

8/26/95 Std. P. 1 Times

Standard-Times staff writer

Some local leaders believe the solution to New Bedford's greatest environmental problem may also help meet one of the region's most pressing economic development needs.

Political officials, concerned citizens and business leaders, met Friday to discuss the possibility of melding the cleanup of New Bedford Harbor's superfund site with efforts to dredge the harbor's shipping channels.

Some of those at Friday's session argued combining the two could help ensure the future cleanliness of the harbor while expediting the navigational dredging project - an initiative they say is crucial to the region's future economic well being.

"We have a dilemma here," said Captain Michael H.M. Taylor, vice president of the Maritime Terminal. "This group has to try to identify the quickest and safest way to get the dredging done," he said.

State and Federal funds are available for navigational dredging, which must be done if the harbor is going to accommodate cargo ships in the future. Maritime interests and area officials are working together to move the proposal forward.

But there's a problem — possibly, a huge problem.

At this point, it's uncertain how the material moved by navigational dredging will be disposed of. What is clear is that finding a home for potentially hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of material - much of which may be contaminated - will be a daunting task.

"It's a difficult and complicated process which forces us to take into consideration two different kinds of concerns — maintenance dredging and harbor cleanup," Rep. William M. Straus, D-Mattapoisett, said during Friday's meeting of a subcommittee of the Citizens Forum On New Bedford Harbor.

According to Edward O'Donnell, project manager for the Corps of Engineers New England Division, if the federal channel and its accompanying turning basins are dredged to a 30-foot depth, about 1 million cubic yards of material will be moved.

About 700,000 cubic yards would come from within the hurricane barrier and 300,000 from beyond it. In comparison, about 500,000 cubic yards of material is being dredged from so-called "hot-spots" at the Superfund site.

Mr. O'Donnell said judging by the levels of PCB and heavy metal contamination in the harbor, it would be his guess that much of the material within the hurricane barrier moved during navigational dredging would also be contaminated to a degree where it would its disposal would be a complicated task.

It could take years to obtain the permits necessary to dispose of such material, added Paul Craffey, of the state Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Hazardous waste.

According to some at Friday's meeting, such delays might be unnecessary if the navigational dredging was tied to the harbor clean-up project. If the two were intertwined, material from the navigational dredging could be disposed of as part of the clean-up project.

Rep. Straus said there are two logical reasons why the two projects could be combined: maintenance dredging would allow vessels of all sizes to pass through the harbor without disturbing the sediment at the bottom. Also, environmental officials have previously said they could use 100,000 to 200,000 cubic yards of material to be used as a cap for their harbor cleanup.

"If you're going to need cap material, why not take it from a place which will give you secondary benefit,"

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Photo by The Associated Press

towns from raging fires in dry woodlands.



Photo by The Associated Press

ters gather on a hill top in Westhampton, N.Y., as they prepare to battle a roaring brush fire.

# ots stalemate

yet to complete a final gambling agreement with the governor. Time is running out in this shortened legislative session to marshal the deal through Beacon Hill. Under new rules, the Legislature must complete its business this year by the third week in November.

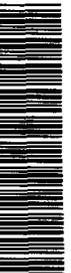
Unlike their first meeting early this week, track owners emerged tight lipped from Friday's session at Suffolk

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## ■ Dredging

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Rep. Straus said.

He also said material moved during navigational dredging could possibly be moved to the storage areas the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes to build along the Acushnet River for storing the contaminated material from the Superfund site.

"Being part of the Superfund remedy has to be viewed as a little quicker out of the starting gate," Rep. Straus said.

But he and others at Friday's session stressed that before any such determination can be made a number of other questions must be answered.

First, the scope of the navigational dredging project must be determined. Capt. Taylor suggested that such a project could perhaps be confined to those areas most in need of maintenance dredging, substantially cutting down on the amount of material that needs to be moved.

"If it's a quarter million yards that needs to be moved, that's more manageable than a million cubic yards,"

Rep. Straus said.

Once the areas to be dredged are identified, they will have to be tested to determine whether they are contaminated and if so, how badly. The results of those tests would have an impact on how the material could be disposed of.

When those issues are addressed officials can better determine how much a navigational dredging project would cost and how long it would take to complete.

As Mr. Straus explained, the subcommittee which met Friday has no such authority to make any such decisions, rather they can merely collect the information, make recommendations and report them to the Citizens Forum on New Bedford Harbor. If the two projects are to be combined, a formal request to that effect will likely have to be made by area officials, he said.

