

**Attachment B: Program Narrative**  
**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Support FY19- FY21**  
*NEIWPC Job Cost Code: TBD*

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**QA/QC Plan Required:** Yes

**Project Period:** October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024

**Resources Requested:** This request is for an incremental award where the current budget requested is \$1,200,000 (FY19 funds) and the total budget requested is \$5,000,000. Attachment A provides the budget summary and itemized budget for the total project cost.

**Federal Cost:** Current request: \$600,000 (FY19 funds)  
Total request: \$2,500,000 (FY19 funds and estimated FY20 and FY21).

**Non-Federal Match:** The attached match documentation includes the \$600,000 received by various partners for matching funds and the plan for a total of \$2,500,000.

**Abstract:** This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 'Program Narrative' ("work plan") includes five broad objectives and 22 specific tasks that will be undertaken from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Developed in close consultation with the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's Executive and Steering Committees, 16 tasks will continue from previous years, six (6) new tasks added, and three (3) tasks removed (pending amendment of the FY18 Cooperative Agreement). This work plan includes tasks that the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has the authority and capability to complete, that have broad support by the Management Conference, and that are intended to deliver actionable information and additive projects that advance the restoration and protection of the Narragansett Bay and its watershed consistent with the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

## I. Background

### Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Narragansett Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the country designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an “estuary of national significance” under Section 320 of the 1987 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act). The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established in 1987 to protect and restore nationally significant estuaries threatened or impaired by pollution, development, and overuse. The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) was initially formed in 1985 and was formally included in EPA’s NEP on March 11, 1988. The NBEP brings science and people together to catalyze shared paths to studying, restoring, and protecting the Narragansett Bay and its watershed in Rhode Island and Massachusetts (watershed). To accomplish this overriding goal, the NBEP undertakes voluntary, community-directed actions, including convening and coordinating among diverse interests, synthesizing and managing data, offering targeted outreach, and supporting on-the-ground projects. NBEP’s work is guided by a Management Conference that includes several committees, including a Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee comprised of stakeholders representing citizen and environmental groups, academic institutions, and local, state, and federal governments.

### New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) is a non-profit organization established through an act of Congress in 1947. The agency serves and assists its member states individually and collectively by providing coordination, public education, training, and leadership in the management and protection of water quality in the New England and New York Region. It is a leader in forming strong bonds between the New England and New York State environmental agencies and is unique in its ability to bring diverse interest groups together, create forums, and educate with innovative multi-faceted curriculum. NEIWPCC is comprised of seven states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The 35-member Commission consists of five persons from each state including representatives from state health departments, water pollution control boards, and governor appointees who may represent municipal and industrial interests. NEIWPCC’s primary role is to integrate the state’s individual efforts to improve and maintain water quality in the Northeast. Educating and training environmental professionals as well as communicating water quality concerns and needs to the public are key components of NEIWPCC’s mission. NEIWPCC has been the host of NBEP since 2013.

### Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

In 1993, a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was adopted by the Management Conference for Narragansett Bay – a watershed-based plan that addressed a wide range of issues including nutrient enrichment, pathogens, management of special ecological areas, nonpoint source pollution, contaminated sediments, water resource management, living resources management, bay and watershed governance, and monitoring. This original CCMP was updated in 2012 (2012 CCMP) to promote a holistic approach for achieving the following mission: “to protect, restore, and preserve the Narragansett Bay and its bi-state watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality, and promote community involvement and stewardship.” The 2012 CCMP includes a number of specific goals that are organized into four sections: Section 1) Protect and Restore Clean Water; Section 2) Manage Land for Conservation and Community; Section 3) Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats; and Section 4) Manage Climate Change Impacts to Natural Systems. NBEP will update the CCMP by 2022.

### Annual Work Plan

All NEPs operate under an annual work plan approved by the Management Conference that specifies tasks, desired outcomes, and a budget for doing its part to implement the CCMP. This annual work plan calls out specific objectives and tasks for advancing the NBEP’s CCMP goals from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. The specific CCMP goals supported lead off the discussion of Objectives 2-5. Note that means to address Goal #4 in the CCMP, *Manage Climate Change Impacts to Natural Systems*, are integrated as appropriate within each objective in this work plan. This plan was informed by meetings of the Executive Committee on May 20 and June 6, 2019 and the Steering Committee on March 6, April 16, April 25, and June 12, 2019. On June 6, 2019, the Executive Committee recommended forwarding the work plan to the Steering Committee for consideration at their June 12, 2019 meeting. The Steering Committee unanimously approved this work plan on June 12, 2019.

## II. Objectives

### Objective 1: Program Management

Effective program management is essential to the success and sustainability of an initiative as complex, broad, and locally, regionally, and nationally important as the NBEP. NBEP will implement the 2012 CCMP and objectives and tasks called for in this work plan with the assistance and support of NEIWPC. The EPA Cooperative Agreements and *Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Guiding Principles for Program Management* as currently approved will provide a framework for proper and effective management of the NBEP. Over a five-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), NBEP will contribute to implementation of the CCMP through pursuit of this objective and the ten (10) supporting tasks described below. Note that subsequent annual work plans will be produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in FY2020 and FY2021 for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement.

#### *Task 1a: NBEP Program Director Leadership (Ongoing)*

The Program Director will work with the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, and other committees to assure good governance of the NBEP by ensuring work is consistent with the CCMP, annual work plan, and staff work plans; leveraging EPA funding; assuring existing funds are put to best use; minimizing duplication of effort, and optimizing understanding and support of NBEP's work by its partners and target audiences. The Program Director will provide day-to-day management of the NBEP office, including direct supervision of NBEP staff, and will also be the public point of contact for the program. The Program Director will complete NBEP staff performance appraisals, annual staff work plans, and ongoing mentoring.

The Program Director will maintain existing partner relationships and pursue partnerships with new organizations and individuals across the watershed to ensure that the Estuary Program are known to key contacts and organizations as resource and important collaborator in watershed recovery. Further, the Program Director will continue to work with other programs in the NEP to collaborate and share information.

The Program Director will ensure that NBEP staff remain knowledgeable and up to date on local, regional, and national developments relevant to the NEP and NBEP mission, programs, and projects; represent NBEP in appropriate forums; ensure focus and progress on strategic priorities articulated in the CCMP and work plan; assure effective communication among partners; and otherwise provide internal and external leadership on Narragansett Bay estuary and broader watershed issues.

In addition to the ongoing focus on ensuring consistency with the science-based, collaborative, and bi-state core of the NBEP, additional points of emphasis will be making sure that work is informed by inclusive, community-driven input and delivers actionable information to advance greater watershed health and resilience.

Task 1a will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

#### *Task 1b: NEIWPC Lowell Program Management (Ongoing)*

NEIWPC will continue supporting personnel time for NEIWPC Lowell staff to manage NBEP-related cooperative agreements and contracts/subawards and supervise NBEP staff. Funding will mainly support a Senior Program Manager. Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Supervise the NBEP's Program Director (Program Director), in consultation with the Executive Committee and Steering Committee.
- Coordinate with the Program Director on supervision of all NBEP staff, including participation in staff performance appraisals.
- Coordinate with the Program Director in preparation of the annual work plan and budget.
- Prepare and submit grant applications to EPA.

- Lead the hiring process for all staff positions. Work collaboratively with NBEP Program Director—and Executive Committee when position appropriate—throughout process.
- Set up and manage agreements regarding office space arrangements and technical support, as needed.
- Manage annual budgets in coordination with the Program Director.
- Execute and manage contracts/subawards in coordination with the Program Director.
- Submit monthly reports of subawards that have been executed in the previous month to the Federal Funding Accountability & Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System.
- Process invoices and travel reimbursements.
- Communicate with the Program Director and EPA Project Officer on a regular basis.
- Review, comment upon, and submit quarterly progress reports developed by the Program Director that describe NBEP activities and outputs.
- Garner support for NEIWPCCC's NBEP commitments from EPA and the states.
- Facilitate coordination with other regional NEP and NEIWPCCC activities.

Task 1b will be accomplished through personnel time of NEIWPCCC Lowell staff and NBEP staff.

