

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK

2025 June 3 P 2:17

CITY OF AMESBURY MA



CITY OF AMESBURY  
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

---

SPONSORED BY: Kassandra Gove **BILL No. 2025-073**  
**Kassandra Gove, Mayor**

**An Order** to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$122,661.00 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) program to offset the City's costs to acquire the property at 128 Kimball Road in Amesbury for the purposes of drinking water resource protection and flood control management.

**Summary:** The Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program provides financial assistance to public water systems and municipal water departments for the purchase of land or interests in land for protection of existing DEP-approved public drinking water supplies. The DWSP is a reimbursement-based program with a maximum of 60% compensation to municipalities for their acquisition. The award to Amesbury is for the requested amount of 60% reimbursement of the anticipated costs of the 128 Kimball Road property acquisition as well as for recording fees and DWSP requirements of title certification and survey. This parcel of real property located at 128 Kimball Road, Amesbury, Massachusetts, being Assessor's Tax Map 33-7, containing 8.31 acres, more or less, abuts the Powwow River - Amesbury's primary surface water source. The property is also within 1,800' of a City wellhead and entirely within the City's Zone II wellhead protection area. The parcel is easily accessible from the road and will create access to the river for canoers and kayakers.

**Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:**

That the City of Amesbury authorizes the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$122,661.00 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) program to offset the City's costs to acquire the property at 128 Kimball Road in Amesbury for the purposes of drinking water resource protection and flood control management.





*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*  
*Boston, MA 02114*

Maura T. Healey  
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1081  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

May 27, 2025

Mr. Howard Snyder, Senior Project Manager  
City of Amesbury  
39 South Hunt Road  
Amesbury, MA 01913

Re: 128 Kimball Road Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Snyder,

I'm pleased to share that your application to the Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program for the 128 Kimball Road Acquisition Project has been selected by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to receive \$122,661 in funding assistance.

**Project deadline is June 30, 2026**

The project must be completed by June 30, 2026. If you anticipate any difficulties in meeting this spending deadline, please contact me immediately. I can be reached at (857) 330-1978 or [vanessa.farny@mass.gov](mailto:vanessa.farny@mass.gov).

**Conditions of your award**

The grant payment is contingent upon the City of Amesbury's satisfactory completion of the following:

- Adherence to all contract specifications and project requirements including deed and recorded metes and bounds survey.
- Certification of clear title
- Installation of a sign acknowledging receipt of DWSP funds
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval of the acquisition

**Next steps**

**1.) Sign and return electronic copies of the following forms:**

- **State Standard Contract.** This document allows our fiscal department to establish an account for your project.
- **Contractor Authorized Signatory form (both pages).** This document authorizes the person who signs your Contract and Project Agreement to sign on behalf of the organization. The document must be notarized or witnessed by a Corporate Clerk.

**2.) Secure notarized original signatures on two (2) copies of the DWSP Project Agreement.** The terms of the DWSP Project Agreement affirm that the property purchased with DWSP grant funding

is permanently protected as water supply land, and open to the general public for appropriate passive recreation in perpetuity under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution. It may not be converted to other uses or developed.

- Review the agreement to ensure that your project is correctly described.
- Leave “Participant’s Title” information blank. This information will be completed upon recording the deed or CR purchased with grant funding.
- Secure a notarized signature from your Chief Executive Officer.
- Have a majority of your Water Commissioners (or Selectboard acting as such) sign
- Return two copies of the agreement to:

Vanessa Farny (EEA) - Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston MA 02114

I will return a fully executed copy for use at recording, retaining a back-up in the event it is needed.

**3.) Provide a certified Municipal or Board of Water Commissioners vote authorizing the purchase.**

If draft language hasn’t been provided to me for review, please do so in advance of the vote.

After I have received the above forms, EEA will sign the contract and a fully executed copy will be provided to you. Only expenses incurred **after** the contract execution date are eligible to be deducted from the full grant amount. Do not close on the property until you receive the Standard Contract executed by EEA. A letter outlining reimbursement requirements will be provided with your executed contract.

