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US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 42, No. 6 March 2007

Corps proposes environmental restoration to improve fish habitat on Green River in Greenfield, Massachusetts

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing an environmental restoration project to improve fish habitat as part of the Deerfield River Watershed Study focusing on four dams on the Green River in Greenfield, Mass.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the City of Greenfield are the non-federal project sponsors.

"Four dams create impoundments along 8.7 miles of the Green River from its confluence with the Deerfield River," said Project Manager David Larsen, Engineering/Planning Division. "The dams have degraded fisheries and riverine habitats."

The dams block the upstream migration of pre-spawning adult anadromous fish to their historic spawning areas and the downstream migration of adults and juvenile fish to the ocean. Also, the dams preclude catadromous fish, which live in freshwater and spawn in the ocean, from accessing their primary habitat.

"The sectioning of the river also impacts freshwater fish that move to faster flowing streams in the watershed to spawn," Larsen said. The impoundments created by the dams reduce the area of spawning habitat for anadromous and riverine fish by removing pool-riffle patterns, eliminating in-stream cover, and maintaining unsuitable flow regimes and water depth. The result is that the dams have degraded fisheries and riverine habitat.

The Corps is proposing to improve fish habitat on the Green River in Greenfield, Mass.

The recommended plan consists of the removal of the Wiley & Russell and Mill Street Dams and installation of fish passage structures at Swimming Pool Dam and Pumping Station Dam. The

Continued on Page 4

Yankee Voices

Kevin Burke
Cape Cod Canal

Congratulations...

...to Dan Stenstream and his wife Hilary on the birth of their daugh-ter Anna Kathryn who was born on Jan. 29. Anna arrived at 1:02 a.m., weighing seven lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 inches long. She joins her big brother Andrew at home.

…to Gary Lacroix and his wife Dulcey on the birth of their third child Mattias Daniel who was born on Feb. 7. Mattias arrived at 12:23 p.m. weighing seven lbs., 6.8 oz. and measured in at 20-½ inches long. Mattias joins his two older brothers Zach and Ben at home.

Sympathy...

…to John Winmill of Construction/Operations on the passing of his mother Helen L. Winmill, Jan. 27.

...to Linda Lindell, our nurse at the Health Unit whose mother Ellen Elizabeth Lindell passed away Mar. 5.

… to the family of retiree Edward J. Kaminski who passed away on Feb. 5. Donations may be made to the International Mesothelioma Program, at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, MA 02115.

Our Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reaffirm our commitment to the environment with our Environmental Operating Principles. Our principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect our direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that we consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities. Environmental sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing their part, backed by the citizens of the world. Our principles define our role in that endeavor. By implementing these principles, we will continue our efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions.

o Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

o Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

o Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

o Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

o Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.

o Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.

o Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

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Commander's Corner:

Sensing Sessions; Listen First, Respond Thoughtfully

By Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Engineer

In March of 2007, I hosted my first employee sensing session (see this past January's Yankee Engineer). I'd like to use this month's article to provide some feedback on the session.

First, a little about the structure of the session; roughly twenty employees serving in non-supervisory position were solicited from the work force for a one hour session with me. No topics were taboo, but I asked that as issues were raised if others had similar issues, we would pursue the thread to see where it went before moving on to the next issue.

Since my space here is limited, I'd like to highlight three issues, from this first meeting. For those who raised tangential issues to those I am about to describe, rest assured I still have them to work.

Air Quality at Concord Park

First, there was considerable discussion about the air quality in the Concord HQ building. While studies have been done in the past, no one felt a definitive explanation of perceived problems had been presented to the work force in a way that explained the concerns. My challenge will be to find a way to conduct a study without overly burdening our overhead accounts. A great low cost self help measure was presented—our building needs a good spring cleaning. Work spaces are becoming cluttered with boxes and other paraphernalia that attract and collect dust. We have space for archiving files and just like our homes need a good decluttering from time to time so do our work spaces. So, let's work together to begin the process of spring cleaning.

