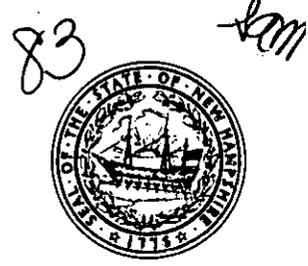




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 29, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and The Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

FEB06'19 AM 9:50 DAS

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services to enter into an agreement with the University of New Hampshire, Sponsored Programs Administration (VC #177867-B046), Durham, NH, in the amount of \$70,723 to implement the Leveraging Natural Resources for Resilience project, effective upon Governor and Council approval through December 31, 2020. The funding source is 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

	<u>FY 2019</u>
03-44-44-442010-3642-072-500574	\$70,723
Dept. Environmental Services, Coastal Zone Management, Grants—Federal	

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on May 7, 2018 for projects that enhance coastal resilience to current and future hazards. Projects eligible to receive funding from NHCP's competitive Coastal Resilience Grant funding opportunity included those that build capacity to address future coastal flood risk and design, permitting, and/or construction of site-specific projects that enhance coastal community and ecosystem resilience. Eleven eligible proposals were received and ranked according to selection criteria and selection committee discussion. Four proposals were selected to receive funding, including the proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension/NH Sea Grant for this project. A scoring matrix that includes a list of the staff who participated in proposal review, along with their titles and level of experience is provided in Attachment B.

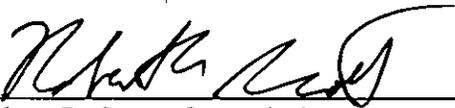
The goal of this project is to enhance the ability of coastal landforms to perform ecosystem services and mitigate climate driven threats. This project will 1. Develop a technical assistance program to empower NH coastal landowners to manage their own property to support coastal ecosystems and the benefits they provide, 2. Restore eroded sand dunes on the NH coast to increase resilience, and 3. Monitor change in sand dune and salt marshes systems in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary to understand coastal ecosystem condition and response to storms and sea level rise.

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And the Honorable Council
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Total project costs are budgeted at \$106,084. DES will provide \$70,723 of the project costs through this federal grant. UNH will provide \$35,361 in matching funds. A budget breakdown is provided in Attachment A.

In the event that the Federal funds become no longer available, general funds will not be requested to support this program. The agreement has been approved as to form, substance, and execution by the Office of the Attorney General.

We respectfully request your approval.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT

between the

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, **Department of Environmental Services**

and the

University of New Hampshire of the UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- A. This Cooperative Project Agreement (hereinafter "Project Agreement") is entered into by the State of New Hampshire, **Department of Environmental Services**, (hereinafter "State"), and the University System of New Hampshire, acting through **University of New Hampshire**, (hereinafter "Campus"), for the purpose of undertaking a project of mutual interest. This Cooperative Project shall be carried out under the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, except as may be modified herein.
- B. This Project Agreement and all obligations of the parties hereunder shall become effective on the date ("Effective date") when both of the following conditions are met: (1) NOAA gives the State approval of the project and fund expenditure and (2) the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire approve this Project Agreement and shall end on **12/31/20**. If the provision of services by Campus precedes the Effective date, all services performed by Campus shall be performed at the sole risk of Campus and in the event that this Project Agreement does not become effective, State shall be under no obligation to pay Campus for costs incurred or services performed; however, if this Project Agreement becomes effective, all costs incurred prior to the Effective date that would otherwise be allowable shall be paid under the terms of this Project Agreement.
- C. The work to be performed under the terms of this Project Agreement is described in the proposal identified below and attached to this document as Exhibit A, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

Project Title: Leveraging Natural Resources Toward Resilience: Outreach, Restoration and Monitoring for a Resilient NH Coast

- D. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Administrators. These Project Administrators shall be responsible for the business aspects of this Project Agreement and all invoices, payments, project amendments and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Administrator

Name: Steven Couture
 Address: NH Coastal Program
 Dept. of Environmental Services
 222 International Drive, Suite 175
 Portsmouth, NH 03801
 Phone: 271-8801