#### *Task 1c: NBEP Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking (Ongoing)*

The Program Director will work with NEIWPCCC Lowell staff to:

- Develop the FY20 work plan and budget for approval by the Executive Committee and Steering Committee in June 2020.
- Track and report on progress toward completion of work plan consistent with EPA's NEP grant requirements, and as otherwise requested by EPA or the Executive and Steering Committee.

NEIWPCCC Lowell Staff will:

- Jointly work with the Program Director and Executive Committee to implement the process and timeline for developing the annual work plans and budgets.
- Jointly with the Program Director, develop the FY20 work plan and budget for approval by the Executive Committee and Steering Committee in June 2020.
- Complete a final FY20 grant application for submission to EPA in July 2020.

Task 1c will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP and NEIWPCCC Lowell staff.

#### *Task 1d: Individual NBEP Staff Work Plan Development (NEW)*

The Program Director will oversee development of internal fiscal year work plans for all NBEP staff. The Program Director will create a standard tabular template for these plans. These plans will describe activities, deadlines, metrics, percent of time committed, and connect to the appropriate objectives in this work plan. These plans will ensure alignment with program goals and objectives, enable decisions regarding the best use of time in the face of new tasks, and assist in annual performance evaluation.

Task 1d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

#### *Task 1e: Support of NBEP Oversight and Advisory Committees (Ongoing)*

As already noted, NBEP is guided by three major committees, including a Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee. NBEP staff will support these committees as well as any other advisory or subcommittees that may be developed as needed. Presently there are grants, communications, synthesis paper, and CCMP subcommittees. The main committees are described below:

The Steering Committee is responsible for providing guidance and direction for the implementation of NBEP program elements and serves as a forum for information exchange and coordination among watershed stakeholders. As of 2019, membership of the Steering Committee consists of top-level environmental officials representing state

government in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, federal agency representatives, environmental groups, academic institutions, and watershed groups. The Program Director will participate in and serve as primary staff support to the Steering Committee. All NBEP staff participate in committee meetings. Staff will schedule quarterly meetings, develop agendas in coordination with the Chair of the Steering Committee that both tap the expertise and inform its members, prepare reports on recent activities, draft meeting minutes, provide ad hoc technical and administrative support, recruit speakers, share information, and present recommendations to the Steering Committee for their review and approval. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch, for all quarterly Steering Committee meetings held during normal business hours to enable longer meetings, encourage active participation, and acknowledge the considerable commitment people make as a member of the committee. (Approximate cost per person \$16; anticipated attendance 35; total cost per meeting: \$560; total cost overall for 4 meetings: \$2,240.)

The Executive Committee is a designated subset of the Steering Committee that oversees the business of the NBEP between Steering Committee meetings and reports to the Steering Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of the following members: the elected Chair of the Steering Committee, the elected Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee, two senior management level staff from state environmental agencies, a non-profit representative from each state, one representative from EPA, one representative from NEIWPC (as the host institution), and the Chair of the Science Advisory Committee. The Program Director will participate in and serve as primary staff support to the Executive Committee. NBEP staff will schedule meetings monthly or as needed, develop agendas in coordination with the Chair of the Executive Committee, prepare reports on recent activities, draft meeting minutes, provide ad hoc technical and administrative support, distribute information, and present recommendations to the Executive Committee for their review and approval.

The Science Advisory Committee is comprised of technical experts spanning diverse disciplines from academic institutions, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and other entities active in the Narragansett Bay watershed. The committee will be composed of two Co-Chairs elected by the Science Advisory Committee. The committee works to ensure best available science and scientific principles underlie NBEP's work. The committee's primary duties are to review scientific publications created by NBEP, identify and update regional scientific priorities, and foster collaboration and exchange of information, especially between researchers and natural resource managers. The Program Director will participate in the Science Advisory Committee, with primary staff support from the Staff Scientist. Staff will schedule meetings, develop agendas, craft meeting support materials, share information, recruit speakers, and present questions and recommendations to the committee for their consideration.

Task 1e will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

#### ***Task 1f: Steering Committee Membership Update and Process (NEW)***

The Program Director in consultation with the Executive Committee and Steering Committee will pursue the addition of new members to the Steering Committee to replace existing members that would like to cycle off and to add new interest groups not currently represented on the committee. New interests may include fishing, local government, land development, land protection, private industry, other agencies (e.g., state DOTs, USGS), and citizen advocates. Further, a clear process for identifying, vetting, recruiting, and selecting new members will be utilized to ensure current NBEP needs are met.

Task 1f will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

#### ***Task 1g: Communication Strategy Addendum and Implementation Update (NEW)***

Staff will create a short addendum to the approved communication strategy, which identifies NBEP's target audiences and the communications purpose, channels, tools, metrics, staff leads, and timelines for each. A session with the Steering Committee may be utilized to develop and/or vet the addendum. The addendum will information specific communication activities undertaken by NBEP moving forward.

Further NBEP will acquire high resolution, high quality pictures of people, infrastructure, and landscapes in individual river watersheds (either in collaboration with RISD, via a photo contest, or by hiring local freelance photographers). The photos will be used on the website, in the upcoming CCMP update, and made available for public use as possible.

In addition, staff will continue to update the website regularly to share information with selected target audiences. The site will be updated on a continuous basis. It is expected to include the latest scientific publications, new science and policy reports, updated indicator documents, figure data, workshops and other events, news, and other announcements.

Task 1g will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff and prior year priority project funding (FY17) for the photos.

#### ***Task 1h: Case Statement Development and Implementation (Ongoing)***

EPA requires that NEPs develop Case Statements that outline accomplishments and results that could occur with additional resources. The Program Director will work with staff and the Executive Committee to finalize a Case Statement and seek approval by both the Executive and Steering and Committee. The Case Statement will be used for outreach, grant writing, and other purpose will being upon approval.

Task 1h will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff.

#### ***Task 1i: Finance Plan Implementation (Ongoing)***

The Program Director will lead implementation of the finance plan anticipated to be developed and approved prior to October 2019. This EPA-required plan will provide specific analysis and strategies to inform grant writing to acquire new and more diversified funding that will decrease reliance on EPA Clean Water Act Section 320 dollars. The finance plan is intentionally designed to avoid depleting funding sources to partners. In addition, staff will compile and examine a range of grant opportunities with the Executive Committee and prepare at least two (2) funding proposal during the fiscal year. In addition to serving as the lead applicant, staff will work with partners to submit proposals for grants to support needs identified by partners (if consistent with CCMP goals), data gaps called out in the *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed*, and to further CCMP goals.

Task 1i will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff and of the NEIWPC Lowell staff. Note: Funds set aside in the FY18 budget for contractual support for this task will not be used. An amendment to the FY18 cooperative agreement will realign the budget as necessary.

#### ***Task 1j: Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Development (Ongoing)***

The CCMP is the primary guiding document for all NEP's. EPA requires NEPs to update their CCMP every decade. The NBEP's CCMP update is due in 2022. NBEP will follow the CCMP development framework anticipated to be created before October 2019 that delineates specific processes and activities that will be used by NBEP to develop the updated CCMP. In general, NBEP staff review of recently created CCMP's from other NEPs and related literature, meetings of the CCMP Subcommittee, and engagement with partners at the local level by subwatershed will inform the content and format of the plan. Other NEP staff, large landscape planning experts, and consultants may be invited to the subcommittee or otherwise engaged to assist with plan development. At the outset, addressing information gaps, municipal stormwater pollution, and the impacts of climate change present as focus areas. At least six (6) meetings of the CCMP Subcommittee will be completed and four (4) local meetings conducted to inform the format and content of the plan. Raw input and a draft framework for the CCMP will be completed by the close of the fiscal year. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case light lunch, for half of the CCMP Subcommittee and local meetings held during normal business hours to enable longer meetings and encourage active participation. (Approximate cost per person \$16; anticipated attendance 25; total cost per meeting: \$400; total cost overall for 5 meetings: \$2,000.)

Task 1j will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff. Contractual funds may be set aside in future budgets to assist with CCMP development.

