

Bill as Introduced

SB 10-FN-A-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2009 SESSION

09-0038

06/05

SENATE BILL

10-FN-A-LOCAL

AN ACT

making an appropriation to the town of Allenstown for disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April 2007 floods.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Rep. Yeaton, Merr 8; Rep. Carole Brown, Merr 8; Rep. Porter, Merr 8; Rep. Davis, Merr 7; Rep. Kelly, Merr 7

COMMITTEE:

Finance

ANALYSIS

This bill appropriates state matching funds to the department of safety, bureau of emergency management, for disaster assistance to the neighborhoods of Riverside Drive and Albin Avenue in the town of Allenstown that sustained flood damage in May 2006 and April 2007.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine

AN ACT making an appropriation to the town of Allenstown for disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April 2007 floods.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Appropriation; State Matching Funds for Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood
2 Mitigation Assistance Grants. In response to May 2006 and April 2007 flood damage sustained by
3 the neighborhoods of Riverside Drive and Albin Avenue in the town of Allenstown, a sum not to
4 exceed \$650,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of safety, bureau of emergency
5 management, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, as the required state match for federal
6 disaster assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood damage
7 sustained during the "Mothers Day Flood" of May 2006 and the flood of April 2007. With prior
8 approval of the fiscal committee, the department of safety, bureau of emergency management shall
9 distribute the funds appropriated by this act to the town of Allenstown. The funds shall be
10 distributed pursuant to the following funding formula: federal funds shall be used for 75 percent of
11 eligible costs and state funds shall be used for the remaining costs. The governor is authorized to
12 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Any
13 unexpended funds shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2011.
14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

SB 10-FN-A-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 2 -

LBAO
09-0038
01/12/09

SB 10-FN-A-LOCAL - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT making an appropriation to the town of Allenstown for disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April 2007 floods.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Safety states this bill will increase state expenditures and local revenues by \$650,000 in FY 2009. This bill will have no fiscal impact on state and county revenues or county and local expenditures.

This bill appropriates \$650,000 from the general fund in FY 2009 to the Department of Safety for the purposes of this bill.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Safety states this bill will appropriate state matching funds to repair flood damage in the Town of Allenstown from the May 2006 and April 2007 floods. The Department states this bill will increase state expenditures and local revenues by an amount not to exceed \$650,000 in FY 2009.

Amendments

Senate Finance
March 26, 2009
2009-1087s
06/01

Amendment to SB 10-FN-A-LOCAL

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:
2 1 Appropriation; State Matching Funds for Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood
3 Mitigation Assistance Grants. In response to May 2006 and April 2007 flood damage sustained by
4 the neighborhoods of Riverside Drive and Albin Avenue in the town of Allenstown, subject to the
5 approval of the governor and council, a sum not to exceed \$650,000 is hereby appropriated to the
6 department of safety, bureau of emergency management, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, as
7 the required state match for federal disaster assistance funds from the Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency for flood damage sustained during the "Mothers Day Flood" of May 2006 and
9 the flood of April 2007. With prior approval of the fiscal committee, the department of safety, bureau
10 of emergency management shall distribute the funds appropriated by this act to the town of
11 Allenstown. The funds shall be distributed pursuant to the following funding formula: federal funds
12 shall be used for 75 percent of eligible costs and state funds shall be used for the remaining costs.
13 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
14 otherwise appropriated. Any unexpended funds shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2011.

Committee Minutes

Finance Committee

2010

Hearing Report

To: Members of the Senate

From: Sonja Caldwell
Legislative Aide

Re: **SB10-FN-A-L** - *making an appropriation to the town of Allenstown for disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April 2007 floods.*

Hearing date: March 26, 2009

Members present: Sen. D'Allesandro, Sen. Janeway, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Hassan, Sen. Sgambati, Sen. Odell, Sen. Gallus

Members absent:

Sponsor(s): Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Rep. Yeaton, Merr 8; Rep. Carole Brown, Merr 8; Rep. Porter, Merr 8; Rep. Davis, Merr 7; Rep. Kelly, Merr 7

What the bill does: This bill appropriates state matching funds to the department of safety, bureau of emergency management, for disaster assistance to the neighborhoods of Riverside Drive and Albin Avenue in the town of Allenstown that sustained flood damage in May 2006 and April 2007.

