



**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management**

REVITALIZATION



Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!

RHODE

Issue 1 Fall 2020

WASTE MATTERS! Is Now **REVITALIZATION RHODE**

Staff voted and we responded! “Waste Matters!” is now “Revitalization Rhode”, *Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!* To continue on the same path that the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM), previously Office of Waste Management, started in April of this year, we decided that the name of our newsletter also needed to reflect the same goals and refocused priorities that our Office has recently taken - same publication you’ve come to enjoy, just sporting a new look!

NEW BROWNFIELDS GRANT ROUND OFFERS \$3 MILLION in FUNDING

By: Filomena DaSilva

Three million dollars is now available through the RI Department of Environmental Management for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites in Rhode Island. In this round, there is great focus on low-income areas in the State. Remediation of these sites helps reduce contamination within the surrounding environment as well as increase jobs to areas otherwise considered unworthy of such progress. Redevelopment of these areas only helps to increase the State’s popularity in attracting new business and increased tax base. Application deadline is 4pm on Friday, September 18th, 2020. Interested individuals may view the RFP [here](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/bsprfapp.pdf) and apply at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/bsprfapp.pdf>. For more information, please contact [Ashley Blauvelt](#) at the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management at RIDEM.

SOLID WASTE RULE CHANGES COMING SOON ★

LRSMM is in its final stages of developing revised solid waste regulations. We believe these updates are necessary to accomplish the following goals:

1. To make the regulations reflect the statutory changes to definitions of solid waste (including tree stumps) and local approval of Construction and Demolition Debris Processing Facilities and to make it clear that Construction and Demolition Debris Separation Facilities are also regulated as solid waste facilities.
2. Proposed changes would allow landfills to reduce air monitoring frequency under certain conditions.
3. To require 2 rounds of sampling for PFAS compounds at closed and active landfills. A draft for public comment will be announced soon, please contact [Mark Dennen](#) for more information.

Newsletter prepared by Filomena DaSilva

HIGHLIGHTING LRSMM'S INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL WORKGROUPS

By: Rachel Simpson

RIDEM continues to participate in national workgroups and forums at an exceptionally high level. The Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management has done an amazing job involving many of their staff with **ASTSWMO**, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. ASTSWMO is a national organization which enhances and promotes effective State and Territorial programs in relation to waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, environmental restoration, and lobbies congress in Washington on behalf of State regulatory agencies. ASTSWMO is made up of several subcommittees that are further divided into Focus Groups and Task Forces, in which numerous members of the Office of LRSMM are involved. Being a part of ASTSWMO allows RIDEM to keep up to date with how other states and territories manage their programs and address various environmental issues, and impact the national dialog. ASTSWMO's CERCLA & Brownfields subcommittee includes focus groups on Brownfields, Remedial Action, and Investigation and Remedy Selection. The organization's Hazardous Waste subcommittee includes the Corrective Action and Permitting Task Force. Their Tanks subcommittee includes the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Task Force, and their Materials Management subcommittee includes a Sustainable Materials Management Task Force. Staff from LRSMM are represented on each of these.

Look for highlights and which LRSMM staff member participates in each of these subcommittees in future issues of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** to learn how they are contributing to RIDEM's knowledge pool of various environmental issues within the State of Rhode Island.



Recommitting to Address Environmental Inequities

By: Leo Hellested

Rhode Island's position as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, is both a source of historic pride for our State and also a modern day challenge as we revitalize our old mills and urban centers, and address legacies of environmental contamination left behind. The Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LR&SMM) has been at the forefront of these efforts, balancing progress with a firm commitment to addressing environmental inequities. Since 2011, when the regulations were amended to include special provisions for addressing environmental justice (EJ) concerns where the Office of LRSMM incorporated extra steps in our approval process to specifically address EJ issues and concerns, Rhode Island has counted a total of 186 EJ sites. This count is the number of sites that definitively received some form of EJ correspondence, calling out concerns or requirements. In turn, this commitment has included successful projects that have all had great local benefits. One of those is the Macomber Stadium project in Central Falls, where the high school sports teams can now use a field in their own community to play their home games rather than needing to travel to neighboring Town fields.

