

Department of Environmental Management

Expenditures By Program	FY2021	FY2022	FY2022	Change from		FY2023	Change from	
	Final	Enacted	Governor	Enacted		Governor	Enacted	
Office of Director	\$10.7	\$11.7	\$34.6	\$22.9	194.7%	\$15.0	\$3.3	28.0%
Bureau of Natural Resources	47.9	64.5	74.9	10.3	16.0%	74.1	9.6	14.8%
Bureau of Environmental Protection	26.1	31.6	33.1	1.5	4.7%	34.4	2.8	8.9%
Total	\$84.7	\$107.9	\$142.6	\$34.7	32.1%	\$123.6	\$15.7	14.5%
Expenditures By Source								
General Revenue	\$42.6	\$46.2	\$70.8	\$24.6	53.3%	\$51.6	\$5.4	11.7%
Federal Funds	26.3	32.4	35.5	3.2	9.7%	43.6	11.2	34.5%
Restricted Receipts	11.7	17.1	18.6	1.5	8.6%	17.6	0.5	3.2%
Other Funds	4.1	12.2	17.7	5.4	44.5%	10.8	(1.5)	-12.1%
Total	\$84.7	\$107.9	\$142.6	\$34.7	32.1%	\$123.6	\$15.7	14.5%
Authorized FTE Levels	394.0	401.0	401.0	-	0.0%	410.0	9.0	2.2%

\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is responsible for protecting, managing, and restoring the natural resources of the State. The Department is organized into three divisions: the Office of the Director, the Bureau of Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Environmental Protection.

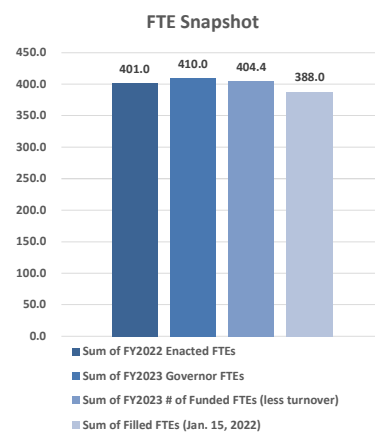
The Department is charged with supervising and controlling the protection, development, planning, and utilization of the natural resources of the state; the promotion of agriculture and animal husbandry; and, providing for the maintenance of waterways and boating facilities.

MAJOR ISSUES AND TRENDS

The FY2023 Budget includes an all funds increase of \$15.7 million, or 14.5 percent from the FY2022 Budget as Enacted. The Budget includes a \$5.4 million (11.7 percent) increase in general revenue expenditures, including \$2.9 million for the statewide COLA adjustment, \$556,753 to restore Voluntary Retirement Savings taken in the FY2022 Budget, \$527,643 to fund 6.0 new FTE permitting positions, \$527,325 to provide salary increases and minimum wage increases to seasonal workers, and \$150,000 in increase grant funding for the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) program. The increase in federal funds is due primarily to the investment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for infrastructure repairs at Galilee and upgrades to the permitting and licensing system at DEM.

The FY2022 Revised Budget includes an increase of \$21.9 million in general revenue from FY2022 surplus funds for transfer to the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) to provide the state match for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through FY2025.

The Budget authorizes 410.0 FTE positions in FY2023, an increase of 9.0 FTE positions from the FY2022 Budget as Enacted, and 401.0 FTE positions in FY2022, consistent with the enacted level. DEM requested 33.0 new FTE positions for FY2023. Based on the February 12, 2022, FTE report, DEM has 9.0 vacancies, according to DEM, they are filling positions quickly.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Office of the Director includes the Office of Management Services, Legal Services, Administrative Adjudication, and the two central service offices of Human Resources and Information Technology. The Office is responsible for developing and implementing programs to protect the State's environment, protect citizens from public health threats resulting from pollution, and provide facilities that support outdoor recreational activities.