**Additional items of note**

- **DEP approval is required prior to acquisition.** Your grant award does not waive your obligation to comply with all relevant DEP requirements. You must obtain DEP approval for your acquisition in coordination with your DEP regional office. Grantees should indicate that they have received a DWSP grant award. The application fee is waived.
- **Communities must comply with municipal procurement policies.** Please file a notice with the Central Register prior to closing on your property in accordance with MGL Ch. 30B (Uniform Procurement Act), unless you are using Community Preservation Act funds.
- **The recorded property deed must state drinking water supply protection as a purpose of the acquisition.** For example, Property [described using location, survey area, and/or recorded plan information] is acquired *“for the purposes of drinking water supply protection and land conservation.”*

Thank you in advance for your timely response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Farny  
Forest and Land Grant Program Manager

## Ann Marie Casey

---

**From:** Howard Snyder  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 8:34 AM  
**To:** Mayor Gove; Ann Marie Casey; Nicholas Cracknell  
**Subject:** FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards over \$1 Million to Protect Drinking Water Across Massachusetts

Should we work up a local press release?

**Howard Snyder**  
Senior Project Manager

City of Amesbury  
T (978) 388-8110 EXT 400

MDC Building | 39 S Hunt Rd | Amesbury, MA 01913  
[www.amesburyma.gov](http://www.amesburyma.gov)

---

**From:** Farny, Vanessa (EEA) <Vanessa.Farny@mass.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Farny, Vanessa (EEA) <Vanessa.Farny@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards over \$1 Million to Protect Drinking Water Across Massachusetts

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have confirmed that the content is safe.

FYI; please feel welcome to formally share the good news with your networks! EEA appreciates the good work you do, and is pleased to support these projects.

---

**From:** Burney, Danielle (EEA) <[Danielle.Burney@mass.gov](mailto:Danielle.Burney@mass.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 1:45 PM  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards over \$1 Million to Protect Drinking Water Across Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

GOVERNOR  
Maura T. Healey

SECRETARY  
Rebecca Tepper

LT. GOVERNOR  
Kimberley Driscoll

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 23, 2025

**CONTACT:**  
Danielle Burney, [Danielle.Burney@mass.gov](mailto:Danielle.Burney@mass.gov)

## **Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards over \$1 Million to Protect Drinking Water Across Massachusetts**

**BOSTON** – The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced over \$1 million in grant funding to protect drinking water resources in Massachusetts. Through the Drinking Water Supply Protection program, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ (EEA) will provide funding to five communities. This investment will allow communities to purchase land that is important for maintaining the safety and quality of their drinking water, directly benefiting public health.

“This funding is a critical step in ensuring that our communities have access to safe, clean drinking water,” said **EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper**. “By investing in land protection, we are not only safeguarding our vital water resources but also enhancing the quality of life for residents who rely on these resources for health and recreation.”

“Massachusetts has some of the cleanest and most abundant drinking water in the nation—due in large part to our proactive planning,” said **MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple**. “Protecting land near the water bodies that provide our drinking water protects residents from contaminants that could pollute the water supply if that land were otherwise developed.”

Since 2004, this program has empowered municipalities, public water systems, and fire districts to acquire land through purchase or conservation easements specifically for water protection. The land secured through these efforts will be designated as protected open space under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, ensuring it remains dedicated to preserving our water supply and conserving natural resources.

EEA carefully selects projects that enhance water supply safety, including the protection of current and future wells and reservoirs, as well as lands vital for groundwater recharge. Conserving these areas protects our water supply and also enhances community spaces for outdoor recreation, providing residents with more opportunities to enjoy nature.

“This investment enables Amesbury to purchase part of a watershed that provides the city’s water supply,” said **State Representative Dawne Shand (D-1<sup>st</sup> Essex)**. “We are grateful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for making possible this visionary environmental goal of being a smart steward of its water supply while also opening to recreation the beautiful Powwow River.”

Projects receiving Drinking Water Supply Protection grants are:

<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Total Grant Award</b>
Town of Amherst	50+ acre wooded property in Pelham adjacent to designated Watershed Protection Land held by the Town of Amherst. This purchase will protect designated Zone A surface water that contributes to the Pelham Reservoir System which provides approximately one third of Amherst’s drinking water.	\$218,820
City of Haverhill	These 40+ acres will expand the 500+ acre Brandy Brow Forest Area - an ecologically significant landscape within the Millvale Reservoir watershed that provides 65% of Haverhill’s drinking water.	\$237,000

Town of Falmouth	This critical 2-acre property lies entirely within the Zone B Surface Water Supply Protection Area for Long Pond, the Town's primary drinking water source. This acquisition addresses a gap embedded within 640 acres of protected open space owned by the Town of Falmouth.	\$158,100
City of Amesbury	This 8 acre parcel abuts the Powwow River - Amesbury's primary surface water source. The property is also within 1,800' of a town wellhead and entirely within the City's Zone II wellhead protection area. The parcel is easily accessible from the road and will create access to the river for canoers and kayakers.	\$122,661
City of Cambridge	These 52 acres of environmentally sensitive land west of the upper Hobbs Brook (Cambridge) Reservoir will directly facilitate the protection of an additional 20 acres, bringing the total protected land to 72 acres. Through partnership with the Town of Lincoln, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation, this purchase will protect critical water supply for the City of Cambridge and create public access to the property trail network.	\$350,000

