

**CONTEXT:**

The town has done patching and maintenance of the wall in prior years, and it responded in full force to prevent further damage to the wall - to the capacity it was able – when wall failure occurred (as it did in many communities along the coast in March of 2018) by dipping into its emergency stabilization funds. Damages and sea wall failures in the 2018 March storms had a regional impact of such significance that they qualified for a declaration of a state of emergency by the President, enabling the town (and the region) to secure FEMA funding for up to 75% of the repair costs. The town was also fortunate to acquire a state grant for the 25% burden on the town by using FEMA reimbursement money from the disaster as the local match (which covered other storm-related costs). **These funds can only be secured by accepting the obligation to make repairs to the sea walls, and through the state grant, public access to the top of the sea wall is required.**

The town is in the process of **securing its permits to repair the damages from 2018**, with plans to do repairs in the coming year. Through the process of designing the repairs, we have found that **the entire wall has outlived its useful life**, and needs to be replaced as a whole to withstand today's higher sea levels and the significantly reduced beach front (compared to what was in place when the original walls were constructed). Today's permitting environment on the eastern seaboard, including Duxbury, **includes managing the level of the beach on the forward side of the wall. The estimated cost to replace the sea wall to new standards in today's dollars is about \$25,000,000, which does not include beach maintenance costs.**

Related activities undertaken by the town:

The town coordinated response, and provided **\$80,000 in Chapter 90 monies** (provided by the state for local roads and bridges) through a coordinated effort with the Town of Marshfield, MassDOT, CZM and our local delegation in order to secure safe ingress and egress to this area through emergency reconstruction of the **Canal Street Bridge** while the other two bridges – Powder Point and Beach Street – are being reconstructed.

The Town has adopted its first **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**, making it eligible for FEMA grants for the first time, in 2018, and this scores higher on competitive grant applications. Paid for by DLTA money through MAPC.

The town is a designated **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community** through adoption of its MVP plan in 2017, making it eligible for state funding and this scores higher on competitive grant applications. Paid for by DLTA money through MAPC.

The town secured a **Coastal Resiliency Grant** by applying with Marshfield and using local staff time as match to secure the necessary funding to explore the best options for managing the ocean-facing beach in front of the sea wall as required by the permits. Initial permitting for the outcome will be started with this grant. The Towns intend to apply for the remainder of permitting costs to the same program next year, and local in-kind staff match if available (or cash match as requested in the warrant) will be committed.

**Marshfield** secured grant funding to initiate its MVP planning and is undergoing the process of preparing a plan this year.

## FUNDING SOURCES IN THE FUTURE:

Identified funding sources for repair and for replacement of the sea wall moving forward fall to two categories, other than betterments or private funding as may be identified by the community. Beach nourishment funding can be sought from other agencies, also with a 25% local match requirement, and is not the subject of this discussion.

1. EOEEA Dam and Seawall Revolving Loan Fund, and
2. the Dam and Seawall Program, which has three funding categories:

Category 1: \$1,000,000.00 – permitting and design (not construction or removal)

Category 2: \$3,000,000.00 – grant for construction or removal

Category 3: \$1,000,000.00 – loan for construction or removal

Project proponents with projects with greater financial need than the limits of the Dam and Seawall Program may also apply for a loan from the EOEEA Dam and Seawall Revolving Loan Fund.

The construction grants are competitive – weighed by the public benefit for the dollar invested – in terms of public benefit by doing the work or public impact by not doing the work; higher local match; having a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018) and MVP Plan (2017); prioritizing resiliency with the Community Compact (Duxbury has this in place); permits in place; documentation of the need; the better we rank in these terms, the better likelihood of funding. In the package for the application for any of these funds, we must demonstrate, among many other things: (1) evidence of such access for the applicant to the structure for construction purposes as well as future ongoing maintenance, and in the case of coastal structures, access must also ensure ongoing public access to the top of the structure; and (2) minimum 25% local match. If local funding has been authorized, this vote of town meeting must be attached, and a minimum 25% direct cash, in-kind or combination of the two will be accepted. Scoring is affected by the level of commitment of the local applicant, and evidence of applying for a loan from the EOEEA Dam and Seawall Revolving Loan Fund for the balance is not adequate to show match. Having the money or borrowing authorization in advance of the application will score better in chances of securing funding.

Timing does not allow the town to go to town meeting in the event of a grant award to secure funding. Application deadlines are in the spring, and awards are made in the early summer, well after town meeting – the money must be spent in one year or evidence of why the project must be extended into the following year must be submitted with the application. **Competitively, not having the local match when filing the application puts us at a disadvantage – grant makers don't have knowledge that the town will advance the match at a future meeting, and scheduling is not guaranteed.**

DPW and Planning (as Floodplain Administrator and mitigation management – which is prevention and reduction of impacts from natural hazards before it happens) are advising the community of the need to secure match funds, and requesting support at Town Meeting.