Office of the Director	General Revenue
FY2022 Enacted	\$7,551,252

<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	30,204
Foundry Lease Agreement	239,084
Statewide COLA	187,332
FY2023 Governor	\$8,007,872

Office of Director	Other Fund Changes
ARPA SFRF: Permit and Licensing IT Investments	\$2,825,000
Implementation of the Act on Climate (1.0 FTE position) (restricted receipts)	3,690

Foundry Lease Agreement **\$239,084**

The Budget includes \$239,084 for a scheduled rent increase in the lease for the DEM's headquarters in the Foundry building in Providence. The total annual lease cost for the office space is \$2.6 million. The current lease began in FY2017 and contains a scheduled rent increase after five years; however, there are not more scheduled rent increases. Unfortunately, the scheduled increase was not included in the FY2022 Budget as Enacted but is added in the FY2022 Revised Budget.

Statewide Cost of Living Adjustment **\$187,332**

The Governor and the Department of Administration announced a tentative agreement between the State and the state employee bargaining units for a proposed 4-year contract that provides cost-of-living (COLA) increases of 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2020, 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2021, 2.5 percent in July 2022, and 2.5 percent in July 2023. The current agreement is projected to increase general revenue expenditures by \$187,332 in the Office of the Director, including the \$1,500 bonus payment to most employees within the Department.

ARPA SFRF: Permit and Licensing IT Investments **\$2.8 million**

The Budget includes \$2.8 million in federal ARPA SFRF for permit and licensing IT investments. The Department worked with DoIT to design and develop an approach for permit system modernization and improvements to the e-permitting and workflow management system for the water quality programs in DEM. These programs are critically important to projects related to land development or redevelopment in Rhode Island and have the highest volume of permit applications. Efficient and timely response to these permit applications, particularly those related to septic systems and wetlands, facilitates economic recovery in the state.

In addition, developing e-commerce capabilities, including online applications, workflow tracking, reporting, and providing remote access to public records, will provide essential services to RI businesses online with no face-to-face contact. Conditions created by COVID-19 have shown the critical importance of modernizing permitting and licensing systems to accommodate filing applications electronically, automating and tracking work flow, and providing a robust modern platform for remote processing of permits and licenses.

The proposal also includes continued digitization and conversion of public records for online delivery. DEM environmental public records are critical to the completion of due diligence for commercial property transactions, including sales, refinancing, and capital investments. Financial lending institutions require

complete and detailed reviews of environmental records on properties subject to financing to understand the potential liabilities that need to be managed in the event of default or foreclosure. Complete and timely response to these public records requests are necessary to support these transactions and the Department has been working, with support from the business community, to convert the needed records into electronic format and deliver them efficiently online.

The legacy licensing systems, currently used for commercial fishing, boating registration, and fish and wildlife licensing is based on are built on obsolete FoxPro and Informix platforms. These present a very high risk of failure, and inhibit the addition of new license categories. The proposed permitting system will integrate with the existing DEM PLOVER enterprise system, coordinating complaint response and enforcement with permitting. Elements of the system will also transfer data with federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental databases. The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is interested in coordinating with DEM on the implementation of this system, taking advantage of similar permitting processes implemented by that agency in RI's coastal zone. A modern system will be more streamlined and much easier to track, greatly improving customer experience.

The Department has already completed extensive development of requirements and the RFI process. DoIT will need to support these new systems; however, FTE requirements are not projected to be greater than those supporting current systems. DEM is not requesting any new FTEs as a part of this proposal.

Key components of the proposal include (quoted directly from budget documents):

- **U.S. Treasury Eligibility Category:** Revenue Replacement
- **Equity Components:**
 - **Population:** The proposed systems will improve access and ease of use for DEM permitting and licensure systems.
 - **Awareness:** The proposed systems will provide online access to more permitting and licensure activities, therefore improving.
 - **Access and Distribution:** No
 - **Outcomes:** Outcomes are focused on improving access to DEM permitting and licensure.
- **Performance Metrics:** Monitor the following:
 - These systems will increase access to DEM permits and licenses. Performance metrics may include percentage of applicants accessing permits and licenses online versus in-person or mail in processes. Additionally, capture of metrics relating to e-transactions will be helpful to demonstrate the benefits that this system offers constituents. These systems will also provide robust reporting functionality to improve DEM's ability to report on licensing and permitting activities.