Campus Project Administrator

Name: Cheryl Moore
 Address: University of New Hampshire
 Sponsored Programs Administration
 Service Building/51 College Road
 Durham, NH 03824
 Phone: 862-1992

- E. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Directors. These Project Directors shall be responsible for the technical leadership and conduct of the project. All progress reports, completion reports and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Director

Name: Kirsten Howard
 Address: NH Coastal Program
 Dept. of Environmental Services
 222 International Drive, Suite 175
 Portsmouth, NH 03801
 Phone: 559-0020

Campus Project Director

Name: Alyson Eberhardt
 Address: University of New Hampshire
 Cooperative Extension/NH Sea Grant
 122 Mast Road
 Lee, NH 03861
 Phone: 862-6709

Campus Authorized Official KS
 Date 7/7/19

F. Total State funds in the amount of \$70,723 have been allotted and are available for payment of allowable costs incurred under this Project Agreement. State will not reimburse Campus for costs exceeding the amount specified in this paragraph.

Check if applicable

Campus will cost-share 33.33 % of total costs during the term of this Project Agreement.

Federal funds paid to Campus under this Project Agreement are from Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement No. NA18NOS4190024 from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under CFDA# 11.419. Federal regulations required to be passed through to Campus as part of this Project Agreement, and in accordance with the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, are attached to this document as Exhibit B, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

G. Check if applicable

Article(s) of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002 is/are hereby amended to read:

H. State has chosen **not to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement.
 State has chosen **to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement and will issue instructions for the disposition of such equipment within 90 days of the Project Agreement's end-date. Any expenses incurred by Campus in carrying out State's requested disposition will be fully reimbursed by State.

This Project Agreement and the Master Agreement constitute the entire agreement between State and Campus regarding this Cooperative Project, and supersede and replace any previously existing arrangements, oral or written; all changes herein must be made by written amendment and executed for the parties by their authorized officials.

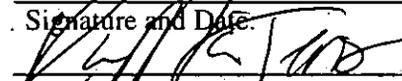
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the University System of New Hampshire, acting through the University of New Hampshire and the State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services have executed this Project Agreement.

**By An Authorized Official of:
University of New Hampshire**

Name: Karen M. Jensen

Title: Manager, Research Administration

Signature and Date:

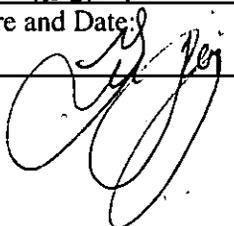
 1/7/19

**By An Authorized Official of: the New
Hampshire Office of the Attorney General**

Name: Gordon P. Landry

Title: Assistant Attorney General

Signature and Date:

 2/5/19

By An Authorized Official of:

Department of Environmental Services

Name: Robert R. Scott

Title: Commissioner

Signature and Date:

 2-1-19

**By An Authorized Official of: the New
Hampshire Governor & Executive Council**

Name:

Title:

Signature and Date:

EXHIBIT A

- A. Project Title:** Leveraging Natural Resources Toward Resilience: Outreach, Restoration and Monitoring for a Resilient NH Coast
- B. Project Period:** Date upon which NOAA approval and Governor and Council approval are both in hand through December 31, 2020
- C. Objectives:** To enhance the ability of coastal landforms to perform ecosystem services and mitigate climate driven threats, this project will 1. Develop a technical assistance program to empower NH coastal landowners to manage their own property to support coastal ecosystems and the benefits they provide, 2. Restore eroded sand dunes on the NH coast to increase resilience, and 3. Monitor change in sand dune and salt marshes systems in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary to understand coastal ecosystem condition and response to storms and sea level rise.
- D. Scope of Work:** The specific activities undertaken by the University of New Hampshire:

Task 1: Advisory Team Meetings

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will be convened to determine landowner information needs and appropriate resources, identify restoration opportunities, coordinate communications about the project, and ensure that restoration and outreach activities support the individual goals of each agency/municipality. The PAC will include members from NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, NH Fish and Game, NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program (NHCP), Natural Resources Conservation Service, NH Natural Heritage Bureau, Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance, and staff/board members of local municipalities. The PAC meetings are the mechanism through which UNH will comply with its DNCR research license.

