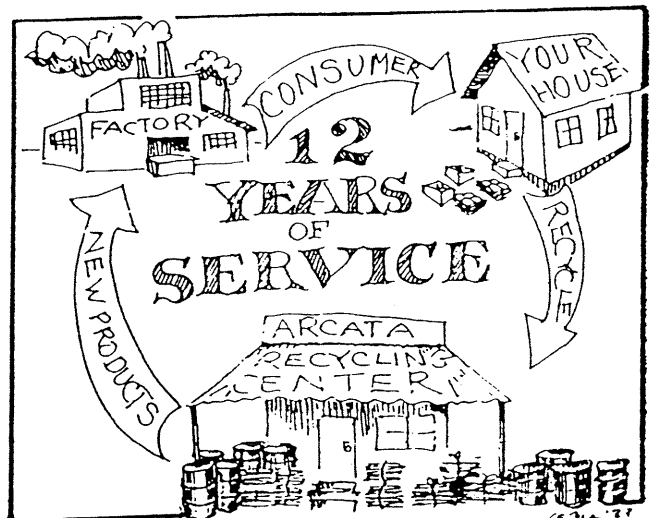
Eastern Massachusetts Recycling Association, PO Box 12, Bedford, MA 01730, Contact: Don Marshall (617) 275-0637 or Barbara Scavezze (508) 256-5427. MASSreCYCLE Contact: Ted Montgomery (508) 369-2504 or Chuck Dufault (508) 755-8899. DEP Division of Solid Waste, Recycling (617) 292-5988 or 292-5984. DEP Composting Program Contact: Elissa Royal (617) 292-5869.

Pam Resor
MACC Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of Acton-Stow recycling specialist

COMING NEXT MONTH

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- Title V
- Septic Systems and soils



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CONNECTICUT

(con't from page 1)

sions by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Water Resources Unit's Wetland Management Section, which has a staff of approximately 15 professionals. All appeals of local decisions go directly to superior court.

Legislative Amendments. Major legislative initiatives in 1987 led to significant amendments to the state law, including: further limitation and clarification of exemption for agricultural activities; mandated delegation of regulatory authority to the remaining towns which had not previously established wetland commissions; elimination of the "grandfathered" exemption for residential building lots approved prior to 1974; and notification of adjoining towns.

This legislation signals a major shift in emphasis for both the DEP and municipalities. Greater DEP efforts will be expended in training municipal commission members, facilitating more consistent decisions. Education efforts include local workshops, audio visual presentations and development of a Wetland Commissioner's Handbook. DEP is simultaneously increasing its involvement at the local level by providing on-site technical assistance on a project-by-project basis for participating communities. The requirement for findings of no "feasible or prudent alternative" as a component of the decision-making process is indicative of the state's intent to provide the best available protection of the wetlands and watercourses. Other on-going DEP wetland program initiatives include: computer inventory and mandatory reporting of municipal wetland decisions for wetland loss analyses utilizing the state's Geographical Information System; detailed conformity reviews of municipal inland wetland regulations; inventory of wetland law suits (with DEP intervention in selected cases); and greater involvement in early planning for major state-sponsored public works projects such as highways, prisons and colleges.

The wetlands law's conservative wetland/watercourse definition brings approximately 15% (or about 600,000 acres) of the state's area under regulations.

Douglas Cooper, Principal Env. Analyst
Connecticut DEP - Water Resources Unit
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NEW YORK RETURNS A GIFT TO ITS WILDLIFE

In 1982, the New York legislature created a "Return a Gift to Wildlife" program. This program authorizes a contribution line on the New York State income tax form. The contribution line provides a convenient way for state residents to make a donation to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.

"Return a Gift to Wildlife" has been quite successful, generating more than \$10 million in public donations since 1982. These funds have been used to support a wide variety of projects benefitting many species of fish and wildlife and their habitats, as well as encouraging public understanding and appreciation of these resources. Projects supported range from a colonial waterbird study to development of an urban wildlife management area, from publication of scientific reference books and brochures to educational workshops for teachers. Projects are selected based on identified high priority needs of the state's fish and wildlife management program which cannot be met due to budget and funding constraints. For more information, write: Return a Gift to Wildlife, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12233-4830.