Implementation of the Act on Climate (1.0 FTE position) (restricted receipts) \$3,690

The Budget includes a net increase of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) restricted receipts to fund 1.0 new Programming Services Officer position to coordinate the Department's efforts related to the implementation of the Act on Climate passed in 2021. The Budget provides \$91,623 in salary and benefits, assuming an October 2022 hiring date, partially offset by an \$87,933 reduction in grants. The RGGI is a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states that requires member states to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from large fossil fuel-fired electric power plants to help address climate change. Central to this initiative is the implementation of a multi-state "cap-and-trade" program with a market-based, emissions trading system. The annual RGGI proceeds fluctuate based upon the pricing from the quarterly competitive auctions with regulated energy users within New England and Mid-Atlantic States. The RGGI allocation plan can be found here:

<http://www.energy.ri.gov/documents/rggi/2021%20Plan%20Items/2021-B%20PROPOSED%20RGGI%20Allocation%20Plan%209-2-21.pdf>

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Bureau of Natural Resources is comprised of six divisions which manage the State’s marine, freshwater, and upland resources. The Bureau administers the State’s agriculture programs, state land acquisitions, and local matching grant programs for outdoor recreation. The Bureau is also responsible for enforcing state laws and regulations governing hunting and fishing, public safety in state parks, and recreational boating; and for administering, maintaining, and operating eight state parks, five campgrounds, seven state beaches, a golf course, the East Bay and Blackstone Bike Paths, and 40,000 acres of state-owned forests. Furthermore, the Bureau is responsible for oversight of all land leases and capital assets of port facilities and commercial fishing piers in Narragansett and Newport.

Bureau of Natural Resources	General Revenue
FY2022 Enacted	\$25,272,202
<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>441,547</i>
Statewide COLA	1,649,978
VRI Savings - Restoration	429,223
Seasonal Employee Wage Increase	269,125
Minimum Wage Increase	258,200
Local Agriculture and Seafood (LASA) Grants	150,000
Stewardship of State Management Areas (2.0 FTE positions)	37,239
FY2023 Governor	\$28,507,514

Bureau of Natural Resources	Other Fund Changes
ARPA SFRF: Galilee Piers/Bulkhead/Facilities	\$6,000,000

Statewide Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) **\$1.6 million**

The Governor and the Department of Administration announced a tentative agreement between the State and the state employee bargaining units for a proposed 4-year contract that provides cost-of-living (COLA) increases of 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2020, 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2021, 2.5 percent in July 2022, and 2.5 percent in July 2023. The current agreement is projected to increase general revenue expenditures by \$1.6 million in the Bureau of Natural Resources, including the \$1,500 bonus payment to most employees within the Department.

VRI Savings –Restoration **\$429,223**

The FY2022 Budget as Enacted included \$429,223 in savings from the voluntary retirement incentive (VRI) program the administration implemented during FY2021. The savings assumed a delay in filling the positions and a lower salary for the new hires. The Budget distributes \$610,457 in projected general revenue VRI program savings throughout the Department based on 21 individuals who took the incentive in FY2021. Of the total savings, \$429,223 was included in the Bureau reflecting 11 individuals. The FY2023 budget restores that savings.

Seasonal Employee Wage Increase **\$269,125**

The Budget includes \$269,125 to increase wages for seasonal employees in an effort to retain and attract staff.

Minimum Wage Increase **\$258,200**

Senate bill 2021-S-0001aa raises the minimum wage from \$11.50 to \$15.00 over the next four years. Pursuant to the new law, the minimum wage in Rhode Island will increased from \$11.50 per hour to \$12.25 per hour on January 1, 2022, and will increase to \$13.00 on January 1, 2023. On January 1, 2024 and 2025, the minimum wage will increase to \$14.00 and \$15.00 respectively. As was done with previous minimum wage increases, the Department of Environmental Management will need to increase the hourly wages of

those season Parks and Recreational staff that are currently paid less than \$12.25 per hour, as well as the wages of other season staff in order to maintain salaries that reflect different job duties and responsibilities. The increase reflects a portion of total impact since only about 40.0 percent of the season expenses occur between January and the end of the fiscal year.

