



Bearcamp River Dam, Tamworth NH

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New Hampshire Partnership Launched



Ted Diers, NH Office of State Planning explains the Little River Salt Marsh project to Congressman Sununu.

On November 18, 2002, Congressman John E. Sununu, and representatives from Senators, Judd Gregg and Bob Smith's offices, endorsed a corporate government/non-profit partnership that is good business and good for the environment. Public Service of NH and Jacques Whitford Company will lead the New Hampshire state effort of business participation in the Coastal Wetland Restoration Partnership (CWRP). CWRP's goal is to facilitate corporate interest, involvement, and support for the state's aquatic resources. This goal includes raising corporate in-kind services and dollars to leverage federal matching funds. These funds are used to restore coastal and freshwater wetlands and rivers degraded by human activities such as fill, pollution, or changes in water flow. The program has been adopted by the federal government as a national initiative. New Hampshire is the 5th New England state to join the partnership, with other States including Massachusetts and Maine with active CWRP teams.

In New Hampshire, the program will help fund habitat restoration projects, specifically targeting priority projects developed by the State. Examples of projects include: the restoration of coastal wetlands, restoration of fish passage and free-flowing rivers, and re-establishment of eelgrass beds.

"The New Hampshire CWRP is a unique opportunity for collaboration among corporations, environmental professionals and regulators. Together they promise to have a profound impact on New Hampshire's environment" - Stan Genega, President of Jacques Whitford Company, a founding member of the partnership in New Hampshire.

This event also recognized one project that was completed before the CWRP was in existence, the Little River salt marsh restoration project. This project is an excellent example of the type of wetland restoration projects that the CWRP will partner on in the future. Coastal America, a coalition of federal agencies, will award involved individuals for their dedication to New Hampshire's coastal environment.

The Little River salt marsh restoration in North Hampton, a 1.2 million dollar, 10-year project, replaced a 48-inch culvert with two 6 by 12 feet culverts to prevent continued flooding and a dying marsh. Now, the ecological restoration of the marsh is underway.

Project partners included: New Hampshire Coastal Program, Town of North Hampton, Town of Hampton, NOAA Fisheries, NH Department of Transportation, NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Resource Conservation Service, Department of State, Ducks Unlimited, Audubon Society of NH, and the UNH Jackson Estuarine Laboratory.



Culvert installation at Little River Salt Marsh



Upcoming Restoration Projects to Benefit from CWRP Funding

New Hampshire has a long history of caring for its environment, and recent efforts to restore tidal and freshwater wetlands and rivers throughout the state are gathering momentum. Active and prospective participants in the CWRP have a unique opportunity to help with several upcoming projects, and are encouraged to contact the Partnership to help by providing financial or in-kind services.

Ted Diers, of the NH Office of State Planning, highlights the River Road marsh in the small island community of New Castle as one habitat that could use CWRP assistance. The island's network of interconnected marshes was significantly damaged over the years by development. A study of the River Road marsh suggested that replacement of an undersized and damaged culvert will restore tidal flow to a struggling salt marsh. Diers says of the project, "the River Road marsh currently shows all of the problems of coastal habitat degradation in one small area. By undertaking this relatively simple project, we can restore an important coastal wetland." The project cannot move forward without additional funding however, making this a prime opportunity for the CWRP to help.

CWRP participants can also help restore New Hampshire's rivers. Stephanie Lindloff, NH Department of Environmental Services' River Restoration Coordinator, cites the Bearcamp River in Tamworth as one where CWRP partners have already

had an impact. The removal of this 20 foot high dam in ruins will restore about 28 miles of high quality river to free-flowing conditions. The Northeast Utilities Foundation - Public Service of New Hampshire has already generously funded a portion of the Bearcamp River project through the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program (See photo on cover page).

Another project of the River Restoration Program is the Wiswall Dam in Durham. A project team is studying the addition of fish passage at the dam to allow for the movement of spawning American shad, river herring, American eel, lamprey and Atlantic salmon. While the US Army Corps of Engineers is providing 65% funding for the project, a non-federal match of 35% is required to make the project a reality. Lindloff says of the project, "the Lamprey River is a national wild and scenic river and is considered the state's most important coastal river for migratory fish. Providing for fish passage will be of benefit to entire ecosystem." Lindloff hopes to see the project go to construction in 2004.

The NHCWRP is actively seeking participation from interested companies willing to donate funds to assist with the projects highlighted above, as well as numerous other projects. Donations help bring in substantial matching federal and state funds and provide an opportunity for project sponsors to receive positive publicity.

Other Proposed Projects:

Awcomin Marsh
Rye

Bass Beach Salt Marsh
Rye and Hampton

West Henniker Dam Removal
Henniker

Bearcamp River Dam Removal
Tamworth

Homestead Woolen Mills Dam Removal
Ashuelot River, West Swanzey

Bellamy River Dam Removal
Dover

Wiswall Dam Fish Passage
Lamprey River, Durham

Gonic Dam Removal
Cocheco River, Gonic

Winnicut River Dam Removal
Greenland



Winnicut River Dam, owned by NH Fish and Game Department. A dam removal feasibility study is underway.

What is Coastal America?

Coastal America was formed to join the efforts of federal agencies with those of state, local, tribal and private alliances to collaborate and more effectively address environmental problems along our nation's coasts, waterways and wetlands. Federal agencies involved in Coastal America include the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy and Transportation; The Environmental Protection Agency; and the Executive office of the President.

HISTORY OF CWRP

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) was created in Massachusetts in 1999 by The Gillette Company, state environmental agencies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Recognizing the critical need for funds to help restore important wetlands and other aquatic resources, Gillette began working with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the EPA to establish a program for businesses to contribute to this necessary effort.

"In discussing wetlands, restoration with state and federal officials, we realized here is an opportunity for businesses and government to work together to help preserve our natural resources. Establishing a public-private partnership allows businesses to provide the local matching funds necessary to leverage federal and state grants and move forward with these important environmental projects," said Dr. A. Wallace Hayes, Gillette's vice president of corporate product integrity.

The voluntary partnership combines corporate contributions with federal and state funds to undertake restoration of degraded coastal and freshwater wetlands. On average, every \$1 of corporate contribution will bring up to \$3 in matching federal monies. Companies may contribute funds or in-kind services such as engineering, legal or environmental.

Since its inception, more than 25 companies have joined the Massachusetts CWRP, committing over \$1 million. In May of 2000, Gillette along with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and Coastal America launched the National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, taking the program nationwide. CWRP now consists of 140 partner companies and 80 NGOs supporting over 70 projects in 10 states.

Corporate members serving on the National CWRP Advisory Board include NAM, Gillette, Duke Energy, FMC Corporation, ENSR International, Battelle and Restore America's Estuaries.

Charter Members of New Hampshire CWRP

Corporate Members

Jacques Whitford Company
Normandeau Associates, Inc.
Public Service of New Hampshire
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Public Agencies

US Environmental Protection Agency
NH State Coastal Program
NH State Department of Environmental Services
NH State Office of State Planning
US Army Corps of Engineers
NOAA-Fisheries
US Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Organizations

Coastal America Ducks Unlimited, Inc. National Association of Manufacturers

How your company can get involved:

In the coming months NHCWRP will be undertaking several activities to organize and launch this important program. Upcoming projects include:

- *Formation of the CWRP Advisory Board*
- *Selection of initial restoration projects*
- *Raising needed funds and in-kind services*

If your company is interested in participating in the NHCWRP or would like more information on the program, please contact:



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