

Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program

Implementation Activities

FY 05 Workplan and Budget

Pursuant to Section 320 funding under a
Cooperative Agreement with the US EPA

Beginning July 1, 2005

last modified: April 22, 2005

Introduction

Since the completion of the watershed management plan titled the *Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) in 1991, the ongoing focus of the Buzzards Bay Project has been to facilitate implementation of the recommendations contained in this CCMP. This year, the US EPA has made available to the Buzzards Bay Project \$511,966 in Clean Water Act Section 320 funds. This award is approximately 1% larger than the previous year. This grant will be initiated under a new Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

When reviewing this workplan, it is important to recognize that not all tasks described here are funded by this US EPA Cooperative Agreement to the Commonwealth. For example, of this total award, \$486,966 is being directly awarded to the Commonwealth under this grant application and workplan. For the balance of the funding, the US EPA, at the request of the Buzzards Bay Project, will directly award \$25,000 of US EPA section 320 funds to the citizen group the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for specific tasks in the Buzzards Bay citizen water quality-monitoring program. The match to these latter funds is being directly provided by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay under their separate cooperative agreement.

Some initiatives, like the USDA NRCS cost share of personnel detailed to the Buzzards Bay Project for technical assistance are not considered match or a financial contribution under the terms of this Cooperative Agreement. Any grants or assistance from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) or Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management are not considered match to this award unless expressly identified in the “**Match to Cooperative Agreement**” section in the final Cooperative Agreement. Inclusion of any non-match efforts by other agencies in this workplan are meant to demonstrate the collaborative or coordinating role of the Buzzards Bay Project in achieving specific recommendations contained in the watershed plan, the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

FY05 Budget Overview

Federal FY 05 Funding	\$511,966
Base Funding (less Coalition Funding)	\$486,966
Coalition Water Quality monitoring*	\$25,000
Actual Match * (\$486,966 minimum required, actual=)	\$487,400
* match to Coalition funding provided through that organization	

Highlights and Accomplishments During the Past Year

The Buzzards Bay Project's (BBP) primary mission is to provide technical support, and where possible, financial support to Buzzards Bay municipalities, and others, to help implement the recommendations in the Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Management Plan. Much of the day to day work of Buzzards Bay staff revolves around specific projects, like helping a town develop stormwater treatment designs to treat a stormwater discharge contributing to shellfish bed closures, helping towns secure funding for environmental projects like herring ladder repair, or helping a town evaluate environmental impacts or determine compliance with local regulations of proposed development. Some of the BBP's bay-wide initiatives and successes through our work during the FY 2004 workplan include:

- Completion of the second installment of our third watershed atlas, *Selected Inventory of Potential Wetland Restoration Sites in the Buzzards Bay Watershed*. This atlas shows potential wetland restoration sites (principally filled freshwater wetlands) in the Buzzards Bay watershed. It was developed to help government officials and local nongovernmental organizations identify sites for wetland restoration, or sites where wetland mitigation requirements can be fulfilled. It joins two other BBP atlases: tidally restricted salt marshes, and stormwater discharges to Buzzards Bay.
- Assisted the Towns of Marion and Rochester complete their Open Space Plan, which were approved by the state. We then wrote a self-help grant for Marion for the Eastover Farm where they successfully received \$270,000 for a land purchase. An earlier grant from the BBP helped pay for a parcel survey used in the grant application. We also prepared a map series for the Rochester Self-Help grant for Rounseville Property. Our work complimented Coalition for Buzzards Bay efforts in the Town.
- The BBP awarded \$110,045 in municipal grants for environmental projects in October 2004. These grants helped fund municipal oil spill containment equipment, helped purchase wetlands habitat and open space, restore a herring run, and treat stormwater discharges to a river. The grants are reported at www.buzzardsbay.org/2004minigrants.htm.
- LID and Phase II stormwater training workshops were held. The BBP continues to make presentations to municipal officials on implementing Low Impact Development techniques in their community, and to help towns comply with their EPA Phase II stormwater permit task requirements.
- The Buzzards Bay Project developed a grant and is a partner for the BBAC-Voc Tech Stormwater Collaborative Mapping Program. The BBP is working with the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School and the municipal official organization, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC), to implement a collaborative program to map all stormwater drainage networks in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The BBAC funded the first stages of this work, which will continue throughout 2005.
- Oil Spill Damage Assessment review. The BBP continues to work with state and federal agencies reviewing and evaluating the environmental impacts of the 2003 Bouchard No. 120 oil spill in Buzzards Bay. Notably, the Coast Guard concurred with the Buzzards Bay Project's assessment that a consultant's estimate of a 22,000 to 55,000 gallon spill volume had too many uncertainties, and an earlier estimate of 98,000 gallons of Number 6 fuel oil spilled was the most reliable. In 2004 and 2005, the Buzzards Bay Project is

representing the state on evaluating oil injuries on aquatic organisms and populations in the intertidal and near subtidal zone.