Who supports the bill: Sen. Barnes, Rep Margaret Porter, Rep. Carole Brown, Rep. Sally Kelly, Rep. Charles Yeaton, Chief Shaun Mulholland, Thomas Gilligan (Allenstown Selectman), Roger LaFleur (Allenstown Selectman), R. Dean Murray, Armand Verville, Claudette Verville, Jennifer Kerlis, Chris Nye, Evelyn Bernard, Keith Donovan, Claire Audet, Jan Russou, Joseph Voden

**A significant number of individuals signed in support of the bill but did not testify. Please see sign-in sheet for complete record.*

Who opposes the bill: No one signed in opposition

Taking no position: Richard Verville, NHHSEM

Summary of testimony received:

- **Senator Barnes** introduced the bill and asked if the House members could testify first so they could return to session.
- **Rep Carole Brown** testified in support of the bill. She said that on May 16, 2006 the Suncook River breached its banks and went down

through a gravel pit cutting a new channel and leaving 2½ miles of cut-off river bed high and dry. There was much damage and flooding downstream. The residents in the area of Riverside Drive and Albin Ave and Jilleric Dive have been severely impacted and continue to live in an area which is now a Flood Way and they are exposed to the flooding any time that weather and snow melt get to the flood stage. FEMA has approved grants in the total amount of \$2.1 million. Rep. Brown voiced her support for the request for a required state match.

- **Rep. Margaret Porter** testified in support of the bill. She said that one compelling argument for the FEMA buyout program is the fact that the Suncook River has undergone a drastic upheaval as a result of the 2006 flood and the resulting avulsion that occurred in Epsom. The river is unpredictable and prone to extensive flooding. She said the non-profit, nonpartisan Tax Foundation publishes a ranking of all states by Federal tax dollars paid compared to Federal dollars returned to the state. From 2001 – 2005, New Hampshire ranks either 48th or 47th out of 50. She said that this means that her constituents in Allenstown who faithfully pay their Federal taxes are consistently being cheated of what compensation they may be entitled to. She said that making the appropriation required by SB10 would redress this unbalance and return tax dollars to New Hampshire for the benefit of taxpayers whose lives have been forever altered by these flooding disasters. She said they are entitled to this expenditure.
- **Senator Barnes** testified in support of the bill. He said that Allenstown is poor. 51% of Allenstown is taken up by the state park. He said the town has come up with \$74,000 of matching money. The federal government has come up with \$2.1 million. They need \$650,000 from the state. He said the Chief of Police is present and has more knowledge of the process as well as the selectmen.
- **Chief Shaun Mulholland** of the Allenstown Police Department testified in support of the bill along with two Allenstown Selectmen, **Thomas Gilligan** and **Roger LaFleur**. They said this is a comprehensive mitigation project. The river has changed due to avulsion. Thousands of cubic feet of sediment washed downstream and has raised the riverbed as a result. It takes very little runoff to cause a flood. There are 101 homes in the flood zone. There are 14 homes that have qualified for this buyout program. They said that a lot more homeowners applied than were accepted. One of the conditions of the program is that all of the homeowners have to have flood insurance.
- When asked about the value of the property tax loss to Allenstown that this buyout will represent, the selectmen said that most of the 101 homes in the flood zone received abatements in 2007. In some cases they received complete abatements. The homes have decreased in value. They said that while it will take revenue away from the town, it will also mitigate expenses associated with evacuating these people every time there is a flood.
- **Senator Odell** asked what the deadline is for receipt of state funds.

