



# Public Information Session

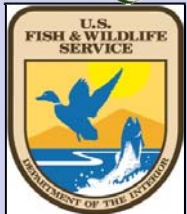
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Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed  
Restoration Program

**Second Subround of  
Round 3 Restoration Project Proposals  
for  
Land Acquisition to Conserve Habitat**

Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages Fund

**September 17, 2015, Lenox Library, Lenox, Massachusetts**



Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees  
One Winter Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108



# ***Agenda***

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## **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

## **2. PRESENTATION**

- **Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program**
- **Round 3 Restoration Plan**
- **Grant Announcement & Application**
- **Proposal Review**
- **Grant Contracts**
- **Resources**

## **3. OPEN FORUM / Q&A**



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# **HOUSATONIC RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM**



# ***Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program***

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## **GE/Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Settlement**

- Consent Decree in 2000
- \$15 million in damages as compensation for resource damages
  - Approx. \$7.5 million targeted for projects in Massachusetts

## **Massachusetts SubCouncil of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees**

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), represented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Department of the Interior (DOI): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



# ***Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program***

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## **Massachusetts SubCouncil Voting Members**

### **Karen Pelto**

#### **State Trustee Representative & Lead Administrative Trustee**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street, 6th Floor

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

email: [Karen.Pelto@state.ma.us](mailto:Karen.Pelto@state.ma.us)

phone: (617) 292-5785

### **Molly Sperduto**

#### **Trustee Representative for the DOI / USFWS**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300

Concord, NH 03301

email: [Molly\\_sperduto@fws.gov](mailto:Molly_sperduto@fws.gov)

phone: (603) 227-6415



## ***Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program***

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**The MA SubCouncil is responsible for** disbursing funds from the Massachusetts portion of the NRD settlement.

**Funds are used for compensatory restoration projects** that will restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and/or their services that were injured or lost as a result of the release of hazardous materials, including PCBs, into the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.

**Two previous rounds** of restoration projects have been funded as a part of this Restoration Program.



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# **ROUND 3 RESTORATION PLAN**



## ***Round 3 Restoration Plan: Overview***

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### **Round 3 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (RP/SEA)**

- Completed May 2013
- Documents the plan for identifying and funding Round 3 projects for compensatory restoration of the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River
- Developed with public input and subject to public comment
- Focuses on land protection to conserve habitat
- Targets a total of \$2 million for disbursement





## ***Round 3 Restoration Plan: Eligible Applicants***

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**Eligible Applicants** include public and private entities including:

- Local, state, federal, and tribal governments;
- Non-profit organizations;
- Individuals; and
- Commercial organizations.

Applicants may be based outside of the Housatonic River watershed.



## ***Round 3 Restoration Plan: Eligible Projects & Project Locations***

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**Eligible Projects** are those that would benefit injured natural resources and/or services in the Housatonic River watershed in Massachusetts through land protection to conserve habitat.

**Land must be protected in perpetuity** through fee title, conservation restriction, or dedication.

**Projects may be conducted at any location**, but must directly benefit the injured natural resources and/or services **in the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.**

Priority will be given to projects located within the Housatonic River watershed in Massachusetts.



## ***Round 3 Restoration Plan: First Subround***

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### **To date, 2 projects selected in First Subround:**

- **Hinsdale:** 90 acres of wetland and upland habitat, including ACEC, NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$90,000*)
- **Egremont:** 23 acres of coldwater fisheries, riparian, floodplain, and upland habitat, including NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$187,500*)

### **One project still under review in First Subround:**

- > 200 acres of wetland, stream, riparian, and upland habitat, including BioMap 2 Core Habitat. (*Potential NRD funding: \$871,000*)

### **Final project selection and announcements for First Subround:**

- Anticipated late September 2015



## ***Round 3 Restoration Plan: Second Subround***

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### **Subround 2 Funding:**

- Available funding is dependent on outcome of final project review and selection for Subround 1.

