

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 52, No. 6 March 2019

Building Strong



President's FY20 budget for Corps of Engineers in
New England to continue operations, fund Boston
Harbor deepening improvements

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Yankee Voices

Richard Fortuna (from left), Michael Riccio and Jennifer McCarthy



Distribution changes for the Yankee Engineer

In an effort to develop a more efficient means of delivering content to our many subscribers, the Public Affairs Office will no longer distribute printed copies of the YANKEE ENGINEER to subscribers. The current issue, as well as back issues, can be found on our website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Media/Yankee-Engineer/>. An e-mail list has been established that alerts subscribers when the next issue is ready for viewing. If you would like to be put on this list, simply e-mail Ann Marie R. Harvie, Editor, at Annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil and she will add you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the editor. The Public Affairs Office looks forward to continue to provide its subscribers with a quality publication that highlights the people and projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Sonny Avichal presents Lawrence Cain with a Civilian Commendation Medal. Cain's wife, Robin, helped him receive the award.

Lawrence Cain retires from federal service

After 14 years as a Risk Assessor in the District's Geo/Environmental Branch, Lawrence Cain has retired from federal service.

A potluck lunch to celebrate his career was held in the Concord Park Cafeteria, March 19. During the awards portion of the event, Cain received a Civilian Commendation Medal for his work as a Risk Assessor from January 2005 to April 2019 for resolving hazardous threats to human health and the environment.

"His understanding of substance toxicity, human responses, and exposure assessments has advanced numerous projects through the CERCLA process and enhanced the District's reputation among technical experts at the Corps and EPA," said Dion Lewis, GeoEnvironmental Branch.

Cain received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Elmira College in 1975 and a Masters of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from Tufts University in 1987. Prior to joining the Corps of Engineers, Mr. Cain supported risk assessments for the Science Application International Corporation from 1990 to 2005. Prior to that, Cain performed risk assessments at Rizzo Associates from 1988 to 1990 and at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection from 1986 to 1988. His broad expertise includes the development of site environmental management strategies, conceptual site models, transport models, sampling approaches, data evaluation, human and ecological risk evaluation, policy evaluation and risk communication.

In his spare time, Cain is an accomplished musician, mechanic and craftsman. He retired in April.





Visitors leave the Edward MacDowell gate house after a tour of the dam.

File photo

Edward MacDowell team seeks input from public for Master Plan

For the first time since 1979, the team at Edward MacDowell Lake Dam, located in Peterborough, New Hampshire, is planning to update its land use management document, known as the Master Plan, and has invited the public to give their input.

A public meeting to answer questions and receive public feedback for the document was held March 20 at the Peterborough Town Hall in Peterborough. Members of the Edward MacDowell Dam, Operations, and Public Affairs teams were available to assist the public with any questions or concerns.

“The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project,” said Project Manager Jason Tremblay during his remarks. “The current Master Plan is dated 1979 and has exceeded its useful life. The way the lake is managed today is different from the vision set forth in the 1979 plan.”

Once updated, the Master Plan will present an inventory and assessment of the land and water resources and related physical improvement.

“Public input is critical in the Master Plan update,” said Tremblay. “This plan will address land use pressure, along with the increased demand for outdoor recreation and shifting interest in more and varied types of outdoor experiences.”

Tremblay said the classification system and guidelines set forth are designed to guide the preservation,

management and use of public lands in the future.

Elizabeth Decelles, Ecologist for the District, explained the environmental assessment background and overview. An environmental assessment covers all impacts to project resources, including but not limited to water quality, fish and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, recreational and social media impacts due to implementation of the Master Plan.

The Edward MacDowell Lake Dam was completed in 1950 at a cost of \$2 million and provides flood risk management and flood reduction primarily to Peterborough. It is situated on Nubanusit Brook in Peterborough and about 14 miles east of Keene.

The project is made up of an earth fill dam with stone slope projection 1,100 feet-long and 67-feet-high with the ability to store more than four billion gallons of water.

There is a conservation pool at the project that covers 165 acres and has a maximum depth of about seven feet. The flood storage area spillway crest totals 840 acres and covers parts of Hancock, Dublin and Harrisville. The project and all of its associated lands cover 1,469 acres.

Edward MacDowell Lake Dam also provides flood reduction to downstream communities of Hancock, Bennington, Antrim, Deering, Hillsboro and Henniker, all on the Contoocook River.

The Master Plan is available for review at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Edward-MacDowell-Lake/>.



Woonsocket Dam in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

File photo.

President's FY20 budget for Corps of Engineers in New England to continue operations, fund Boston Harbor deepening improvements

By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The President's Budget for fiscal year 2020 was released March 12 and the New England District is expecting full funding in fiscal year 2020 that starts on Oct. 1.