### Milestone Schedule for Objective 1

Task 1a: Program Leadership	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1b: NEIWPCCLowell Program Management	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking	
Completion of FY20 Work Plan	June 2020
Completion of FY21 Work Plan	June 2021
Completion of FY22 Work Plan	June 2022
Work Plan Tracking	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1d: Staff Work Plans	November 2019, 2020, 2021
Task 1e: Support of NBEP Committees	
Steering Committee Meetings	Quarterly
Executive Committee Meetings	Monthly or as needed
Science Advisory Committee Meetings	Three Meetings Per Year
Task 1f: Steering Committee Membership Update	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1g: Communications Strategy Addendum and Implementation Update	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1h: Case Statement Development and Implementation	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1i: Finance Plan Implementation	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Task 1j: CCMP	
Staff research	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
CCMP Subcommittee Meetings	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024
Local subwatershed meetings	January 1, 2020 – September 30, 2024
Compile information and craft plan framework	October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

### Outputs and Outcomes for Objective 1

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 1a: NBEP Program Leadership (Program Director)	Ongoing	Annual NBEP and staff work plans are executed. Approximately 30-50 partnerships maintained. Travel for meetings.	Program activities, performance, reputation, and morale is strengthened to improve water quality, habitat, and resources of Narragansett Bay and its watershed.
Task 1b: NEIWPCCLowell Program Management (Program Director, NEIWPCCLowell Senior Program Manager)	Ongoing	Produce four (4) quarterly reports Develop one (1) EPA grant application. Create contracts, agreements, subawards, and invoices as needed.	Program activities operations are efficient and effective and deliver actionable information to improve water quality, habitat, and resources of Narragansett Bay and its watershed
Task 1c: NBEP Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking (Program Director, NEIWPCCLowell Senior Program Manager)	June 2020 and ongoing	Produce one (1) work plan and one (1) budget for the fiscal year. Four (4) quarterly reporting and Program Reports for each Executive and Steering Committee meeting.	Work plan aligns with the CCMP and budget is consistent with available funds such that actional information is developed that advances the understanding and health of the watershed from headwaters to estuary.
Task 1d: Individual NBEP Staff Work Plan Development (Program Director)	November 2019	Create one (1) internal annual work plan for all four NBEP staff.	Staff work plans align with the CCMP and NBEP work plan, the best use of staff resources is achieved, and expectations are clear.

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 1e: Support of NBEP Oversight and Advisory Committees (Program Director, Staff Scientist, Environmental Analyst)	Ongoing	Four (4) Steering Committee meetings and meeting notes. Up to twelve (12) Executive Committee meetings and notes. Up to three (3) Science Advisory Committee meeting and notes. Meals for the four (4) Steering Committee meetings. Travel for meetings.	Program oversight by the committees is meaningful and effective and staff and committee members are satisfied with processes and results.
Task 1f: Steering Committee Membership Update (Program Director)	September 2020 and ongoing	At least two (2) new members of the Steering Committee are nominated that represent watershed interests not previously included.	Steering Committee is more inclusive of the range of water, habitat, and community interests and their perspectives.
Task 1g: Communications Strategy Addendum and Implementation (Program Director, Environmental Analyst)	Ongoing	Create one (1) communications plan addendum. Additional high-quality photos are added to NBEP library. Website is updated as needed.	NBEP communications are targeted and effective at disseminating actionable information to partners, promoting successes, and otherwise establishing NBEP's identity in the region.
Task 1h: Case statement development and implementation (Program Director)	Ongoing	One (1) case statement finalized.	EPA requirements are met and target audiences are more aware of NBEP's achievements and capabilities.
Task 1i: Finance Plan Implementation (Program Director)	September 2022	At least two (2) grant proposals submitted per fiscal year.	Additional diversified funding is acquired that is less restrictive/at risk and enables actions not allowed by EPA funding.
Task 1j CCMP (Program Director, Staff Scientist, GIS/Watershed Specialist, Environmental Analyst)	Ongoing	One (1) set of raw information and one (1) framework for CCMP. Six (6) CCMP Subcommittee meetings and notes. Four (4) local meetings and notes. Meals for five (5) CCMP development meetings. Travel for CCMP meetings.	New information acquired that informs a science-based, community-driven, and ambitious plan for improving water quality, habitat, and resources of the Bay watershed.

## Objective 2: Catalyze Science to Protect and Restore Clean Water

### CCMP: Section 1, Goal 6 and 6.1

- Improve information, science, and analysis that support management efforts necessary to restore and protect fresh and saltwaters.
- Effectively manage, analyze, synthesize, and make available data to support management decision-making, characterize environmental condition trends linked to ecological indicators, prioritize investments and communicate to the public. Continue development of data driven analytical tools, *e.g.*, predictive models, biological indices.

Science-based decision-making is at the core of the current CCMP and NBEP's work to implement it across the watershed. The NBEP provides an important forum for bringing scientists and science together to listen, learn, and

cooperate; fosters synthesis of information and identification of data gaps related to the watershed and estuary; and shares timely information with researchers and managers. In the upcoming fiscal year, NBEP will build upon the foundation created by the *2017 State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* report (technical report) to continue to coordinate with scientists across geographies and disciplines, engage more directly with local communities to compile needs, prioritize filling of identified information gaps, and otherwise create actionable information that advances watershed health and resilience. Over a five-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), NBEP will contribute to implementation of the CCMP through pursuit of this objective and the five (5) supporting tasks described below. Note that subsequent annual work plans will be produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in FY2020 and FY2021 for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement. Note that pending an amendment to the FY18 cooperative agreement, Task 2a: Bay and Watershed Story Maps will not be pursued further. A pilot Story Map is anticipated to be completed by EPA's Office of Research and Development before October 2019.

### *Task 2a: Status and Trends and Update (Ongoing)*

Completion of the technical report in 2017 was a significant achievement taking numerous years to fully develop from indicator selection, to data synthesis and analysis, to report composition and sharing. A comprehensive status and trends report like this has historically been developed every five (5) years.

Periodically, NBEP will develop an "Indicator Update Document" that reports on emergent information or events related to existing indicators, a new indicator, or other conditions in the watershed. A quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to cover future status and trends updates was completed and approved in 2019. Through the process of developing indicators for the technical report, databases, methods, and map and metadata templates have been created that can be utilized for updating indicators and storing data. Some methods can be subject to change as new data are developed; however, the protocols of data standardization will remain. The emphasis of updates will be on creating materials that can encourage ready action by researchers, managers, and other decision-makers to advance recovery and resilience of the Narragansett Bay estuary and watershed. The form of updates may be data reports, case studies, visual tools, or other means to best convey the information that is at the center of the update.

Note that indicators will be updated to cover all study areas of the NBEP: the Narragansett Bay Watershed, the Little Narragansett Bay Watershed, and the Southwest Coastal Ponds. While the Little Narragansett Bay Watershed and the Southwest Coastal Ponds were not included in the technical report, data is in place for these areas for many indicators, and future data and indicator update documents are expected to include all three study areas as appropriate. Note that this activity was its own new task in last year's work plan (see Task 2g: Little Narragansett Bay and Southwest Coastal Ponds Data Gathering in NBEP FY18 Work Plan) but has been incorporated into this task for clarity and to avoid redundancy.

The NBEP staff will work with the Science Advisory Committee and potentially convene other partners to prioritize needs and salient issues for inclusion in future indicator updates. Potential updates may include, but are not limited to, water clarity, beaches, temperature, and precipitation. The goal is that these yearly updates will roll-up and help form the basis for the next comprehensive update in 2022.

Task 2a will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff, members of the Science Advisory Committee, and other partners as appropriate.

### *Task 2b: Priority Science Strategy (Ongoing)*

In 2019 the NBEP staff and the Science Advisory Committee created a strategy for organizing and prioritizing data gaps (research, planning, and monitoring) called out in the technical report. This work resulted in a spreadsheet that prioritizes gaps for action. Management needs for water quality and recovery may also be prioritized utilizing this same scheme in the future. All prioritization documents remain living and will be modified on an ongoing basis as new studies or needs surface. This prioritization is intended to be used by the Science Advisory Committee, NBEP, and its partners to track status and trends and inform updates, target funding, and promote better coordination and technical transfer

among stakeholder whose work is informed by scientific inquiry. Further, NBEP will convene a meeting of entities in the watershed that are undertaking or funding research to discuss and identify opportunities to align priorities and leverage resources.

Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff, members of the Science Advisory Committee, and other partners as appropriate.

**Task 2c: Data Management Protocol Design and Implementation (NEW)**

A standard written protocol for the intake, organization, modification, storage, and sharing of data managed by NBEP will be developed. This protocol may include procedures for the management of a range of data types, including, but not limited to, bibliographies, literature and reports, tabular data, geospatial data, and visual work products. Initial application of the protocol will be on the data used for the technical report. New tools to aid with distribution and outreach will be considered as necessary, such as an NBEP restricted web portal for data exchange. Note that as appropriate the development and use of the protocol will be coordinated with organizations that provided data to NBEP for the technical report or that host the data NBEP.

**Task 2d: Bay and Watershed Research Program (Ongoing)**

The NBEP expects to fund at least one subaward for priority research project in this fiscal year. Potential topics based on the current data prioritization noted in Task 2b and past discussions with the Scientific Advisory Committee include, but are not limited to, water clarity, benthic community health, biological indicators to gauge Bay response to nutrient reductions, impacts of sea level rise on water supplies and on-site septic systems, groundwater pollutant transport and flow to the estuary, the feasibility of living shorelines and other nature-based solutions, and along shore connectivity between estuaries.

Task 2d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and subaward(s). Pending an amendment to the FY18 cooperative agreement and realignment of that budget, additional subaward funding will be allocated to this task from FY18 funds.

**Task 2e: Watershed Science (Ongoing)**

NBEP serves as an important data repository, data analyst and mapmaker, and management hub for the Narragansett Bay watershed research and management community. The NBEP staff completed extensive outreach to compile existing data on the indicators included in the technical report. Pursuit of scientific initiatives by NBEP and its partners has been advanced by NBEP data and analysis for decades. For example, over the last two years over 20 partners have requested raw data, figures, and maps developed by NBEP for the technical report. This requires significant staff effort to understand the request, compile the information, and share in an appropriate format. Deliverables will include providing technical assistance in the form of convening, document review, data transfers, mapping products, and otherwise providing expertise on selected initiatives to be determined. We expect to support up to four (4) initiatives, but the Program Director will work with staff to ultimately determine the appropriate amount of time to dedicate to an individual effort and this task overall. This work provides an opportunity to continue to be a lead coordinator of science and catalyst for future projects in the Bay and its watershed.

Task 2e will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

**Milestone Schedule for Objective 2**

Task 2a: Status and Trends Updates	October 2019 – September 2024
Task 2b: Priority Science Strategy	October 2019 – September 2024
Task 2c: Data Management Protocol	October 2019 – December 2024
Task 2d: Bay and Watershed Research Program	October 2019 – September 2024
Task 2e: Watershed Science and Policy	October 2019 – September 2024

## Outputs and Outcomes for Objective 2

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 2a: Status and Trends Update (Staff Scientist, GIS/Watershed Specialist)	Ongoing	One (1) indicator update document produced.	Improved understanding of the current and future health of the Bay and its watershed.
Task 2b: Priority Science Strategy (Staff Scientist)	Ongoing	One (1) updated "living" prioritized list of information gaps. One (1) meeting of watershed research interests.	Improved understanding of pressing science issues and coordination among partners spanning geographies and scientific disciplines.
Task 2c: Data Management Protocol (GIS/Watershed Specialist, Environmental Analyst)	December 2022	One (1) data management protocol.	Watershed-wide data is more complete, organized, and accessible to target audiences.
Task 2d Bay and Watershed Research Program (Program Director, Staff Scientist, and NEIWPC Program Manager)	October 2022	One (1) request for proposals and supporting materials. At least one (1) scope of work and agreement for subawardee(s). At least one (1) final report from subawardee(s).	Information gaps identified by NBEP addressed.
Task 2e: Watershed Science and Policy (Staff Scientist and GIS/Watershed Specialist)	Ongoing	Technical assistance on up to four (4) science initiatives.	Improved understanding of priority science and policy issues in the region.

## Objective 3: Support Efforts to Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats

### CCMP: Section 3, Goals 1 and 1.1

- Conserve existing natural landscapes that have been and will be adversely affected by development, climate change, and invasive species
- Focus resources and enhance land protection efforts by conservation agencies and organizations on less-developed areas, particularly areas threatened by new sprawl development in both states.

### CCMP: Section 3, Goals 2, 2.1, and 2.2

- Restore degraded or lost habitats and habitat functions.
- Improve river connectivity and habitat by removing dams, upgrading culverts and creating structural fish ways to restore free-flowing rivers and anadromous fish passage; implement state fish passage plans.
- Create a coordinated bi-state habitat sustainability strategy with a restoration component and identification of priority projects, comprehensive management principles, and implementation targets for fresh and saltwater ecosystems.

The protection and restoration of diverse native wildlife and habitats is integral to the stewardship of the Narragansett Bay ecosystem and its watershed. This watershed has hundreds of entities working to restore and preserve critical habitats and natural landscapes such as saltmarshes, freshwater wetlands, free-flowing rivers, and forests that nature a myriad of aquatic, riparian, and upland species. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Massachusetts (MassDEP), Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (MA DER), Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM), the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Army

Corp of Engineers (ACOE), Save The Bay, MassAudubon, and other partners inside and outside the Steering Committee are working to update existing estuarine and freshwater restoration strategies and support execution of projects consistent with them.

While NBEP currently does not directly install habitat protection and restoration projects, NBEP is well-positioned to continue to play a variety of roles in supporting this work. With expertise in convening, data management, and outreach, the program will connect partners, integrate and share out information, and support planning and implementation efforts that span disciplines, issues, and states.

Over a five-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), NBEP will contribute to implementation of the CCMP through pursuit of this objective and the two (2) supporting tasks described below. Note that subsequent annual work plans will be produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in FY2020 and FY2021 for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement.

**Task 3a: NEPORT (Ongoing)**

An important aspect of the CCMP and annual reporting to EPA is to track efforts to protect and restore Bay and watershed ecosystems. Each year NBEP staff compile from its Steering Committee members acres of open space lands preserved, stream miles of fish habitat restored, acres of wetlands restored, and other metrics from habitat protection or restoration projects. This information is entered into EPA’s NEPORT system. NBEP staff will work with partners and EPA to submit appropriate information in the NEPORT system this fiscal year.

Task 3a will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

**Task 3b: Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects (Ongoing)**

NBEP also engages in restoration and protection efforts indirectly through the work of its Steering Committee member organizations who are some of the leaders in designing and implementing on-the-ground projects in the bi-state watershed. Further, with expertise that spans research, management, and policy the NBEP directly assists restoration and protection work. Project management, GIS analysis and mapping, estuarine science, and stormwater are areas of specialized expertise. The program hosts and attends project development meetings, serves on proposal review panels (e.g., CRMC’s Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund, EPA’s Southeast New England Program [SNEP] operated by RAE), supports projects by awarding its own funds (e.g., FY18 SNEP awards), and participates in projects that cover a range of types and stages of development (e.g., technical support for the URI floating wetland study and MA DER High Street Bridget Replacement). NBEP will continue to aid these and other projects that arise during the coming year. Note that pending an amendment to the FY18 cooperative agreement, the restoration map 1.0 and Task 3c: Development of Restoration Projects Strategy in the FY18 Work Plan will not be pursued at this time.

Task 3b will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

**Milestone Schedule for Objective 3**

Task 3a: NEPORT	September 2020, 2021, 2022
Task 3b: Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects	October 2019 - September 2024

**Outputs and Outcomes for Objective 3**

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 3a: NEPORT (Staff Scientist, GIS/Watershed Specialist)	September 2020	One (1) update to NEPORT system.	Enhanced knowledge of habitat protection and restoration project results in Narragansett Bay and its watershed.