- The Buzzards Bay Project provided key support for a Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Grant. The BBP worked with 27 organizations, led by the citizens group the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, in developing a bay-wide strategy for wildlife habitat protection and acquisition to utilize \$6.1 million in Buzzards Bay oil spill fines. The Buzzards Bay Project produced maps and conducted GIS evaluations in support of the effort, which resulted in an initial award of \$2.3 million. The BBP will continue to support the Coalition and other partners secure the balance of the oil spill fine funds.
- The BBP has begun working with state, federal, and local officials to update the Buzzards Bay management plan. The BBP conducted a survey of the BBAC to determine that organization priorities for Action Plan revision. The Buzzards Bay Project is negotiating with EOEA to determine whether EOEA can provide additional staff support to write the document, and to make it comply with the goals of Massachusetts Watershed Action Plans. This work has been somewhat delayed because of BBP staff shortages, but will continue throughout 2005.
- The BBP initiated negotiations with the Massachusetts Air National Guard for a new 5-year lease for the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center. Massachusetts CZM signed the lease amendment in the Spring of 2005.
- The Buzzards Bay Project negotiated an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and EOEA to provide technical assistance to Buzzards Bay municipalities. EOEA is partially funding this agreement through its Watershed Action Plan Program.
- In February 2005, the BBP completed the report “Build-Out Analysis for Marion, Massachusetts, Using Existing Zoning Prepared for the Marion 2015 Committee.” The report is posted on our website on the Marion page.
- The Marion Marine Resources Commission developed a model watershed-zoning bylaw with the assistance of the Buzzards Bay Project. Several other towns are studying the approach laid out here to determine its applicability in their community. The bylaw has not yet come to Town meeting for a vote.
- In February 2005, the Buzzards Bay Project awarded a \$59,359 grant to Town of Mattapoisett for Eel Pond Mattapoisett to develop engineering designs for dredging, improved flushing to address poor water quality in the ponds. The funds originated from a special earmark from the state legislature. The agency funding the project, the Division of Conservation and recreation, requested the assistance of the Buzzards Bay Project to oversee the contract to the Town because of our special expertise.
- The BBP intervened in a wetland case in Falmouth because the Falmouth DPW failed to comply with the state Wetlands Protection Act. This project was deemed to have implications throughout the community. In August 2004, the Buzzards Bay Project filed a RDA with the Falmouth Conservation Commission for their failure to require a permit for roadwork by the Falmouth Department of Public Works for activity on Gifford Street, near Sols Pond. The DPW's activity was causing ongoing erosion of the pond bank and discharge of mud and silt into the pond. The Falmouth Conservation Commission issued a Negative Determination to our request, saying that the DPW did not need a permit. In September 2004, after visiting the site, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection appealed the Conservation Commission's decision, and issued a Superseding

Determination, saying the DPW did need a permit. To learn more about these events, go to our Gifford Street Wetlands Case page.

- At the request of the Falmouth ConCom, the Buzzards Bay Project prepared two fact sheets to educate the public and developers about the town's wetlands bylaw and wetlands stormwater regulations.
- The Buzzards Bay Project produced over 110 new or revised maps and fulfilled dozens of requests for data, calculations, or graphics to be used for newsletters, grants, etc. Fulfilled 16 requests for reprints of existing maps.
- BBP staff are participants on the EOEALID and Stormwater workgroups, and the EOEALID "Coastal WEB" task force to help direct EOEALID policies and funding on these CCMP relevant issues.
- Helped secure and implement state and federal grants in Bourne (319 grant for Conservation Pond, Allens Pond Dartmouth, Cockeast Pond Herring Run in Westport
- Implemented major revisions and streamlining of the Buzzards Bay website, and adding 20 new web pages, for a total of 327 main pages, with an additional 330 downloadable pdf files and reports, as well as numerous graphic files and maps, for a total space use of 240 MB.

Leveraged Funding

Each October, the Buzzards Bay Project submits to EPA, as part of our GPRA report, a summary of state, federal and local dollars and in-kind services leveraged by the Buzzards Bay Project, or leveraged by our partners with technical support by the Buzzards Bay Project, in support of the implementation of the Buzzards Bay CCMP. For the period October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004, the Buzzards Bay, these leveraged funds totaled \$6.4 million. For the current reporting year, considerably more funds have been leveraged. To date, our estimate of leveraged funds totals more than \$8 million. Our final estimates will be reported to EPA in the Fall.