Massachusetts also has a contribution line on the state income tax forms that allow individuals to donate to the Non-game Wildlife fund. Approximately \$2 million has been received over the six year period this dedicated fund has been in effect. These funds are the sole source of income for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

BYLAWS CAN HELP PROTECT CRITICAL AREAS

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In New Jersey, no state law, except the Freshwater Wetlands Act, has the protection of a critical environmental area as its primary purpose. If remaining steep slopes, hillsides, flood plains, lakes, ponds and stream corridors are to be protected, it's up to local government.

Among the critical areas ordinances in effect, the most controversial ones deal with steep slopes and large lot zoning. Municipal ordinances and local zoning determinations have presumption of validity. While zoning ordinances have been appealed to the New Jersey Appellate and Supreme Court levels, there has been no clear precedent-setting ruling that deals with them.

Two New Jersey ordinances that have not been challenged are discussed below, highlighting their important features.

Since 1976, Bridgewater Township's code has contained special environmental requirements for hillside development. This ordinance may well be a time-proven model for other municipalities with steeply sloping terrain. Bridgewater contains large areas of undeveloped land and has experienced significant growth pressures. The fact that the ordinance remains on the books speaks for itself.

The following points summarize the Bridgewater Hillside Ordinance:

- + The ordinance is applicable to all development.
- + Provisions of the zoning ordinance relating to minimum lot sizes and density of development are modified in areas of slopes greater than 10%. No development or improvements are permitted on slopes of 30% or higher. Applicants are encouraged to concentrate development on lesser slopes.
- + A clustering provision exists as long as the total number of dwellings does not exceed the maximum after application of a density modification formula.
- + Maximum impervious coverage is reduced to 50% of that permitted in the zone for slope of 11-19% and to 20% for slope of 20-29%.
- + The ordinance requires submission of detailed topographic soils information,

grading plans, and information on woodlands and forests on the construction site and within 500 feet.

+ Approval standards are set for use by the planning board and the township engineer.

Mount Olive has large areas of undeveloped land and has been under intense growth pressures. Since 1984, Mount Olive has had a "critical areas" ordinance. It identifies critical areas as: flood hazards, critical wetland, marginal wetland, stream, pond or lake, critical slope (25%+), moderate slope (15-24%), or shallow depth to bedrock. Other features include:

+ Regulations governing flood hazard and critical wetlands areas as well as critical slope areas prohibit buildings or on-lot sewage disposal facilities to be constructed.

+ In lake or pond areas, no building or structure or on-lot sewage facility can be erected or constructed within 50 feet of the edge of any pond, lake or stream.

+ In residential zones, a density adjustment factor provides zero density for flood hazard areas, for critical wetlands, for slopes 25% and over, and for stream, pond and lake areas. Other critical areas have a density modification factor of 0.50, but shallow-depth-to-bedrock areas are reduced by a factor of 0.33 (unless serviced by sanitary sewers, then no adjustment factor).

+ In 1985, the ordinance was modified to include non-residential zones that were assigned similar density modification factors. In the case of non-residential zones, the density modification factor is called "impervious surface adjustment factor."

Copies of any of these ordinances may be obtained for \$2.00 from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945.

Diane Nelson, Chief, Land Use Section
Morris County Park Commission

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IMPROVED OIL SPILL LEGISLATION NEEDED

The Exxon oil spill in Alaska, and spills in Rhode Island, Texas and the Delaware River, are matters of great concern to New Englanders, not only because we care about the natural environment but because they demonstrate to us the dangers of oil shipment. New England relies more than any other part of the country on importation of oil; and our rough weather and rocky shores make us vulnerable to tanker accidents.

In its June 14 Task Force Report on Oil Spills, the American Petroleum Institute (API) said plainly that "the industry is not prepared anywhere along the coastal U.S. to deal with a spill" of 30,000 tons. This amounts to 900,000 gallons, less than one-twelfth of the amount spilled in Prince William Sound.