Task 2: Landowner Technical Assistance Program

A coastal landowner assistance program will be developed to provide site specific information to landowners to enhance natural resources to increase their flood resiliency. It will be modelled off the highly successful forestry landowner technical assistance program of UNH Cooperative Extension, a more than 90 year old program that offers landowners free site visits to provide information to achieve woodlot objectives such as forestry, recreation, wildlife habitat, and water resources. In addition to the habitat based approaches that will be addressed by the project team, NHCP is interested in supporting landowners with information on broader topics of floodplain management. As such, the project team will work in partnership with NHCP to plan, develop and pilot a collaborative program to support coastal landowners in managing their property for increased resilience.

Task 3: Development of resources to support landowners

Resources currently available (e.g., Common garden of dune plants, NH salt marsh field guide) to support landowners will be inventoried. Where identified gaps exist, additional resources will be created to support the landowner assistance program.

Task 4: Increase Common Garden species diversity

The project team will work with community volunteers to maintain the Common Garden of native sand dune plants at Hampton Beach State Park to support NH landowners and the project team in dune restoration. Furthermore, the project team will enhance this free resource of native sand dune plants with 3 additional species to support dune resilience and diversity.

Task 5. Community based dune restoration

The project team will obtain all necessary permits and approvals prior to beginning restoration work. The project team will engage students and community volunteers in restoration activities, including harvesting

and propagating plants, revegetating dunes and installing protective fencing. The target restoration goal is approximately 10,000 ft² (0.25 acre) of sand dune habitat. Restoration activities will occur at the site(s) in most need of enhancement or restoration and may include: Hampton dune (on the border of North Hampton), Plaice Cove, Hampton Beach State Park, the Harborside Dunes, dune adjacent to bridge, Sun Valley, Seabrook foredunes. Permissions are currently in place for restoration work at Hampton Beach State Park and the Harborside Dunes (in some cases referred to as the "Hampton Harbor Wildlife Management Area"); permissions for the remaining sites are currently being pursued. We will build off of our existing network of volunteers by recruiting through the Coastal Research Volunteer Program, Nature Groupie and the Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance to recruit student and adult volunteers for restoration efforts.

Task 6. Transplant beachgrass from Seabrook foredunes

The Seabrook Conservation Commission (SCC) owns the majority of the dune system along Seabrook Beach. Given it is a relatively intact system with a high density of beachgrass, the SCC encourages its use as a beachgrass donor site. As such, the project team will engage community volunteers to selectively harvest beachgrass from the Seabrook foredunes for transplant into restoration areas and the Common Garden. Permissions are in place for this work.

Note: Activities 5 and 6 combined account for \$9000 of the total budget (including match) with a breakdown of \$1000 for planning, \$4000 for harvesting beachgrass, and \$4000 for revegetation/fencing/restoration.

Task 7. Dune profiling

To document gains and losses in the primary dunes and beach face along the shoreline, 11 permanent transects will be measured seasonally. The project team will add a 12th site in the Harborside Dunes, adjacent to the Neil R Underwood bridge, an area of severe erosion over recent years. Transects will document changes in dune height, position of dune face and sand volume.

Task 8. Marsh Sediment Elevation Tables

Sediment elevation table (SET) data will be collected at 6 locations in the HSE to determine rates of salt marsh accretion/subsidence to increase understanding of the HSE marshes play in terms of resilience or vulnerability to storms and sea level rise.

E. Deliverables Schedule: Reports:

Interim Progress Report #1

A progress report shall be submitted summarizing project activity from the start date of the grant through June 30, 2019.

Outcome end date: June 30, 2019

Interim Progress Report #2

A progress report shall be submitted summarizing project activity from July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Outcome end date: December 31, 2019

Interim Progress Report #3

A progress report shall be submitted summarizing project activity from December 31, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

Outcome end date: June 30, 2020

Final Report

UNH, UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Sea Grant will prepare and submit a Final Report summarizing all project activity during the life of the grant.

