

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2014

Volume IV – Public Safety, Natural Resources
and Transportation

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

Capital Budget Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Management

Governor's Recommendations

Hazardous Waste Programs

Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration - The voters approved \$8.5 million in November 2004 to be utilized for several water pollution abatement projects including matching grants and incentive grants to state and local entities, non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses for water quality restoration and protection projects. In addition, a new referenda was approved in November of 2012, for an additional \$4.0 million for use beginning in FY 2014. The bond funds may be used in conjunction with federal and local contributions. Examples of projects to be funded include point and non-point source pollution abatement, nutrient loading abatement, best management grants for farmers and businesses, and riparian buffer enhancements. The watershed approach to pollution identification and assessment, with the remediation responsibility assigned to the polluter wherever possible, is also part of the department's community-based approach to improving the health of Narragansett Bay and its tributaries. Prior to FY 2013, \$2.0 million in bond proceeds were expended on the project. The Governor recommends the expenditure of general obligation bond proceeds in the amount of \$6.5 million in FY 2013, \$1.0 million in FY 2014, \$1.0 million in FY 2015, and \$2.0 million in FY 2016.

Open Space and Natural Land Protection

Open Space and Natural Land Protection - The Governor recommends a total of \$14.0 million for open space and land acquisition purchases by the department. Land acquisition includes land and development rights to preserve coastal access and shoreline open space, including land acquisition and development rights related to the implementation of the Greenspace Plan. Under the Plan, the department uses state bond funds combined with federal and non-profit funds (i.e. Nature Conservancy, Champlin Foundation, Audubon Society, and various land trusts) to coordinate preservation projects and acquire real estate. Goals of the department's land acquisition program include watershed protection, expansion of open space and recreation areas, protection of greenways, easements to recreation lands, and preservation of wildlife habitat and natural heritage areas.

Prior to FY 2013, \$9.4 million was spent, of which \$8.9 million was from the 2004 bond authorization and \$506,063 from the 2008 bond authorization. For FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$2.1 million of issued bond proceeds. The Governor also includes funding from the November 2012 referendum totaling \$2.5 million to be used for the purchase of land, development rights, and conservation easements statewide. Bonds will be issued for \$1.0 million in FY 2014, \$1.0 million in FY 2015 and \$500,000 in FY 2016.

Farmland Preservation and Acquisition - The Governor recommends a total of \$18.5 million for farmland development rights to relieve farm owners from the economic pressure to sell their land for residential or commercial development, thus making the properties available for farming in perpetuity. The Governor does not recommend financing in FY 2013, but includes \$1.0 million in issued bond proceeds from the 2008 authorization and \$1.5 million in 2012 authorization in FY 2014, \$1.5 million in 2012 authorization in FY 2015, and \$1.5 million in 2012 authorization in FY 2016. The benefits of the program include maintenance of viable agriculture sites, economic activity associated with the agriculture industry estimated to be \$141 million annually, and protection of vital biodiversity habitats. Prior to FY 2013, \$13.0 million was spent on this project including: \$5.0 million from the 2004 bond authorization, and \$8.0 million from federal funds.

Department of Environmental Management

Municipal Recreation Projects

Rocky Point Acquisition/Renovations – The Governor recommends \$12.5 million for the Rocky Point Acquisition project, \$10.0 million of which will be spent in FY 2013. The 2010 bond funds totaling \$10.0 million were used to negotiate between the department and the Small Business Association (SBA) to acquire Rocky Point Park located in Warwick, Rhode Island. In FY 2014, the Governor recommends Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds (RICAP) totaling \$2.5 million for remedial cleanup of environmental liabilities at the former Rocky Point Amusement Park. The site consists of approximately 78.5 acres of land and includes fifty-four (54) vacant residential cottages, the former amusement park midway area, two (2) existing vacant commercial buildings and parking areas, and access roads. Liabilities include hazardous materials, solid waste and safety liabilities. The department hopes to provide the public with access to the land for many recreational activities, such as: picnicking, hiking, and sightseeing, as well as providing the public access to the shoreline for saltwater based recreation, such as boating, kayaking, and fishing.