Contingency Plans. Every state must approve a regional contingency plan for oil-spill response. This plan is mandated by s.311 of the Clean Water Act. Contingency plans have generally proven totally inadequate for a number of reasons: lack of detail, no real plans for dealing with a large spill, hazy lines of command, no testing of whether the proposed measures really work (when tried in California waters, they failed dismally), and lack of enforcement. The equipment just wasn't there in Alaska. Also, Coast Guard "Strike Force" funds have been cut back, and the Coast Guard has been redirected into drug enforcement.

Environmental organizations in every coastal state should press for a re-review of their contingency plans. The office to call is Coastal Zone Management in Boston.

Liability. There are a lot of other areas where the laws should be improved. For example, the Superfund Law, the Trans-Alaska pipeline laws and international pipeline arrangements severely limit the liability of companies for an oil spill (at least unless gross negligence is proved). According to National Public Radio, the oil company responsible for the terrible spill off the French coast ten years ago is still in court and has never paid a penny! The French government paid for the clean-up, which is more than our government is likely to do.

Of interest to New Englanders is Sen.

686, the Oil Pollution Liability and Compensation Act of 1989. This bill passed the Senate this August. Several versions of this bill are currently in House committees going through the reconciliation process. The law would impose a liability on the company causing the spill of over \$100 million in a large spill, unless the accident was caused by an act of God or of war. Liability would be unlimited if gross negligence was proved. More important, the law would set up a federal fund, paid for by the oil industry, to provide up to \$500 million for cleanup. The Alaska disaster could easily cost that much. The bill also provides that the President, acting through the Coast Guard, must take over the response to a big spill unless he makes a finding that the company will handle it properly. This is the inverse of the present Clean Water Act, which states that the President may take over the work if he feels the company will not do the job right. To find out more contact Gerry Studd's office (Merchant Marine And Fisheries Committee), 1501 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

The API report has a proposal, which may have merit, for a Petroleum Industry Response Organization (PIRO) with five regional response centers on the East and West coasts. Each would have the capability to respond to a 30,000-ton spill. Although we must take the oil industry's idea with a grain of salt (or a dram of oil), the industry is at least coming up with an overall proposal of some scope. So far the Congress has introduced only limited legislation dealing with specific pieces of the problem, such as contingency plans, double hulls and drunken tanker driving. We should press our legislators to review and improve on the PIRO idea.

The large environmental groups have focused on trying to pass Sen./HR.39, which would ban oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That is an important cause; but it must not blind us to the importance of improving our power to respond to oil spills, wherever and whenever they occur.

Alexandra Dawson
MACC Board of Directors

THE HYDRO-FILE ©

News and Information on Wetland Plants

COASTAL WETLAND PLANT QUIZ

Coastal wetlands are known as some of the most valuable habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife. The following are a few questions to test your knowledge of plants found in various coastal wetland communities. Match the numbered questions to the lettered plant names and pictures. Good luck!

1) In North America, what is the most abundant species of beach grass that colonizes dunes?

2) For what was Plum Island, one of the northernmost barrier islands off the coast of Massachusetts, named?

3) What looks similar to Wild Celery (or Tape Grass), grows in slightly brackish water with some freshwater input, and is major food source for brant?

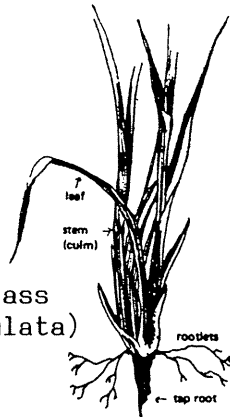
4) What grass looks similar to Big Cordgrass, but has 10 to 20 short-stalked erect spikes each with many bristle-tipped spikelets.

5) What member of the sedge family has several long, linear, grasslike leaves which taper to a point, has inconspicuous flowers and is found in irregularly flooded salt and brackish marshes?

6) What ubiquitous plant may be found in coastal areas in the form of a trailing vine, a deciduous shrub, or a climbing plant and causes severe skin irritations?



A) Slough Grass
(*Spartina pectinata*)



B) American Beach Grass
(*Ammophila breviligulata*)



C) Eelgrass
(*Zostera marina*)



D) Poison Ivy
(*Toxicodendron radicans* L.)



E) Salt Marsh Bulrush
(*Scirpus robustus*)



F) Beach Plum
(*Prunus maritima*)

Illustrations A, C, D, E by Abigail Rorer
Illustrations B, F by Clare Walker Leslie

Answers: 1B, 2F, 3C, 4A, 5E, 6D

WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATION: CLOSE BUT ...