Ongoing work on FY2004 Workplan (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

The FY2004 workplan represents the last year amendment of Cooperative Agreement CE98164501. Most of the FY2004 workplan and Cooperative Agreement tasks were completed, but some of these tasks are still ongoing. Some of these delays were anticipated because of events that occurred between 2002 and 2004. The most significant of these events included:

- a freeze on new hires and municipal grants in 2002 and 2003 because of the state budget crisis
- redirection of project staff time (particularly the Executive Director) to address issues relating to the 2003 Bouchard oil spill, and the ongoing Natural Resource Damage Assessment, and
- the premature departure in 2003 of the BBP's Land Use Planner, and delays in refilling the position
- efforts to obtain state funds and target future BBP funds to continue to receive USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service Technical support in 2004 and 2005.
- the March 2005 departure of the BBPs Regional Planner for maternity leave

Because of anticipated delays, the closing date of this Cooperative Agreement was set for June 30, 2006. All workplan tasks will be completed by that date.

The ongoing tasks that will be finished by that date are as follows:

1. \$125,000 in financial and technical support will be provided to the towns via the Buzzards Bay municipal grant program. The minigrant RFR is expected to be issued by the BBP in May 2005, and all funds will be expended by June 2006.
2. A GIS Planner will be hired to assist with stormwater mapping, wetland restoration grant development, herring atlas development, and to help meet needs during the Regional Planners leave of absence.
3. The Regional Open Space Plan will be completed when the Regional Planner returns from leave. Current the GIS maps and analysis are 80% complete, and the document outline has been established.
4. Certain tasks are continued into the new Cooperative Agreement because they were expected to be multiyear efforts. These include rewriting the CCMP, and Bouchard 120 oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Tasks, updates on stormwater mapping and Phase II stormwater support, and development of an eelgrass and herring atlas.

After consultation with EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, one task was eliminated. Specifically, Task 10, "Stormwater Subwatershed Evaluations" was eliminated because the principal goal of this task was to draft stormwater subwatershed evaluations for three Buzzards Bay watersheds. At the time this task was developed, it was felt necessary to ensure that areas of Buzzards Bay remain eligible for EPA 319 non-point source grant funds. However, DEP decided to solicit a contractor to undertake this task to meet these 319 program eligibility requirements.

Travel to National Meetings during past Fiscal Year.

The Buzzards Bay Project fulfilled its travel requirements under the federal grant through its participation in both national EPA-ANEP meetings, and other national and regional meetings as reported below. Although EPA provides \$10,000 for this task, EPA requires that only a minimum of \$7,000 need be spent on actual out of state travel.

Meeting	Amount	Staffer
National Wetlands Conference	Jul-04	\$335 Wetlands Specialist
Low Impact Development Conf	Sep-04	\$848 Wetlands Specialist
Fall NEP meeting, Texas	Oct-04	\$1,087 Exec. Director
National Lands Trust Meeting, Rhode Island	Oct-04	\$472 Regional Planner
American Planners Association Conference	Mar-05	\$2,309 Wetlands Specialist
Spring NEP meeting, DC	Mar-05	\$1,612 Exec. Director
Beach Conference, RI	Feb-05	\$72 Admin. Assist.
Oil Spill Meeting, RI	May-05	\$44 Exec. Director
Coast Guard Event, RI	May-05	\$35 Exec. Director
Total		\$6,814

The BBP expenditures slightly short of our \$7,000 goal because the Regional Planner was unable to attend the APA conference this year due to maternity leave. The balance of the funds are being used Bay Project staff on in-state travel to meetings, conferences, and other responsibilities associated with the workplan.

Federal FY 2005 funds Workplan Tasks (July 1, 2005- to June 30, 2006)

1) Specialized Technical Assistance

The Buzzards Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) is largely a non-regulatory document, with most recommendations directed toward municipalities because they have the greatest authority and capacity to address the growth related and non-point source pollution problems facing the bay and watershed. As a result, since completion of the CCMP, the focus of the Buzzards Bay Project has been to provide technical assistance, and where feasible, financial assistance to towns in their efforts to implement the Plan.

Because municipalities often lack adequate technical staff to develop or implement many of the recommendations contained in the CCMP, since 1992, the Buzzards Bay Project has been providing essential and much needed specialized technical assistance to municipal boards. This technical assistance not only focuses on specific initiatives funded with Project, state and federal funds, but a wide range of CCMP issues as well.