Local Agriculture and Seafood (LASA) Grants **\$150,000**

An increase of \$150,000 in general revenue (\$250,000 total) is included in the Budget to support the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) grant program. The LASA grant program was established to support the growth, development, and marketing of local food and seafood within Rhode Island. The program was launched in FY2014 and is co-administered by the Division of Agriculture, within the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Rhode Island Food Policy Council. Grants are awarded through a competitive process open to farmers, fishermen/women, non-profits, and producer groups based in Rhode Island.

Grant Year	Number of Applications		Total Amount	
	Requests	Awards	Requested	Awarded
2014	92	16	\$1,474,822	\$190,030
2015	73	16	1,025,993	209,998
2016	71	17	1,414,596	229,998
2017	67	22	894,574	230,000
2018	44	21	696,339	213,097
2019	58	12	722,388	95,949
2020	-	-	-	-
2021	52	20	808,529	250,000

Source: Department of Environmental Management

In FY2021, DEM awarded \$250,000 to 20 grantees. The maximum award is \$20,000. In this round, \$800,000 was requested from applicants. A list of the grantees and the use of the funds can be found here: <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/42004>.

Stewardship of the State Management Areas (2.0 FTE positions) **\$37,239**

The Budget provides 2.0 new FTE positions to expand staffing for programs that protect wildlife habitats, maintain and support hunting and fishing access sites, and preserve and project Rhode Island’s commercial and recreational fisheries. In 2020, the Department hired Group Solutions Consulting to examine staffing and operations in the Bureau of Natural Resources. The report, which is not yet finalized, identified challenges and opportunities for the Department’s mission to protect, restore, and promote our environment. The Budget assumes an October 2022 hire date and includes the following positions:

- **Administrative Officer (1.0 FTE position) (\$23,054 general revenue, \$61,354 all funds):** This position will provide increased customer service for commercial fishing, party and charter boats, recreational fishing, and seafood processors. Approximately 65.0 percent of this position is funded from federal funds and restricted salt water fishing license fees.
- **District Resources Manager (1.0 FTE positions) (\$14,185 general revenue, \$60,688 all funds):** This position will support maintenance and management efforts at 27 Wildlife Management Areas encompassing over 61,000 acres and more than 133 freshwater and marine boat ramps and fishing sites. Approximately 75.0 percent of this position is federally funded.

ARPA SFRF: Galilee Piers/Bulkhead/Facilities **\$6.0 million**

This proposal includes \$6.0 million in FY2023 (\$46.0 million total) from federal ARPA SFRF to secure the northern section of the bulkhead at the Port of Galilee, replace docks, update parking lot G, make infrastructure upgrades to the Coastal Resources Maintenance Building, update the electrical infrastructure, and install security cameras. The Port supports 176 permanent berth holders and 131 temporary vessels. There are 27 land leases at the port. Each business represents a percentage of the total landings noted above. There are more than 500 employees that work at the Port at different businesses during different points of the year. This proposal will support the Division’s capability to provide berthing and business space for commercial fishing and related businesses. This proposal seeks to extend the life of the Port whereas the current infrastructure is on the brink of a catastrophic failure. Deferred maintenance and lack of funding over the years has presented a precarious situation where fishing businesses are at risk.