"I think the purpose of this subcommittee is to cause more information to be distributed to the public about how these two issues are related, he said.

The subcommittee will meet again on Friday, Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. at the Maritime Terminal.

## ■ Fires

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is the worst drought conditions since 1964.

"According to our records, the last time we went 17 days without rain was in 1964 and, boy, was that a big year for brush fires," he said.

By his computations we have been 20 days. "We're all expecting the fires to hit," he said.

The U.S. Fire Service has issued a similar warning calling a Fire Weather Watch for the state, according to the Associated Press.

Fire departments throughout the state have been battling fires and fielding calls.

For example in Salem, Fire Department dispatcher Jeff Brown said that firefighters had responded to 150 calls during the past week, four times the usual number. He said that 85 percent of the calls were for brush fires.

He said 11 towns around Salem had sent firefighters to help with Thursday's fire, which was under control late Thursday night. Firefighters continued to monitor hot spots today near Route 107.

Chief Cote said his department fought a small brush fire on Lake Street early last week when it burned on a 50 foot by 200 foot lot. The fire was extinguished.

However, when firefighters went back to the scene the next morning it had broken out again.

"The problem is these kinds of fires go underground about a foot or so and break out again," Chief Cote said.

Hurricane Bob's devastation of trees in 1991 has made for great ground fuel, he said.

"These trees have lain there in the forest getting old and becoming like kindling. All it takes is one spark and before you know it we have a huge brush fire," Chief Cote said.

While area departments are involved in mutual aid for forest fire fighting, Chief Ashworth said Rochester has had it pretty easy so far.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed. We have a lot of woods. Anything can create a spark and then we could be in real trouble."

Acushnet's Chief Cote said the

## ■ Rape

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parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in New Bedford's South End.

The victim, married and the mother of two children, said she had sought counseling for marital problems and turned to Mr. Delgado, a sixth-year seminarian. He was at Cathedral Camp on recess from his studies at Holy Apostle College and Seminary in Cromwell, Conn.

Seminary officials Friday declined comment on Mr. Delgado's records, saying he was under the supervision of the Fall River Diocese.

Police said Mr. Delgado was visited by several priests while in custody awaiting his arraignment, but none appeared in the courtroom.

The victim told police she went to the camp Wednesday night to meet with Mr. Delgado at his request, when she mentioned feeling troubled about her marriage. Reading from a report, Ms. Vincent said at about 7:30 p.m., Mr. Delgado suggested to the victim they walk in the retreat area, where they continued to talk, sitting on some rocks by the edge of Long Pond.

Suddenly, the victim told police, Mr. Delgado began kissing her. She pushed him away and said she did not want to have sex with him, but he forced himself upon her and raped her.

The victim did not go to police immediately, prosecutors said. "She went to work the next day, but when she was in a meeting, her co-workers noticed she was very distraught, and asked her what was wrong," Ms. Vincent said.

Police said the victim was still unable to speak about the alleged assault for some time.

"We talked to her for two hours, but we have to talk to her again," Sgt. Alves said. He and Freetown Police Officer Susan Jose went to Cathedral Camp on Friday, taking photographs and speaking with staff.

Attorney Daniel Sullivan, who works with a law firm that represents the Fall River Diocese, represented Mr. Delgado.

Mr. Sullivan, arguing for a low bail for his client, said Mr. Delgado had no family in this country and could not post a high bail. Mr. Sullivan said Mr. Delgado had an apartment in New Bedford and had spent much time in the area, working with parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sgt. Alves said the victim, who

## Dioc pass

By Carol Lee Cox  
Standard-Times Staff

FALL RIVER seminarian Alexander thorough Fall River ground check that logical testing a diocesan spokesman

Mr. Delgado, Friday in 2nd I charges of raping woman at Cathedral Freetown. The diocese is a day camp

John Kearns, director for the Fall River Diocese, was assigned as a camp counselor recess from the Holy Apostle and Seminary in Fall River. In light of the charges, he has suspended Mr. Delgado's involvement with parish.

"We do a very thorough ground check, following the Father Paul Kearns said.

Former priest pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting children, with some occurring while he was working at Cathedral Camp in the late 1950s. He received a one-year prison sentence.

"We do thorough background checks, get records

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