Task 3b: Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects (Staff Scientist, GIS/Watershed Specialist, Environmental Analyst)	October 2019-September 2022	Assist partners with restoration projects in the watershed as needed. Travel for meetings.	New habitat protection and restoration projects in Narragansett Bay and its watershed.
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#### Objective 4: Build Capacity to Manage Land for Conservation and Community

CCMP: Section 2, Goals 6 and 5

- Increase the role of watershed organizations and municipalities to serve as critical partners in watershed management.
- Improve science, information, and communication to support effective land use management

Management of the landscape greatly influences the health of the Narragansett Bay watershed from headwaters to sea. A holistic “all lands” approach that considers public and private lands, developed and natural lands, and protected and unprotected lands is vital to choosing the right action at the right place at the right time. While Federal and state programs have both regulatory and voluntary programs designed to help heal and protect the land, the actions of local stewards—from municipalities to watershed organizations to land trusts—is especially vital to the long-term resilience of the landscape in the face of change. However, these local organizations historically lack the capacity to bring the change necessary to address ongoing challenges to water quality, habitat, and community safety.

SNEP is a partnership made up of public and private stakeholders collaborating to create a broad ecological and institutional framework for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the waters along southeastern New England. SNEP includes the coastal waters and watershed lands spanning from Westerly, Rhode Island to Pleasant Bay, Massachusetts. The watersheds of Narragansett Bay, Buzzards Bay, the islands, and southern Cape Cod face similar opportunities and challenges and SNEP’s focus on this geographic area is designed to develop effective, innovative, and replicable approaches to restoring and preserving these critical resources. Through participation in EPA’s SNEP efforts, both as a member of the program’s committees and a distributor of funding in prior years, NBEP is working to inform and empower local stewards and regional decision-makers to pursue voluntary actions that address common challenges, such as land development and attendant degradation from stormwater, on-site septic systems, and destruction of natural lands; forest and farmland stewardship; and climate change impacts.

Over a five-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), NBEP will contribute to implementation of the CCMP through pursuit of this objective and the two (2) supporting tasks described below. Note that subsequent annual work plans will be produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in FY2020 and FY2021 for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement.

#### **Task 4a: Southeast New England Program (Ongoing)**

Staff will continue to serve on the committees that guide SNEP science and policy. This involves meetings, conference calls, and review of written materials as requested by EPA. In addition, NBEP staff and NEIWPCC Lowell staff continue to assist partners in projects funded by SNEP in line with Task 4b. Currently, the Program Director serves on the Policy Committee, the Staff Scientist on the Monitoring Subcommittee, and the GIS/Watershed Specialist on the Ecosystem Services Subcommittee.

Task 4a will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and NEIWPCC Lowell staff.

### Task 4b: Southeast New England Program Subawards (Ongoing)

In 2019 NBEP awarded SNEP funding to five (5) projects that support both SNEP and CCMP goals in the Narragansett Bay watershed. The projects funded include the following:

- Broad Meadow Brook Restoration, MassAudubon
- Watershed Restoration Planning for Anadromous Fish Passage at Pontiac Dam, Pawtuxet River Authority
- Mill Brook Bogs Restoration Project, MADER
- Beaver River Watershed Restoration Planning Assessment, Town of Richmond, RI
- Planning and Design for a Stormwater Management Master Plan at Mt. Hope High School

Note that pending an amendment to the FY18 cooperative agreement, the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment provided as Task 5a is also funded by SNEP. Further, an additional award process for remaining SNEP funds may be required in 2019. NBEP and NEIWPCCLowell staff will manage all SNEP funding projects to ensure proper financial and grant administration, completion of deliverables, and achievement of promised outcomes.

Task 4b will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP and NEIWPCCLowell staff and prior year subaward funding.

#### Milestone Schedule for Task 4

Task 4a: Southeast New England Program Committees	October 2019 – September 2024
Task 4b: Southeast New England Program Projects	October 2019 – September 2022

#### Environmental Outputs and Outcomes for Task 4

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Environmental Output	Environmental Outcome
Task 4a: Southeast New England Program (Program Director, Staff Scientist, and GIS/Watershed Specialist)	Ongoing	Participation in at least three (3) SNEP meetings. Travel for meetings.	Partnerships are strengthened and improved collective understanding of water quality and ecological challenges and solutions in southeastern New England estuaries.
Task 4b: Southeast New England Program Subawards (Program Director and NEIWPCCLowell Program Manager)	October 2019 through September 2021	Manage 5 local planning projects. Complete a second RFP, if appropriate, project selection, and award process to SNEP funds remaining unobligated Scopes of work and subawards for all projects. Final reports from all subawardees.	Pre-conditions in place for future on-the-ground projects.

## Objective 5: Develop and Strengthen Partnerships

CCMP: Section 2, Goals 6 and 5

- Increase the role of watershed organizations and municipalities to serve as critical partners in watershed management.
- Improve science, information, and communication to support effective land use management

The cornerstone of the NBEP's approach to improving the Bay and watershed are strong partnerships. The CCMP relies on these partnerships to create actionable information that helps watershed advocates in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts bridge from research to decision-making to measurable improvements in the health and resilience of the watershed. To do this, the NBEP strives to develop and sustain lasting partnerships with the many and diverse public and private stakeholders engaged in restoring and preserving the region's natural resources. By nurturing collaboration, hosting workshops, and pursuing targeted outreach, NBEP helps create new understandings and conditions that help community leaders take bottom-up action to steward their lands in a manner that maximizes benefits to the local and regional ecology, economy, and community. Over a five-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), NBEP will contribute to implementation of the CCMP through pursuit of this objective and the three (3) supporting tasks described below. Note that subsequent annual work plans will be produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in FY2020 and FY2021 for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement.

### *Task 5a: Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment (NEW)*

Building on the NBEP's workshop titled, *The Blackstone River: Past, Present, and Future*, held in April 2019, NBEP along with local partners will develop a needs assessment and pre-project support documents for the ecologically and economically vital Blackstone River Watershed. NBEP will use community engagement and capacity-building support to bring together diverse stakeholders from across the Blackstone River Watershed over a series of six (6) convenings to enable local interests to identify and prioritize needs which, once addressed, can help accelerate on-the-ground actions. Small capacity-building subawards will be provided to local nonprofits to support the meetings and needs assessment development. Further, outside consultants will be engaged by NEIWPC or municipalities to create at least two (2) pre-project documents (e.g., feasibility study, conservation practice/site design, planning documents, budgets, permit applications). Meeting agendas, large and small group exercises, meeting notes, and other tools will be created for meetings. The desired outcomes are a consensus needs assessment and project support documents that set the stage for two near term projects and many future actions that improve the water quality, native habitat, and resilience of the watershed. This project will also inform NBEP's upcoming CCMP revision and can serve as a template for development of community-driven needs assessments across the southeast New England region.

Pending an amendment and budget realignment of the FY18 Cooperative Agreement, Task 5a will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff and subawardees or contractors covered by that agreement.

### *Task 5b: Social Science Workshop (NEW)*

NBEP will convene a workshop to discuss the importance of social and cultural factors in watershed recovery, potential indicators, and information needs. Experts from within and beyond the region will be invited to an event that will include presentations, panels, small group sessions, and networking. The desired outcome is a set of recommendations on how to best identify, integrate, address, and measure efforts to address key social science factors that are vital to improving Narragansett Bay watershed's ecosystems and neighboring communities.

Task 5b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP and NEIWPC Lowell staff.

### *Task 5c: Targeted Outreach (Ongoing)*

As a host or participant, NBEP staff will pursue additional workshops, speaking engagements, webinars, and other targeted technical assistance and outreach efforts in line with the outputs of Task 1g and Task 3b. Opportunities to

collaborate with other NEPs in New England will be pursued. These activities will help further establish NBEP's brand and reputation as a trusted resource for watershed partners. Identifying and addressing information gaps, advancing municipal stormwater management, applying GIS analysis, and better incorporating socioeconomic issues in decision-making appear to be niches where NBEP can offer specialized assistance. Opportunities to showcase NBEP's unique niche, services, and successes will also be pursued.