The recommendations included in the Dive Assessment provide baseline metrics for which this project can be measured. The Dive Assessment was conducted in June 2021. The assessment noted that there was deteriorated, damaged, and failing coating of the sheet pile wall and steel pile cap, significant scaling, pitting and spalls were typical through the sheet pile wall, severe corrosion and section losses of the sheet pile and pile cap, and areas of subsidence and settlement of the backfill along the back of the bulkhead. This equates to a bulkhead that is considered poor to non-serviceable. The inspection noted that if nothing was done, the walls will continue to develop holes and eventually collapse. The cost estimates are based on information from engineering reports whenever possible (2017 PARE and 2021 PARE) and advised by actual pricing for recent projects. The breakdown of the requested \$46.0 million is as follows:

- \$5.0 million – Phase 2B Bulkhead Replacement
- \$10.0 million – Replacement of remaining bulkheads and raising caps for resiliency
- \$9.0 million – Phase 2 and 3 dock replacements
- \$4.0 million – Roadway, stormwater, sidewalk, and parking area updates
- \$4.0 million – Water line removal and replacement, fire hydrants, water service
- \$3.0 million – Headquarters site improvements, including maintenance garage, oil recycling, equipment storage, parking, and circulation improvements
- \$2.0 million – Parking Lot G improvements
- \$2.0 million – Electrical upgrades throughout Port
- \$2.0 million – Security infrastructure and cameras
- \$5.0 million – Replacement of docks beyond phase 2 and 3

This proposal is expected to reduce future, recurring costs. Currently, substantial capital resources are needed to remediate the Port and keep it operational. If approved, this proposal would allow DEM to modernize the infrastructure in the Port and focus on asset protection. While an appropriate level of asset protection does have a substantial cost, it is far cheaper than replacing docks and bulkheads before their useful life is up.

Key components of the proposal include (quoted directly from budget documents):

- **U.S. Treasury Eligibility Category:** Revenue Replacement
- **Equity Components:**
 - **Population:** The Port is characterized as an Economic Opportunity Zone by RI Commerce, but not a Health Equity Zone which denotes areas of racial inequity or depressed economic growth. Reinforced infrastructure at the Port will preserve and encourage opportunities for businesses.
 - **Awareness:** As a dedicated working waterfront, the Port is reserved for commercial fishing businesses and related uses which include fish processing, wholesale and retail fish markets, businesses that support the commercial fishing industry, charter fishing operations, restaurants, and beach related gift shops. The Port also supports a robust recreational fishing industry, including party and charter businesses and the State’s most heavily utilized boat ramp, which contribute to the hundreds of millions of tourism and outdoor recreation dollars in Rhode Island. Residents can access the public part of the ports during regular business hours. The RI DOA purchasing process has obligatory components that address MBE/EEO issues. These components ensure equality and diversity in the contracting phase. It is typical for large construction projects to erect signage adjacent to the project identifying funding sources, either state or federal. It is anticipated that, if successful, such signage we clearly represent SLFRF would be clearly identified.

- **Access and Distribution:** In terms of access to the whole port, areas are restricted to the lessee to operate their business. Those would be restricted to visitors unless the business consented to access.
- **Outcomes:** This does not apply to this project.
- **Performance Metrics:** Monitor the following:
 Since this proposal relates to infrastructure, this is not applicable.

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Bureau of Environmental Protection is comprised of six programs which are responsible for regulating and protecting water resources; protecting and improving air resources; regulating the transportation and disposal of solid, medical and hazardous waste, and investigating and remediating unpermitted release of those materials; responding to emergency spills of oil and chemicals that present an immediate danger to public health and environment; and assisting the public by coordinating the review of projects requiring multiple applications and permits, and tracking the status of permitting activities throughout the Bureau.

Bureau of Environmental Protection	General Revenue
FY2022 Enacted	\$13,360,386
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<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>14,573</i>
Statewide COLA	1,051,727
Permitting and Compliance (6.0 FTE positions)	527,643
VRI Savings - Restoration	127,530
FY2023 Governor	\$15,081,859

Statewide Cost of Living Adjustment **\$1.1 million**

The Governor and the Department of Administration announced a tentative agreement between the State and the state employee bargaining units for a proposed 4-year contract that provides cost-of-living (COLA) increases of 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2020, 2.5 percent retroactive to June 2021, 2.5 percent in July 2022, and 2.5 percent in July 2023. The current agreement is projected to increase general revenue expenditures by \$1.1 in the Bureau of Environmental Protection, including the \$1,500 bonus payment to most employees within the Department.

