

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Cooperative Agreement Number: BF-97156001-0

Reporting Period: April 1, 2008-June 30, 2008

Date Submitted: July 24, 2008

Prepared for:

The Town of Sprague, 1 Main St., P.O. Box 677, 1 Main Street, Baltic, CT 06330

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1. PROJECT PROGRESS

Progress reported in this section will clearly identify only those activities performed during the reporting period that were undertaken with EPA funds, and will relate EPA-funded activities to the objectives and milestones agreed upon in the grant workplan.

1.1 Status of Activities During the Reporting Period

Workplan Tasks and Activities (from revised 6/06 workplan)

Task 1: Completed and reported in First Quarterly Report.

Task II Community Involvement

Activity 1: Regular Updates on Town Web Page

- The web page was updated in June as we began to shift all Mukluk-related information from different places on our website to a separate page that will serve as the informational archive of the property. Included on this page are not only cleanup-related documents and reports but a photo gallery and list of planned activities and public events held. We will have all documents on one location by the end of next quarter. (www.ctsprague.org; go to Town Projects and Conservation Commission).

Activity 2: Scheduled Walks and Activities on the Site

- April 2008: two advertised hikes and the placement of a letterbox. Regular checking of the perimeter by town personnel and volunteers. True Blue on site for final removal of leaf litter from phytoremediation bed preparation.
- May 2008: site inspections and right of way checks by Town crew. Silt pond culvert cleaning; beavers spoken to sharply, promised to mend their ways and stop clogging the pipes. UConn Plant Science department erected fences and planted willows and mustard plus a “control” bed outside the contaminated area. LEP conducted soil testing in the skeet range to determine level of lead remaining. Request made to DEP to move containment fence back to treeline should the lead levels be sufficiently lowered, in order to allow for the public to utilize the field near the parking area.
- June 2008: Several SCC sponsored hikes, another letterbox planted at the top of the mountain, much activity by photographers since the mountain laurels were spectacular this year; routine fence patrols and repair. Phytoremediation activities continued; quarterly report submitted to the town.

All Quarter: Continued fence inspections were conducted at least weekly by Town personnel and volunteers, as well as by the Resident State Trooper and LEP, who was on site for much of the quarter with the Remediation personnel and because of additional testing.

Task III Permitting/Signage

Activity 1 Obtain the following Permits: Inland Wetlands

- Inland Wetlands permit obtained (per 1st quarter 07/08 report)

Activity 2 Notification as generator of hazardous waste/ temporary EPA ID number

Not completed at this time due to workplan modification

Activity 3: Access Restriction:

- April 1 – June 30: control fence patrolled regularly (reported each quarter; fence patrol log on file and submitted to DEP).

- April 1 – June 30: Resident State Trooper conducting routine weekend patrols with special attention to ATV paths near fence. The First Selectman continues to try and convince the Montville barracks to purchase an ATV to apprehend illegal motorized vehicles on the property and elsewhere in town.
- **Reprinted from last two quarters (because of its importance):** With this in mind we will need to revisit the fencing issue after this grant is closed out. The town will not have the financial resources or the personnel to permanently maintain this containment fence. The lack of funding, leveraged or otherwise, to completely remediate the site to original specifications means that the area will remain contaminated to some degree indefinitely. We would like to convene at the close of this project to discuss alternatives to the current containment fence, such as the judicious use of signs, and continued public education, and the installation of more permanent fencing *at specific locations* and as funds allow. We believe we have paid sufficient attention to this issue that citizens and visitors know of the contamination and its dangers, and the continued use of the fence would only serve as an additional financial drain on the municipality. Entrance into the contaminated area would remain equal to what it is now, with the fence in place.

Task IV: Project Management and Oversight

Activity 1 Engineering/Professional Services

- In May 2008 the LEP had additional soil sampling/analysis performed at the skeet range to determine if any of this area could be available for public use, and submitted a summary letter and accompanying diagram to EPA and DEP that indicated that of the 41 soil samples taken, only 4 exceeded the CTDEP residential cleanup criteria of 400 parts per million (ppm). The letter further requested that the Town receive permission to use 4 feet fence to replace the 5 feet fence at this site, due to our experience after over one year of operation and maintenance that the 4 foot fence performs better than the 5 fence. It is less susceptible to damage (e.g. wind, etc.), and the 4 foot fence adequately prevents access.
- From April to May the LEP and Environmental Cleanup Contractor continued to clear the remaining debris at the phytoremediation site via rolloff dumpsters. The excessive cost of the remediation narrowed the size of the pilot plots to 100 x 62 feet. The Town received a rebate of \$2,210 from True Blue due to overpayment on the last invoice. We will deduct this amount from this quarter's billing.
- April 1-June, 2008 and ongoing: The LEP continues to coordinate the phytoremediation pilot project with UConn, DEP, and EPA. UConn planted their first crop and submitted the second report and invoice. "The planting of willows and seeding of Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea*) was accomplished at the site on May 12, 2008. Willow cuttings had been started in the greenhouse on April 8, 2008, and by the day of planting had well developed root systems and multiple growing shoots. After planting, each plant was mulched individually to maintain soil moisture"
- As mentioned the last two quarters, EPA has allowed up to \$25,000 for this project.