Charging Time to Overhead

Second, many employees feel they are receiving excessive pressure not to charge their time to their departmental overhead accounts. This is a complex issue. While our lack of an approved work plan for FY07 makes things challenging, we have operated for considerable periods under continuing resolutions in the past, including last year when our CAP work allowances were not released until the end of March. We cannot use this as an excuse. Carry in funds and work for other agencies and other appropriations contribute to our total program. Supervisors must proactively manage their work forces to develop bridging strategies until our final budget is approved. I must agree with the members of the group that it is the responsibility of supervisors to find and distribute work—not the responsibility of the individual employee. I did however challenge members of the group that they must be comfortable working outside their traditional comfort zones to help accomplish the work we do have. The Army is stressing that its officers should be decathletes not single sport specialists. I think a similar analogy must apply to the Corps in the 21st century. Specialization is required in engineering, but most simple problems can be handled by a good competent engineer, if the issue is too challenging, knowing who and how to reach out to a specialist to help guide you will be the new paradigm.

Credit Hours, Alternative Work Site and Telework Agreements

Third, credit hours, alternate work sites agreements, and telework continue to be issues of great discussion throughout the workforce. It is perceived that the rules currently in place are overly restrictive and penalize the good workers to constrain the few "bad eggs." As unfortunate as this is, there is some truth to it. Equity in the work place is an area that can be exploited by the "barracks lawyer." Therefore explicit and sometimes overly restrictive guidance must be put in place to "fence in" the bad eggs. In fact, this past year the USACE Inspector General's Office visited us to examine our telework and other alternate work agreements as part of a nationwide survey. They were so pleased with our policy's blending of options and prescription that they took it as a model to provide to other districts. While I am convinced that our policy, which was published last year, was a step in the right direction, I acknowledge it was only a first step and future revisions will be needed.

In conclusion, I think this first sensing session was a great step in the right direction, although future sessions will be smaller (at the recommendation of this panel) to fit within time constraints and allow more freedom in the discussions. The issues raised were relevant to the entire work force and well thought through. For those of you out in the field, standby I'm in the process of arranging separate sessions at consolidated sites in the basins.

As always, thanks for everything you do each and every day to make the district a better place to work.

Essayons!

In the vicinity of the Wiley and Russell Dam in Greenfield, Mass.

Working to improve fish habitat on the Green River

From Page 1

recommended plan would extend migratory and spawning habitat for anadromous fish over a distance of 30 river miles.

Fish species that would benefit from improved fish passage and habitat restoration include Atlantic salmon, American shad, blueback herring, sea lamprey and American eel. Other species that would benefit include brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, white sucker, redbreast sunfish, bluegill and yellow perch.

The study considered alternative methods to restore fish passage at each of the dams along the Green River including dam removal, rock ramp fishway, and fish ladder. In addition, the study considered in-stream habitat restoration at certain sites on the river; however, the habitat value of improvements they offered did not compare well with those associated with fish passage.

The Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment for this environmental restoration project. Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat in the project area were avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable through the planning and design process.

Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that no federally listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species under its jurisdiction are known to occur in the study area, with the exception of occasional transient bald eagles.

Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service indicated that there are no threatened or endangered species expected to be present within that region of the Connecticut River Watershed.

The Green River is considered archaeologically sensitive for the presence of prehistoric archaeological sites.

The Wiley & Russell Dam was determined to be a contributing element to the Greenfield Tap and Die Plant No. 1, a district eligible for the National Register.

The Green River was used for hydropower for other industries during Greenfield's history. The other three dams considered in this study are not eligible for the National Register.

The Corps will continue coordination with the state historic preservation office and the tribal historic preservation offices to consult on eligibility/non-eligibility of the Wiley & Russell Dam, and to make a determination of effect for the project as a whole.