This year, the major areas of concentration of the Project's technical assistance program will again be:

- Promote Low Impact Development strategies and stormwater management in Buzzards Bay communities
- Remediate stormwater discharges to reopen shellfish beds,
- Assist towns in adopting stormwater management strategies,
- Promote better management of on-site systems and use of innovative systems,
- Help municipalities improve local wetlands and habitat protection,
- Help establish comprehensive nitrogen management strategies for sensitive embayments,
- Help towns adopt open space plans, and develop a regional open space plan that emphasizes protection of water quality, habitat, and living resources (this objective is detailed in Task 2 below),
- Assist the Commonwealth to characterize and evaluate *Bouchard No. 120* oil spill environmental and economic impacts and damages to natural resources, help towns and NRDA trustees identify appropriate restoration projects for the Natural Resource Damages Assessment effort, and to assist area municipal oil spill first responders better prepare for future oil spills (this objective is detailed in Task 13 below), and
- Assist the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and Buzzards Bay municipalities map stormwater drainage networks and implement other tasks required under municipal Phase II NPDES stormwater management plans (this objective is detailed in Task 4 below).
- Continue to maintain the Buzzards Bay website to keep the public and municipal officials informed about pressing environmental needs in the Buzzards Bay watershed.
- Complete an impaired anadromous fish run atlas for the Buzzards Bay watershed (this objective is detailed in Task 3 below).

With the recently completed *Selected Inventory of Potential Wetland Restoration Sites in the Buzzards Bay Watershed, Phase I and Phase II*, as well as previous atlases such as the inventory

of tidally restricted salt marshes, and the stormwater atlas, our technical assistance program will expand our efforts to assist towns in developing wetland remediation projects and stormwater designs for remediating priority sites in this document. By focusing on the priority sites in these two inventories, we will address key CCMP recommendations relating to water quality restoration, stormwater management, and shellfish bed closures. The Project will assist Buzzards Bay municipalities in securing other state and federal grants in their efforts to implement the recommended remediation sites.

2) Open Space Plan Development

For the past ten years, a major focus of the Buzzards Bay Project has been assisting watershed municipalities develop Open Space Plans, especially with a focus on protecting wetlands, water quality, and important wildlife habitat. These plans must be updated every 5 years to keep towns eligible for a variety of state programs. Last year, the Buzzards Project assisted the Town of Rochester complete their Open Space Plan, which was approved by the state, but more importantly, began the process of developing a watershed based Regional Open Space Plan. Most of the GIS work for this Regional Open Space Plan was developed as part of last year's workplan. Under this year's workplan, work on this document will continue so that it is finalized by June 2006.

This Regional Open Space Plan is important because it will help guide state and federal agencies in targeting environmentally sensitive areas for acquisition in a way that looks beyond individual municipal boundaries. This work will incorporate the Coalition for Buzzards Bay's goals to develop a greenway through the watershed, identify priority lands targeted for acquisition, and will inventory lands under the state wetland restriction program, inventory information that is a priority in the Commonwealth Capital Grants ranking prioritization, and lands targeted to recapture \$7 million dollars in fines awarded to the National Bird Conservation Fund by the Bouchard Transportation Company, as a result of the Buzzards Bay oil spill of April 2003.

***Principal Staff involved in these tasks:** Regional Planner will work on Regional Open Space plan together with the Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director, as well as with input from the Coalition Executive Director and the Coalition Lands Center.*

***CCMP Actions:** Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use.*

3) Buzzards Bay watershed atlas development

The Massachusetts DEP is about to release a 2004 eelgrass distribution report. This new coverage will complement the earlier DEP 1996 study, and the Costa 1980s mapping. Last year, the Buzzards Bay Project updated its 1988 inventory. This year, the Buzzards Bay Project will continue the process of incorporating its historical archives of older aerial photographs to document historical changes in eelgrass abundance in Buzzards Bay based on interpretation of historical photographs on file. These are still being compiled into a detailed historical assessment for Buzzards Bay.

Last year, Massachusetts DMF released a new inventory of herring runs in Southeastern

Massachusetts and will soon release a similar report for Cape Cod. This information will be compiled into a detailed, easy-to-read atlas showing herring runs in the Buzzards Bay watershed, with additional photos, parcel maps, and information that will help municipalities obtain funding to restore impaired herring runs, and to better identify priority sites for management action in the Buzzards Bay watershed.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director and Wetlands Specialist.

CCMP Actions: Land Use, wetlands and habitat.

4) Stormwater Remediation and Management

There are four ways the Buzzards Bay Project provides assistance to towns on stormwater issues. First, we review stormwater designs proposed by towns for remediation projects, or at the request of a town board as part of local permitting or site plan review. Second, we help towns prepare grant applications for state and federal monies to help fund remediation of priority sites. Third, we assist towns to develop and implement stormwater management plans, like the Phase II MS4 NPDES municipal plans. Finally, we work with town boards to adopt local stormwater regulations.