Permitting and Compliance (6.0 FTE positions) **\$527,643**

The Budget includes \$527,643 in salaries and benefits for 6.0 new FTE positions dedicated to environmental permitting and compliance. This funding level assumes an October 2022 hiring date. Three of these positions will support general permitting and compliance, two will support wetland permitting, and one will support a newly focused lakes program. The positions will improve customer service by providing support businesses in the permitting process. The cost of the positions will be partially offset by \$574,212 in annual fee revenue from permit fee increases. These fees are determined through regulation and changes will follow the regulatory process. Since this process involves public input, the final outcome may differ from the initial proposal.

The proposed fee increases are targeted to permit types administered by offices with proposed staffing increases. The impacted fees include the following:

- **Annual Compliance Fee:** This is a new fee assessed on annual compliance inspections that DEM currently conducts for no charge. The fee would be commensurate with similar fees assessed in Massachusetts.

Estimated Revenue from Proposed Permit and Fee Increases

Permit/Fee	Estimated			
	Current Amount	Proposed Amount	Annual Volume	Projected Revenue
Annual Compliance Fee	new fee	\$500	500	\$250,000
Resubmission Fee	new fee	1,000	50	50,000
Fees Created/Increased for Parity with Neighboring States				
Site Remediation	new fee	500	54	27,000
Leaking Underground Storage Tank	new fee	500	40	20,000
Air Minor Source	\$1,271	2,500	32	39,328
Air General	1,271	2,500	57	70,053
RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination	400	600	35	7,000
Fees Increased for 7.0 Percent Inflation				
Freshwater Wetlands Preliminary Determ	1,000	1,070	221	15,470
Water Quality Certification	400	428	24	672
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System	1,000	1,070	611	42,770
OWTS Variance	300	321	48	1,008
OWTS Repairs	500	535	1389	48,615
Underground Injection Control	400	428	82	2,296
Total Annual Increased General Revenue				\$574,212

- **Resubmission Fee:** This fee is designed to align customer fees with the cost of administration and incentivize applicants to submit more complete and accurate applications upfront. The repeated return and subsequent resubmission of applications for deficiencies slows down the process for all applicants and is often preventable.
- **Site Remediation:** This fee will provide funds for a technical review of the notification of release to navigate next steps in the process and must be received by the Department in order to obtain a Program Letter.
- **Leaking Underground Storage Tank:** This fee will be utilized to review site investigations, and approvals of any remedial work associated with the release and must be received by the Department before No Further Action is approved.
- **Air Minor Source:** This is a permit application fee for the installation of air pollution control equipment, oil fired boilers, or NG furnaces with heat inputs less than or equal to 30 million BTUs/hour, small spray painting operations, and other miscellaneous applications.
- **Air General:** This is a permit application fee for the installation of an emergency generator that operates only during emergencies or for maintenance or testing purposes. If a generator meets the criteria for an Emergency Generator General Permit there is currently no fee.
- **RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES):** This is a one-time fee that applies to any general permit requiring a “pollution control plan” review when first submitting an application for permit coverage.
- **Freshwater Wetlands Preliminary Determination:** The fee is associated with permit applications for proposed project and activities regulated by RIDEM under the state Freshwater Wetlands Act. Existing fees vary based on the scope of proposed project or activity. Processing applications involves field inspections and biological and engineering reviews as needed.
- **Water Quality Certification:** This is an application fee for Water Quality Certifications required for certain activities under state Water Quality Regulations. The rules implement provisions of the federal Clean Water Act to protect water quality and prevent violations of water quality standards. Projects required to obtain certification include water withdrawals and diversions, new large groundwater withdrawals (e.g. Public Drinking Water Supply Wells), Hydropower facilities operation and construction, and filling in coastal waters.