The proposed environmental restoration project is being coordinated with the following Federal, state, tribal and local agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Office, the Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the City of Greenfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The public notice is available on the Corps website at: http//www.nae.usace.army.mil. Select "projects" and then Deerfield River Watershed Study. Public comments on this proposed environmental restoration were taken through March 16, 2007.

District celebrates Black History Month

City of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts played significant role in black history events

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were instrumental in the success of the Underground Railroad and the fight against slavery in the United States in the 19th Century, according to Ryan McNabb, a lead ranger at the Boston African American National Historic Site, in Boston, Mass.

McNabb was a guest speaker for New England District's Black History Month celebration on Feb. 8 at the Concord Park theatre in Concord, Mass.

Acting Equal Employment Office Manager Jackie DiDomenico provided opening remarks and welcomed the attendees. The theme for Black History Month was "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas."

District Commander Col. Curtis Thalken thanked the team members for coming to support the Black History Month program and thanked the guest speaker for providing the historical presentation to the District team. "Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as 'Negro History Week' and later as 'Black History Month.' What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied – or even documented – when the tradition originated," Col. Thalken said. "Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as Colonial times, it was not until the 20th Century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books."

Col. Thalken said that more recently, the 1989 Academy Award winning film "Glory" recalled the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was formed in March 1863 in Readville, Mass., by Col. Robert Gould Shaw, a member of a prominent Boston abolitionist family.

"As one of the first black units organized in the northern states, the 54th was the object of great interest and curiosity, and its performance would be considered an important indication of the possibilities surrounding the use of blacks in combat," Col. Thalken said. "The regiment was composed primarily of free blacks from throughout the North, particularly Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Amongst its recruits were Lewis N. Douglass and Charles Douglass, sons of the famous ex-slave and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass.

"This is just one example of the contributions that blacks have made to the nation," Col. Thalken said.

Raushanah Muhammad, Construction/Operations, introduced guest speaker Ryan McNabb, a lead ranger with the National Park Service in Boston. McNabb provides historic tours and walks of the Black Heritage Trail in Boston and leads many workshops and training sessions for new rangers to the National Park Service.

McNabb discussed the role of the National Park Service in preserving history and historical sites across the nation. One of those historic sites is the Boston African American National Historic Site.

This historic site was created in 1980 with the mission, in partnership with the Museum of African American History, to preserve and interpret, for the benefit, education and inspiration of Americans, the historic structures and properties in Boston associated with the creation and development of a free African-American community on Beacon Hill, that, in the face of tremendous opposition, mounted a resistance to the forces of slavery and segregation in the years leading up to and including the Civil War.

Ryan McNabb.

McNabb provided an overview of the contributions of the many people through those early years of the nation