In this regard, our goal for this grant is as follows: Review of 5 stormwater remediation designs, assist in the development of three municipal grant applications, and have at least one town adopt or implement BBP recommended stormwater regulations (for example, a Planning Board adopting subdivision regulations).

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Stormwater Specialist will conduct the stormwater design reviews, the Wetlands Specialist will assist in the implementation of stormwater regulations, and the Stormwater Specialist and Executive Director will develop grant applications and attend meetings.

CCMP Actions: Stormwater, Shellfish, Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use, On-Site Septic Systems.

5) Stormwater Drainage System Mapping

A special focus identified in the list above will be the support to the Buzzards Bay Action Committee's grant to expand the BBP's earlier efforts to map all stormwater discharges in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The Buzzards Bay Action Committee has received a Coastal Zone Management Non-Point Source Pollution Grant in the amount of \$18,951 for its application titled Stormwater Mapping Co-operative Program with Buzzards Bay Municipalities. The Buzzards Bay Project is a partner on this grant.

This grant evolved from a partnership begun in 2003 between the Buzzards Bay Project, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School (Voc Tech), the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC), and the Town of Dartmouth to establish a stormwater mapping collaborative partnership program to assist Buzzards Bay municipalities. When the Buzzards Bay Project completed the *Atlas of Stormwater Discharges in the Buzzards Bay Watershed* in August

2003, we recognized the report would be a milestone in the characterization of stormwater degradation of Buzzards Bay. We also recognized that a well-managed student intern program could complete much of the time consuming collection of coordinates and positions of drainage features along roadways. As part of the pilot effort, the BBAC provided more than \$10,000 in 2003 and 2004 to pay for students, and buy equipment and software to get the program off the ground. The Buzzards Bay Project provided technical support to guide the effort.

The new work planned by the BBAC, Voc Tech, and the BBP will map most of the remaining unmapped catch basins and subsurface drainage networks in seven communities.

The Buzzards Bay Project will evaluate the new data gathered by this effort to establish preliminary priorities for remediation using the methodologies described in the 2003 *Atlas of Stormwater Discharges in the Buzzards Bay Watershed*. This information will be provided to Buzzards Bay municipalities through BBAC workshops, training, and the BBP website. Ultimately, this information will be used by towns, state and federal grant programs to target restoration efforts that are scientifically sound and will most likely achieve improvements in water quality in Buzzards Bay.

A related focus area will be to use this information to assist towns to implement their stormwater management plans where the information from stormwater maps, and stormwater model bylaws developed by the Buzzards Bay Project will help town's meet requirements identified in their permits.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director, Wetlands Specialist, Stormwater Specialist, Regional Planner, and Administrative Assistant.

CCMP Actions: Stormwater, Nitrogen, Shellfish, Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use, On-Site Septic Systems, Sewage Treatment Facilities.

6) Municipal Minigrant Program (\$48,000)

A major task this year will be the dissemination, management and facilitation of grants awarded through the municipal minigrant program. Administration of the grants will be by the Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, and a technical lead by the staff member most closely specializing in the area of the grant. Thus, all staff members will be involved to some degree in the minigrant program. The funds will be directed to tasks identified after consultation with the Buzzards Bay Action Committee.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director, Stormwater Specialist, Regional Planner, and Administrative Assistant, and other staff as needed.

CCMP Actions: May address Stormwater, Nitrogen, Shellfish, Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use, On-Site Septic Systems, Sewage Treatment Facilities.

7) Program Oversight and Administration

The Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director and Administrative Assistant ensure administration of the EPA and other grants and ISAs awarded to the Buzzards Bay Project.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director and Administrative Assistant.

8) Impaired Wetlands Inventory Outreach

Two years ago, with funding from Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, the Buzzards Bay Project began Phase I of the Selected Inventory of Potential Wetland Restoration Sites in the Buzzards Bay Watershed. Phase I and Phase II have now been completed. In this workplan, we will continue outreach for the atlases through meetings with state, local, and federal personnel on project specific cases, and through dissemination on the Buzzards Bay website.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director, Wetlands Specialist, Regional Planner.

CCMP Actions: Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use.

9) Environmental Indicators and Environmental Outcomes

The US EPA requires an assessment of environmental “outputs” and “outcomes”, and a method to measure achievement of outputs and outcomes in our efforts to implement the CCMP, and to meet our overarching goal to protect and restore water quality, wetlands, and habitat in Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed. The Buzzards Bay Project defined environmental outcomes and preliminary indicators through its annual GPRA and leveraging reports.