Activity 2: Engineering (Town Personnel Oversight)

See above

Activity 3: Town Management

- April 1 – June 30 and ongoing: regular meetings with LEP and town representatives that included review of phytoremediation project, overseeing True Blue coordinating with UConn

Department of Plant Science. Fence reparation. Trail mapping. Development of brochures and informational packets in preparation for July 22, 2008 referendum to accept the DEP Land Acquisition grant and place a conservation easement on all but 35 acres of the property.

- April 1-June 30 and ongoing: it should be noted that Town volunteers have expended almost \$4,000 in in-kind services *above and beyond* the requested \$40,000 match for this allocation. Proving that a) Sprague has the best volunteers in Region I, and that b) the Town as a community takes very seriously its stewardship of open space and natural resources in the Last Green Valley.
- Last quarter we reported on conversations with the Commissioner at DEP regarding a way for DEP to let the citizens of Sprague know that the state would not be mandating that private citizens be held liable for cleanup of a property that through their concern for preservation they voted to purchase as open space. The Commissioner agreed that if the Town wrote DEP a letter outlining its concerns and plans, she would write a letter thanking the town for its commitment to open space preservation and applauding its commitment to the remediation of brownfields (letters on file). She did indicate that no private citizen would be held liable for the cleanup, financially or otherwise, although putting this in writing was not something she cared to do. Instead, the letter states that she is eager to discuss “next steps” at the close of this grant process. (please see last quarter’s report for a review of the accompanying narrative, all of which still holds true.)
- Fourth quarter photos attached to our Project Officer’s packet show a variety of things including UConn’s little garden of lead-sucking plantlets, more beaver damage, and some beautiful summer floral displays.

- **Task V: Pond Sediment Control**

- **Activity 1: variable, depending on outcome of beavers etc**

- April 1 – June 30: Town crew and volunteers cleared culvert

The pond and its sediment control remains an issue. There is currently no funding to address this issue and the sediment, with the help of the beavers, seems to be stable. There are varying opinions by experts as to the possibility of leaching to the river. As mentioned last quarter, p 36 of the ERT report states that the dewatering and removal of soil from the pond would have “a huge ecological impact for its duration.”

Task VI: Tree and Vegetation Removal

Activity 1: Removal

(see 3rd quarter 06/07 report re: LEP activities regarding IRM contract award)

Task VIa: Tree and Vegetation Removal via Change Order/Phytoremediation Preparation

Activity 1. Removal: See 3rd quarter 07/08 report: All material was removed from the site, and the rolloffs were removed within the specified time limits.

Task VII: Lead pellet and target removal (preliminary)

(see 4th quarter 06/07 report; preliminary IRM completed)

Activity 1: removal of understory

(see 4th quarter 06/07 report; preliminary IRM completed)

Activity 2: Removal of shells by Town personnel

(see 4th quarter 06/07 report; preliminary IRM completed)

Activity 3: Material profiling prior to disposal

(see 4th quarter 06/07 report; preliminary IRM completed)

1.2 Modifications to the Workplan

Phytoremediation pilot project outline and discussed in 2006/07 4th quarterly report. QAPP approved for additional testing, and letter submitted requesting a decrease in the size of the contaminated area and moving of the containment fence. Overall remediation plan (removal of 4" of soil, wetlands issue) to be discussed at the end of the project. No other modifications to report.

1.3 Site-Specific Products

Include a listing of site-specific products completed. Examples include the sampling and analysis plan, quality assurance project plan, site investigation/assessment reports, and remediation plans and designs.

Please see 4th quarter 06/07 report and summaries of LEP's report of May 13:and June 13, 2007: 11/2/07 QAPP approved by EPA; 5/2008: testing reports submitted to EPA and DEP UConn's Fourth Quarter report (on file and included as attachment with emailed copies) indicating their progress on the preparation of the beds and planting of their species.