### **Process for second subround of funding will include:**

- Release of Grant Announcement & Application (GAA)
- Applicants' Conference
- Proposal development and review:
  - Phase 1 (selected proposals advance to Phase 2)
  - Phase 2 (additional due diligence)
- Project selection and funding



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**Second Subround of Round 3**  
**GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT &**  
**APPLICATION (GAA)**



## ***Grant Announcement & Application: Overview***

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### **Anticipated release date:**

- October 7, 2015

### **Notification of GAA release will be available at:**

- Program website at: [www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org](http://www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org)
- MassDEP NRD website at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>
- Commonwealth's Procurement website(COMMBUYS) available at:  
[www.commbuys.com.html](http://www.commbuys.com.html)
- Via email to known interested parties

### **GAA Materials will be Available at:**

- COMMBUYS website
- MassDEP NRD website



# ***Grant Announcement & Application: GAA Components***

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## **The GAA is anticipated to include:**

- Section 1: GAA Table of Contents
- Section 2: Grant Summary
- Section 3: Eligibility
- Section 4: Definitions
- Section 5: Procurement and Grant Contract Information
- Section 6: Instructions for Submitting an Application
- Section 7: Terms and Conditions of Grant Contract Awards
- Section 8: List of Attachments
- Section 9: List of Acronyms
- Attachments: Application Form, Application Requirements, Supplemental Terms & Conditions, Conflict of Interest Guidance and Disclosure Certification



# ***Grant Announcement & Application: Application Tips and Requirements***

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## **Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts**

- Applicants that have not undertaken a project of this magnitude are encouraged to partner with a more experienced organization.

## **Subcontracting**

- The qualifications, experience, roles and responsibilities of all subcontractors must be clearly identified in each proposal.

## **Multiple Applications**

- Applicants may submit more than one proposal for distinct projects.

## **Applicants' Questions**

- Following release of the GAA:
  - The MA SubCouncil will hold an Applicants' Conference.
  - Written questions will be accepted (up to a date identified in the GAA) and answered by the MA SubCouncil and MassDEP.





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**Second Subround of Round 3  
PROPOSAL REVIEW**



# ***Proposal Review: Review Team and Review Phases***

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## **Grant Review Team**

- Includes members of the MA SubCouncil and staff from departments within the Massachusetts EEA, USFWS, and Stantec.

## **“Phase 1” Review**

- Grant Review Team reviews project proposal based on:
  - Threshold Criteria (minimum requirements for project eligibility)
  - Evaluation Criteria (scoring and prioritization criteria for proposed projects)
- Projects selected to proceed to Phase 2 due diligence.

## **“Phase 2” Review**

- Grant Review Team reviews project due diligence materials.
- MassDEP executes final Grant Contracts with selected applicants.



# ***Proposal Review: Phase 1***

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**Applicants have 6 months to prepare Phase 1 applications including:**

- Completed Application Form
- Land Protection Plan and Cost Estimate
- Personnel Resumes
- Letter of Commitment from Project Partners (if applicable)
- Required Completed Forms and Other Application Requirements

**Phase 1 Application review includes:**

- Stage 1: MA SubCouncil reviews applications relative to the **Threshold Criteria**
- Stage 2: Grant Review Team (GRT) evaluates and scores applications relative to the **Evaluation Criteria**

**Selected applicants will be invited to advance to Phase 2**



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 1 – Threshold Criteria***

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- No. 1:** The application **must contain the information necessary to proceed with an evaluation** as described in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP).
- No. 2:** The proposed project **must restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of natural resources or natural resource services** that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances through land acquisition and/or land protection measures.
- No. 3:** The proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, **must not be an action that is presently required under other federal, state or local law.**



## ***Proposal Review:***

### ***Phase 1, Stage 1 – Threshold Criteria (con't)***

- No. 4:** The proposed project **must be consistent with federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies.**
- No. 5:** In terms of cost, the proposed project **must be consistent with the stated goals of the MA SubCouncil to retain sufficient funds** to 1) accomplish restoration over at least three rounds of proposal solicitations and 2) serve a wide geographic area that benefits the restoration priority categories.
- No. 6:** The proposed project **must not be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions** (e.g., primary restoration) in the Housatonic River watershed.