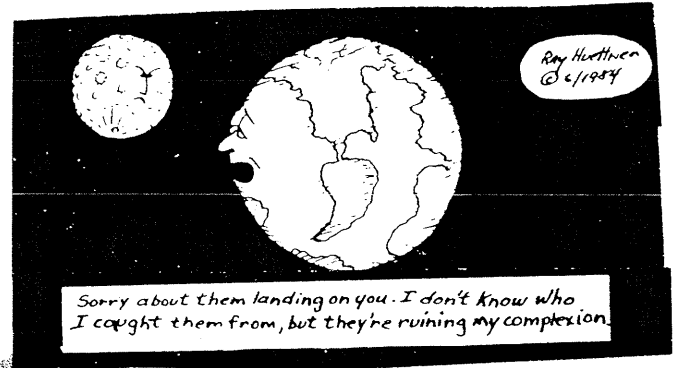
Daily headlines cite enforcement action against wetland violators and reflect increased public commitment to strong wetlands protection at state and national levels. Yet, despite public interest, some of the Massachusetts legislature continues to stall restoring and ensuring wetlands enforcement authority to local Conservation Commissions and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Acknowledged by officials to be "the first line of defense" in wetlands protection, local Commissions remain strapped by an August, 1988 Mass. Supreme Court decision (*Commonwealth v. John G. Grant & Sons, Inc.*) limiting entry onto private property to inspect for violations of the Wetlands Protection Act. Legislation returning this inspection authority was drafted earlier this year, then combined with language to clarify certain important status-quo procedures in the MEPA review process. The combined-purpose bill, H5738, quickly passed the House under the capable leadership of Rep. Steven Angelo (D-Saugus). Now, however, the bill lags in the Senate, which reports certain constituent "concerns".

MACC's efforts on Beacon Hill find that concerns, raised by the opposition early on, are addressed by the current version of this bill. Almost all of these concerns had involved the MEPA statute language. MACC suspects current reported concerns about MEPA simply provide a smokescreen for that opposition which does not want to publicly and clearly come out against language for better wetlands enforcement (i.e. the "Grant" legislation portion). To do so would be to don a "black hat" at a time when public sentiment steadily promotes wetlands protection and to admit that wetland violations are not only condoned but perhaps encouraged.

What can Conservation Commissions and their constituents concerned about wetlands do? Call or write your Senator to voice support for swift passage of a strong H5738. Thank your Senator for any support they have provided to date. And keep in touch with MACC status

reports. At a time when the President is saying, "All existing wetlands, no matter how small, should be preserved", members of the Mass. legislature need to be reminded that good wetlands preservation requires good enforcement tools. H5738 is a key to that toolkit.



TURNING ON ENERGY CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

Q: What Mass. bill can save money (minimum \$1.8 million first year payback) and slow global warming at the same time?

A: H.5914, the Greenhouse bill, promotes cost-effective measures to cut carbon dioxide emissions and to ease New England's growing energy supply crisis. With financial incentives for businesses and consumers, through better enforcement of the state building code's energy provisions, by reforming state procurement laws for energy conservation services and by promoting solar energy and efficient oil burners, H.5914 programs pay for their own implementation with no net cost to the state and encourage a cleaner environment.

Sponsored by Rep. Lawrence Alexander (D-Marblehead) and Sen. Nicholas Costello (D-Amesbury), H.5914 also enjoys the support of many other legislators, industry (Boston Edison, AIM), labor (AFL-CIO) and the environmental community (MACC, Mass. Audubon, CLF, MassPIRG). Yet, as with much new broad-scope legislation, there is general uneasiness on Beacon Hill about moving H.5914 off the back burner. To help make Massachusetts a leader in efforts to reduce the Greenhouse effect, call or write your local delegation at the State House to voice strong support for H.5914. For additional information about this bill contact MACC or Rep. Alexander's office (617) 722-2090.