Roger Williams Park – The state has provided bond proceeds to the City of Providence for various renovations and upgrades at Roger Williams Park in Providence since 1989. The Governor recommends a total of \$11.0 million in proceeds from the 2006 authorization for continuing park and zoo improvements, including the new botanical exhibit, a new elephant house and yard, and the North American Trail Exhibit.

State bond funds are used in combination with private capital fundraising campaigns in the combined amount of \$28.5 million for the total planned capital initiative. Prior to FY 2013, \$9.0 million was spent from the 1989 authorization, \$1.5 million was spent from the 2000 authorization, \$3.0 million was spent from the 2002 authorization, \$4.0 million was spent from the 2004 authorization, and \$10.2 million was spent from the 2006 authorization. In FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$800,000 from the 2006 authorization. Prior to FY 2013, \$27.7 million has been spent.

Local Land Acquisition - The Governor recommends a total of \$23.9 million for grants to municipalities for the acquisition and development rights of coastal and shoreline access points, open space land and land suitable for public recreational facilities. The program provides funds of up to 50 percent of the purchase price of the land. Since 1988, the department has awarded over 137 grants, used by communities to preserve 8,100 acres of open space. Prior to FY 2013, \$18.9 million has been spent on the project. In FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$2.5 million from the 2004 bond authorization. The Governor also recommends \$1.0 million in FY 2014, \$1.0 million in FY 2015, and \$500,000 in FY 2016 from the referenda approved in November 2012. The availability of local match may alter the issuance and expenditure budgets for this project.

Local Recreation Development – The Governor recommends a total of \$43.0 million in general obligation bond proceeds for grants to municipalities to acquire, develop and rehabilitate local recreational facilities. The program provides funding assistance of up to 50 percent of total project costs. In some years, federal funds are available to augment state resources.

In FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$146,061 from the 1987 bond authorization, \$127,722 from the 2004 bond authorization, and \$2.0 million from the 2006 issued general obligation bond. In FY 2014, the Governor recommends \$1.0 million from the 2006 general obligation bond authorization.

The Governor also recommends financing totaling \$3.5 million from the November 2012 referendum to provide grants to the municipalities for recreation acquisition and development. Expenditures will be

Department of Environmental Management

issued for \$2.0 million in FY 2014, \$2.0 million in FY 2015, \$1.0 million in FY 2016 and \$500,000 in FY 2017.

Local Bikeways & Recreational Greenways - The Governor recommends a total of \$5.0 million for design and construction of local bikeways and recreational greenways, including off-road facilities connecting Rhode Island parks, open space, and other greenways. Generally, the department provides 50 percent matching grants to local communities. Prior to FY 2013, \$4.5 million was utilized from this 1998 bond authorization for local bikeway development in several communities. The Governor recommends \$500,000 in FY 2013 for the completion of this project.

Historic/Passive Local Recreation Grants – The Governor recommends a total of \$6.0 million for Historic/Passive Local Recreation Grants. The recommendation includes the 2004 local recreation bond authorization and new referenda approved in November of 2012 for the renovation and development of historic and passive recreation areas. The grants provide funding to municipalities of up to 90 percent of the cost for renovations and developments, including improvements to walking trails, gazebos, bandstands, lighting, picnic tables etc. Prior to FY 2013, \$4.0 million was utilized from the 2004 general obligation bond authorization. The Governor recommends \$1.0 million from the 2004 issued bond proceeds in FY 2013 and \$250,000 in new referenda for each year from FY 2014 through FY 2017.

State Recreational Facilities

Blackstone Valley Bike Path/State Park – The General Assembly approved Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds (RICAP) of \$1.5 million for the Blackstone Valley Bike Path/State Park, to be utilized for the construction of the bike path. The Bike Path is scheduled to be a 17.1 mile by 12-foot wide scenic bike path that will connect to the East Bay Bike Path, eventually making a continuous 31.9 mile route for alternative transportation. The Governor recommends \$623,425 in FY 2013, and \$596,000 in FY 2014 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds (RICAP). Prior to FY 2013 \$280,575 has been spent on this project.