Task 5c will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

#### Milestone Schedule for Task 5

Task 5a: Blackstone Needs Assessment	October 2019-December 2021
Task 5ab: Social Science Workshop	September 2020
Task 5c: Targeted Outreach	October 2019-September 2024

#### Outputs and Outcomes for Task 5

Work Plan Activity and Staff Point of Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 5a: Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment (Program Director, NEIWPCC Senior Program Manager, Environmental Analyst)	December 2021	Six (6) stakeholder meeting across the watershed with support materials. Scopes of work, agreement, or contracts for subawardees and consultants as needed. One (1) watershed-wide needs assessment. Two (2) project support documents. One (1) final report from each subawardee. Travel for meetings.	Enhanced knowledge of the needs/pre-conditions and new tools for accelerating restoration and protection of the Blackstone.
Task 5b: Social Science Workshop (Program Director)	September 2020	One (1) event with 50-100 participants anticipated. Travel for event.	Improved understanding of the role economic, social, cultural, and other human factors play in the Bay and watershed restoration effort.
Task 5c: Technical Transfer and Outreach (All NBEP staff)	Ongoing	At least ten (10) new partnerships. At least six (6) presentations, lectures, or webinars. Attend at least ten (10) workshops. Travel for outreach.	New and stronger partnerships and greater understanding by NBEP and our partners about the newest research, management practice, and policy tools available to local stewards.

### III. Non-Federal Match

The NBEP's Management Conference includes many partners that are implementing projects that are directly implementing the actions consistent with the CCMP. A summary of each entity providing non-federal match for this incremental request under the five-year Cooperative Agreement EPA (utilizing 3 years of funding—FY19, FY20, and FY21), is provided below and match documentation is provided for each source of funds:

#### **Non-Federal Match for FY19**

- Narragansett Bay Commission (Bay monitoring staff) - \$100,000
- Rhode Island CRMC (Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Trust Fund awards) - \$175,000
- Rhode Island DEM (contractual and staff) – \$325,000

Note that subsequent annual work plans produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in June 2020 and June 2021 (FY20 and FY21 funds) will detail non-federal match for each incremental amendment to the Cooperative Agreement.

#### **Appendix A: New Contractual/Subaward Projects using FY19 Funding**

Task	Project Title	Amount	Output	Procurement Type	Timeline
Task 2d	Bay and Watershed Research Program	\$35,000	One (1) request for proposals and supporting materials. At least one (1) scope of work and agreement for subawardee(s). At least one (1) final report from subawardee(s)	Subaward (RFP anticipated to be posted)	October 2019-September 2024

#### **Appendix B: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00004) NEIWPCC JCC: 318**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

#### **Appendix C: Grant Performance Report (CE CE00A00127) NEIWPCC JCC: 326**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

#### **Appendix D: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00366) NEIWPCC JCC: 332**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

#### **Appendix E: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00393) NEIWPCC JCC: 338**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

#### **Appendix F: Travel Report**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit documentation of Clean Water Act §320 Funds Used for Travel as required under the National Estuary Program Funding Guidance.

#### **Appendix G: Outreach Report**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report supplements the previously mentioned reports above.

## **Appendix B: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00004)** **July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

This report provides an overview of the performance under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cooperative agreement for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). It includes activities completed and yet to be completed by the NBEP staff in Providence, RI, the staff of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in Lowell, MA (the NBEP's host entity), as well as the members of the Program's Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Science Advisory Committee, and subcommittees. This report follows the goals, tasks, and activities as set forth in the approved work plan and identifies any remaining tasks. In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement.

### **EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

EPA Grant Number: CE00A00004

NEIWPCC Job Cost Code: #0318-001-000

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NBEP Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Eivy Monroy, and Julia Bancroft.

### **Goal 1: Program Management**

- All activity for this goal under this cooperative agreement has ended.

### **Goal 2: Facilitate Sound Science to Protect and Restore Clean Water**

#### **Task 2a: State of the Watershed Report**

##### Activities Met:

- A save the date for October 1, 2018 for "State of the Taunton River Watershed" workshop was sent out to partners to begin advertising as the event committee finalized the agenda and logistics.

##### Remaining Activities:

- This task is complete.

#### **Task 2c: Watershed Research Grants**

##### Activities Met:

- Four (4) projects selected by the Grants Subcommittee for funding under this program entered into agreements with NEIWPCC during this period. Projects advanced are listed below:
  1. *Sediment Profile Imagery Survey to Evaluate Benthic Habitat Quality in Narragansett Bay (University of Rhode Island, Dr. John King)*
    - Satisfactory quarterly reports have been received from this subawardee. A full report is available in the contract file. An amendment was approved to extend the project close date to August 30, 2019.

2. *High Resolution Salt Marsh Mapping Using Un-manned Aerial Systems (University of Rhode Island, Dr. Peter August)*
  - Satisfactory quarterly reports have been received from this subawardee. A full report is available in the contract file. The project close date is June 30, 2019.
3. *Further Analysis and Synthesis of Bay Oxygen, Chlorophyll, and Temperature (Dr. Dan Codiga)*
  - Satisfactory quarterly reports have been received from this subawardee. A full report is available in the contract file. The project close date is August 31, 2019.
4. *Research Needs for Marine Beaches (Clean Ocean Access)*—funded under JCC: 318-002
  - A final report was received from this contract that will be forwarded to the NBEP Grants Subcommittee for review and approval in advance of project close-out. Reports are available in the contract file.

Remaining Activities:

- Funds remain for active subawards with those recipients to complete projects by September 2019. NBEP staff are advancing these projects and will continue to manage subawards and revise internal process as necessary as EPA implements new policies. Future expenditures under this grant will be limited to subaward payments for these projects.

**Goal 3: Manage Land for Conservation and Community by Building Local Capacity**

All activities and tasks for this goal under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Goal 4: Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife and Habitat**

All activities and tasks for this goal under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

EPA Grant Number: CE00A00004

NEIWPC Job Cost Code: #0318-002-000

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NBEP Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Eivy Monroy, and Julia Bancroft.

**Goal 4: Manage Land for Conservation and Community by Building Local Capacity**

**Task 4b: Southeast New England Program Subwards**

Activities Met:

- Three (3) of eleven (11) projects funded under this program were completed last year. During this past year all but one (1) of the eight (8) remaining projects were completed. The status of each project is provided below:
  1. *Trout Brook Stormwater Pollution (Town of Avon, MA)*: A final report was approved by the NBEP Grants Subcommittee and this project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  2. *Stormwater Pathogen Sources on Easton Beach (Clean Ocean Access)*: A final report was approved by the NBEP Grants Subcommittee and this project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  3. *Stormwater Infiltration Projects in Stillhouse Cove (City of Cranston, RI)*: The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.

4. *Stormwater System to Protect Sheffield Cove (Town of Jamestown, RI)*: A final report was approved by the NBEP Grants Subcommittee and this project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  5. *Stormwater Mapping and Design (City of Pawtucket, RI)*: This project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  6. *Water Quality Improvements in Little Narragansett Bay and Pawcatuck River (Town of Westerly, RI)*: A revised final report was approved by the NBEP Grants Subcommittee and the project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  7. *Stormwater Practices at Oakland Park and City Park Beaches (City of Warwick, RI)*: This project was closed out. The final report is available in the contract file and in the resource library on nbep.org.
  8. *Stormwater Mitigation at Sabin Point (City of East Providence, RI)*: Based on review of the final report submitted for this project and the approval of a no cost extension for the grant under which it was funded, an amendment has been approved to augment the project with an additional outreach task that spends the remaining budget, builds on the work completed, and expands the impact of the project. The new close date is June 14, 2019.
- Following two extensions of their agreement, West Warwick was unable to fully utilize the funding dedicated to this work. Therefore, there will be \$152,000 of unspent funds originally allocated to the city to be spent as discussed with the EPA project officer.

Remaining Activities:

- Funds remain for two (2) projects under this cooperative agreement. NBEP staff are advancing these efforts and will continue to manage subawards and revise internal process as necessary as EPA implements new policies. Future expenditures under this grant will be limited to subaward payments for these projects.