A second successful project is The School at Gorham where the community had been extremely involved in expressing their concerns about the school being built on the former Gorham Manufacturing facility in Providence. Yet through the process, a safe school was successfully built. It is currently being monitored quarterly for indoor air quality. The public also pushed Textron and the City of Providence to build a park for the community and the high school.

See LRSMM Recommits on Pg.5

Remedy Ready for the Newport Naval Station

By: Emma Forbes and Shawn Lowry

RIDEM has provided concurrence with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Carr Point Storage Area, located on the Superfund Site at Naval Station Newport in Portsmouth, RI. This area, identified as Site 22, Operable Unit 10, is one of many Operable Units within Naval Station Newport. The Carr Point Storage Area is a former drum and material storage area consisting of 9 acres of land, including 1000 feet of shoreline along the East Passage of Narragansett Bay. Historically, this area was used by the Navy to store various materials, including drums and transformers. It also consisted of several buildings, including an oil-water separator. The site, now mostly fenced, is still owned by the Navy and is currently used for vehicle, boat, and RV storage. Investigations completed under CERCLA have identified metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons as contaminants of concern in soil; volatile organic compounds and metals have been identified in groundwater. The forthcoming remedy for this site will support its current use as a Navy vehicle storage. The selected remedy includes:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of soils in exceedance of RIDEM GA Leachability criteria;
- Removal of debris along the beach, including the oil-water separator and railroad spur;
- Encapsulation of soils in exceedance of direct exposure criteria;
- Restoration of the shoreline and embankment to protect against storm events and sea level rise;
- Monitored natural attenuation of groundwater; and
- The implementation of Land Use Controls.

The selected remedy is documented in the Record of Decision and will be supported by subsequent site inspections and Five-Year Reviews, in accordance with CERCLA requirements. The Carr Point Record of Decision was presented to the public during the July meeting of the Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB consists of local residents, town and local government officials, and other interested parties in the community. Due to concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, this RAB meeting was held remotely for the first time with great attendance and member participation. The ROD will be signed by both the EPA and Navy later this month, at which point it will be placed in the administrative record for Naval Station Newport. The final designs for the remedy are expected later this year, and the Navy expects construction to begin by July 2021. RIDEM looks forward to working with the Navy and EPA toward our mutual goals of remediating Site 22 and addressing the remaining concerns at Naval Station Newport.

Staff Corner

The Office of LRSMM Loses A Great Colleague

By: Filomena DaSilva



Christopher Shafer enjoying one of his many hikes.

Christopher Shafer, who retired from the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (previously known as the Office of Waste Management) at RIDEM in 2018 as an environmental scientist, passed away on Sunday, July 19th, 2020. Mr. Shafer was a twenty-seven year veteran of the Department and an incredible employee, always keeping on top of the latest regulation changes. He was well known for his volunteer work on conservation projects throughout Rhode Island and was an esteemed member of the Narragansett Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Here, he participated in many of their activities, primarily working on trail maintenance throughout the State and beyond. Leo Hellested, Administrator for LRSMM says, "Chris was a great colleague for so many, many years here in the Office, an extremely knowledgeable person on regulatory questions, and genuinely a real nice guy –always willing to help. It's unfortunate he wasn't able to enjoy the lengthy retirement he rightly deserved. He will be missed." Mr. Shafer was a very athletic individual who enjoyed playing baseball, tennis, skiing, biking, swimming, and of course, hiking. His supervisor, Mark Dennen, put it best when he said, "It is not possible to do much hiking in New England without walking on a trail Chris either built, maintained or improved." Services were private but more information on Mr. Shafer can be found [here](#).



The Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management welcomes our newest hire, Ian Cullings. Mr. Cullings graduated from Cornell University this past May with a degree in Environmental Engineering. During his time at Cornell he worked on AguaClara, a team focused on developing sustainable drinking water treatment technologies, and the Food Recovery Network, a national group that works to reduce food waste and food insecurity. He is very excited to continue his journey at RIDEM where he'll be working on UST compliance and conducting inspections for the UST/LUST Division of the Office.

Brownfields Summit has been postponed until 2021.

For additional information, click on the following link: <http://www.newmoa.org/brownfields2020/>



OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2021
Devens Common Center | Devens, MA

**REVITALIZING NEW ENGLAND:
BROWNFIELDS SUMMIT 2021**



Learn About Food Waste

The College & University Recycling Coalition (CURC) is offering a webinar to discuss the pros and cons of the many methods of composting on or off campus. The Center for EcoTechnology (CET) will also share their insights as they have helped dozens of institutions implement programs across New England.