Facilities Improvements - The Department is responsible for maintenance and operation of over fifty state-owned buildings, twenty-five miles of roads, and several bridges in state parks and management areas. The Governor recommends a total of \$38.4 million, including Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency financing, federal financing, insurance proceeds, and issued and unissued general obligation bond proceeds for the asset protection of these projects.

In FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$1.6 million from the 2004 issued general obligation bond, \$275,000 in federal funds, and \$947,108 from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund for a total of \$2.8 million. In FY 2014, \$250,000 in federal funds and \$2.6 million from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund for a total amount of \$2.9 million is recommended. In FY 2015, \$250,000 in federal funds, and \$2.8 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds for a total of \$3.0 million is recommended. In FY 2016, \$250,000 in federal funds, and \$2.9 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds for a total of \$3.1 million is recommended. In FY 2017, \$250,000 in federal funds, and \$2.3 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds, for a total of \$2.5 million is recommended. In FY 2018, \$1.5 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds is recommended. Prior to FY 2013, \$22.5 million has been spent on Recreational Facility Improvements.

Fort Adams Restoration – The Governor recommends a total of \$9.3 million for the Fort Adams State Park project in Newport. The Fort Adams Foundation and Fort Adams Trust have applied to various charitable trusts and non-profit organizations for matching grants to rehabilitate the structures at this

Department of Environmental Management

historic fort site, including the National Park Service and the Champlain Foundation. The Fort contains significant American military history artifacts and is a National Landmark Structure.

In FY 2013, the Governor recommends \$750,000 from the 2010 authorization and \$502,735 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund financing for matching grants for continuing improvements to the uniquely designed and engineered structures at the park. The Governor recommends \$500,000 from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund in FY 2014 and FY 2015, and \$300,000 in FY 2016. Prior to FY 2013 \$6.7 million has been spent on this project.

Fort Adams Sailing Improvements – The Governor recommends \$4.4 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds for improvements to Fort Adams State Park to create an event center to host sailing events. The department has been working with the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation to design improvements to Fort Adams that will allow it to host large sailing events such as: America’s Cup, the Extreme Sailing Championship and the Volvo Regatta. In the Summer of 2012 the Department hosted America’s Cup races, and received rave reviews. The Governor recommends \$1.9 million in FY 2013 mainly for the addition of a wave attenuator, and \$1.5 million in FY 2014 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds. Prior to FY 2013, \$911,831 has been spent on this project.

World War II – The Governor recommends \$2.6 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds for the construction of a new World War II State Park in Woonsocket, RI. Plans will revitalize the currently closed park with design ideas pending. The project will also include; water, sewer, storm water, and electrical upgrades; new curbing, walkways, plantings and shrubs, replacement of a pedestrian bridge, benches, a new playground and fencing. The Governor recommends \$2.6 million in FY 2014 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds. This project was initially scheduled to begin in FY 2012, but has been delayed due to design and operating setbacks.

State Infrastructure Facilities

Fish and Wildlife Maintenance Facility -

The Governor recommends a total of \$650,000 in federal funds and Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds for the construction of a new maintenance facility for the Division of Fish & Wildlife development section. The existing facilities at the Great Swamp Management area are over thirty years old and are incapable of housing the heavy equipment and research equipment used in managing fish and game areas supervised by the State. The project is a continuation of improvements to the Great Swamp Facility, which is a focal point of activities for the division including research activities, wildlife management, and public involvement for all fish and wildlife efforts of the department. In FY 2014, the Governor recommends federal financing of \$75,000 to begin the design of the facility. In FY 2015, the Governor recommends federal financing of \$250,000 and \$325,000 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds in post-FY 2018.

Galilee and Newport Piers - The Governor recommends a total of \$15.5 million from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund and \$2.9 million in federal funds for improvements at Galilee Piers (\$12.5 million) and at Newport Piers (\$5.9 million). These port facilities and piers support the state’s commercial marine fishing industry and provide access points for the department’s enforcement and marine wildlife divisions.