- They answered December of 2010. They will lose the grant if they don't have proof of funding by then.
- **Dean Murray** testified in support of the bill. He said he used to live at 2 Riverside Drive. He had lived there for 10 years. He said the day before the flood, he didn't owe any money to anyone except for his mortgage. Since the flood he has tapped into his 401K and has credit card debt and doesn't anticipate ever being able to retire.
- **Armand Verville** testified in support of the bill. He said the flood was like a small Hurricane Katrina. Some houses were moved off their foundations. He said the Conservation Commission has put up the town share of the matching funds. He said that while the town will lose tax revenue, the offset is much greater.
- **Jennifer Kerlis** testified in support of the bill. She said she has been through three floods. She said the first was in October of 2005. They tried to repair the damage only to lose everything in 2006 to another flood. She said they had to move out and live with her husband's ex-wife. They again tried to repair their house and were 2 weeks away from moving back in when the 2007 flood hit. They lost everything. They couldn't sell their home and it was condemned. She said FEMA refused them individual assistance. Her husband died last September and all of their money is gone. She still has to pay the mortgage and has received 3 notices of foreclosure.
- **Chris Nye** testified in support of the bill. He said he lives at the low point of the river and suffered significant damage after the first flood. He repaired the damage and then the 2nd flood hit and he sustained more significant damage. He has lived in an RV for three years and has incurred debt from the two floods. His house is concrete and cannot be raised, yet he has received a letter from the town saying that if he doesn't raise his home within two years, they will fine him.
- **Clair Audet** testified in support of the bill. She said she lives on Riverside Park drive. She has a split level duplex and the bedrooms are on the lower level. Her flood insurance didn't cover all of the damages. She had to use her 401K.
- **Joseph Voden** testified in support of the bill. He said he bought his house brand new in December of 2006. 3 months later they were flooded. It took 6 months and \$60,000 to repair the house. He said his family only went through it once while most everyone else went through it twice. He has tried to sell his house but hasn't gotten any offers. He said it is a worthless piece of property.
- **Jan Russou** of 22 Riverside Drive said she is one of the homeowners in the buyout. She lived there for 6 years. She lost 15 feet of land into the river after the first flood. She applied to the EPA for a permit to stabilize the embankment. The stabilization didn't work and she lost another 3 feet of land after the 2nd flood. She had to take out a small business loan for \$20,000 and she has a lien on her house. She has lost \$70,000 of equity on her home.

- **Evelyn Bernard** lives at 26 Riverside Drive. She lived there for 30 years. She is not in this 14 house buyout. She said she hopes to be in a 2nd buyout. She has raised her house 3½ feet and has been flooded 2 years in a row. She lost everything in her cellar. Her flood insurance did not cover all of her losses.
- Senator D'Allesandro asked about the status of the 2nd buyout application.
- The Chief said they haven't received an answer yet but hope to by the end of the year. He said there was another request from Salem ahead of their request. They are looking at another 14 homes in this 2nd buyout grant application.
- **Dick Verville** from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) said that in order for homes to be eligible for this grant, they all had to have flood insurance, which they did. The federal government has approved \$2.1 million with a 25% local match. December 15, 2010 is the deadline to complete the project. There is a provision for an extension. He said the state is the actual grantee as the federal money is funneled through the state. FEMA wont pay directly to the community.
- Senator Sgambati asked how the split between the state and the town is determined?
- The town makes a request to the state. They got the paperwork showing the federal obligation. The money has to be approved by the Fiscal Committee and the Governor and Council. The total cost that was in the grant application for the buyout was what the town worked on with the homeowners. They established what fair market value was prior to the first flooding event.
- Mr. Verville said that FEMA has the final decision on what projects get funded and they chose to take money from other states that wasn't being used and gave it to New Hampshire. The town will sit with each resident and go through the process of purchasing and acquiring the homes and then demolish them. Once the home is purchased, it must be demolished within 30 days.
- Senator Larsen asked if there was any talk of liability on the part of a private sand and gravel operation. The answer from the Chief and Selectmen was no.
- Selectman Gilligan said that the total cost to acquire the homes is \$2,503,600. He said there is roughly \$394,000 in administration, demolition and legal expenses. They have to deed the land so that no one else will ever buy it or build upon it. The town will likely deed it to the Conservation Commission.

