Roxbury Fish Culture Station Rebuild Timeline

**Note: This is a brief timeline overview of activities associated with the Roxbury Fish Culture Station rebuild project. For additional information on the specifics of the project please contact Adam Miller, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Fish Culture Operations Manager. **

- August 2011
  - Tropical Storm Irene destroys Roxbury Fish Culture Station. To become operational again, Clean Water Act and Vermont Water Quality Standards mandate significant infrastructure upgrades regarding wastewater processing must be completed.

- May 2012
  - FEMA approves project worksheet to begin architecture and engineering of new, upgraded facility according to "Codes and Standards (C&S)" funding mechanism.

- January 2013
  - Engineering completed for facility designed to meet wastewater permitting standards
  - Scope change request is submitted to FEMA to move from architecture & engineering to construction for the project according to C&S funding mechanism.

- March 2014
  - FEMA denies C&S scope change request to move to construction and demands that Vermont must pay FEMA back for $234,000 which was already reimbursed by FEMA for architecture & engineering.

- May 2014
  - Vermont appeals FEMA's C&S denial to FEMA Region 1 headquarters.

- September 2014
  - FEMA denies first appeal for C&S funding.

- December 2014
  - Vermont submits second appeal of FEMA C&S denial to FEMA National headquarters

- March 2016
  - FEMA denies SOV's second appeal for C&S funding; however, opens door to hazard mitigation funding through the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA).

- June 2016
  - Vermont and FEMA agree to SRIA fixed estimate of $902,000 ($812,000 FEMA share) to apply to Roxbury Fish Culture Station rebuild project; however, project must go through FEMA Environmental Historic Preservation (EHP) review prior to funding the project.
  - FEMA drops demand that Vermont must pay FEMA back for $234,000 which was already reimbursed by FEMA for architecture & engineering.

- August 2016
  - VT Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) submits comments to US Army Corps of Engineers on an "after the fact" USACE 404 permit requiring a 401 water quality certification. The 401 water quality certification will significantly limit the amount of water the Roxbury Fish Culture Station can withdraw from Flint Brook.
  - Decision is made to explore and investigate potential future groundwater sources which could supplement surface water withdrawal from Flint Brook.

- March 2017
  - FEMA Completes EHP review. Project is cleared to begin reconstruction pending project period of performance time extension requests are approved.
  - Aquaculture design engineer restarted on project to finalize updated drawings, specs, and assemble bid package.

- April 2017
  - Initial bids go out for well drilling project to secure potential groundwater supply to supplement surface water withdrawal.

- May 2017
  - Bids received for well drilling project.
  - BGS bidder selection is disputed by a bidder and well drilling project must be rebid.

- June 2017
  - Bids #2 received for rebid well drilling project.
  - Initial bids go out for overall rebuild project.

- July 2017
  - Drilling commences to find potential groundwater supply to supplement surface water withdrawal.
  - Bids received for overall rebuild project (bids come in significantly higher than anticipated).

- August 2017
  - Drilling activities yield a large potential groundwater supply. Additional testing is needed to confirm sustainability and suitability of source to supplement surface water withdrawal.
  - Due to the two lowest bids being over the project budget the decision is made to rebid the rebuild project and look for opportunities to reduce scope of the project.

- September 2017
  - Groundwater testing results confirm sustainability and suitability of groundwater source to supplement surface water withdrawal.
  - Aquaculture design engineer reengaged to update drawings and specifications to connect Roxbury Fish Culture Station to groundwater source and add on-site hatchery residence because the facility is now pump-dependent.

- Decision is made to begin rebidding of updated project as soon as possible with allowances for groundwater supply connection / hatchery residence to avoid extended additional review for expired permits / review (i.e. USACE wetlands permit).
- Only two items were identified that could be potentially removed from the project, non-paving the parking lot and utilizing a different filtering system. Neither item was chosen due to the low cost savings and potential negative impacts to the project.

- <u>October 2017</u>
  - Vermont has a number of discussions with FEMA regarding the need for a project scope change to connect to a supplementary groundwater source along with associated infrastructure due to limitations of an impending DEC 401 water quality certification.
  - FEMA time extension request approvals are secured.
  - Bids #2 go out for the overall rebuild project with allowances for groundwater connection / hatchery residence. Drawings / specifications for the groundwater connection / hatchery residence are further developed.

- <u>November 2017</u>
  - Bids #2 received for overall rebuild project with allowances for groundwater connection / hatchery residence. Bids remain relatively high.
  - Guidance is received from FEMA regarding the impending project scope change request. FEMA will require additional EHP review of the project before allowing the project to continue. A supplementary environmental assessment (SEA) must be completed.

- <u>December 2017</u>
  - Overall rebuild construction contract executed. Contractor has agreed to not start work until completes their EHP review.
  - SEA contract is executed, and work begins on the additional FEMA EHP review work.

- <u>January – March 2018 (anticipated)</u>
  - SEA work and FEMA EHP work continues. It is the hope that the FEMA EHP review process will be completed and the project will be cleared for construction prior to the start of the 2018 construction season

- <u>Spring 2018 (anticipated)</u>
  - Construction activities begin on site. Anticipated yearlong construction period (pending no seasonal or unforeseen project delays).

- <u>Winter / Spring 2019 (anticipated)</u>
  - Completion of overall rebuild project.