Outcome end date: December 31, 2020

F. Budget and Invoicing Instructions: Campus will submit invoices to State on regular Campus invoice forms no more frequently than monthly and no less frequently than quarterly. Invoices will be based on actual project expenses incurred during the invoicing period, and shall show current and cumulative expenses by major cost categories as shown below. State will pay Campus within 30 days of receipt of each invoice. Campus will submit its final invoice not later than 60 days after the Project Period end date.

Budget Items	State Funding	Cost Sharing	Total
1. Salaries & Wages	\$32,885	\$24,075	\$ 56,960
2. Fringe Benefits	\$11,128	\$1,753	\$ 12,881
3. Travel	\$1,117	-	\$1,117
4. Supplies and Services	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000
5. Other (IT support)	-	-	-
6. Facilities and Admin.	\$14,593	\$1,533	\$16,126
7. Sub-contractual	\$7,000	-	-
Subtotals:	\$70,723	\$35,361	\$106,084
Total Project Costs: \$106,084			

G. Other

Funding Credit: Funding credit requirement on final work products and outreach materials: All final work products above shall include the NOAA, NHCP and DES logos. All work products and outreach materials shall state that "This project was funded, in part, by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program." Examples of final work products and outreach materials include, but are not limited to, final reports, press releases, newsletter articles, website pages, and signage.

KJ
7/10/17

EXHIBIT B

This Project Agreement is funded under a Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement to State from the Federal sponsor specified in Project Agreement article F. All applicable requirements, regulations, provisions, terms and conditions of this Federal Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement are hereby adopted in full force and effect to the relationship between State and Campus, except that wherever such requirements, regulations, provisions and terms and conditions differ for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, the appropriate requirements should be substituted (e.g., OMB Circulars A-21 and A-110, rather than OMB Circulars A-87 and A-102). References to Contractor or Recipient in the Federal language will be taken to mean Campus; references to the Government or Federal Awarding Agency will be taken to mean Government/Federal Awarding Agency or State or both, as appropriate.

Special Federal provisions are listed here: None or Uniform Guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in lieu of Circulars listed in paragraph above.

Attachment B
Grant Scoring Matrix

	Dover	Great Bay Stewards	Rockingham Planning Commission	Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance	Stafford Regional Planning Commiss	The Nature Conservancy	NH Sea Grant/UNH Coop Ext Dunes	UNH Ocean Engineering Foster	UNH Ocean Engineering Lippmann	UNH Coop Ext CITC	UNH Sponsored Research
Reviewer "A"	56	86	59	60	79	84	81	79	37	89	66
Reviewer "B"	63	86	66	76	85	91	80	80	73	81	82
Reviewer "C"	78	92	71	76	80	95	87	84	53	94	81
Reviewer "D"	66	88	55	78	74	95	93	62	63	87	65
Reviewer "E"	77	94	67	79	90	98	92	81	60	97	89
Reviewer "F"	86	98	84	85	80	92	94	87	52	99	70
AVERAGE	71.0	90.7	67.0	75.7	81.3	92.5	87.8	78.8	56.3	91.2	75.5
RANK	9	3	10	7	5	1	4	6	11	2	8

Review Team Members:

- Steve Couture, Coastal Program Administrator, 19 years of experience in environmental planning and grants management
- Rebecca Newhall, Northeast Regional Liason, NOAA Office for Coastal Management; 16 years of experience in grants management
- Chris Williams, Federal Consistency Coordinator, 19 years of regulatory and coastal management experience
- Kevin Lucey, Habitat Coordinator, 16 years of experience with environmental assessment, project management, and watershed restoration
- Kirsten Howard, Coastal Resilience Coordinator, 9 years coastal policy and management and resiliency experience
- Nathalie Morison, Coastal Resilience Specialist, 8 years coastal policy and management and resiliency experience