

Eileen J. Marum
Marion Planning Board
Report of the SRPEDD Board of Commissioners
September 26, 2018

RE: EDA awarding a \$600K grant to University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Executive Director Jeffrey Walker announced the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$600,000 grant to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to support the development of a formal Massachusetts Science and Technology Cluster Alliance (Blue Economy) where relevant regional institutions, businesses, and academia will work collaboratively to support the marine science and technology sector in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The project will support a comprehensive study and analysis of the marine science and technology sectors to further job creation, business and industrial expansion, as well as exporting of goods. This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the SRPEDD and Cape Cod Commission. EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities bringing together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment, and create jobs.

In addition, the EDA is investing funds, equipment upgrades and improvements to the Town of Somerset's drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities. The upgrades will serve as a catalyst and incentive to enable the town to attract and encourage new development and expansion opportunities for redevelopment of Brayton Point and Montaup Power sites.

The neighboring communities of Dighton and Swansea will also be provided with sewer services to enable additional economic development. The project will provide employment opportunities and generate new local tax revenues to offset some of the recent economic downturns.

EDA grants are awarded through a competitive process based upon the application's merit, the applicant's eligibility, and the availability of funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen J. Marum, SRPEDD Commissioner

Marion, Planning Board