

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

Environmental Notification Form

<p><i>For Office Use Only</i></p> <p>EEA#: <u>15947</u></p> <p>MEPA Analyst: <u>Kevin Flaherty</u></p>

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Rockwell Pond Dredging		
Street Address: Rock-A-Dundee Road		
Municipality: Hampden	Watershed: Connecticut River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 716600.68m E 4658043.81m N	Latitude: 42°02'38.14"N Longitude: 72°22'57.44"W	
Estimated commencement date: 06/19	Estimated completion date: 10/19	
Project Type: Dredging	Status of project design: 80 %complete	
Proponent: Rockwell, et al., c/o Geoffrey Rockwell		
Street Address: 35 Everett Street		
Municipality: Arlington	State: MA	Zip Code: 02474
Name of Contact Person: Nathaniel Y. Arai, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.	Street Address: 1350 Main Street, Suite 1400	
Municipality: Springfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01103
Phone: 413-726-2100	Fax: 413-732-1249	E-mail: nathaniel.arai@gza.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No

a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No

a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)(1)(f)- "alteration of 1/2 or more acres of any other wetlands"; and 11.03(b)(3)- "Dredging of 10,000 or more cy of material"

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?
Major Dredge Project Certification (BRP WW 07) "401 Water Quality Certification for Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal"

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres: **None**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	7.35		
New acres of land altered		3.6±	
Acres of impervious area		0.0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		144,900± SF LUWW 5,575± SF BLSF 40± LF Bank (all impacts temporary)	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum height (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The Rockwell family (Rockwell et al.), the Proponent, is submitting this Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the proposed dredging of accumulated sediments in the 3.3± acre Rockwell Pond (Pond) in Hampden, MA, with onsite beneficial reuse of the excavated soft sediments within nearby uplands. The Pond is a "run-of-river" impoundment of the Scantic River. The Pond is also directly fed by Rock-a-Dundee Brook. Over time, sediment loading has reduced Pond depth and has limited its capacity to be used for recreation by the family. The proposed removal of the accumulated soft sediments will re-establish the historic pond depths to restore the recreational function of the Pond. The 2016 Phase I Dam Safety inspection report noted that the actual storage volume of the impoundment is significantly reduced by the accumulation of sand and silt over a large percentage of the basin.

Rockwell Pond is located southeast of Rock-a-Dundee Road within Maidstone Farm, a 219.6±acre parcel owned and maintained by the Rockwell family. A majority of the parcel currently operates under a Ch.61 Certified Forest Management Plan. The Pond and dam were reportedly originally used in the 1800s to support a saw mill and grist mill, and the Pond is currently used solely for recreation. The estimated water volume at normal-pool elevation is approximately 5.6 acre-feet. The Pond is bordered by the managed forest lands, the residential buildings and appurtenant structures, and remnant agricultural fields maintained as part of the current residential usage of the land.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The owners have elected to dredge the Pond basin to restore depth and recreational functionality. The impoundment has reportedly been dredged at least once before in the 1960s and possibly prior to that in the 1940s. The proposed work will include a drawdown of the pond, followed by diversion of the inflows around the active work areas and limited, intermittent bypass pumping of areas in which diversion is not possible. The Pond is routinely drawn down as part of regular maintenance, so this activity is not atypical. Sediment and erosion control measures, including BMPs for turbidity, will be implemented and maintained during the project. The dredged materials will be reused at a portion of the property partially cleared by prior forest management activities, requiring minimal disturbance and taking advantage of an available upland area outside of wetland resources and their associated buffer zones. The dredged material reuse area is located on the Proponent's property, approximately 0.7 miles south of the Pond and accessible via Rock-a-Dundee Road. Most of the area temporarily disturbed by the sediment management activities will be stabilized/seeded and will continue use as managed forest areas. As discussed and agreed to with the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the northern portion of the area will be topped with sands and will be maintained in an unvegetated state as potential herpetile nesting habitat.

The proposed work will temporarily affect 144,900± SF of Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways (LUWW) due to the dewatering of the pond and dredging of 20,500± CY of accumulated sediments within LUWW (See Plan Drawings 6 & 7, attached). Temporary effects will include 40± LF of Bank due to the temporary equipment access to the Pond basin during dredging within an existing beach area. Temporary work will also occur within 5,575±SF of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) as a result of the need for temporary construction access. The LUWW, Bank, and BLSF areas will all be restored to pre-construction conditions at the end of construction with the only permanent alteration being the removal of the accumulated sediments from the pond basin, changing the average depth from 2± feet to 6± feet.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

An alternatives analysis was performed during the conceptual design phase of the project to anticipate and eliminate or minimize any potential environmental impacts while achieving the project purpose. A total of 3 alternatives were considered, including modification of the total area to be dredged and relocation of the sediment reuse area outside to minimize overall project intrusion into Priority Habitat (PH 875), as mapped in 2017 by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MA NHESP).