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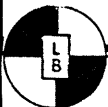
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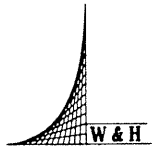
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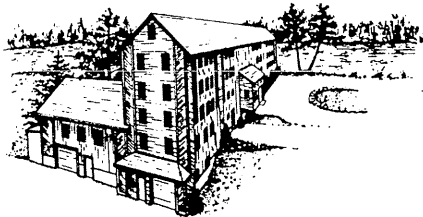
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- Wetland Specialists
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- Town-wide Wetland Mapping
- Environmental Impact Reports



AQUIFER

(con't from page 1)

discouraging behavior that results in aquifer contamination.

Bourne's Water District has purchased 25 acres of critical well-head land, at a cost of \$3 million, using \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Land Acquisition program, matched with \$2.5 million in funds from a bond floated specifically for land acquisition. Debt service was paid using a designated (40 cents per \$100) property tax assessed to all residents of the District.

Littleton, which has a comprehensive aquifer protection program in place, requires that developers of commercial, industrial, and residential properties install groundwater monitoring wells, which are inspected twice yearly by the town. Inspection costs and any cleanup costs are the responsibility of the landowner. The town's testing lab, developed to support the monitoring program, also sells its services to other area communities.

Since 1985, metropolitan Dade County, Florida, has used a trust fund supported by utility service fees, operating fees charged to certain "source" businesses, and permit review fees to fund monitoring and enforcement elements of the county wellfield protection program.

Nearby Monroe County, Florida, has established an authority which operates a revolving fund derived from a range of revenue sources to purchase development rights on critical properties. The authority can also purchase properties subject to regulatory takings, which may be re-platted at lower densities and re-sold, or sold with use restrictions.

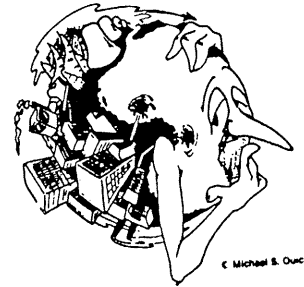
Suffolk County, New York, is redirecting a portion of its sales tax to a special fund to support Pine Barrens land acquisition and management. Roughly half of the \$60 million per year fund will be used to purchase 30,000 privately held acres. Cluster development and tax lien sales will support purchase of the remaining acreage. The land will be held in perpetuity as a Wilderness area and Water Protection Preserve.

Dare County, North Carolina, is a rural coastal county with a high summer tourist population that strains its infrastructure and contributes to high groundwater nitrate loadings. To reduce impacts on resources and on permanent

residents, the county raised \$1.6 million in one and a half years by levying a 3 percent occupancy tax on all hotels, motels and rental houses. Funds are being used to plan for a new wastewater treatment plant.

Additional detailed information on financing alternatives is available from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and from the US EPA Office of Groundwater Protection, at (202) 382-7077.

Jennie C. Myers, Director
Narragansett Bay Project's Land Management Project



NEW HAMPSHIRE

(con't from page 4)

receipts to the conservation fund in excess of \$50,000 since April 1, 1989, the effective date of the voted allocation.

In Nashua, with only 800 of its 20,000 acres in current use, the Board of Aldermen went a step further by introducing an ordinance to allocate not only 100% of the use change tax but also the annual property tax from land in current use to the conservation fund. Although annual property tax revenues from Nashua's current use land are not large, this vote of the Board indicates concern of New Hampshire's second-largest city with rapidly vanishing open space.

There has been only one town meeting since statewide enabling legislation for such open space funding took effect, and therefore only one opportunity for most NH municipalities to consider use change tax allocation. The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions anticipates that the receipts to Newmarket's conservation fund from this new source will inspire emulation.

Marjory M. Swope, Executive Director
NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES Commission Action Across the State

- Ipswich Conservation Commission, facing 20+ truckloads of illegal waste dumping in a wetland, has moved to sue violators for cleanup, restoration and damages.

- Stoneham Conservation Commission's regular update meeting with the Board of Selectmen focused on recent wetland enforcement against the Metropolitan District Commission plus needs for townwide wetland mapping and a conservation agent.

- Swampscott Conservation Commission's Chair, Sally Ingalls, headed a mid-October public walk through Harold King Forest. New trails blazed and marked as an Eagle Scout project provide access to a glacial moraine and other unique features in this 50-acre town parcel managed by the Commission.