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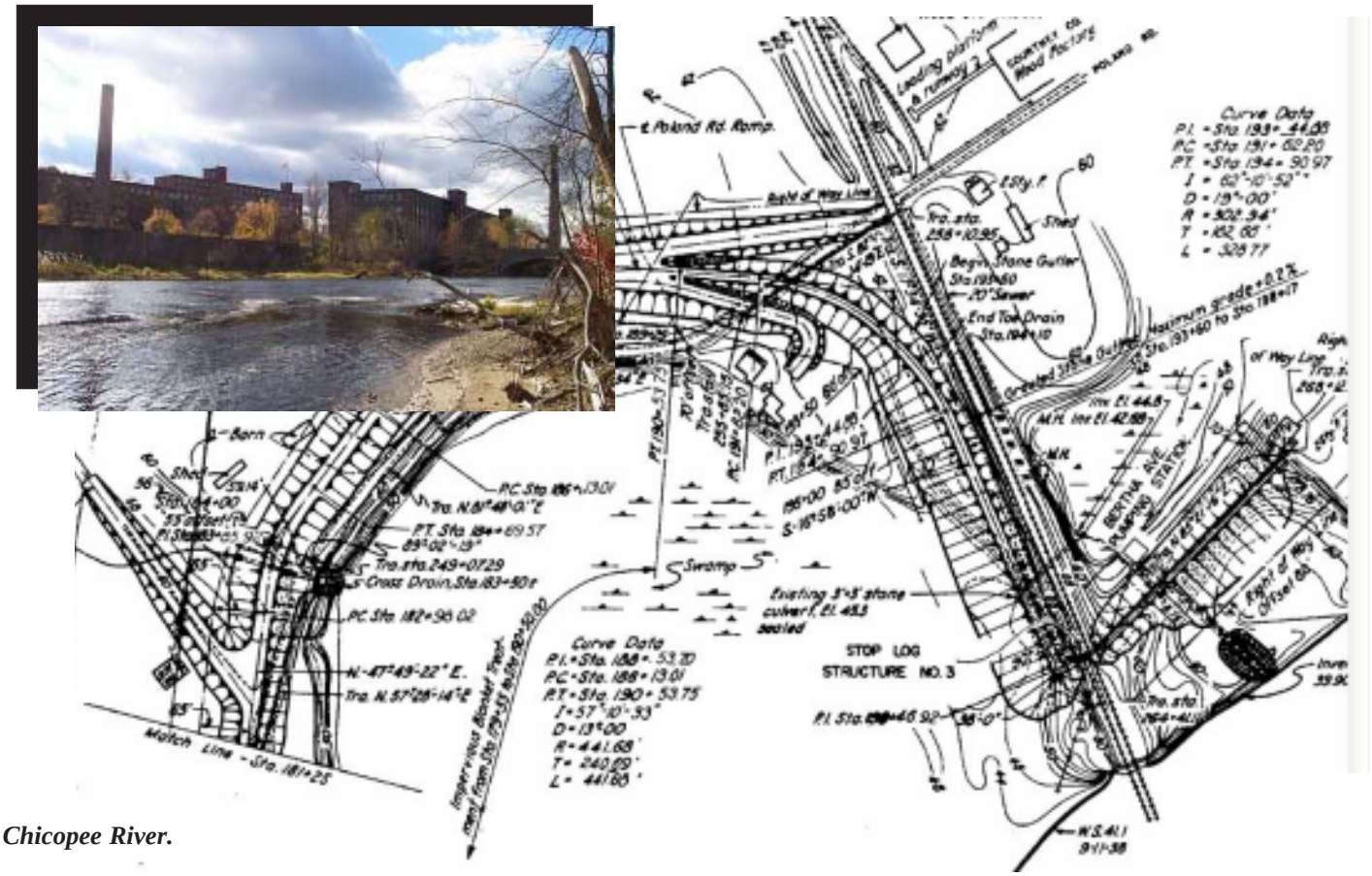

Chicopee River.

Communities, Corps, FEMA, work together in on-going inspection of flood protection levees in New England

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has determined that 10 federally-constructed local protection projects in New England have levees of concern. The Corps is presently working with the communities and continuing its ongoing inspection program of federally-constructed flood protection projects in New England.

As part of the Corps' nationwide Levee Safety Program, the assessments from these inspections, and any noted deficiencies, are reported to the owner/sponsor and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Corps inspections provide a snapshot of the general condition of the flood protection project and highlight readily observable deficiencies. Corps inspections do not detect all deficiencies nor do they relieve the owner/sponsor of their duties and responsibilities under federal law.

To afford the owner/sponsor a reasonable amount of time to correct any noted deficiencies and establish a required maintenance project, the Corps is establishing a one time only "maintenance deficiency correction period" (MDCP) of one year. Failure to correct project maintenance deficiencies within a one-year period will result in the project being placed in an inactive status and no longer eligible for federal funding if the levee should sustain damage during a flood event.

In the current condition of the structures, FEMA might not recognize the dike in its revised flood maps. If so, the area behind the dike might be shown as unprotected. In addition, the project might no longer be eligible for federal funding under PL-84-99 should the dike incur damage during flood events.