Speakers

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date 3/26/09
 Time 10:30 a.m.
 Public Hearing on SB10-FN-A-L

(making an appropriation to the town of Allentown for disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April 2007 floods.)

Please check box(es) that apply.

SPEAKING	FAVOR	OPPOSED	NAME (Please print)	REPRESENTING
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIEF SAUN MULHOLLAND	BURNSDOWN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Gilligan	Allentown BOS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roger LaFleur	Allentown Selectman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	R. Dean Murray	Allentown Resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARMAND VERVILLE	RESIDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Hale	Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veressa Fuden	Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samon McKeeney	RESIDENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claudette Verville	Resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Jennifer Feiler	Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LISA Levesque	Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John LaFleur	Allentown Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dennis J. Meuser	Allentown Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn A. Renaud	Allentown, 25th
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John To Valley	allentown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Page	allentown resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Nye	Allentown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marla Murray	Allentown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Cassidy	Allentown
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keith Zonoo	Allentown

Testimony

REP. MARGARET PORTER
PO Box 437
EPSOM NH 03234-0437
603.435.7565

Thursday, March 26, 2009

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am Margaret Porter, representing Merrimack County District 8, which includes Allenstown, Epsom, and Pittsfield. During the past three years, all three towns have been intensely and even tragically affected by natural disasters. We who have the privilege and responsibility of representing these citizens have learned far more than we ever wanted to about the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Disaster Mitigation and its requirements, 75 % to 25 % per cent matching, and more.

As a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 10 I wholeheartedly support its passage and am grateful for Senator Barnes for sponsoring this legislation. While I'm of course very much aware of the fiscal constraints under which this state operates now and in the coming biennium, I'm nonetheless convinced that tight budgets must not and cannot prolong the suffering and uncertainty of Allenstown residents in River Road and Albin Avenue.

For me, one extremely compelling argument for the FEMA buyout program is the fact that the Suncook River, a tributary of the Merrimack, has undergone a drastic upheaval as a result of the 2006 flood and the resulting avulsion that occurred in Epsom. For the past three years, and indeed for the foreseeable future, the river will remain unpredictable and prone to extensive flooding and overspilling its banks. Residents who remain will be regularly flooded out of their dwellings. Over time there will be diminishing returns—if any returns at all—from insurance companies now that flood plain maps have been re-drawn. There is a possibility that the Suncook can be "restored" through a pre-disaster mitigation program, if Federal funding is forthcoming. But such a project is not nearly "shovel-ready" and is at least one year—if not more—from beginning, much less being completed.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Tax Foundation publishes a ranking of all states by Federal tax dollars paid compared to Federal dollars returned to the state. From 2001 to 2005, the most recent year for which such data are available, New Hampshire ranks either 48th or 47th out of 50. To me this means that my constituents in Allenstown—and other residents of our state—who faithfully pay their Federal taxes are consistently being cheated of what compensation they may be entitled to. This occurs whenever the State of New Hampshire fails to appropriate monies that have a matching grant component, as in the FEMA buyout program.

Making the appropriation required by Senate Bill 10 would in some measure redress this unbalance, return tax dollars to New Hampshire for the benefit of taxpayers whose lives have been forever altered by these flooding disasters. I strongly feel that they are entitled to this expenditure.

Where possible I've done my part—though it is a small effort compared to what government can accomplish—by manning telethon phones for flood relief and donating to the flood relief fund. It is my heartfelt hope that this committee and the entire Senate will pass Senate Bill 10 and make it possible for me to do something with a much greater impact, giving me the chance to support my constituents with a "Yes" vote in the House, that they may proceed with the buyout process.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully,



Rep. Margaret E. Porter
Merrimack County District 8
Allenstown, Epsom, Pittsfield

Chairman D'Alessandro, distinguished members of the Finance Committee,

Good morning, first let me say thank you for your time this morning.

I realize that you all have busy schedules, and that your time is valuable. We would like to thank you all for listening to our needs and for your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

I would like to take a moment to explain why this bill is so important, and why we believe that you should support it.