- **Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) New Building:** This is a permit application fee to install an on-site wastewater treatment system in association with new building construction. Processing the application involves review of soil evaluations, technical engineering review, and field inspections
- **OWTS Variance:** This is a permit application fee to install an on-site wastewater treatment system associated with new building construction in situations that require a variance from one or more OWTS design requirements. Common variance requests involve setback distances. Processing the application involves review of soil evaluations, technical engineering review, and field inspections.
- **OWTS Repairs:** This is a permit application fee to repair or replace an existing cesspool or on-site wastewater treatment system. Processing the application involves review of soil evaluations, technical engineering review, and field inspections.
- **Underground Injection Control:** This is an application fee for regulated subsurface discharges of wastewater and stormwater. RIDEM implements this federally mandated program in RI. The Program registers new UICs, closes abandoned UICs, and monitors remediation.

VRI Savings – Restoration

\$127,530

The Governor’s recommended budget included \$8.2 million from the voluntary retirement incentive (VRI) program the administration implemented during FY2021. The savings assumes a delay in filling the positions and a lower salary for the new hires. The FY2021 Budget included \$2.2 million for employee payouts statewide. The Budget distributes \$610,457 in projected general revenue VRI program savings throughout the Department based on 21 individuals who took the incentive in FY2021. Of the total savings, \$127,530 is included in the Bureau reflecting seven individuals.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Budget includes a total of \$15.9 million in capital expenditures from Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) funds in FY2022 and \$9.0 million in FY2023, an increase of \$5.5 million in FY2022 and a decrease \$1.4 million in FY2023, compared to the enacted budget. The decrease in FY2023 is primarily due to the project schedule at Galilee Piers and the proposed investment of ARPA SFRF in FY2023. Major RICAP funded projects include:

- **State Parks and Management Areas:** The Budget includes \$3.2 million in FY2022 and \$3.4 million in FY2023 for infrastructure and facility improvements at State parks and management areas. The projects include renovations to Colt Stone Barn, construction of a maintenance building at Fort Adams State Park, traffic management plan at State beaches, expansion of camping infrastructure, and updating sanitary provisions at recreational facilities.
- **Galilee Piers:** For repairs to the Galilee Piers, the Budget provides \$9.0 million in FY2022 for and \$3.3 million in FY2023, as well as \$46.0 million in ARPA SFRF in FY2023 through FY2027. The Port of Galilee is home to 170 commercial fishing vessels and provides affordable berthing spaces close to wholesale and retail seafood processing businesses. Since 2009, the Department has rebuilt numerous piers, as well as the southwest and northwest bulkhead. Current work is focused on the North Bulkhead and Docks AA-QQ. The North Bulkhead is more than 50 years old and includes 16 piers along its 1,500 foot length. The piers include berthing for vessels and businesses such as RI Engine, which provides regional vessel services, and Sea Freeze, a fish processing house with worldwide shipping.
- **State-Owned Dams:** To repair or replace “high-hazard”, State-owned dams the Budget includes \$955,315 in FY2022 and \$824,238 in FY2023, representing an increase of \$865,315 and \$734,238 respectively. Beginning in FY2020, most of the funding was shifting to the new general obligation Green Economy Bonds proceeds; however, those funds are exhausted in FY2022. Four dams are currently in some stage of investigation, design, permitting, and construction. Wyoming Pond Dam is project to be completed in FY2022. Repairs at Stillwater Dam are scheduled for completion in winter

of FY2022. Substantial work is expected to be completed at Silver Spring Lake Dam this year. Stillwater Reservoir is scheduled for completion in FY2022.

- **Blackstone Valley Bike Path:** The Blackstone Valley Bike Path project provides funds to the Friends of the Blackstone River for improvements to areas around the Blackstone River Valley focused on enhancing river access and safety, and complimenting the State's efforts to improve this river corridor. The Friends of the Blackstone River is a non-profit organization, recognized by the Rhode Island Rivers Council and dedicated to making the Blackstone River fishable and swimmable. The Budget provides \$989,717 in FY2022 and \$244,191 in FY2023, an increase of \$489,717 in FY2022 and a decrease of \$255,809 in FY2023 relative to the FY2022 Budget as Enacted. While supply chain issues and labor challenges have delayed this project, progress has resumed on this project.