Connecticut

The **East Hartford Local Protection Project**, located along the east bank of the Connecticut River and the north bank of the Hockanum River in East Hartford, is rated in fair condition. Construction started in December 1938 and was completed in July 1943, costing $2.4 million. The project is operated and maintained by the City of East Hartford. Various project deficiencies were noted. The project includes two imperious blankets, one located along the upstream portion of the Connecticut River Dike and the other along the Hockanum River Dike adjacent to Meadow Hill pump station, to minimize seepage through the dike foundations during high water events. Encroachment, mature vegetation and other concerns have been identified. Cumulative flood control benefits for the East Hartford project through Sept. 30, 2006 are approximately $263.3 million.

The **Torrington Local Protection Project** is rated in fair condition. It is operated and maintained by the City of Torrington. The project extends along both the East and West branches of the Naugatuck River. The East Branch segment consists primarily of 9,500 linear feet of channel straightening, deepening and widening. A total of 400 linear feet of floodwall sections are provided in locations where an additional freeboard is needed for wave action or surges. Construction of the project, which cost $389,000, started in July 1957 and was completed in July 1959. The West Branch segment consists of 2,700 linear feet of channel improvements. A total of 1,520 linear feet of floodwall is provided where additional freeboard is required. Construction of the project began in July 1959 and was completed in May 1960, costing $228,000. Various deficiencies were noted to include excessive vegetation and a loss of crest height and width, erosion, and degradation. Cumulative flood control benefits for this project through Sept. 30, 2006 are East Branch ($66,000) and West Branch ($25,000).

Chicopee Local Protection Project.

The **Waterbury/Watertown Local Protection Project**, located along the east bank of the Naugatuck River in both Waterbury and Watertown, is rated in fair condition. Construction began in December 1960 and was completed in October 1961, costing $263,000. The project consists of channel improvements, floodwalls, dikes and drainage structures. The flood protection works extend about 4,500 feet along the Naugatuck River parallel to Route 8. There are two earth dike segments, one at the northerly end of the project 365 feet long housing a railroad stoplog opening, and a 1,000-foot dike at the southerly terminus. The project protects a former industrial plant, an adjoining residential area, vulnerable sections of Route 8, and the railroad against floods exceeding the flood of record of 1955. Various project deficiencies were noted. Cumulative flood control benefits for the Waterbury/Watertown project through Sept. 30, 2006 are $9.4 million – including $55,800 from the October 2005 flood, and $483,000 from the April 2006 flood.

Massachusetts

The **Lowell Local Protection Project,** located on the north bank of the Merrimack River in Lowell, is rated in fair condition. It is operated and maintained by the City of Lowell. The flood reduction project was constructed between 1941 and 1944 and consists of two sections. The Rosemont section adjacent to Beaver Brook consists of 650 feet of earthen dike and 850 feet of concrete I-wall. There is a stoplog closure structure across Beaver Street. The Lakeview section consists of 2,700 feet of dike and 900 feet of floodwall along the Merrimack River. There are also two "spoils" dikes, one located along the south bank of Beaver Brook and another along the Merrimack River at the confluence of Beaver Brook. In addition, there is a pump station located along the highway to accommodate overland flows. The project protects 120 acres of urban land in the Lakeview Avenue and Rosemont sections of the City of Lowell against the 1936 flood of record. Various deficiencies were noted to include vegetation and the condition of both the West Street and Beaver Street pump stations. Cumulative flood control benefits for the Lowell project through Sept. 30, 2006 are nearly $1 million.