The Buzzards Bay Project submitted its first report to EPA in October 2003, and continues to submit this information annually. To a large degree, the Buzzards Bay Project will measure this workplan's outputs and outcomes based on annual reporting of workplan tasks completed, CCMP recommendations implemented, remediation projects completed, and our GPRA/environmental indicators reporting. Each workplan will contain a summary of tasks accomplished and tasks ongoing through program extensions.

To meet the need for environmental indicators reporting, the Buzzards Bay Project has set up a Buzzards Bay “status and trends” webpage at www.buzzardsbay.org/trends.htm. This page summarizes information tracked by the Buzzards Bay Project and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay that is needed to evaluate the long-term progress on key environmental indicators for Buzzards Bay, and builds upon work developed for the Coalition’s 2003 State of the Bay conference. To more readily transmit information collected through the citizen water quality monitoring program (see Task 11), the Coalition for Buzzards Bay plans to enhance its website to include annual updates of its water quality testing program to show individual trends for Buzzards Bay embayments. The BBP believes this is an important endeavor to enable citizens and managers to see trends in embayments they are most concerned with.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director and Administrative Assistant.

CCMP Actions: All Action Plans.

10) Outreach and education.

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay will continue to undertake outreach and education activities highlighting CCMP progress, Buzzards Bay Project activities, and Coalition collaboration. These activities include the July 2005 Swim Buzzards Bay, their annual meeting, press events, and various publications, including the annual report to their members. The annual swim, part of an event titled “Celebrate Buzzards Bay 2005,” consists of a 1.2-mile open water swim across outer New Bedford Harbor and an evening celebration of food and music on the shores of Buzzards Bay. It highlights the role a clean and healthy Buzzards Bay plays in the lives of watershed residents.

The Coalition will continue to maintain their website, and undertake open space acquisition initiatives with technical support from the Buzzards Bay Project to reach out to landowners to conserve and protect valuable wetlands. The Coalition will also continue its advocacy efforts through their Buzzards Baykeeper Program (a boat providing pump-out service, monitoring, and other needs.)

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director will coordinate with Coalition Executive Director.

CCMP Actions: Will address Stormwater, Nitrogen, Shellfish, Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use, On-Site Septic Systems, Sewage Treatment Facilities.

11) Buzzards Bay Citizen’s Water Quality Monitoring

With its support from citizens, dues, and other sources, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay will continue its nationally recognized water-quality monitoring program, which costs \$150,000 annually. The Buzzards Bay Project provides technical support to the program, and the Buzzards Bay Project Executive Director is on the overseeing Research Committee of the Coalition.

In 2004, the CBB Research Committee has adopted the goal of “To expand CBB’s water quality and habitat long-term monitoring program to include new parameters related to the impacts of sprawl development, nitrogen pollution and habitat loss on the Buzzards Bay Ecosystem.” The Buzzards Bay Project will work with the Coalition to help ensure this effort is successful.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director will coordinate with Coalition Executive Director.

CCMP Actions: Will address Stormwater, Nitrogen, Shellfish, Wetlands and Habitat, Land Use, On-Site Septic Systems, Sewage Treatment Facilities.

12) Technology Transfer to Other Estuaries

The US EPA is providing \$10,000 to each NEP for the purpose of providing travel to out-of-state conferences of National and regional significance for the purposes of technology transfer. Last year's expenditures in this grant category are summarized in the FY04 reporting summary table on page 5. This year a similar suite of programs will be attended.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director, Wetlands Specialist, Regional Planner.

CCMP Actions: All CCMP actions to some degree.

13) Oil spill Damage assessment

The Natural Resource Damage assessment for the *Bouchard No. 120* oil spill of 2003 is expected to continue to 2006. The Buzzards Bay Project Director is participating in the aquatic injuries workgroup.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director.

CCMP Actions: Oil Pollution and Toxics Action Plan

14) CCMP rewrite

The Buzzards Bay Project initiated its review and update of the recommendations of the Buzzards Bay CCMP. During this workplan period, the Project will draft a revised CCMP showing previous language, and proposed new language. At each month's BBAC meeting, the Buzzards Bay Project will select a new action plan for evaluation. At the end of this process, the BBP director will meet with citizen groups to discuss proposed revisions to the CCMP. The BBP director will report to the Buzzards Bay Steering Committee to discuss the outcomes of this process, and develop a strategy for completing the CCMP rewrite and developing an approval process. The EOEWA Watershed initiative is contributing a portion of one its staff time to assist the Buzzards Bay Project to ensure the revised CCMP meets the goals of EOEWA's Watershed Action Plans.