## **Appendix C: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00127)** **July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

This report provides an overview of the performance under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cooperative agreement for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). It includes activities completed and yet to be completed by the NBEP staff in Providence, RI, the staff of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in Lowell, MA (the NBEP's host entity), as well as the members of the Program's Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Science Advisory Committee, and subcommittees. This report follows the goals, tasks, and activities as set forth in the approved work plan and identifies any remaining tasks. In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement.

### **EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

EPA Grant Number: CE00A00127

NEIWPCC Job Cost Code: #0326-001-000

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NBEP Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Eivy Monroy, and Julia Bancroft.

#### Activities Met:

- A no-cost extension through September 30, 2020 was approved by EPA for tasks remaining under this grant. However, a plan was approved and implemented to close out the cooperative agreement earlier than anticipated. Appropriate documentation was submitted June 9, 2019.

#### Remaining Activities:

- A future amendment to CE00A00393 (JCC:338) will realign funds and address tasks remaining, including story maps, habitat project mapping tool, and synthesis manuscript.

**Appendix D: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00366)**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

This report provides an overview of the performance under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cooperative agreement for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). It includes activities completed and yet to be completed by the NBEP staff in Providence, RI, the staff of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in Lowell, MA (the NBEP's host entity), as well as the members of the Program's Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Science Advisory Committee, and subcommittees. This report follows the goals, tasks, and activities as set forth in the approved work plan and identifies any remaining tasks. In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

**EPA GRANT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

EPA Grant Number: CE00A00366

NEIWPCC Job Cost Code: #0332-001-000

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NBEP Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Eivy Monroy, and Julia Bancroft.

**Goal 1: Program Management**

**Task 1a: NEIWPCC Lowell Program Management**

**Activities Met:**

- Continued managing all EPA grants awarded to NBEP, including FY19 application compilation and submittal to EPA in June 2019, as well as FY18 award administration, reporting, and support for NBEP's commitments and needs.
- Provided personnel and operations management services throughout the year, including solicitation and management of third party contracts and subawards, bookkeeping, accounting, and other fiscal management; quality assurance/quality control review of deliverables; staff hiring, performance review, benefits, office space, and other operations support; and provision of information technology.
- Developed three rounds of job postings and interviews and ultimately hired a new Program Director that began work in February 2019.
- Environmental Analyst position was made full time for a one-year term beginning November 2018.
- After the GIS/Watershed Specialist departed in February 2019, with the assistance of the Program Director, crafted a job posting, conducted three rounds of interviews, and hired a new Specialist in June 2019. The transition process went very smoothly.
- With the assistance of the Program Director, prepared and submitted four (4) quarterly reports to EPA during this period.
- NEIWPCC and the Program Director reviewed and commented on all progress reports submitted by subawardees submitted during this period.
- Participated in twice-monthly calls with the EPA and the Program Director beginning in February 2019 and provided day-to-day mentoring for the new director over his first few months.
- Facilitated the introduction of the new Program Director to Steering Committee members, key regional partners, and other National Estuary Programs (NEPs).

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1b: Work Plan Development and Tracking**

Activities Met:

- NBEP staff hosted a session in the March 6, 2019 Steering Committee meeting, and two special Steering Committee work planning meetings on April 6, 2019 and April 25, 2019 to take input on the past and next work plan.
- Match obligations for the FY19 EPA application were received from the Narragansett Bay Commission (\$100,000), RI Coastal Resource Management Commission (\$175,000), and RI Department of Environmental Management (\$325,000). This meets NBEP's \$600,000 match requirement for the FY19 Cooperative Agreement.
- Jointly with NEIWPC, the Program Director developed the FY19 Work Plan, Budget, and Appendices, obtained Executive Committee approval on June 6, 2019 and Steering Committee approval on June 12, 2019, and submitted the final package as part of the FY19 EPAC grant application in June 2019.
- NEIWPC and the Program Director tracked the FY18 Work Plan and Budget status in coordination with the Executive Committee.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1c: Support of NBEP Oversight and Advisory Committees**

Activities Met:

- NEIWPC staff attended and NBEP staff led eight (8) Executive Committee, four (4) Steering Committee, three (3) Science Advisory Committee, and two (2) Grants Subcommittee meetings across the watershed during this period. An agenda, Program Report, and other support materials were prepared for each meeting. These committees and their membership remained effective and efficient in guiding NBEP business in the absence of a full-time Program Director.
- Laura Black of MassDEP joined the Steering Committee as a replacement for Kim Groff who left the department.
- The current Executive Committee Chair and Vice Chair's announced their plans to step down by the end of the calendar year and near term, respectively. Both Executive Committee and Science Advisory devised a new succession process from Vice-Chair to Chair and Co-Chair to Lead Co-Chair, respectively. These changes will be added to the Guiding Principles and approved by the Executive Committee in the coming year.
- The Staff Scientist and the Science Advisory Committee agreed to develop a job description to aid in soliciting future Co-Chairs that will be drafted and shared with the Executive and Steering Committees for approval.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1d: Program Leadership**

Activities Met:

- NEIWPC staff offered strong program leadership in the absence of a full-time Program Director from October 2018 through February 2019.

- NBEP staff prepared and coordinated EPA’s 5-year Program Evaluation (PE) site visit to the watershed to showcase efforts NBEP has supported through partnerships and funding, in addition to providing a watershed tour and comprehensive presentation highlighting the key projects, challenges and successes during the review period. NBEP staff received a final letter from EPA on October 12, 2018 stating that the NBEP passed its PE and offered compliments and suggestions for overcoming remaining challenges.
- The Program Director and/or Staff Scientist participated in joint EPA-NEP and Association National Estuary Program (ANEP) meetings to learn, share lessons, and build relationships with other NEPs and EPA support staff.
- The Staff Scientist applied to and was accepted into the Leadership Rhode Island program. This program is designed to foster leaders in RI from all walks of life through professional development and personal growth. The program starts in January 2019 and ends in October 2019.
- The Staff Scientist and Environmental Analyst led multiple session at the NEIWPC All Staff Meeting on March 28-29, 2019 on GIS and creative communication.
- To enable NBEP to continue to be a leader in GIS mapping in the watershed, the GIS/Watershed Specialist and Environmental Analyst completed comprehensive Esri training and outreach to technical experts to ultimately complete a significant upgrade of NBEP’s GIS capabilities. This included installation, deployment, and use of the newest ArcPro and ArcOnline software and a shift from local file back-up to the Microsoft Cloud. ArcPro software was installed and functional in March, ArcOnline registration was completed in April 2019, and cloud storage was activated in June 2019.
- The Program Director drafted an updated Cooperative Agreement for NBEP’s use of RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) office space as the current agreement is expired. After a meeting to discuss the document with RIDEM CFO, the Agreement is currently under review with expectations that it will be signed this summer.
- NBEP conducted monthly staff meetings and twice-monthly one-on-one meetings with the Program Director.
- NBEP developed a Funding Opportunity Tracking sheet to compile and prioritize potential grant writing opportunities.
- The Program Director engaged directly with over fifty (50) individual partners in his four (4) months in the position during this period to solidify existing partnership and build new relationships.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1f: Communications Strategy Implementation**

Activities Met:

- The website was updated in the following ways:
  - Added a link to the new Watershed Counts Archive on the Coastal Institute website.
  - Added information on the States of the Taunton and Blackstone events with final agendas, pictures, notes, and other materials.
  - Removal of the Habitat and Restoration Workgroup page.
  - The NBEP “elevator” message on the opening page was updated and simplified.
  - Posted new publications to the resource library prepared by NBEP subawardees and partners.