The **Canton Local Protection Project,** located along the East Branch of the Neponset River in Canton, is rated in fair condition. The project, operated and maintained by the town of Canton, was constructed in 1963 costing $274,000 and provides for the diversion of flood flows from the East Branch Neponset River around the Plymouth Rubber Company Plant. Major project components consist of a 160-foot long concrete overflow dam and a 1,600-foot long diversion channel below the dam with a rock-faced dike on the right bank and rock-faced fill on the left bank. The project provides protection for Plymouth Rubber Company, the single largest industry in the community at the time of project construction. In addition, the project protects several other commercial establishments located along Washington Street. Deficiencies include vegetation and shoaling within the confines of the diversion channel reducing the hydraulic efficiency. A portion of the dike has eroded and degraded causing a loss of crest width. Cumulative flood control benefits for the Canton project through Sept. 30, 2006 are $3.5 million.

The **Springfield Local Protection Project**, located along approximately five miles of the Connecticut River's east bank in Springfield, is rated in fair condition. The project, operated and maintained by the city of Springfield, was constructed in 1941 and consists of approximately 3,900 feet of earth dike, 11,200 feet of concrete wall, 1,600 feet of pressure conduit, and appurtenant drainage features to supplement the City system of disposal of interior drainage. The system also incorporates six pump stations previously built by the city. Various deficiencies were noted and include the approximately 200 linear feet of floodwall north of Broad

Continued on Page 8

Inspections of the Springfield Local Protection Project (two views).

Inspection of local flood protection projects in New England continue

From Page 7

Street that was removed and numerous concrete repairs. Cumulative flood control benefits through Sept. 30, 2006 are $53.4 million – including $683,000 from the October 2005 flood.

The **West Springfield Local Protection Project** is rated in fair condition. The flood control project was constructed between 1939 and 1942 and consists of 13,700 feet of dike and 2,300 feet of floodwall along the Westfield and Connecticut Rivers. In addition, there are six pumping stations, three stoplog openings, and appurtenant drainage structures and facilities. Modifications in 1982 included raising the floodwall by one foot. West Springfield operates and maintains the completed works. Various deficiencies were noted. Cumulative flood control benefits for the West Springfield project through Sept. 30, 2006 are $360.2 million – including $31.1 million from the flood of October 2005.

The **Chicopee Local Protection Project**, which extends along the east bank of the Connecticut River and along both banks of the Chicopee River, is rated in fair condition. The flood protection system for Chicopee consists of about 22,200 linear feet of earth dike, 6,100 linear feet of concrete flood wall, six pumping stations, and appurtenant drainage features to supplement the city system of disposal of interior drainage. The system is located along both the Connecticut and Chicopee Rivers and was constructed between 1936 and 1942. It is operated and maintained by the City of Chicopee. Deficiencies include vegetation along the dikes and floodwalls, and within the confines of the Chicopee Dike impervious blanket, and general and routine maintenance. Cumulative flood control benefits for the Chicopee project through Sept. 30, 2006 are more than $11.8 million.

New Hampshire

The **Lincoln Local Protection Project**, located on the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River in Lincoln, about 80 miles north of Concord, is rated in fair condition. The project was constructed in 1960 and consists of 1,350 feet of channel excavation, 230 feet of new flank dike and approximately 1,400 feet of existing dike restoration. The restoration and repair work took place between July - December 1960 and cost $140,000. The project is operated and maintained by the Town of Lincoln. Various deficiencies were noted. Cover stone is sliding at several locations along the dike, severe erosion is occurring at the upstream end of the dike toe, several sinkholes exist along the dike crest, and vegetation is present in some areas.

The east end of the dike ties into an existing diversion dam and sluice gate structure, which are in disrepair, leaving the upstream terminus of the dike exposed to erosion during flood events. A corrugated metal drainage pipe was installed by others just beyond the west end of the dike with no backwater control and appears to be a direct pathway for backwater from the river to flow to the landward-side of the dike.

Springfield Local Protection Progect.