First, I would like to ask you to think back to Mother's Day 2006 and to April of 2007.

As you will recall, our State experienced some of the worst flooding in its History during those 2 consecutive Springs.

Experts said that the Mother's Day flood in 2006 was a freak of nature, a rare event, a "100 year flood"....Well those comments stood on their merit for about 11 months, until the 2007 Flood hit less than a year from the last one.

As you may or may not remember, Allenstown was hit with Major flooding events both of these years, and there was extensive damage in a few specific areas of our town.

However, there is one section of our town that was devastated, and even today has not gotten back to it's pre-flood condition.

This area of town is concentrated on the east Bank of the Suncook River along rte 28 from the Pembroke town line to just before the Suncook Business Park.

These neighborhoods saw extensive damage during both floods. These floods devastated more than just roads, homes, and people's property... They devastated the very lives of our citizens who live in these neighborhoods. Most of these residents have spent their entire life savings and in some cases even their retirement... repairing their homes, and just getting them back to acceptable living condition.

In fact, two families have since lost their homes to foreclosure; in large part as a result of spending all they had trying to repair their homes.

The underlying problems have not been solved. During the Mother's Day Flood of 2006, there was an avulsion upstream in Epsom, and the river changed it's course. Thousands of cubic feet of sediment washed downstream and has raised the riverbed as a result. This could mean that it will take less water flow to cause a flood in these neighborhoods, and that any future floods could be worse than the previous two.

Unfortunately, there is a very good chance that many of these homes will flood again should we get the right weather conditions.

That brings us to why we are here today... there IS something we can do to avoid another disaster in the future....

Together with your help, we have a chance to prevent this from ever happening again to these citizens, these families, or anyone again at these locations.

You see, we need your help in procuring the remaining local match in order for us to meet the grant's requirements.

Our town will do everything it can to meet the local match requirements. We will be providing equipment, materials and manpower as much as possible. Our Conservation Committee has even offered up more than 36 thousand dollars, which is all that they have in their capital funds account.

However, we still need to find about 650 thousand dollars in order to complete the local match requirement.

This bill and the appropriation will make it possible for the Town to purchase the 14 homes and properties, and ensure that no one ever experiences this again in the future.

It also helps us start to address the larger issue of the riverbed.

By removing these homes and returning the properties to Green Space, we will allow the river some extra room to expand and drain during future flooding events.

This bill would also in effect, be saving the State and Federal Agencies from ever having to pay future disaster relief claims on these properties.

By purchasing these homes and returning them to open green spaces, you guarantee that no future claims will ever be filed on them

As you may or may not know, this is the first grant of this type that any town in New Hampshire has received. We need your help in solidifying the remaining local match for this grant. If we are unable to procure the remaining funds, we'll end up having to return the money to FEMA, and these families, and our town will all be back to square one.

You can be rest assured when you vote to approve this bill, that Allenstown will exercise responsible use and strict oversight of these funds. We have received and administered many grants in the last few years and our record in managing those grants speaks for itself.

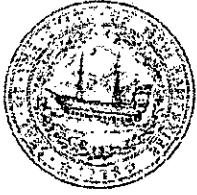
We will make sure that the monies are only spent on what is documented in the application, and that our books are kept up to date. We have already budgeted for the special Federal audit that will be required should we be able to proceed with the Grant. In fact, we'll invite any of you to inspect our records and administration of the grant at any time.

By administering this grant effectively and openly, we expect to show the Federal Government that New Hampshire is not only deserving of future grants of this type, but that her cities and towns can be counted on to do the right thing when they are afforded such opportunities.

In closing, we understand full well, that times are tough, and that budgets are extremely tight. Believe me, we really understand this in Allenstown.

However, we ask that you give this bill serious consideration and know that by voting to approve, each of you has a big chance at making a real difference in the lives of 14 families, and you also can also make a big contribution to a real problem that is not going to go away on it's own.

Again, I would like to thank you for your time today, and for your thoughtful consideration of this Bill.



JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

State of New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone (603) 271-2121
www.nh.gov/governor
governorlynch@nh.gov

January 25, 2008

Art Cleaves, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region I.
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: FEMA Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program for FY 2008

Dear Administrator Cleaves:

Attached, please find the State of New Hampshire's application for funding for the FY 2008 Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. I urge you to give strong consideration to these projects, particularly those proposals aimed at acquiring property to mitigate future damage to homes.

Since October 2005, New Hampshire has experienced three federally declared flood-related disasters that severely impacted citizens, residences, businesses and critical infrastructure. Households were particularly hit hard during the October 2005 flooding disaster. During that event 54 homes were destroyed. Many of these households were in dire financial crisis and as a result, the state supported a \$3 million buyout program for 29 families.

The subsequent two flooding disasters (May 2006 and April 2007) saw many households damaged, including homes in the communities of Allenstown, Merrimack and Salem. Many families experienced flooding twice within 11 months. As a result, homeowners and their communities are actively engaged in the pursuit of buyout options.

The state is committed to providing assistance to the municipalities that are submitting applications on behalf of residents who want to move out of harm's way.

I am proud of New Hampshire's emergency response and recovery efforts on behalf of the affected residents during these flood events. FEMA funding for these projects will assist in the ongoing long-term recovery and, more importantly, mitigate damage from any future disasters.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch
Governor

Memo

To: Selectman Thomas Gilligan
CC:
Date: 3/21/09
Re: FMA Phase I

This memorandum is in regards to your RFI about the FMA Phase I Grant and the pending hearing before the Senate Finance Committee (SB 10).

1. The total cost of the project is \$2,898,255. The cost share is as follows;

a. Federal	\$2,173,688
b. State	\$649,876
c. Local	\$74,690

2. The fourteen addresses are as follows;
 - a. 3 Albin Ave.
 - b. 4 Albin Ave.
 - c. 3 Jill Erik Rd.
 - d. 1 Riverside Dr.
 - e. 2 Riverside Dr.
 - f. 11 Riverside Dr.
 - g. 14 Riverside Dr.
 - h. 15 Riverside Dr.
 - i. 16 Riverside Dr.
 - j. 19 Riverside Dr.
 - k. 22 Riverside Dr.
 - l. 28 Riverside Dr.
 - m. 35-37 Riverside Dr.
 - n. 62 Riverside Dr.

3. Total cost of acquisition (money going to homeowners): \$2,503,600

4. The remaining funds are for legal expenses, administration, demolition, inspection/environmental and remediation. \$394,655. -

Chief Shaun Mulholland

Friends of the Suncook River

River Currents

Volume 4

Summer/Fall 2007

The Day the Suncook River Flowed Upstream; During The Great Mother's Day Flood of 2006!

(Submitted by Eric Orff)

Goals:

- Identify and facilitate protection of natural resources, important cultural and historical areas.
- Identify lands to form greenways within the watershed and to join protected lands with adjacent greenways.
- Educate the public about the watershed.
- Educate landowners, public officials and citizens in the importance of protecting open space lands.

Inside this issue:

Mother's Day Flood	1
Milfoil in the Suncook River	3
Brook Floater Mussels	5
Membership Information	6

*The Great Mother's Day
Commemorative Calendar
which runs
May '07 to May '08
is still available
free with membership!*

For much of the night and well into the day of Tuesday May 16, 2006 the Suncook River actually flowed upstream from the Old Mill Dam in Epsom during the highest flood in 100 years on the river. In fact, the river flowed north, in the opposite direction it had flowed since the Ice Age. Indeed, a half mile section of the Suncook River, immediately upstream of the Old Mill dam, drained during the great Mother's Day flood of 2006.

A half mile upstream, a breach in the river's historic banking was pulling the river into an entirely new channel, and literally would suck the old riverbed dry in less than 12 hours. Not only did the new channel suck dry the riverbed above the two dams situated at the head of a series of falls that coursed either side of Bear Island, but it turned two mile-long stretches of roiling flood waters on either side of the island to dry riverbeds as well. In less than a day, two and a half miles of the Suncook River simply disappeared!