Prior to FY 2013, \$5.1 million from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund was spent on the Galilee Piers and \$5.4 million on the Newport Piers. The Governor recommends continued financing for pier improvements. Financing from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund for the Galilee Piers is recommended

Department of Environmental Management

in the amount of \$1.7 million in FY 2013, \$1.6 million in FY 2014, \$125,000 in FY 2015, \$665,000 in FY 2016, \$250,000 in FY 2017, and \$250,000 in FY 2018. The Department will also receive \$2.7 million in FY 2014, and \$221,600 in FY 2015 in federal financing for an Economic Development Administration grant, which will require a state match. Financing has been included for the match. This financing will continue the reconstruction and replacement of several piers, piling replacements and will focus on repairing the south bulkhead which is the largest component of programmed improvements. Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund financing for the Newport Piers includes \$75,000 in FY 2013 and \$250,000 in FY 2014 and FY 2015. Most of the major reconstruction at Newport was completed in previous years; continued financing will be used for securing the heavy duty pier and its electrical service, upgrades to the office building, and fender pile replacements.

Natural Resources Offices/Visitor's Center - The Governor recommends a total of \$3.3 million from FY 2013 through FY 2015. The Governor recommends \$250,000 in FY 2013; \$1.8 million in FY 2014; and \$1.3 million in FY 2015 from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund for the construction of a new office facility in the Arcadia Management Area. The Department has indicated that the design and engineering of this project can be expedited, resulting in the project timeline moving forward one year. This facility will consolidate and provide office space, laboratories, storage, and workshop areas for mosquito abatement testing, the state veterinarian, and the Administrative Offices and Freshwater Fisheries and Wildlife sections of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. The facility would also be utilized as a visitor's center for people using the Arcadia Management Area for fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, and horseback riding.

State-Owned Dams Rehabilitation - The Governor recommends \$8.8 million from the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund to repair state-owned dams in various recreation and management areas operated by the department. The rehabilitation projects are for dams classified as high-hazard dams which is a measure of downstream hazard potential, not only a measure of the potential for failure. The repairs are also necessary to manage water levels at recreational fishing and swimming areas. Past years' work has included the rehabilitation at the Bowdish Reservoir dam in Burrillville, and the Stillwater Reservoir Dam in Smithfield, while two high-hazard dams in the John L. Curran Management Area are currently being repaired.

Prior to FY 2013, \$4.4 million had been utilized on these projects. The Governor recommends \$1.0 million in FY 2013, \$1.3 million in FY 2014, \$550,000 in FY 2015, \$500,000 in FY 2016, \$500,000 in FY 2017, and \$500,000 in FY 2018 in Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund for design and construction of the J.L. Curran Dams, the Breakheart Hill Dam, and the Burlingame Reservoir Dam in Glocester, RI. The Governor's financing plan for dams allows the department to sustain a consistent repair program, thus reducing the liability for failure of state-owned dams.