ASK MACC

Question: Under the filing fee amendment to the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, where do these filing fees go and what procedure does the Commission follow to expend these fees?

Answer: Filing fees must go into a receipts reserved account as part of the general fund administered by the town or city accountant/treasurer. Commissions must go before town meeting/ city council to request appropriation of those funds for use in administering the Wetlands Protection Act. However, MACC believes that towns/cities may adopt provisions of General Law Ch. 44, s. 53E in a bylaw. The fees, then, would go directly into a special account of the Commission set up by the town treasurer and may be expended by the Commission without further appropriation. Commissions should check this with their town treasurer. Information on this subject is expected to be forthcoming from the Dept. of Revenue. For further information contact the MACC office.

"Ask MACC" and "Conservation Chronicles" will be regular features in the MACC Newsletter. Please mail your questions and/or Commission news to the MACC Newsletter, 10 Juniper Rd., Belmont, MA 02178.

MACC Newsletter

ROCHESTER'S OPEN SPACE PLAN GETS HIGH GRADES

Rochester's Conservation Commission received a \$3,600 grant in 1988 from the Plymouth County Conservation District to develop a five-year open space plan. A permanent Open Space Planning Subcommittee was formed and in July of 1989 presented a final copy to the Selectmen. The Division of Conservation Services recently approved the plan, commenting it "was among the best." Approval allows Rochester to qualify for matching funds in purchasing conservation and recreation land.

Much of the success of the plan was due to input from the residents and town officials. Townspeople surveyed valued Rochester as a rural farming community, were concerned about groundwater quality and quantity and decried the loss of agricultural qualities of the town. These values were incorporated into the plan as goals and recommended actions.

JOIN MACC'S CLIPPERS CLUB!

Clipping and mailing newspaper and magazine articles about Conservation Commissions plus current items on wetlands, open space and local environmental land-use issues helps MACC staff with Newsletter and planning efforts. Clipping is an ideal "TV Time" activity. MACC offers a year-end bonus for regular clippers. Include name and date of newspaper or magazine plus your name/address. Send clipped article or photocopy to MACC Clippers Club, 10 Juniper Rd., Belmont, MA 02178.

HOW TO BECOME WATER WISE

You can use 60 gallons or more of water per day. Bathroom activities account for 75% of your total indoor consumption. With a little effort you and your family can save thousands of gallons a year by modifying your habits. Here are a few tips.

1. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving. -Save 4-10 gallons a day.
2. Take 5 minute showers (plenty of time to get you clean). -Save 3-7 gallons per minute.
3. Run your garbage disposal only when necessary. -Save 2-7 gallons per minute.
4. Fill your kitchen sink when washing and rinsing dishes. -Save 8-15 gallons per day.

MACC ANNUAL MEETING

EARTH DAY 1990:
PREPARING FOR THE NEXT DECADE

Saturday, March 3, 1990
Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA

NOMINATIONS for 1990 MACC Board of Directors being sought. Please submit names of former or present Conservation Commissioners who would like to serve on the Board. Include address, telephone number and background material. Letter of support from their Commission is helpful. Permission must be obtained from nominee before name is submitted. Mail nominations to MACC office.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS are given at Annual Meeting to persons who have contributed toward environmental awareness and protection. MACC's Awards Committee is seeking nominations for these awards. Nominees may be Conservation Commissioners, citizen activist, educators, career environmentalist or others who have given 110% to protecting natural resources. Please submit name and all pertinent information (resume if available) to the MACC Awards Committee in care of MACC office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every year the MACC Annual Meeting has been a big success. How does a staff of two and a Board committee of seven pull this off? With the help of many **VOLUNTEERS!** MACC needs volunteers before the Annual Meeting and during the event. If you can offer five hours of your time, MACC will waive the registration fee. If you do not have five hours to donate, any help you can offer would be appreciated. This is the event of the year - help make it happen. Call the office to sign up, now!

ADVERTIZING AND EXHIBITING

Exhibitor space is larger than ever at this year's MACC Annual Meeting. Consultants, attorneys, conservation commissions and other environmental groups will be displaying their services at the biggest gathering of local environmental official in the country. Is your business or organization interested in being part of this annual gathering? To receive information about exhibitor space or advertizing in the program book call or write the MACC office.