Event: **Composting Best Methods (CURC)**

Date & Time: **Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:00am-5:00pm**

Register: <http://curc3r.org/>

To learn how reducing, recovering and diverting surplus food is beneficial for everyone, click [here](#) to listen to a previously recorded discussion by CET about alternative outlets for surplus food.



LRSMM Recommits

Cont'd from Pg. 2

Finally, the Woonsocket Middle Schools are an example of another great project. Fuss & O'Neill, the consultants who worked with LRSMM on this endeavor, conducted a public meeting process before construction started and worked with neighbors and employees of the mills that had burned down in the area who had showed up at the meeting. Together they helped determine where to look to narrow down areas of concern. This proved to be a fantastic achievement of outreach, communication, and ultimately an impressive final product much needed by that community.

Staff have been doing an excellent job of raising awareness of EJ issues, often required in different languages and making sure the public has adequate time to raise any concerns they may have about our pending approvals or timelines. Given recent events nationally, which have re-focused our attention on legacy issues involving environmental inequities, the Office of LR&SMM has re-committed itself to reviewing past successes and accomplishments, and looking for more opportunities to build on those successes that will benefit the neighborhoods of our urban core, and benefit all Rhode Islanders generally.

OSCAR the Q&A Mascot



This Q&A will answer some of the most commonly asked questions that the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management receives.

This week's question is: How do you dispose of asbestos?

If you are considered commercial, you will need to call a transporter for pick up. If you are residential, disposing of asbestos is not hard. Call the Eco Depot through the RI Resource Recovery Center (RIRRC) at 942-1430 to make an appointment for a drop-off. They take 3 bags at a time. Or, go directly to Service Transport in Woonsocket (766-1824). They accept either residential or commercial asbestos. Remember to check if there are any fees ahead of time so there are no surprises. For a list of licensed asbestos abatement contractors click [here](#). Visit RIRRC online at www.rirrc.org for additional information.

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).



By: Holleigh Pouliot

Using just the letters in the word below, can you make at LEAST 12 new words?

Each word must be at least 4 letters long.

GOOD LUCK!

REVITALIZATION

UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS

ASATUINEBSL

TNOTDCAMENIA

OIIMTCNDAFIO

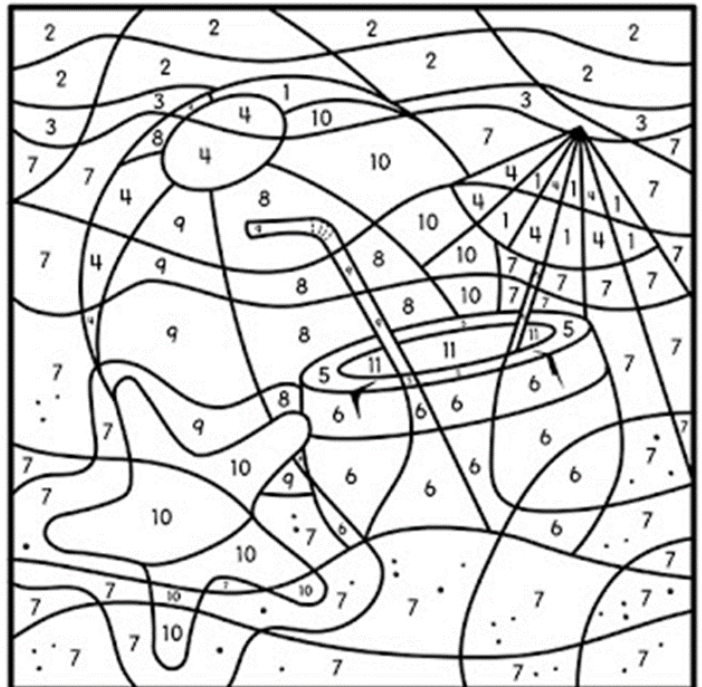
WNFIORSELBD

PLODBISEAS

NEUOOGDDNRR

LSFAILND

OLCCNRTEIE AWETS



1-Purple 2-Blue 3-Light Blue 4-Pink
 5-Orange 6-Brown 7-Yellow 8-White
 9-Light Green 10-Red 11-Grey