###

Notice: Please be aware the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most emails to and from the City of Amesbury are public records and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

[MGL: Chpt.66, Sec.10 Public Records Law.](#)



## Ann Marie Casey

---

**From:** Howard Snyder  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 10:31 AM  
**To:** Ann Marie Casey  
**Cc:** Nicholas Cracknell  
**Subject:** RE: Amesbury DWSP Grant Award: 128 Kimball - Follow-Up

The property at 128 Kimball Road was for sale and the City had a concern that if the property is sold and developed for residential use, there would be a liability for the City when the parcel floods due to the stormwater management functions of the culvert and overflow from Meadowbrook Pond. Residential use of the property would also threaten the public drinking water supply as a residential septic tank would be located less than 2,000 feet from the intake of the water treatment plant.

The City of Amesbury is finalizing acquisition of the property for two uses. The primary purpose is water resource protection as the parcel is situated within an area critical to the City's water supply as well as the water supply for communities downriver. Additionally, the parcel currently serves an impoundment role in the municipalities' water supply and flood control management efforts. The secondary purpose is for passive use recreation. The aim is soon to create a conservation area that supports a trail system and facilities for walkers and for paddlers of small craft such as canoes and kayaks. Such passive uses are allowed within the City's Water Resource Protection District.

The Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program provides financial assistance to public water systems and municipal water departments for the purchase of land or interests in land for protection of existing DEP-approved public drinking water supplies. The DWSP is a reimbursement-based program with a maximum of 60% compensation to municipalities for their acquisition. The award to Amesbury is for the requested amount of 60% reimbursement of the anticipated project costs of property acquisition and recording fees, along with DWSP requirements of title certification and survey.

**Howard Snyder**  
Senior Project Manager

City of Amesbury  
T (978) 388-8110 EXT 400

MDC Building | 39 S Hunt Rd | Amesbury, MA 01913  
[www.amesburyma.gov](http://www.amesburyma.gov)

---

**From:** Ann Marie Casey <Caseya@amesburyma.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 5:21 PM  
**To:** Howard Snyder <snyderh@amesburyma.gov>; Mayor Gove <govek@amesburyma.gov>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Cracknell <cracknelln@amesburyma.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Amesbury DWSP Grant Award: 128 Kimball - Follow-Up

Hi Howard.

I just need narrative on the scope of the project and how we'll use the grant funds. I need to provide a summary in the bill.

I'll need this info by next week in order to file both orders for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you!

Best,

AM

**From:** Howard Snyder <[snyderh@amesburyma.gov](mailto:snyderh@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:03 PM  
**To:** Ann Marie Casey <[caseya@amesburyma.gov](mailto:caseya@amesburyma.gov)>; Mayor Gove <[govek@amesburyma.gov](mailto:govek@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Cracknell <[cracknelln@amesburyma.gov](mailto:cracknelln@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amesbury DWSP Grant Award: 128 Kimball - Follow-Up

Ann Marie,

The application was in on-line format. What we did was assemble a "packet" of all of the relevant and required content that would need to be uploaded. It is 170 pages in length and 14mb in size. Is the request for your files or for distribution? I ask as to understand how best to provide you with the information.

Howard

**Howard Snyder**  
Senior Project Manager

City of Amesbury  
T (978) 388-8110 EXT 400

MDC Building | 39 S Hunt Rd | Amesbury, MA 01913  
[www.amesburyma.gov](http://www.amesburyma.gov)

**From:** Ann Marie Casey <[Caseya@amesburyma.gov](mailto:Caseya@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 3:39 PM  
**To:** Mayor Gove <[govek@amesburyma.gov](mailto:govek@amesburyma.gov)>; Howard Snyder <[snyderh@amesburyma.gov](mailto:snyderh@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Cracknell <[cracknelln@amesburyma.gov](mailto:cracknelln@amesburyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amesbury DWSP Grant Award: 128 Kimball - Follow-Up

I echo the sentiment. Congrats.

I'm attaching the fist bill to purchase with the edits received from the granting authority.

Howard, will you please send me a copy of the application you submitted? I have the award letter.

Best,

AM