To contact the MACC office write or call:
10 Juniper Rd., Belmont, MA 02178 (617)
489-3930.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REAL ESTATE SITE ASSESSMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS

Wed & Thur, Dec. 13 & 14 - Resource Education Institute will address complex issues of assessments of site conditions and building hazards, focusing on changing regs affecting property transfers, asbestos and radon, natural resource constraints on development, and financing site cleanups. Place: Sheraton - Sturbridge Conference Ctr., Sturbridge, MA; Time: 8:00 - 4:30; Contact: REI, Inc., 60 Thoreau St., Suite 210, Concord, MA 01742 (508) 369-3590.

JOB WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL NONPROFITS

MACC will print job announcements for Conservation Commissions free-of-charge! Please send us job description for administrators and any other paid positions which involve working with a Cons. Comm. Job announcements for other environmental nonprofits will be printed depending on space available.

ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER TOWN OF WESTON

The Greenpower Farm Project is a community effort working with local youth for a practical introduction to farming, the environment and service. Program is in its 20th year under direction of the Conservation Commission. Initial 8-month position covering growing season; additional work available in forest and trail maintenance.

Salary: \$1488-1663.00/month
Contact: Send resume and introduction letter plus two references to: Ward Cheney, Greenpower Farm Project, PO Box 625, Weston MA 01293 (508) 839-7320.

FROM THE PUBLICATIONS LIST

MACC members and Conservation Commissions in good standing (dues paid up-to-date) receive a 10% discount off the list prices - except for the Environmental Handbook for Conservation Commissioners (\$7.00 members, \$15.00 non-mem)! All prices include postage unless indicated otherwise. Orders over \$60.00 must include postal insurance (\$1.60). Send request for publications with check made payable to MACC. The number in parentheses is the book number which can be used along with the title when ordering. Please allow 1-3 weeks for delivery. ASK FOR THE NEW 1989-90 PUBLICATIONS CATALOGUE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE.

NEW! WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN LAWS IN THE NORTHEAST. Gregor I. McGregor, 1989. Published by Resource Education Institute (REI), Inc. Booklet covers federal, state and local wetland and floodplain protection programs. Information on Connecticut, Maine, Mass., New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island laws are reviewed. (112) \$10.50.

NEW! WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION. Gregor I. McGregor, published by REI, Inc., 1989. An in-depth discussion of federal, state and local law in Massachusetts. Guide summarizes zoning and subdivision controls, wetlands bylaws, Wetlands Protection Act, hazardous waste facility siting, water management programs, 404 permits and much, much more. (110) \$19.95.

NEW! WETLAND LAWS OF THE NORTHEAST. Published by REI, Inc. Basic statutes of the New England States, New York and New Jersey. (111) \$15.00

Out-of-Print POND AND BROOK. Michael Caduto, 1985. MACC is informed that this book is being revised but no publication date has been given.

NEW! FRUIT KEY & TWIG KEY. William Harlow. Over 350 photographs and descriptions to make identification easier, especially in winter. (107) \$3.00.

NEW! NEWCOMB'S WILDFLOWER GUIDE. Lawrence Newcomb. Standard work for botanists using a simple, quick key to identify wildflowers, flowering shrubs and vines of the Northeast. (108) \$15.00, \$16.00 mailed.

NEW! WINTER BOTANY. William Trelease. Useful manual to identify plant species in winter. Includes over 1000 species of vines, shrubs and trees with illustrations. (109) \$9.00, \$10.00 mailed.

Where do northern lobsters, timber rattlesnakes and little brown bats share the same space? In WILDLIFE IN MASSACHUSETTS, an educational coloring book designed for Project Wild by Mass. Audubon and the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. \$1.50 from Priscilla MacAdams, Fish and Wildlife Headquarters, Westboro, MA 01581 (508) 727-3151.

MACC is a private non-profit service corporation whose members are the conservation commissions of Massachusetts. Non-voting memberships are also available and include receipt of this newsletter. The MACC Newsletter is published ten times a year. MACC welcomes letters, articles and photographs from its readers. MACC reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Non-staff articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of MACC. Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted with proper credit.

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