



# WASTE MATTERS!

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## 2019 Brownfields Bond Fund

By: Matt Destefano

The application period for the 2019 Brownfields Bond Fund is now open. Both the RFP and Application are posted on RIDEM's [website](#). So far RIDEM's Office of Waste Management has had 4 funding rounds dating back to 2015 and have invested almost 10 million dollars in 44 projects across Rhode Island. These projects have leveraged over \$800 million in private investment, created over 6,000 jobs, and conserved an estimated 4.5 acres of undeveloped green space for every acre of contaminated land returned to beneficial reuse. Private as well as government and community agencies are eligible to apply. For additional information, email Ashley Blauvelt at [Ashley.Blauvelt@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Ashley.Blauvelt@dem.ri.gov), Emma Forbes at [Emma.Forbes@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Emma.Forbes@dem.ri.gov), or Matt Destefano at [Matthew.Destefano@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Matthew.Destefano@dem.ri.gov). Final proposals are due by 4pm on Friday, August 9th, 2019.



## OWM Says Goodbye to Sofia Kaczor After More Than 30 Years

By: Filomena DaSilva

Sofia Kaczor, a Principal Environmental Scientist, who worked in the Underground Storage Tank (UST) / Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Division of the Office of Waste Management at Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management for the last 26 of her 31 years of service, retired earlier this summer. Sofia has overseen many tank removals as well as associated investigation and remediation of petroleum and hazardous waste releases at UST facilities. She could definitely write a book or two about all that she's seen! But, one of the most interesting stories that she will probably never forget started at the former French Worsted Company in Woonsocket in 2012. The complex, built between 1906 and 1939, had brought textile manufacturing from France to the emerging City of Woonsocket. By 1910 more than 400 people worked at this historic mill. Sofia's involvement came when a 130,000-gallon UST had to be removed from the site but to her surprise, work had to be halted due to a series of unexplained, paranormal events at the location. Sometimes cleaning up the past involves more than just cleaning up the contamination! To read Sofia's entire article which was published on L.U.S.T.LINE in February 2013, click [here](#).



Above: Sofia Kaczor

Photo Credit: Greg Yekhtkian

## EPA SELECTS WOONSOCKET FOR A \$300,000 BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT

By: Rachel Simpson

On June 5, 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the grantees for their FY2019 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants. Of 149 communities selected, the City of Woonsocket was fortunate enough to be awarded a \$300,000 assessment award for the Riverfront Development District. With this grant funding, the City of Woonsocket will work towards addressing the environmental conditions of the Riverfront District as contaminated media exposure risks are identified at properties throughout the community. In celebration, RIDEM joined City of Woonsocket officials and members of the EPA on July 22, 2019 to grant the City with their award.



# Staff Corner

RIDEM says good bye to **Sofia Kaczor**, an Environmental Scientist who worked in the UST/LUST program for almost 30 years. See her story on pg. 1. RIDEM also welcomes the following new staff; as OWM continues to rebuild its team:

- **Katy Sarsfield**, an Environmental Scientist, will be working on Superfund, Pre-Remedial, and National Priorities List sites.
- **Lillian Zemba**, an Environmental Scientist, will be working on projects in the UST/LUST program and conducting inspections.
- **Stephanie Cappelli**, a Sanitary Engineer, will be working on Brownfields, and State sites in the Site Remediation program.
- **Holleigh Pouliot**, an Information Services Technician, will be the Office's primary point of contact with file reviews and general OWM information.
- **Miranda Ricci** and **Latoya Rose**, OWM's clerical Summer Interns will be working on varied administrative projects including scanning files and assisting with office changes.
- **Jessica Cordeiro** and **Michelle Deblasio**, OWM's Student Environmental Remediation Engineers, will assist project managers on a myriad of different site work including on-site field tasks.

"These new staff add varied experience and energy to the office", says Leo Hellested, Environmental Administrator for OWM. "We're excited to welcome them aboard."



- ◆ What did the policeman say to the missing waste collector?

*Where you bin man?*



- ◆ I quit my job at the radioactive waste treatment plant recently.

*It had a toxic work environment.*



## EVENTS



As required by 23-19.1-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Department of Environmental Management, Office of Waste Management will hold a public hearing for the permit renewal application for Northland Environmental Services, LLC. on Thursday, August 8th, 2019 at 10:00am at RIDEM's headquarters, 235 Promenade St., Suite 300, Providence, 02908. Northland is a commercial hazardous waste treatment, storage, and transfer facility. For more information, please contact Yan Li at [yan.li@dem.ri.gov](mailto:yan.li@dem.ri.gov).



## Gould Island Update...

A site visit with the Office of Waste Management, Fish & Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, members of the Gould Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), and other stakeholders is scheduled for mid-August, after the bird nesting season. The goal of this visit is to provide an overview of the work accomplished to date as well as the next steps for the cleanup and the future of the island. "People have an interest in making changes and we're continuing to help them realize their dreams", said Leo Hellested, Environmental Administrator for OWM at RIDEM.

## International Coastal Cleanup is September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

By: Miranda Riccio

The Ocean Conservancy has been working towards trash free seas; they encourage others to take action towards this goal through opportunities such as the International Coastal Cleanup.

Save The Bay has decided to take part in the International Coastal Cleanup by organizing multiple beach cleanups throughout Rhode Island. From September 7<sup>th</sup> – October 12<sup>th</sup>, various towns in Rhode Island such as Barrington, East Greenwich, Narragansett, and Providence to name a few, will be hosting them. Visit <https://volunteer.savebay.org/international-coastal-cleanup> to find out when and where you can volunteer your time in order to save not only the marine life around us, but our environment as a whole. RIDEM encourages staff to volunteer and take part in private volunteer efforts to help our environment.



If you don't believe that beach cleanups help, visit <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/> to read up on the latest Cleanup Reports!

Information from <https://volunteer.savebay.org> & <https://oceanconservancy.org>. Photos courtesy of Google