

Yankee Engineer

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District hosts Broad Meadows
presentation for public
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Yankee Voices

Maryellen Iorio and Gary Cooper



September is Emergency Preparedness Month

The month of September is National Preparedness Month, a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by FEMA, the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies. To enhance awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness for families and individuals, Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed September as "emergency preparedness month" in the Commonwealth (<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/2015-preparedness-month-proclamation.pdf>).

Massachusetts experiences a wide range of emergencies and disasters. In the past few years alone, the state has seen flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms, blizzards and winter storms, tornadoes, hazardous materials incidents, power outages, terrorism, water supply disruptions and more.

Employee Spotlight: Peter Hugh, Environmental Engineering Section

Peter Hugh is a Senior Engineering Technical Lead, working in the Geo-Environmental Engineering Branch, Engineering/Planning Division. After graduating from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, he started as an engineering intern in 1980 when New England was a division office. In 1982, he took a PCS tour with the Europe Division and returned to New England where he continues to serve as a Project Manager/Engineering Technical Lead managing projects in the Civil Works, Military, Support for Others, and the HTRW Environmental Programs.



Peter Hugh and the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82 Airborne Division

His proudest accomplishment is being a father of three successful boys. His oldest is finishing his medical residency, the second is a U.S. Marine 1st Lt. serving his country as a F-18 Hornet - Weapons Instrumentation Officer and his youngest at age 12 is already a Junior Black Belt and an "A" student. With two out of three of his boys grown up with successful careers, he now has time to focus on his hobbies. He is active in martial arts, snowboarding, and as a military history enthusiast is taking his passion up a notch.

Hugh is involved with WWII Airborne living-history reenactments both on the ground and from the air. He belongs to a local paratrooper reenactment group (505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82 Airborne Division) and is typically busy marching in Memorial and Veterans Day parades and participates in other living history/veteran venues. Additionally, he was active back in 2012-2013 with a WWII airborne parachute team based in Oklahoma. In order to qualify for the static-line military airborne style parachuting, he attended a nine-day airborne boot-camp and earned his jump wings. Peter has completed 25 exits out of a C-47 Skytrain (WWII aircraft) so far. He is planning to return to the jump school in July 2016 for some additional adventures. If he could pull it off, he may also travel with the jump team to Holland in September 2016 and participate in the annual commemoration of Operation Market/Garden (the Liberation of Holland).



Public Hearings held in Connecticut and New York on Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan

The New England District released for public review and comment the Long Island Sound Draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on Monday, Aug. 17. The public comment period will run through Oct. 16.

The New England District conducted public hearings Aug. 24-27 and Sept. 16-17. The first two public hearings were held in New York; on Aug. 24 in the Village Center at Port Jefferson in Port Jefferson, and on Aug. 25, at the Marriott Long Island in Uniondale. Two subsequent public hearings were held in Connecticut: on, Aug. 26 at the University of Connecticut in Stamford; and on Aug. 27 at the Holiday Inn in New London.

The final two hearings were held Sept. 16 in Riverhead, New York and Sept. 17 in New Haven Connecticut. Hearings at all locations began at 6 p.m. with registration at 5:30 p.m.

The primary purpose of the hearings was to solicit the public's comments and input. More than 150 people attended first four hearings with 57 of them providing comments about the project.

Col. David Caldwell, New York District Commander, served as hearing officer for the New York meetings. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander served as Hearing Officer for the final meetings.

"In their June 2005 Final Rule that designated two dredged material placement sites in central and western Long Island Sound the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency called for the development of a Long Island Sound wide DMMP," said Col. Barron. "In addition, the governors of Connecticut and New York requested that the Corps prepare a DMMP for Long Island Sound."

According to Col. Barron, the DMMP was to evaluate alternative placement practices, with the goal of reducing or eliminating open water placement of dredged material in the

Dredged Material Management Plan and
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

DRAFT

Long Island Sound Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island



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New England District

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water of Long Island Sound wherever practicable.

Mark Habel, Chief, Navigation Section, Engineering/Planning and Stacy Pala, Battelle Memorial Institute provided an overview of the plan. Lynn McLeod of Battelle served as the moderator for the first four meetings

Prior to the public hearings, District representatives encouraged interested members of the public to review the draft documents online, located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/LongIslandSoundDMMP.aspx, so that they could better understand the processes and history involved in dredged material placement.

"Historically, most dredged material in the region was placed in open water sites," said Col. Barron. "Even today most dredged material is found suitable for open water placement following extensive physical, chemical and biological testing."