In Connecticut, the budget proposes continued funding for the operation and maintenance of the eight Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and dams and the Stamford Hurricane Barrier.

In Massachusetts, the budget proposes continued funding for operation and maintenance of the 12 Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and dams, the Cape Cod Canal and the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.

Additionally, the budget proposes \$34.8 million for ongoing construction of the Boston Harbor Deep Draft Improvements; and \$5 million for dredging the Wellfleet Harbor federal navigation project.

In New Hampshire, the budget proposes continued funding for the operation and maintenance of the six Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and dams, and \$200,000 to develop plans and specifications to dredge the Rye Harbor federal navigation project.

In Vermont, the budget proposes continued funding for operation and maintenance of the five Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and dams.

In Rhode Island, the budget proposes continued funding for operation and maintenance of the

Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and Woonsocket Flood Reduction projects, and \$1.5 million for addressing needed efforts in the Providence River and Harbor federal navigation project.

In Maine, the budget proposes funding for disposal area monitoring, the Meduxnekeag Watershed Assessment Management Plan, and \$250,000 to develop plans and specifications to dredge the Union River federal navigation project.

Additionally, the District will receive funding from its higher headquarters for Regulatory permitting activities and the Continuing Authorities Program and other work.

Projects can be looked up by state. The FY20 USACE Civil Works Budget Book is online at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

Regulatory Chief retires from federal service after 30 years

After 30 years of distinguished service in the environmental field, Jennifer McCarthy, Chief, Regulatory Division, made the decision to retire on Feb. 28.

Coworkers, friends and retirees gathered in the Concord Park Cafeteria to join McCarthy for a retirement breakfast, Feb. 26. About 55 people attended.

Bob Desista, Deputy Chief of Regulatory, served as Master of Ceremonies for the official portion of the breakfast. In addition to his talk, Desista introduced other participants who wanted a few minutes at the microphone to thank McCarthy for her work and wish her well in retirement. Those speakers included Regulatory team members Frank Delgiudice, Ruth Ladd, Crystal Gardner, Paul Minkin, Alan Anacheka-Naseman, and Susan Willington, a retiree from SAD, rounded out the list of speakers.

Gifts that McCarthy received from the presenters and the other event participants included a gift card, cash, two polished food slabs found in farm fields of New Hampshire and Vermont, and a book on state and national parks.

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, presented McCarthy with a Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her meritorious performance while serving as the Chief of Regulatory Division from March 2011 through February 2019.

Col. Conde also presented McCarthy with her retirement certificate and a District coin.

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina, McCarthy became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, serving on active duty for five and a half years followed by service in the Naval Reserve, according to Desista.

He said that McCarthy's work with wetlands began at the state



Col. William Conde, District Commander, presents Jennifer McCarthy with a Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Photo by Brian Murphy

level in 1990 when she worked at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. She then worked a number of years at the Norfolk District as a Regulatory Project Manager.

While serving at the Norfolk District, McCarthy earned a Master of Science Degree in Biology/Wetland Ecology from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and was certified as a Professional Wetlands Scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists. McCarthy served as the St. Paul District's Regulatory Enforcement/Compliance Coordinator after her tour with Norfolk District.

McCarthy also worked at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Headquarters as the Wetland Conservation Program Manager, according to Desista.

McCarthy transferred to Corps Headquarters as a Senior Regulatory Program Manager and worked on issues such as agriculture, stream restoration, coal mining and developing the Mitigation Rule.

According to Desista, she was the Headquarters lead for the National Wetlands Delineation Manual Regional supplements and for the Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program.

As the New England District's Regulatory Chief, Desista said McCarthy

oversaw one of the most challenging and diverse programs in the Corps, that of regulatory work that affects waters and wetlands on private and public lands, and balancing environmental protection with necessary development.

McCarthy deployed overseas twice during her career with New England District. She first deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn from 2010 to 2011. While there, McCarthy served as Environmental Chief, U.S. Forces-Iraq and oversaw environmental policies and base closure. She received a Superior Civilian Service Award for her work there.

McCarthy's second deployment took her to Liberia from 2014 to 2015 for a six-month assignment in support of Operation United Assistance. The operation was the United States military mission to combat the Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa.

In 2018, she served on a detail to Corps Headquarters as the permitting lead for the critical USACE Infrastructure Initiative.

Retirees who attended McCarthy's retirement breakfast were Susan Mehigan, Laura Lally, Alexine Raineri, Angie Vanaria and Tom Fredette.

Although she has no definite plans, McCarthy may do some traveling in her retirement.

Corps of Engineers proposes maintenance dredging of Rye Harbor Federal Navigation Project

by Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Rye Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) in Rye, New Hampshire. The state of New Hampshire is the local sponsor and has requested this dredging.

Rye Harbor is a small, 40-acre estuarine embayment located approximately five miles south of Portsmouth Harbor and 13 miles north of the Merrimack River.

