

## **Attachment F: MVP Yearly Progress Report Template**

### **MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM FY 20**

#### **MVP ACTION GRANT**

#### **RFR ENV 20 MVP 02**

## **Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Yearly Progress Report

**July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019 Reporting Period**



Date: November 13, 2019

Municipality: Town of Newbury

Local MVP Contact Name: Martha L. Taylor, Town Planner

1. Please list your municipalities' top priority actions, in order of priority, identified through the MVP planning process.

Seven action items were chosen as the highest priority for Newbury and are as follows:

1. **Great Marsh/Coastal Habitat:** Restoration to improve resiliency, invasive species control, channel stabilization, erosion/hydrology management (including removal of impediments to stormwater and tidal flow), ditch assessment and remediation, water quality management, and continued protection efforts (including the consideration of thin layer deposition).
2. **Power Supply:** Consider alternative means of power generation and supply in emergencies, including green energy, generators at private service stations, and large generators to support services on Plum Island.
3. **Key Access Roads:** Identify state funding and prepare plans to reduce flooding and improve access on emergency evacuation routes and key access roads, including Plum Island Turnpike, Northern Boulevard, Hanover Street, and Pine Island Rd. On Plum Island Turnpike, and other roads as applicable, consider raising the bridge and road both to allow water to flow freely below the road and to provide safe dry emergency access. Also, on Plum Island, complete engineering and seek funding for an emergency access route through existing rights of way North of Plum Island Center (e.g., 14th and 16th Streets) and improve signage for evacuation routes.
4. **Emergency Preparedness:** Develop a database or registry of vulnerable populations, and a comprehensive plan for emergencies, such as power outages.

5. Plum Island Barrier Beach: Dune nourishment, planting, management, access, stabilization, continued measurement of accretion and erosion, and innovative restoration and stabilization approaches (e.g., sand mining), in cooperation with Newburyport, Salisbury, the Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA) and the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state agencies.
  6. Permitting: Work with the state to review regulations and policies that impede ecological protection and restoration of marshes, beaches and dunes.
  7. Local Regulations and By-Laws: Review and improve local zoning by-laws and development regulations, including in particular the Plum Island Overlay District, to be more sensitive to environmental conditions and changes. On Plum Island, encourage Newburyport to collaborate to create consistency across communities with respect to the standards, interpretation and enforcement of the local by-laws and regulations (zoning and wetlands protection).
2. Has your Core Team reconvened since your Listening Session? If so, describe the process and any revisions or updates your team made to the original MVP Report? Please list your MVP Core Team members and note any new members.

Our MVP Core Team consists of the following members:

Michael Reilly: Police Chief  
Martha Taylor: Town Planner  
John O'Connell: Local Engineer, Stormwater Committee  
Tracy Blais: Town Administrator  
Deborah Rogers: Health Agent  
Doug Packer: Conservation Agent  
Geoffrey Walker: Newbury Selectman  
James Sarette: Public Works Director  
Kristen Grubbs: PIE-Rivers, Planner  
Douglas Janvrin, Jr.: Fire Chief  
Sam Joslin: Building Commissioner, Zoning Enforcement officer

The Core Team has not reconvened as a whole since our Listening Session and no new members have been added. However, a subgroup of the Team has met on a frequent basis to discuss ideas for Action Grant proposals that will help us start addressing the priorities identified through our MVP planning process.

3. Discuss any other work related to the MVP process or climate change resiliency in the municipality. In what ways has your municipality used the outcomes of your workshop in other planning efforts (e.g., updating existing local plans)?

Our Master Plan Committee is using the outcomes of our workshop in the current effort to update our 2006 Master Plan. The outcomes will also be used in the update of our Open Space and Recreation Plan, which we expect to start later this fiscal year or in early FY 21, and in the update of our Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. We are exploring the possibility of adopting Natural Resource Protection Zoning to replace our Open Space Residential Development By-Law and making other zoning amendments and will include consideration of the concerns that were raised about climate change vulnerability as we move forward.

4. Please list any grants that your municipality has applied for, or received, to implement actions from your MVP report. Please note grant awards or applications that advanced priority actions.

MVP action grant applications to date include:

FY 18 MVP Action Grant (awarded) – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program – “Assessing storm energy reduction by the vegetated salt marsh platform in Newbury, MA: a background to enhancing natural protection by the living shoreline,” in partnership with Boston University

FY 18 MVP Action Grant (awarded) – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program – “Documenting the Effects of a Large-Scale, Natural Sediment Deposition Event on Salt Marsh Resilience in the Great Marsh Estuary,” with the Towns of Ipswich and Essex (with Essex as the lead community)

Both of these grants advanced actions related to the health and restoration of the Great Marsh and Coastal Habitat, which was identified as our top priority/area of concern.

5. Please list any other steps that your municipality has taken towards implementing your priority actions.

The Town has submitted a Notice of Intent to the Conservation Commission to improve the right of way and construct an emergency access route at 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets on Plum Island (Priority #3).

Through the MRBA and in conjunction with other communities, the Town is exploring the possibility of beach nourishment through placement of sand dredged from the Piscataqua and other rivers (Priority #5).

6. Please list any potential next steps to advance priority actions during FY2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)?

- Reconvene the Core MVP Team to consider development of a Resiliency Plan for Newbury
- Review the Town's by-laws and regulations, including for the Plum Island Overlay District, to identify ways in which they can be revised to promote resiliency and make appropriate amendments
- Continue invasive species control and other steps to restore the Great Marsh

7. Please note any difficulties or challenges the community has identified through the MVP planning process or while seeking to implement priority actions and any steps the community has identified to address these challenges.

The Town is facing two conflicting challenges – the need to preserve and protect natural resources that will help us mitigate the impacts of climate change and address the priorities that we have identified versus the need to provide additional housing, especially affordable housing, to address the needs of Newbury's population, particularly young families and our senior citizens. Housing growth is crucial, but it further strains our resources and we have developers coming before us with proposals to build in the flood plain and areas which would ideally be set aside for marsh migration as sea level rise progresses.

8. Please identify any data needs or information gaps that the state could help fill.

The 2017 Great Marsh Coastal Adaptation Plan, prepared for the communities of Salisbury, Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Essex, and Ipswich with financial support from the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program, administered by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, CZM's Coastal Community Resilience Grant Program, and the Northeast Climate Science Center, provides invaluable data that can be used in our climate change and resiliency planning efforts. However, we note that these data focus primarily, if not exclusively, on the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge, without taking into consideration the potential simultaneous effects of riverine flooding. Data on the impacts of inland flooding, especially in areas subject to coastal flooding and storm surge, would be a valuable addition to the data that we already have.