Rhode Island

The **Blackstone River Flood Protection Project in Woonsocket** is rated in fair condition. The project was built between December 1963 and April 1967 at a cost of $8.3 million. The town of Woonsocket operates and maintains the project. The project consists of two sections – Upper and Lower. The Upper section consists of a 266-foot wide overflow dam equipped with four taintor gates. Upstream of the dam 8,300 feet of the Blackstone River was deepened and widened. Other features include 1,115 feet of dike in four segments, 316 feet of concrete floodwall, and a pumping station. This section was constructed in 1960. The lower section consists of about 2,000 feet of dike and 820 feet of floodwall along Mill River, 550 feet of dike and 240 feet of floodwall along Peters River, and 4,500 feet of dike and 1,065 feet of floodwall along the Blackstone River. In addition, there are two pumping stations for conveying storm inflows and various drainage structures. This section was constructed in 1967. Various deficiencies were noted. Significant vegetation is present along the dikes and floodwalls creating insufficient vegetation buffers along the structures and insufficient vegetation controls on the structures. General and routine maintenance is required on the Woonsocket Falls Dam with particular concern focused on replacing the gate cabling and painting the structure. Cumulative flood control benefits for the Blackstone project through Sept. 30, 2006 are more than $82 million.

Acting EEO manager Jackie DiDomenico.

Black History Month

From Page 5

who had a profound influence on the history of blacks in America, including George Middleton, Prince Hall, William Cooper Nell, Sarah Roberts, John J. Smith, John S. Rock, Lewis Hayden, William and Ellen Craft, John Coburn, Anthony Burns, Thomas Paul, David Walker, Frederick Douglass and many others.

McNabb spoke about the free African American community that lived in Boston during the decades leading up to and during the Civil War. An estimated 5,000 - 8,000 blacks served in the Revolutionary War and blacks served in the Civil War prior to the establishment of the famed 54th Regiment made famous by the film, "Glory."

"Four out of five soldiers of the 54th were from free states," said McNabb, adding that William H. Carney, of the 54th, was the first African-American to receive the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

By 1800, some 1,100 black Bostonians comprised one of the largest free African-American communities in North America, according to McNabb. The historic buildings of the north slope of Beacon Hill were the homes, businesses, schools and churches of this thriving black community. In the face of great opposition, they fought the forces of slavery and inequality. The people and places of the north slope of Beacon Hill were associated with the struggle for equal rights not only within the city of Boston but for the entire nation.

The community of black Bostonians led the nation in the Abolition Movements, the Underground Railroad, and the early struggles for freedom and equality.

Local Abolitionist Lewis Hayden sheltered hundreds of fugitive slaves in his Underground Railroad "safe house" on Beacon Hill in the 1850s, McNabb said.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Col. Thalken and Jackie DiDomenico thanked McNabb for his presentation and presented him with a Bunker Hill certificate. More information on the National Park Service's black historic sites in Boston is available at www.nps.gov/boaf.

Col. Curtis Thalken presents Marie Pinede with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Marie and Wayne Johnson, Chris Godfrey presents flowers to Marie.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Chief of Internal Review Marie Pinede

By Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

After 49 years of federal service Marie H. Pinede, Chief of the District's Internal Review Office, is retiring. Her last official day was March 2. A retirement celebration was held Feb. 26, at the Concord Park cafeteria in Concord, Mass.

About 50 friends, retirees and family members gathered for the retirement ceremony. Deputy District Commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson served as master of ceremonies and thanked Chris Godfrey, Crystal Gardner, Karen Wolfe and Marie Farese for coordinating the function.

"This is testament to the long, distinguished career of federal service that we've all benefited from in having Marie being an employee of the federal government and the Corps of Engineers for nearly 49 years," Lt. Col. Nelson said. "I don't know how we could ever replace that knowledge, experience and breadth of capability that you have given to the District. From me personally, and from the District as a whole, thank you for that dedicated service."

