

Epsom

## Officials want river back where it was Suncook's new path caused by flooding

The Associated Press

May 21, 2006 10:00AM

---

**R**ecent flooding caused the Suncook River to blow out along one curve and cut a new path. The water washed away trees, a dirt road and a sand pit. Now the old river bed is dry.

There are no buildings near the river's new course, so there was no immediate safety issue. But local officials are worried about the future if the river isn't returned to its previous location.

"We don't know if things will be okay because it's eliminated one of the dams that used to hold it back. We don't know if it will open up more or cause problems in the future," said Selectman Bob McKechnie.

He and a local resident met with state officials from the Fish and Game Department and the Department of Environmental Services on Friday to discuss rerouting the river.

"We can't even guess what the costs will be yet, but we have to believe it will be quite extensive," McKechnie said.

Bill Yeaton, who owns land near the river, said nothing can be done until the floodwaters subside. "It may even be too much of a task to accomplish," he said of the rerouting.

McKechnie said the river's new path has created "a little Grand Canyon" in the former sand pit, where it carved out a path about 40 feet deep and 80 feet across.

"It could have been devastating if there were houses further down," he said.

State environmental officials plan to meet with town officials tomorrow to discuss the problem