The Rye Harbor FNP consists of a channel that is 100 feet wide and 10 feet deep at mean lower low water, extending 600 feet through the entrance between the outer breakwaters and then becoming 8 feet deep for another 1,700 feet to the state pier and boat ramp in the inner harbor.

A 6-foot deep, 5-acre anchorage is located to the north of the 8-foot channel, and an 8-foot deep anchorage of the same size is located to the south.

“Hydrographic surveys have shown severe shoaling within the federal channel and the associated anchorages

since the previous maintenance dredging in 1990, creating a hazard to vessels using Rye Harbor,” said Project Manager Michael Walsh, Programs/Project Management Division. “Maintenance dredging would require the removal of 50,000 cubic yards of silt and fine sand to bring the Federal navigation project to its authorized dimensions.”

Dredging will be performed during a 3-4 month period between Nov. 1 and April 30 during the year or years in which funds become available.

The dredge material has been determined to be suitable for unconfined open-water placement and will be placed by scow at either the Isles of Shoals North Disposal Site or the Cape Arundel Disposal Site.

An environmental assessment is being prepared and will be available for review upon request.

The public notice, with more detailed information, is available for review on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Public-Notices/>.

Public comments were taken through March 2.

Corps of Discovery Team take Northbridge students back in time with Lewis and Clark presentation

Students at the Rockdale Youth Center in Northbridge, Massachusetts went back in time with the West Hill Dam Corps of Discovery Team to hear about the story of the military expedition of the nation under Captains Lewis and Clark on Jan. 10.

About 40 students and instructors listened to the 50-minute presentation hosted by Park Ranger Viola Bramel who discussed the exhibition and the contributions that journey made to the nation

“The students were excited to join our ranks while learning of accomplishments, challenges, problem solving and engineering skills needed along with survival skills,” said Bramel. “They were highly disappointed that pay in that era was about \$15 per month for an officer.”

According to Bramel, the students used all five senses; tactile problem solving, listening to animal sounds and tasting products with flavors from plant discoveries from the exhibition. The Lewis and Clark expedition took place from May 1804 to September 1806. Also known as the Corps of Discovery, it was the first American expedition to cross the western portion of the United States. In addition to defining a practical route across the western half of the United States, the expedition also studied plants, animals and geography along the way. Lewis and Clark returned

from the expedition with maps, sketches and journals of their adventures and reported to President Thomas Jefferson.

The New England District first assembled its Corps of Discovery team in 2005 with Bramel as one of its original members. Other members included Deputy of Operations Joan Gardner, and Park Rangers Rick Magee, Jean Hixson and Delia Vogel, all now retired. Matthew Coleman and Ron Woodall are the latest members of the team with seasonal rangers assisting when they are working for the District.

This is the first time that the Corps of Discovery has gone to Rockdale to make their presentation, but they have been all over New England, going out to schools, local libraries and school age programs (after school assemblies) to talk about the Lewis and Clark expedition.

“In addition to going out to the public, West Hill Dam has hosted monthly historic weekend campfires with the Corps Discovery Team to share about this great contribution to our nation,” said Bramel.

Bramel estimates that the Corps of Discovery holds about eight programs a year. For more information on the next Lewis and Clark event, please call West Hill Dam at (508) 278-2511 or visit their website for this and other special events at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/West-Hill-Dam/>.



The West Hill Dam team brought plenty of activities to do and artifacts to touch.

Photos provided by Viola Bramel



Park Rangers Viola Bramel and Ron Woodall are set up and ready for the crowds.



Participants got to see what it's like sitting inside a kayak.

West Hill Dam spreads water safety message at community event

As the warmer weather approaches, so do thoughts of hot summer months and visiting one of New England District's recreational facilities. West Hill Dam team members Ron Woodall, Viola Bramel and volunteer Linda Lestha attended the Family Fun and Disability Awareness Fair at the Milford High School in Milford, Massachusetts, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to talk Water Safety. The event was hosted by the Kennedy Donovan Center, the Milford Council on Disability, the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services and the Milford Family and Community Network.

The team set up their exhibit as well as activities that were both fun and educational, to include trying on life

jackets, getting into a kayak and taking a picture with their heads in a water safety cut out.

The team also brought animal mounts, turtle shells and other artifacts for people to touch and ask questions. Information on how fourth graders could get into National Parks for free (Kid in a Park Pass), America the Beautiful Pass and upcoming events at West Hill Dam were available at the exhibit.

Miss the fair? Information on West Hill Dam events and the passes are available by visiting the project, calling the team at 978-318-8417 or by going to their website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/West-Hill-Dam/>.

Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ Allen

New England District's Real Estate Division Team was spotlighted in the Yankee Engineer 1999 Year in Review. This photograph was taken in November 1999.

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