Principal Staff involved in these tasks: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant.

CCMP Actions: all.

Match to the Cooperative Agreement.

Below is a summary of the \$487,400 match that is being provided to meet the match requirement under this Cooperative Agreement to the Commonwealth.

1) Coalition for Buzzards Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program (\$125,000). For the past decade, the Coalition has continued to secure nonfederal funds through grants, members dues, and donations to support its water quality monitoring program and related outreach which exceeds \$150,000 per year. This year, the Coalition is completing a new water quality laboratory

with a \$500,000 donation from a generous donor.

2) Municipal support to BBAC (\$15,000). The municipalities of Buzzards Bay pay \$15,000 per year to the Buzzards Bay Action Committee to support projects to implement the Buzzards Bay CCMP.

3) BBAC and other meetings (\$33,000). The BBAC is composed of high level municipal officials, generally Selectmen, Town Administrators, or Department heads that meet monthly (11 municipalities, about 20 officials typically attend, at 11 meetings per year for 2 hours per meeting. The average hourly rate assigned to these municipal officials value assigned is estimated to be \$50 per hour (including fringe and indirect). In addition, special meetings with the executive director, Buzzards Bay oil spill coordinators, and town hall staff at special BBAC meetings with presentations, or attendance at BBP workshops are estimated to amount to an additional \$11,000.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss CCMP implementation, specific progress on projects, and coordination with the Buzzards Bay Project and Coalition for Buzzards Bay. In the coming year, time will be set aside at each BBAC meeting to discuss an action plan topic as part of the planned re-write of the CCMP.

4) Municipal support for Regional Open Space Plan (\$16,800). The Buzzards Bay Project will meet with area municipalities to develop a regional open space plan. At a series of 4 regional meetings, our staff is expected to meet with a total of 120 municipal officials for 4-hour workshops. The average hourly rate assigned to these municipal officials is estimated to be \$35 per hour (including fringe and indirect). The total value of this contribution is \$16,800.

5) Coalition for Buzzards Bay's The Lands Center (\$116,200). The Coalition has a Foundation supported program with several staff members and outreach costs. The Lands Center supports a key goal of the Buzzards Bay CCMP, the protection of wetlands, habitat, and open space to protect water quality, and living resources. Publicly accessible open space also helps build support for other environmental initiatives of both our programs. The Bay Lands Center is simply an initiative aimed at increasing the rate of land protection and the amount of protected shoreline, forestlands, and critical habitats in the Buzzards Bay watershed. The Coalition's Bay Lands Center works with landowners, land trusts and town officials to encourage Bay-focused watershed land protection, empower local land trusts, and educate private landowners about land conservation options.

The Buzzards Bay Project is a key partner with the Coalition's Land Center, preparing hundreds of maps and conducting GIS land use evaluations for targeted acquisitions. Our support is integral in the Coalition's outreach for their program, and has helped the passage of municipal town meeting legislative articles in support of conservation land acquisitions.

An example of the success of the Lands Center is the fact that the Lands Center is helping secure 274 acres of Mattapoissett River Valley, which was be protected the summer of 2004. Building upon a MA Department of Environmental Protection grant that funded 60% of the acquisition cost, The Coalition brought together an array of conservation partners involving the Mattapoissett

River Valley Authority and the Rochester Land Trust. In April 2004, the arduous task of piecing together funding sources came to a finish when a Rochester resident stepped forward and pledged \$10,000 to close the gap. Last summer's acquisitions will protect 13 individual parcels of land near the drinking water supply wells for the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, and Marion. These parcels also include mature pine and oak forests, floodplain wetlands, vernal pools, and wet meadows. The Coalition is currently working to 2.6 miles of river shoreline between Mill Pond and Wolf Island in the Mattapoissett River Valley.

6) Municipal Match to BBP grant (\$24,000). The \$48,000 in the BBP mini-grant program will generate a minimum of \$19,000 in required municipal match because the project requires a 25% match of total project cost (=33% of award). However, many grants are overmatched, and we expect to achieve a 50% match overall.

8) Other Coalition support (\$80,000). The Coalition for Buzzards Bay outreach, planning, water quality monitoring program, and events includes cost of Director, outreach staff, and communication costs.

9) CPR Grants (\$35,000). Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management awards several hundred thousand dollars annually in state bond funds to Massachusetts Municipalities as part of its Coastal Pollution Remediation Program. MCZM will target a minimum of \$35,000 to Buzzards Bay municipalities in the next fiscal year.