Col. Barron said that where feasible, beneficial uses such as beach renourishment and near shore placement have also been used.

"However, over the past 30 years federal and state agencies have increased their efforts to find practicable alternatives to open water placement," he said. "This dredged material management plan examines dredging needs, the history of dredging and dredged material placement and current beneficial use practices."

For those who cannot attend the public hearings, written comments may be submitted to the Corps. Public comments on the Draft DMMP and Draft PEIS should be forwarded no later than Oct. 16 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, (ATTN: LIS DMMP/PEIS Program Manager Meghan Quinn), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

Massachusetts Small Businesses receive prestigious Small Business awards

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced two of New England District's small business contractors, Mabbett & Associates and H&S Environmental, have received recognition for work with the Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies.

Mabbett & Associates, Inc., of Bedford, Massachusetts was selected as the 2015 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region 1. Arthur Mabbett is the owner and president of the company. Debra Heims, owner of H&S Environmental of Westborough, Massachusetts was selected as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2015 Woman Small Business Owner of the Year for Massachusetts. Both companies were nominated for the honors by Eva Marie D'Antuono, Deputy for Small Business at the New England District.

Mabbett & Associates, Inc., is a Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business. It was established in 1980 and specializes in environmental, health and safety, energy and sustainability consulting and engineering services.

The criteria for the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award are stringent. To receive the award, a nominee must excel in the following categories: overall management, financial strength, labor relations, customer interface, technical capabilities, resource utilization, cost preference and delivery schedule.

Mabbett & Associates' federal customers include the Corps of Engineers, Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Veterans Administration and General Services Administration. The company, which has supported the New England District since 2007, has had several hazardous, toxic and remedial waste contracts.

H&S Environmental is a Woman-Owned Small Business and was established in July 2003. The company provides services in environmental, consulting and remediation, civil construction, renovation and construction inspection.

Criteria for the Woman Small Business Owner of the



Debra Heims, H&S Environmental (center) accepts the 2015 Women Small Business Owner of the Year award.

Year Award included staying power, growth, increase in sales and net worth, innovativeness in service, response to adversity and contributions to aid community-oriented projects.

The company has supported the District since 2004. In addition to the New England District, H&S has also worked on projects for the Philadelphia, Baltimore, Savannah and Omaha Districts. Other federal customers include the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, NASA, the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security-Immigrations and Customs, Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Both Mabbett & Associates and H&S received the awards during the Massachusetts U.S. Small Business Administration awards luncheon in Framingham, Massachusetts this past May. D'Antuono represented the New England District at the event.



Arthur Mabbett (center) receives the 2015 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award from the Small Business Administration.



Larry Oliver describes the restoration project at Broad Meadows.



Larry Oliver discusses the different plant life found at the Broad Meadows Salt Marsh.



Larry Oliver answers questions about the Broad Meadows Salt Marsh Restoration project.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Oliver makes presentation at Broad Meadows Restoration Project

At the request of the Quincy, Massachusetts Park and Recreation Department, Larry Oliver, Chief, Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning, hosted a site tour and presentation about the Broad Meadows Salt Marsh Restoration Project and Salt Marsh Restoration, Aug. 24. The presentation was part of the city's monthly Environmental Treasures Program.

Over 60 people attended the hour and a half presentation, held at the project site in Quincy. Oliver talked as he and his audience walked the project site, stopping to point out plants and animals and to answer questions. Topics that Oliver discussed on the tour included the importance of salt marshes, salt marsh ecology and restoration techniques, the dredging history of the Town River project, and the restoration project itself.

During 1938 to 1956, dredged material from the Town

River Federal Navigation Project was placed in 106 acres of the salt marsh, degrading it to a non-tidal habitat. According to Oliver, the construction contract to begin rehabilitation was awarded on Nov. 24, 2009. The connection to tidal water was completed in Dec. 2011.

"The \$6.2 million project involved the excavation, transport and distribution of approximately 390,000 cubic yards of former dredged materials," said Oliver. "The project restored approximately 31 acres of salt marsh including salt ponds and tidal channels, four acres of wet meadow grasses and 23 acres of coastal grasslands."

The project also included public gravel pathways that allow the public to walk through and enjoy the salt marsh.

The city of Quincy cost shared 25-percent of the project, with the federal government picking up the remaining 75-percent.

Corps conducts environmental assessment of operations, maintenance at Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence

by Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has completed a draft Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the continued operations and maintenance activities at the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies, documents and evaluates the environmental effects of the continued operation and maintenance of the Hurricane Barrier in accordance with its authorized project purposes.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates operation and maintenance activities for compliance with Federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders and Executive Memorandums, and to meet compliance requirements of the Corps' Environmental Review Guide for Operations.