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria***

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<i>Category</i>	<i># of Criteria</i>	<i>Max. Points</i>
Relevance and Applicability	7	85
Technical Merit	6	65
Project Budget	6	60
Socioeconomic Merit	7	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>285</b>



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)***

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### **Category 1: Relevance and Applicability of Project**

#### **Review Criteria: \***

- Natural Recovery Period
- **Location of Project**
- **Sustainable Benefits**
- **Magnitude of Ecological Benefits**
- Human Health & Safety
- Benefits to Multiple Restoration Categories
- Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions

\* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)***

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### **Category 2: Technical Merit**

#### **Review Criteria: \***

- Technical/Technological Feasibility
- Technical Capacity of Applicant and Project Team
- Potential for Adverse Environmental Impacts
- Measureable Results
- Contingency Actions
- Administrative Capacity of Applicant and Project Team

\* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.





## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)***

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### **Category 3: Project Budget**

#### **Review Criteria: \***

- **Relationship of Expected Costs to Expected Benefits**
- Implementation Oriented
- Budget Justification & Understanding
- **Leveraging of Additional Resources**
- Coordination & Integration
- Comparative Cost-Effectiveness

\* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)***

### **Category 4: Socioeconomic Merit**

#### **Review Criteria: \***

- **Enhancement of Public's Relationship with Natural Resources**
- Fostering Future Restoration and Stewardship
- Community Involvement
- Adverse Socioeconomic Impacts
- **Complementary with Community Goals**
- Public Outreach
- Diverse Partnerships

\* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



## ***Proposal Review: Phase 2***

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### **Due Diligence grant contracts executed with selected applicants**

- Summer 2016 (estimated)

### **Applicants have 6 months for Phase 2 due diligence**

- Due diligence includes: Formal Land Appraisal, Environmental Site Assessment, Letter of Interest / Commitment from Landowner
- Due Winter 2017 (estimated)

### **Phase 2 due diligence material reviewed and projects selected**

- Announcement of final funding awards: Spring 2017(estimated)

### **Grant Contracts amended with selected applicants:**

- Spring 2017 (estimated)

\*Proposals may remain eligible for funding if the closing of the land protection transaction occurs prior to the conclusion of Phase 2 review *provided that* the closing date occurs after the formal announcement that a proposal has been selected to advance from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the review process.



## ***Proposal Review: Anticipated Timeline***

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### **2015**

- Grant Announcement and Application (GAA) released (*October 2015*)
- Applicants' Conference (*December 2015*)

### **2016**

- Deadline for submittal of questions (*January 2016*)
- Phase 1 proposals deadline (*April 2016*)
- Proposed projects selected to advance to Phase 2 (*June 2016*)

### **2017**

- Phase 2 due diligence deadline (*January 2017*)
- Final selection of proposals for Round 3 funding (*April 2017*)



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**Second Subround of Round 3**  
**GRANT CONTRACTS**



## ***Grant Contracts: Additional Information***

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### **Grant Awards**

- Single or multiple Grant Contracts
- Maximum \$ amount for each Grant Contract

### **Contract Duration**

- Base period: 3 years
- One renewal option: 1 year
- Maximum contract period: 4 years

### **Contract Components**

- Commonwealth Standard Contract
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Supplemental Terms and Conditions

### **Payment**

- Grantees reimbursed for costs/expenses



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# RESOURCES



## ***Resources:*** ***Restoration Program Resources***

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**Resources specific to the Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program include:**

- Restoration Planning Strategy (RPS)
- Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP)
- Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- Round 3 RP/SEA

**References are available at the Restoration Program Website:**

[www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org](http://www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org)





## ***Resources: Contact Information***

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### **Points of Contact:**

Karen Pelto, MassDEP NRD Program Coordinator

[Karen.Pelto@state.ma.us](mailto:Karen.Pelto@state.ma.us)

617-292-5785

### **Grant Announcement and Application:**

MassDEP NRD Website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>

### **Project Information, Resources & Updates:**

Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

Website: [www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org](http://www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org)



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# **OPEN FORUM / Q&A**