10) Coastal Web funding A: \$15,000. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has set aside \$15,000 for contractual services to fund a USDA-NRCS employee to assist the Buzzards Bay Project in developing stormwater remediation and habitat restoration services for Buzzards Bay municipalities.

11) Coastal Web funding B: \$20,000. At the request of the Buzzards Bay Project, EOEA is providing \$20,000 to the Town of Westport to cover unanticipated design costs in a project originally funded by the Buzzards Bay Project (designs), and subsequently funded by DEP. This funding will resolve some technical issues that developed because of archaeological issues that arose late in the project.

12) EOEA watershed support \$7,400. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has set aside 1/5 time of a FTE to work with the Buzzards Bay Project to develop an updated CCMP that meets the goals of the EOEA Watershed Action Plans.

Other commitments

The implementation of this program and conformance with EPA Water Quality goals will be overseen by the Buzzards Bay Project's Steering Committee.

The Buzzards Bay Project will submit complete Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) reporting information to EPA as specified in the EPA Funding Guidance. As a requirement of this agreement, the BBP will provide information on the GPRA performance measures to EPA by their required date.

The Buzzards Bay Project continues to track and monitor key environmental indicators to document the success of the CCMP. Besides the ongoing water quality monitoring program of the Coalition, the new DEP eelgrass data, together with new historical eelgrass information collated by the Buzzards Bay Project, will help create a new eelgrass area tracking system for Buzzards Bay embayments. This information will be posted on the Buzzards Bay Status and Trends webpage. Other data tracked by the Buzzards Bay Project will be the percentage of stormwater discharges with some form of stormwater remediation implemented, tracking of CCMP accomplishments, ongoing monitoring of two key Buzzards Bay herring runs, and the ongoing tracking of protected open space and new land acquisitions.

Current Buzzards Bay Project Staff

Dr. Joe Costa, is Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Project. Besides overseeing and administering the Project, he provides technical assistance on nitrogen loading assessment and management, water quality analysis, watershed planning, build-out analysis, data analysis, and software support. His research in Marine Ecology, particularly nitrogen loading effects on eelgrass beds and coastal ecosystems has been put to use in the Project-Coalition citizen monitoring program and the Project's nitrogen management approach.

John Rockwell did a Master's thesis on wetlands delineation techniques, and as a former conservation agent, conservation commission chair, and MACC board member, he brings with him a wealth of experience on wetland protection. John conducts workshops, drafts bylaws, and conducts wetland delineations for towns.

Bernadette Taber is an employee of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and has been detailed to the Buzzards Bay Project office since 1991. She evaluates and develops engineering solutions for stormwater remediation in both agricultural and urban environments. She has reviewed many engineering plans at the request of Buzzards Bay municipalities, and has also developed the preliminary designs identified in many Buzzards Bay Project and town grant proposals.

Tracy Warncke, is the Buzzards Bay Project's Administrative Assistant (2/3 time). She not only handles administrative duties at the Buzzards Bay Project office, but has designed many reports, brochures, and fact sheets for the Project and municipalities alike. Tracy spent four years with the Bourne Board of Health testing water for fecal coliform bacteria, experience she has put to work at the Project.

Sarah Williams, is the Project's Regional Planner. She provides assistance to municipalities on land use and watershed planning, land conservation, buildout analysis, habitat restoration, and mapping. She is a coordinator between the towns and the Buzzards Bay Project on our Municipal Grant Program, and is preparing the project's regional open space plan. Sarah was also a member of the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land preservation Trust and Fairhaven Conservation Commission, and brings this valuable experience to bear on her activities.

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BUDGET DETAIL

Award: \$486,966 (note: an additional \$25,000 to the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for Water Quality monitoring under a separate Cooperative Agreement)

Personnel: \$228,204
(BBP Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Wetlands Specialist, Regional Planner)

Travel: \$12,480
Includes \$10,000 awarded by the EPA for staff to attend conferences of national significance.

Fringe: \$61,615
27% charge on all personnel

Contractual: \$73,000
1) Funds for stormwater specialist from NRDA: \$25,000
Due to Massachusetts EOEA budgeting procedures, this position must be shown as contractual because they will not involve official state positions, but rather "contractual employees."

2) A Municipal Minigrant of \$48,000 will be awarded in categories based on discussions with the Buzzards Bay Action.

Supplies: \$9,842
Postage, phone, communication, printing, paper, office supplies etc.

Other: \$34,657
Rent and Utilities, Cleaning, Medicaid, state audit, MassGIS, and other charge backs

Indirect costs: \$67,168
26.31% charge on "Personnel", contractual staff in the "Contractual" category (\$0 in this workplan), selected expenditures in the "Other."

Match:
\$487,400 (see detail in workplan)

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