Local dam historian Al Bickford of Epsom, pegs the construction of the pair of dams, still in place at the island's north end, at between 1870 and 1872. The NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau names this dam, the Huckins Mill Dam. Their records show it was reconstructed in 1937 for a saw mill.

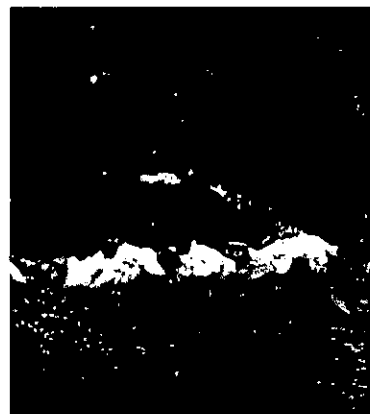
This dam has 202 square miles of drainage area with an impounded surface area of 5 acres. The western section, closest to the old mill, is 98 feet wide with a maximum height of 13 feet. Most recently, in the 1980's, the dam was converted to a hydro power unit for a short period. Then the mill site was converted into the Old Mill Restaurant, and is currently occupied by the Concord Elks Club.

But let's back up to see how quickly the complexion of the Suncook River changed from a meandering river in Epsom, save for the two sections of the river that bracketed Bear Island. Instead of meandering, this section of the river tumbled down a series of rapids and falls for most of the length of the mile-long island before rejoining as one at the confluence of the island's tail. This created the best section of river for trout fishing in Epsom.

The river sweeps past my house about three miles downstream. For the first time in the twenty-six years I have lived overlooking the river, it didn't completely freeze last winter, at least by my house. The snow-less winter and dry spring conditions, that just over a week prior had the sign next to the Epsom Fire Department declaring "No Burning Permits Issued", also practically put the river into a summer slumber stage.

All that changed with a deluge of rain starting most of the day Saturday. By evening my rain gauge measured 3 1/2 inches. Our sleeping neighbor was stirring by nightfall. By Sunday morning, the Flood Warning predictions that seemed so senseless two days before, were looking more ominous by the hour. The river was rising rapidly. In fact, I spent much of Mother's Day helping the neighbor downriver from me sandbag the flood wall he built in 1988 to protect the lower level of his home which sets right at river's edge. We hurriedly added a layer of sand bags on top of his three foot high wall.

(continued on p. 2)



(photo by E. Orff)

This was the scene along the river in Epsom in May '06. Some of the same folks who suffered damage in the Great Mother's Day Flood of '06 were hit even harder in the April '07 floods.

Suncook River Clean Up

The Friends of the Suncook River (FOSR) held its "Suncook River Clean Up" on Saturday September 9th. More folks showed up to clean the Allenstown section of the river than in any other town. The crew pictured did a huge section of the river shore starting at Memorial Field in Pembroke and ended at the Buck Street Dam area. They combed the shore where ever they could by foot. They collected by far the most debris! When Eric Orff met the crew at 12:30. They were all thrilled to be a part of the river clean up. They had a pickup load of debris. Some of the bags weighted close to 60 pounds. Lots of glass and other sharp objects were poking from the bags. This will no doubt keep people AND wildlife from likely injuries from all the sharp objects. Plus I signed off on three hours of community service for them as part of their school requirement. ■



(photo by E. Orff)

Allenstown women provide a clean sweep for the environment. (From left to right) Bridget Sargent, Jessica Donnell, Brianna Carmichael, and her dad Dennis, combed the shores of the Suncook River during the third annual Friends of the Suncook River Clean-Up.

Our Website's been updated thanks to Bill Provencal of Pittsfield!

Check it out!

www.friendsofsuncookriver.org

The Great Mother's Day Flood (cont'd)

As we worked through the afternoon, on the opposite side of the eight inch wide wall we were capping, the river was growing in power carrying whole trees and even a whole wall of a structure with cupboards still attached which bobbed by at nearly eye level. The rapidly rising river rose to the top of the wall just as we finished one layer of sandbags. Then, in what seemed like minutes, the river won and poured through and over the sandbags. I was soaking wet and exhausted.

