

Newmarket around the town

December 04, 2009 2:00 AM

Grant helps assess flooding of Lamprey River

A collaborative group led by the University of New Hampshire's Carbon Solutions New England (CSNE) has been awarded more than \$180,000 to develop and refine a methodology for assessing flood risk associated with land use and climate change in the Lamprey River watershed in coastal New Hampshire. The grant is one of four awarded nationwide by the UNH Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET).

The UNH-based project is a collaboration between CSNE, the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and Antioch University New England. Also involved at UNH are the Stormwater Center and NH GRANIT, the statewide clearinghouse for Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

The methodology developed will guide coastal communities in their decision-making and regional planners in planning for effective infrastructure investments by providing improved, up-to-date scientific information regarding current and potential future flood risk in the Lamprey River watershed.

"For the Lamprey River watershed, our project aims to develop new definitions of where the 100-year flood plain actually is today and what it might be in the future under scenarios of land-use change and climate change," said research associate professor Cameron Wake of the UNH Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space (EOS) and director of CSNE. Wake notes that the process is one of "engaged scholarship in that we've already talked to a whole range of external partners to find out what the key questions are and we designed the research around those efforts."

The watershed originates in Northwood's Saddleback Mountains and makes a 47.3 mile journey to Great Bay. It encompasses 14 towns, two counties and has a diversity of demographic and ecosystem characteristics.

Learn more at <http://carbonsolutionsne.org/>.

— Joshua Clark