While District Commander Col. Curtis Thalken presented Marie with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Lt. Col. Nelson read the citation:

"Marie Pinede is officially commended for her 49 years of dedicated federal service. Her extensive contributions to the New England District and the Nation are a testament to her dedication and commitment. Her experience and expertise in finance and accounting and the internal procedures and the processes by which the New England District conducted its business operations were instrumental in development of, and maintenance to, sound management business practices. The quality and accuracy of her work in becoming the Audit Officer in 1985 and later the Chief of Internal Review in 1997 have been exemplary.

"Marie was also an instrumental component in the success of the New England District Management Control Program along with all of its related features and programs. Her leadership and sound advice and recommendations given to the senior leadership of the District for more than 25 years reflects great credit on her professional capabilities and skills," Lt. Col. Nelson said.

Marie joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England as a GS-03 clerk stenographer in 1958 in the Procurement and Supply Division following graduation from the Boston School of Business Education in Boston, Mass.

Through the years, she has held progressively more responsible positions in various offices throughout the District, including Office Service Branch, Real Estate Division, Comptroller, Audit Branch, Audit Office, and Internal Review Office. She became the Chief of the Audit Office in 1985 and became the Chief, Internal Review in 1997.

Clockwise from top: Calvin Carrington chats with Marie Pinede, Crystal Gardner honors Marie, Marie displays her well-earned award for civilian service, nearly 100 friends and co-workers joined in to wish Marie a bright and happy future.

retires after long, distinguished career

Col. Curtis Thalken then presented Marie with her retirement certificate and pin and Lt. Col. Nelson read the citation signed by Col. Thalken: "The Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation to Marie H. Pinede. On the occasion of your retirement I wish to extend to you my personal thanks and the appreciation of the United States Army for the many years of service that you have given to our country. I share your pride in the contributions you have made to the Army and I trust that you will maintain an active interest in the Army and its objectives during your retirement. You take with you my best wishes and those of your fellow employees for happiness and success in the years that lie ahead."

Marie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, as well as an Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration, from Northeastern University where she is a member of the Sigma Epsilon Rho Honor Society.

Marie is a Competent Toastmaster and a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors, New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum and Association of Government Accountants. She is a Certified Government Financial Manager.

"On behalf of 49 years in the federal government, it is my great honor and pleasure to thank you for your service and wish you good luck in retirement," said Col. Thalken.

Chris Godfrey, Chief of Regulatory Division, presented Marie with a bouquet of flowers. Other gifts Marie received were a gift card to a book store, a video camera and a scarf. Crystal Gardner, recalled meeting Marie when Crystal was a co-op student and they have since been friends. Crystal presented Marie with a few DVDs and some framed pictures and talked about their long friendship, recounting some personal experiences with Marie.

"She always said she is a little piece of leather well put together and after 49 years of service, and you can't see 49 years on her face, I'm going to have to believe that statement is true," Crystal said. "Marie, I'll miss you."

Wayne Johnson, Safety Office, presented Marie with one of her favorite delicacies – four containers of cashews. Bill McIntyre, Engineering/Planning, thanked Marie for her support when he was the District Black Employment Program Manager.

Marie thanked everyone for the gifts and had a few farewell words after 49 years of service. "I want to thank all the New England District employees for coming out to wish me a happy retirement," said Marie. "I think I did my job and I hope that I did it well, but I'm ready to go and I have a lot of things planned. I'm a very religious person and I'm going to be doing volunteer work at my church. And I leave with a good feeling. And I leave with a clean heart because I think I've done the best that I could especially with the type of work we had and the people we had to do it with. And I hope that I served you well. And I thank all of you for coming."

Retirees who attended the retirement included Ralph Mallardo and Calvin Carrington.

Dredging up the past . . .

The $400,000 reconnaissance study of the Blackstone River Watershed was completed in 1997 and identified the need for environmental planning to include habitat improvements in the entire watershed – from Worcester, Massachusetts, to Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island. This watershed came of age during the Industrial Revolution, employing thousands in factories along the river where 41 dams created the necessary energy to turn the mill wheels.

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