By nightfall my rain gauge was full again to the 4 ½ inch level, bringing the total to 8 inches in two days. (We got two more inches before the end of the rain storm) And, the once quiet river roared past my house in the darkness.

Monday morning I awoke to a totally different looking river. It was higher than I had ever seen it; the cornfield and meadow below my house were flooded and the river was filled with debris from parts of trees to bottles and unidentified building parts. The Suncook churned all this material in a boiling rage, and seemed to spit it right at me from a hundred yards away until the 90 degree bend yanked them from my view. It was awesome!

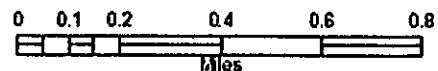
But not as awesome as what four local folks would witness by late morning. Local farmer Bill Yeaton relayed to me the next day what he and three others including Ronnie Colby, Chris Paris and Peter Demers watched just as the Suncook River changed course in a matter of minutes by noon on that Monday May 15th.

(continued on p. 4)



Legend

- New Channel
- Abandoned Channel
- Scoured Area



Good Morning Mr/Madam Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee..

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.... For the record, my name is Representative Carole Brown.... I represent Merrimack District 8 which contains the Towns of Pittsfield, Allenstown, and Epsom...and, I am here today to speak on behalf of the residents of Allenstown who reside in the areas along the Suncook River that have suffered from repeated flooding...On May 16,2006 the Suncook River breached its banks and went down through a gravel pit cutting a new channel and leaving 2 ½ miles of cut-off river bed high and dry... there was much damage and flooding downstream... the residents in the area of Riverside Drive and Albin Ave and Jilleric Drive have been severely impacted and continue to live in an area which is now a Flood Way and they are exposed to the flooding any time that weather and snow melt get to the flood stage.... FEMA has approved grants in the total amount \$2.1 Million dollars in Federal Funds

or 2.2?

and I am here to support the request for a required State Match of \$650,000. The Town of Allenstown has met it's required match and with the State Match, FEMA has agreed to but out 14 properties that allow for the most efficient use of these funds... The land will become parkland and cannot be built upon again.

I would like to state again my strong support of SB 10 and ask that you help to move these families out of harm's way....There really is nothing much that they can do to change the circumstances that they have to live with, and floods will come again, with snow melts, heavy rains and high waters.....

I thank you for your time..... Rep. Carole M. Brown

Voting Sheets

Need
amendment

Senate Finance Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill # SB10

Hearing date: 3-26-09

Room: State House - Room 100

Executive session date: 3-26-09

Motion of: OTPIA

VOTE: 7-0

Made by D'Allesandro
Senator: Janeway
 Larsen
 Hassan
 Sgambati
 Odell
 Gallus

Seconded D'Allesandro
by Senator: Janeway
 Larsen
 Hassan
 Sgambati
 Odell
 Gallus

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Reported out by</u>
Senator D'Allesandro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>D'Allesandro</u>
Senator Janeway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Larsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Hassan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Sgambati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Odell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Senator Gallus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*Amendments: sg 2nd Ja 7-0

NOTES: precedent? who writes the sharing?
 can state in kind count? Does town decide state share
 how involved was the state? what does this obligate us to in
 future?

Money is not in budget w/c 09 budget is in place
 Jack - Prog could be in there but very detailed expenditure?

Odell - put #1 and put it in the budget?

once the fiscal + G+C accept the fed \$, the 650,000 will have to

Larsen - Line 3 upon G+C approval

For calendar year ending Dec 2016

allow it to be spread over 2 fiscal years

how do we craft it to meet our obligation

Next biennium as start date would commit the money

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: March 26, 2009

THE COMMITTEE ON Finance

to which was referred Senate Bill 10-FN-A-L

AN ACT making an appropriation to the town of Allenstown for
disaster assistance in response to the May 2006 and April
2007 floods.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 7-0

AMENDMENT # 1087s

Senator Lou D'Allesandro
For the Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117