Coastal Resources Management Council

Governor's Recommendations

Coastal and Habitat Restoration Trust Fund – The Governor recommends the expenditure of \$250,000 in restricted receipts from the Oil Spill Prevention, Administration and Response Fund, (OSPAR) in FY 2013, and \$250,000 in each year thereafter through FY 2018, to preserve and restore coastal wetlands, fish runs, and eelgrass beds that protect the shore from storms and erosion, serve as breeding grounds for recreational and commercial fishing, filter out pollution, and hinder the spread of mosquitoes. Restoration projects are reviewed and selected by the R.I. Habitat Protection Team. Past project work totaling \$2.5 million has included 1) **Salt Marsh Restorations** (Lonsdale Drive-in Marsh Buckeye Brook, salt marsh restorations at Fields Point, Stillhouse Cove, Palmer River, Mussachuck Creek, Walker Farm, Little Mussachuck Creek, Gooseneck Cove, Jacob's Point, Stillhouse Cove, Brenton Cove, Round Marsh in Jamestown, Manton Pond, Winnapaug, and Silver Creek in Bristol, Boyd's Marsh Town Pond habitat restoration, Hog Island, Goosewing Beach); 2) **Dam Improvements** (Shannock Falls Dams accessways improvements, Dyerville Dam, Ten Mile River Reservation); 3) **Fish Passage Restoration** (Wakefield, Gilbert Stuart, Factory Brook, Kickemuit Reservoir, Atlantic Mills, Blackstone, Manton Pond, Ten Mile River, Woonasquatucket River, Rising Sun Mill, Pawcatuck River, Paragon, Lower Shannock, Blackstone River, Main Street Dam in South Kingston, Palisades, Kenyon Mill Dam); and 4) **Other Projects** (restoration of Napatree and Third Beach dunes, hard clams in Rhode Island's salt ponds, sediment management in the Lower Pawtuxet River ecosystem, Allin's Cove Invasive control and upland restoration and Narragansett Bay Seagrass, enhanced eastern oyster restoration, caged scallop spawning sanctuary, Avondale farm/Colonel Willie Cove phragmite control as well as financing for environmental studies and mosquito abatement equipment). The total cost of the project during the capital planning period is \$1.5 million.

Fish Passage Restoration – The Governor recommends the total expenditure of \$907,914 in FY 2013 and FY 2014 in federal funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to construct six high priority restoration projects that began in the fall of 2009 and will continue to FY 2014. \$2.6 million has been spent to date. The projects will restore riverine habitats and associated wetlands for migratory fish species. One project (Lower Shannock Falls dam removal) has been completed. Three fish ladder projects (Horseshoe Falls, Hunts Mill Dam, and Turner Reservoir Dam) are under construction. Two projects (the Omega Pond Dam fish ladder project and the Kenyon Mills Dam rock ramp) will be completed in early 2013. The project will restore access to 13 stream miles and 1,640 acres of spawning habitat to enhance the state's fresh water and salt water fisheries.

South Coast Restoration Project – The Governor recommends a total expenditure of \$9.2 million to continue the project to dredge breachways and tidal deltas in order to replenish beach areas and restore fish passageways along the state's south coast. \$7.2 million in federal, restricted receipt (the Oil Spill Prevention, Administration and Response Fund, or OSPAR), general revenue, municipal expenditure, and Rhode Island Capital Plan funds have been spent to date to dredge Ninigret pond and perform eelgrass seeding, as well as to prepare for work at Winnapaug and Quonochontaug Ponds. The recommendation for FY 2013 includes \$450,000 in Rhode Island Capital Plan funds and \$542,155 in federal funds for sediment removal and habitat restoration at Winnapaug. The Governor also recommends \$1.0 million in Rhode Island Capital Plan funds in FY 2015 to dredge the Ninigret sedimentation basin in order to preserve past habitat restoration work.

Secure Facility Area - The Governor recommends the expenditure of \$50,000 in Rhode Island Capital Plan funds in FY 2013 to construct a secure outdoor area at the Stedman Government Center to house the Agency's trailerable boats in order to provide both ready access and vessel security.

Coastal Resources Management Council

Providence River Dredging Maintenance Cost Share – The Governor recommends \$222,281 in Rhode Island Capital Plan funds in FY 2013 to pay for the outstanding portion of the State’s share of the operation and maintenance costs of the Providence River Dredging project

Large Rock Removal, Ninigret Pond Breachway -

The project in the current plan called for the expenditure of \$180,000 in Rhode Island Capital Plan funds and \$720,000 in federal funds in FY 2014 to remove boulders from the inlet and its eastward approaches that constitute a hazard to navigation. Because of Hurricane Sandy, however, the breachway area has suffered not only from additional rock falls but large sediment deposition that require removal. Therefore, the Governor recommends the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public assistance funds, matched at a 25 percent rate with state funds, for the expanded project. Tentative cost estimates of \$1.5 million total (\$375,000 state/\$1,125,000 federal) are subject to further review and refinement by both the Agency and by FEMA. These funds will be included under the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.