

## **Blackstone Alert**

**A supporting document to the September 2009 Resilient Futures Network  
Report on the October 2005 Blackstone River Flood**

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Council  
Sustainable Tourism Planning and Development Laboratory  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island, USA**

**Efforts and accomplishment in the development of a coordinated  
Watershed-wide response**

**December 2009**

- Established a plan of attack to better organize a communication system that was in place and broken.
- Informed and worked with the RI news media in bringing attention of the Flood along the Blackstone.
- Assisted local businesses and residents with application process for SBA loans
- Worked to introduce the flood situation to the National Heritage Corridor, NRICOC and the BVCOC in an effort to create a coordinated response.
- Worked to bring \$10,000 in Heritage Corridor funds to help create a report on conditions of the Blackstone flood.
- With the RI EMA worked to establish a public session to introduce the Blackstone Valley Tourism businesses to Disaster Preparedness.
- Formed and financed in 2005 the BlackstoneAlert.com, a full-valley warning system that is emailed to all interested parties. Over 24 broadcasts have been made.
- Joined with Applied Sciences Associates on the development of a flood visualization study of the entire length of the Blackstone River.
- Developed the first Blackstone Alert conference in March of 2006 to gather information on Valley reactions to the flood. Brought RIEMA and MAEMA together to work on behalf of the Blackstone Valley.
- Participated in three flood emergency phone conversations with the River Forecast Center.
- Convened over 50 individual meetings with local businesses, local government, federal and state officials to determine the level of interest and commitment to a better way to respond to and plan for flooding conditions along the Blackstone River.
- Prepared a report in cooperation with the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce for Governor Carcieri on property losses due to the flood.
- Created a power point presentation that has been used nationally and statewide explaining the flood.
- Lead Congressman Kennedy on a tour of the flood damage along the Blackstone River.

- In conjunction with Senator Reed's office assisted in obtaining \$88,000 to aid the Army Corp in a flood study of the Blackstone River.
- Organized two field trips with the Army Corp officials touring the flood zones along the Blackstone.
- Assembled a report with New Commons and Path Tree with National Heritage Corridor funding to document work that could be done to help improve reaction time to future flooding along the Blackstone
- Held a public meeting to introduce the above Blackstone Alert report.
- Arranged with NOAA and River Forecast Center officials to coordinate knowledge and training of their services and how they can help the Blackstone Valley.
- Worked with the RI Water Resources Board and the Narragansett Bay Commission on the installation of additional river-level monitoring stations in the Blackstone's watershed.
- Staged three NBC10 evening news watershed reports on the Blackstone's flooding.
- Coordinated with the University of Rhode Island on bring attention to the Council's work and the need for continued monitoring along the Blackstone River.
- Established a working relationship with the NE River Forecast Center and National Weather Service based in Taunton MA to increase the communication network.
- Developed the Blackstone River Users Conference in September of 2009 to bring together all river-interested parties to establish a system of communication, planning and implementation along the Blackstone