The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, a Federal flood risk management project, provides flood protection to about 280 acres of the city of Providence from hurricanes and other coastal storms.

The Corps of Engineers operates the Hurricane Barrier to provide for flood control and support to recreation events throughout the year. The primary recreation support is the operation of the Hurricane Barrier to maintain navigation in the Woonasquatucket, Moshassuck and Providence Rivers during low tide at the request of WaterFire Providence.

The preferred alternative consists of

continuing to operate the Hurricane Barrier for flood damage reduction in response to storms and weather-related events that could cause flood damage to downtown Providence's commercial center, transportation facilities, public utilities and residences. An evaluation of the existing operation and maintenance actions against the impacts associated with them does not show significant adverse environmental impacts occurring from continuing the existing operation and maintenance activities.

The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review at the Providence Public Library, located at 150 Empire Street in Providence, Rhode Island. They are also available for review and download on the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/FoxPointHurricaneBarrier.aspx>.

Impacts were analyzed on water resources, fish and wildlife, vegetation and wetlands, endangered and threatened species, land use and recreation areas, socioeconomics, cultural resources, air quality and noise and

floodplains.

Potential short-term impacts to water quality and fisheries were identified during complete closure of the Hurricane Barrier. These include short-term elevation of temperature and decline in dissolved oxygen in the waters behind the Hurricane Barrier when it is completely closed. Fish passage upstream and downstream of the Hurricane Barrier may be delayed by complete closure, but will resume once the Hurricane Barrier is opened. These short-term impacts are considered minimal.

The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are being coordinated with: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 1); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office; the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council; the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife; the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office; and the city of Providence, Rhode Island. The

public notice with more details is available for review online at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicNotices.aspx>.

Public comments on the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact on the operations and maintenance activities at the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier were accepted until Sept. 12.



Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, Rhode Island.



Two young sand castle contestants stand proudly next to their creations.

Photo by Viola Bramel

Sand castle contest a hit at West Hill Dam

Nothing says summer like a good old-fashioned sand castle contest. West Hill Dam, partnering with the Friends of Beginning Bridges of Northbridge and Uxbridge, hosted such an event at the recreational site's beach area August 12.

Nearly 90 people from very small children to bigger kids 12 and over participated in the event. There were no age limitations to make a sand castle. "The rules were very simple – bring your own tools, creativity," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel, West Hill Dam. "No live decorations and no spray paint for color. Everyone had about 90 minutes to make their creations."

The contest broke the sand castles down to three categories: Largest, Most Unusual and Most Creative. Beginning Bridges provided the prizes. The Largest Castle winner received a book entitled, "Money Matters for Youth," and a youth press and decorate wall map.

In addition to the sand castle contest, Bramel provided a Water Safety

race and demonstration with life jackets. Everyone who attended received a Water Safety Flying Ring and Bobber Dog coloring book. Although West Hill Dam holds an annual sand castle contest early in July, this was the first time they co-hosted an event with the Friends of Beginning Bridges.

According to BrainBuildingProgress.org, The Brain Building in Progress campaign is a public/private partnership of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and a growing community of early education and child care providers, academic researchers, business leaders and individuals.

West Hill Dam and Park remain open year round. West Hill Park is where the West River widens to form a large, natural swimming hole, known locally as Harrington Pool. Tables and grills are available for picnicking in two areas of the park, one near a beach and one under a grove of pines. The

park also offers two sandy beaches, a change house and modern rest rooms. Two picnic shelters on a wooded knoll, with electric are available to groups for a small fee. A sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits and accessible playground are nearby. From the parking lot, a 1/2 mile, self-guided nature trail runs down along the river and loops back through the woods.

About two miles of hiking trails meander through the woodlands and provide secluded views of the river. Anglers will find trout in the main river channel and bass, pickerel and horned pout in the pools. Hunting for deer, small game and upland birds is permitted in accordance with state laws. Trout and pheasant are stocked by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

For more information on the many recreational opportunities at West Hill Dam please go to: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Recreation/WHD/AnnualEventsCalendar2015.pdf>

Dredging up the past



Photo by FT Eyre

Corps of Engineers Emergency Operations personnel work side by side with the FBI and other federal agencies immediately after the September 11, 2001 attacks. Members of the New England District team were some of the first on the ground to help with assess buildings, remove debris and perform other tasks to support the mission.

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