1.4 Other Deliverables/Work Products

List other deliverables or work products completed in the reporting period and provide as attachments. The following are examples of attachments:

- list of properties considered for grant activities
- community meeting minutes or summaries
- educational brochures
- newspaper articles about the grant properties or the grant program
- photographs of properties

• **educational brochures:** information on www.ctsprague.org; as well as complete pdf file of the Environmental Review

• **photographs of properties:** :EPA has CD's of photos on file and can look at the google earth site of the ERT for additional photos. Photos of the proposed UConn site and extent of clearing and vacuum machinery at work have already been sent. Photos this quarter include UConn's progress and silt pond conditions.

Please see also ATTACHMENTS section

2. PROJECT FUNDS EXPENDED

Include tables with details about how much was spent by task and object class.

Note: We are using the table we have heretofore utilized for this grant, for the sake consistency. A complete budget/in-kind workpaper is available for review, outlining the personnel and hours spent per employee, machinery/tools used, the specific task, dates tasks were performed, etc. The Request for Reimbursement Form is also attached.]

Table 1: Summary of Costs Incurred for Project

1.1 Status of Activities During the Reporting Period		
Workplan Tasks and Activities	Total Cost Share	Total Federal Outlay
Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight		
COMPLETED		
Task II Community Involvement	474.15	
Activities: web page/media updates, property posting, correspondence re: additional funding, informational sessions/site walks		
Task III Permitting/Signage		
Activity 3: Access Restriction: (property survey/staking, fence purchase/installation, sign purchase/posting)	864.00	
Task IV: Project Management and Oversight		
Activity1 Engineering/Professional Services; Town Management; legal notices		8,556.00
Activity 3: Town Management (site monitoring visits, data analysis, meetings to revise tasks. described in narrative)	968.47	
Task V: Pond Sediment Control		
Activity 1: initial containment and repair		
Task VI: Tree and Vegetation Removal:		
Task VII: Material (lead pellet and target) removal (preliminary)		
(includes Task VI: tree and vegetation removal as well)		55,154*
Total Cost Share and Federal Outlay This Quarter (please note: Town now has exceeded cost share requirement)	2,306.62	
Total Remaining Funds	+ 4,063.14	48,277.56

* The town received a check from the contractor for a \$2,210 overpayment, after a review by the LEP revealed a calculation error in the billing. We subtracted this amount from both the totals shown here and the EPA payment request.

3. BUDGET AND OVERALL PROJECT STATUS

*Include an estimate of the time and funds needed to complete the activities identified in the approved workplan, comparing that estimate with the time and funds remaining, and provide an explanation for any changes. If **overall**, the project is expected to be on target, please state so. For example, individual tasks may be behind schedule, but overall, is the project expected to be completed on time and within budget?*

Based on the estimates provided by the contractor, the project is expected to be completed on time and within budget. Outstanding costs of approximately \$22,000 (Uconn's project and the completed additional testing) will be paid next quarter, leaving the grant with approximately \$26,000. The LEP will meet with the Town and DEP representatives next quarter to discuss the planned next activity on the property, whether to be undertaken with these funds or as the future next phase of remediation.

4. SCHEDULE

Submit a revised schedule if changes have occurred.

The QAPP approval, referenced earlier, constitutes the revisions to the workplan; all activities remain on schedule.

5. MINIMUM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

*Please note that we are trying to eliminate the usage of the property profile forms (PPF) by encouraging **everyone** to utilize ACRES. It is easy to enter your property specific data directly into ACRES thereby avoiding having to fill out property profile forms each quarter. Please include an update on your reporting requirements. A property tracking chart is attached for your convenience. **Note:** Clean-up properties should be entered into ACRES immediately upon receipt of cooperative agreement award.*

Please see attached Property Profile Form; we prefer to continue to complete it manually; please feel free to update and maintain your database with this information

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(all except PPF are not included but on file at the Town offices)

- Mukluk Fence Relocation/Surface Soil Sampling locations diagram 5/08
- Letter dated 6/27/08 to DEP re: results of soil sampling and request to relocate containment fence
- 4/08-4/21 letters to and from DEP Commissioner
- Uconn 1/4ly report and billing
- Correspondence with True Blue regarding overpayment; check for 2,210
- LEP invoices
- True Blue Environmental Cleanup invoices
- Chart of Hourly Rates for Personnel and Equipment (on file)
- Expenditure workplan for in-kind and EPA funded costs
- Property Profile Form (Updated and included)
- Mukluk brochure (created June 2008)