Alternative 1: Dredge entire pond, including the shallow/vegetated sandbars at the inlet of the Scantic River, with upland sediment reuse in the existing field located north of the farm house.

The approach of Alternative 1 would pose impact to a total of 144,900± SF of LUWW (area of drawdown), including impact associated with sediment removal from 135,600± SF of open water LUWW (temporary impact) and 9,300± SF of vegetated sandbar LUWW (permanent habitat alteration). Total dredge removal would be 20,500± CY of accumulated sediments from the pond basin. The dredge removal of 9,300± SF of vegetated sandbar LUWW was determined to potentially result in impact to Rare Species habitat, due to its potential use as foraging area for the Wood Turtle, a species of Special Concern. Additionally, sediment reuse on the 1.4± acres of undeveloped hayfield located along the northern edge of the parcel, potential nesting habitat to the Wood Turtle, presents potential impact to Rare Species habitat.

Alternative 2: Dredge a portion of the pond, including the shallow/vegetated sandbars at the inlet of the Scantic River, with upland sediment reuse in the existing field located north of the farm house.

The approach of Alternative 2 would pose impact to a total of 144,900± SF of LUWW (area of drawdown), including impact associated with sediment removal from 91,700± SF of open water LUWW (temporary impact) and 9,300± SF of vegetated sandbar LUWW (permanent habitat alteration). Total dredge removal would be 17,000± CY of accumulated sediments from the pond basin. The dredge removal of 9,300± SF of vegetated sandbar LUWW was determined to potentially result in impact to Rare Species habitat, due to its potential use as foraging area for the Wood Turtle, a species of Special Concern. Additionally, sediment reuse on the 1.4± acres of undeveloped hayfield located along the northern edge of the parcel, potential nesting habitat to the Wood Turtle, presents potential impact to Rare Species habitat.

Alternative 3: Dredge entire open water area of the pond, excluding vegetated sandbars at the inlet of the Scantic River, with upland sediment reuse in an existing 3.6± acre clearing within forest management area of the property located south of the pond.

The approach of Alternative 3 would pose temporary impact to a total of 144,900± SF LUWW (area of drawdown), including 135,600± SF from the dredge removal of 20,500± CY of accumulated sediments in the pond (temporary impact). The remaining 9,300± SF of vegetated sandbar LUWW at the inlet of the Scantic River would not be dredged. Upland reuse of sediments on the clearing within the forest management area of the property would occur outside of Priority Habitat and presents the opportunity to create enhanced turtle nesting habitat upland within general proximity to Rock-A-Dundee Brook (>200 ft away).

Alternatives 1 and 2 were eliminated due to the need to avoid and minimize any potential impact to MA NHESP-designated Priority Habitat areas. Discussions with MA NHESP concluded that modifications to the project design would be necessary to avoid a Take and to allow for a conditional MESA Project Review to be issued, provided that design modifications would include the following:

1. Avoid dredging of the vegetated sandbar areas at the inlet of the Scantic River, which are potential foraging area for the Wood Turtle;
2. Create designated potential herpetile (Eastern Box Turtle) nesting habitat within the upland sediment reuse area; and
3. Adopt time of year restrictions to perform dewatering and dredging during the summer season.

The Proponent has decided to reuse the sediments onsite within a recently-cleared portion of their managed forest area outside of the mapped priority habitat area, allowing most of this area to regrow for continued forest management and, at the request of MA NHESP, a portion to be dedicated as potential herpetile nesting habitat. Therefore, Alternative 3 was chosen as the preferred alternative. The sediment to be dredged has been tested in accordance with the 314 CMR 14.00 Water Quality Standards. Representatives of MassDEP have reviewed the testing results and have informally (no application filed to date) indicated that the dredge materials are appropriate for upland reuse.

Environmental impacts will be minimized by utilizing existing open areas for activities related to construction as much as possible. Access routes to the Pond and the construction staging area will use existing routes, and there will be no permanent impacts or grade changes within BLSF. Temporary access to the pond basin will necessitate crossing a 40± foot section of regulatory Bank resource on an existing sand beach, which will be restored in kind.

NOTE: *The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.*

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:
All impacts of project work are temporary in nature; thus, specific mitigation is not proposed.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase:

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

- Yes (Specify _____)
 No

if yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? ___ Yes ___ No;
If yes, describe how the project complies with this plan.

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? ___ Yes ___ No;

If yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC.

RARE SPECIES:

Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species?

- Yes

(Specify: Eastern Box Turtle, Wood Turtle, and Eastern Worm Snake (see attached MA DFW informational letter dated 1/13/17))

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place