- Outreach activities are described in Appendix G of the FY19 Work Plan.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this goal under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1g: Finance Plan Development and Implementation**

Activities Met:

- The Program Director met with Jonathan Stone, Steering Committee member and Executive Director of Save The Bay, to discuss the content, format, and timeline for development of an NBEP Finance Plan. A draft plan is expected in Summer 2019, with a final version expected by October 2019.
- Over the last year, six (6) proposals were submitted directly by NBEP or by NBEP partners where NBEP had a defined role. Note that this activity was included under Task 5c in the FY18 Work Plan but is more appropriately reported here. The proposals included:
  - NBEP applied and was awarded a GIS grant through the ESRI Conservation Program in October 2018 to obtain software capacity.
  - NBEP developed and submitted a proposal to EPA HQ for supplemental funding complete an assessment of living shoreline opportunities in the Providence-Seekonk system. This project was not funded.
  - NBEP staff worked with partners to submit four (4) pre-proposals to the EPA Southern New England Program (SNEP). Letters of commitment were provided as required. Ultimately NBEP will support two awarded projects, including a joint effort with Save The Bay where we will provide GIS expertise for the project titled, “A Comprehensive Plan to Restore Water Quality in Hundred Acre Cove,” and technical assistance for a NEIWPCC project titled: “Low-Gradient Coastal Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) for Wadeable Waters in Southern New England.”
- After considering submission of a proposal to Restore America’s Estuary’s (RAE) SNEP RFP, due to funding opportunity constraints NBEP instead worked with EPA SNEP and EPA staff to gain approval to use SNEP funds previously allocated for external projects for an internally completed Blackstone River Needs Assessment in the next fiscal year. Further detail about this project is provided under Goal 4 in the performance report for CE00A00393 (JCC:338).

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this goal under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 1h: Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)**

Activities Met:

- NBEP formed a CCMP Subcommittee in May 2019.
- Previous CCMP’s, ideas for the next CCMP, and potential guiding principles and a timeline for the development process were discussed at the June 12, 2019 Steering Committee meet.
- Three (3) CCMP meetings are scheduled for the remainder of calendar year 2019.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Goal 2: Facilitate Sound Science to Protect and Restore Clean Water**

**Task 2a: Watershed Research Grants**

Activities Met:

- All four projects are proceeding as planned. Satisfactory quarterly reports were received from all subawardees. Full reports are available in the contract file.
- With some money remaining in the budget for this task, the Executive Committee approved funding for NBEP to hire URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and Environmental Data Center to update RI's STORMTOOL flood inundation tool to extend its reach into Mt. Hope Bay and up the Taunton to the salt line. Coordination with MA's Coastal Zone Program and URI are complete, and a proposed contract for this work is currently under NBEP staff review.

Remaining Activities:

- It is expected that the four research projects will be completed by August 2019. The STORMTOOLS expansion should be complete by the end of the calendar year.

**Task 2b: Bay and Watershed Story Maps**

Activities Met:

- The EPA ORD pilot project that will create a Story Map for two indicators, Population and Land Use, has moved forward. NBEP staff have provided text, pictures, and an outline for the Map, while ORD has created the Map platform and begun to integrate information. We expect an excellent product that will inform our future ad hoc use of Story Maps to visually describe our work.

Remaining Activities:

- It is expected that this task will be complete by the close of the FY18 Cooperative Agreement. As part of the close out plan for CE00A00127 (JCC: 326) further Story Map activities beyond this pilot are not being pursued. All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Task 2c: Synthesis Manuscript**

Activities Met:

- The Staff Scientist completed the first draft of the *State of the Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* manuscript. The document provides background on the watershed, offers case studies on specific water quality/habitat improvement successes described in the report, and offers some future considerations to stimulate continued thinking. It was revised based on comments from the Program Director and provided to the Synthesis Manuscript Subcommittee for review. Eight (8) sets of comments were received from the subcommittee. Comments are generally positive, with most suggestions debating the merit/means to include the beaches discussion, requesting more details on the collaborative process used to develop the report to share lessons learned, and offering suggestions for condensing the document. The Staff Scientist is revising the piece in response to comments, including the addition of a new Methods section to emphasize the process NBEP used to develop the document. The document will go to the full Science Advisory Committee and Executive Committee in early July. The plan is to submit the manuscript to a journal by the end of the fiscal year. *Estuaries and Coasts*, who has indicated the piece matches the scope of the journal, is the current publication being targeted. NBEP staff are also pursuing other journals to find the best fit. We are very pleased with the feedback so far and expect this manuscript to be a strong addition to the literature for the Narragansett Bay watershed and other estuaries.

Remaining Activities:

- The manuscript will be revised based on comment from the Science Advisory and Executive Committees and submitted to a journal by the end of this fiscal year. All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

### **Task 2d: Watershed Science and Policy**

#### Activities Met:

- NBEP staff coordinated, attended, or hosted at least twenty (20) professional meetings and conferences that showcased the results of the 2017 *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* report and advanced partnerships, including the New England Estuarine Research Society Fall Meeting, and Restore America’s Estuaries 2018 Summit. Full list available in the Outreach Report provided as Appendix G to the FY19 Work Plan.
- The Staff Scientist co-authored a manuscript with Autumn Oczkowski (EPA-ORD) highlighting results from the 2017 *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* report which was accepted for publication by *Estuaries and Coasts*.
- The Staff Scientist and GIS/Watershed Specialist also co-authored a paper with Rob Griffin (Stanford University) on ecosystem services valuation model provided by the Narragansett Bay that is currently under author review with submittal to a journal in July 2019.

#### Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

### **Task 2e: Priority Projects**

#### Activities Met:

- The Executive Committee approved the use of a portion of this funding to obtain additional photos of people and places in the region, with a focus outside the coastal area NBEP considered a range of options for obtaining new photos, focusing on people and places up in the watershed. An idea to engage the International League of Conservation Photographers was scrapped based on cost and our desire to engage local professionals. The current plan is to conduct a photo context and/or hire local free-lance photographers to augment our visuals.

#### Remaining Activities:

- All staff activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended. Funds remain for acquisition of new photos by the close of the fiscal year.

### **Goal 3: Manage Land for Conservation and Community by Building Local Capacity**

#### **Task 3a: Watershed Counts Partnership**

##### Activities Met:

- The Executive Committee, in concert with the Coastal Institute, decided that a 2018 Watershed Counts report will not be produced and Watershed Counts will be shut down. Instead, NBEP will produce periodic status/trends/indicator updates and provided funds to the Coastal Institute to archive all past Watershed Counts on their website. Remaining funding allocated to this task will be available for contractor support related to communications should the need arise or reassigned as need.

##### Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task has ended.

#### **Task 3b: Southeast New England Program**

##### Activities Met:

- NBEP participated in five (5) SNEP committee meetings, including gatherings of the Policy Committee, Monitoring Subcommittee, and Ecosystem Subcommittee over the last year.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Goal 4: Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats**

**Task 4a: Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects**

Activities Met:

- In August 2018 NBEP staff and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Massachusetts Chapter agreed to investigate a collaborative effort to develop a Habitat Restoration and Protection Mapping Tool, which would capture where restoration and protection projects have been completed across the watershed. It was decided that a pilot in the Taunton River Watershed should be pursued first. A Habitat Restoration and Protection Workgroup was formed and met two (2) times over the winter to advance the effort by identifying available data, assigning who would collect that data (TNC), evaluating potential mapping platforms and frameworks (NBEP), and what watershed-wide expansion would entail. In early 2019, NBEP staff developed a draft QAPP for the expansion watershed-wide, and TNC collected and began organizing Taunton-specific data. The new Program Director identified three problems with the project as designed: (1) the purpose and target user-base for such a map was unidentified and viewed as limited, (2) while TNC-RI expressed interest in the project, TNC-MA is currently leading the effort and is not focused on a bistate effort, and most concerning, (3) NBEP may not have the ability under its EPA cooperative agreement to “collect” additional data to expand the tool to the entire watershed and complete periodic updates so the tool remains useful beyond year 1.

NEIWPCC and NBEP staff worked with EPA NEP and EPA HQ legal staff to explore whether NEPORT reporting and/or the broader Information Collection Request (ICR) in place for National Estuary Programs (NEPs) could overcome the data collection issue that presents as the largest barrier to our involvement in this project. After considerable effort, it was decided by NBEP and the Executive Committee that we will not have a further role in this project. While NBEP has expended considerable time on this effort, the bottom line is that the value of the tool is limited in our current view and our ability to collect data is in question. TNC MA, RISD, and SRPEDD are considering continuing the project in some form later this year.

However, further investigation into NEP’s ability to collect data driven by this project, did result in EPA HQ lawyers sharing their view that, counter to past interpretations, NBEP indeed is allowed to collect new data under the broad NEP ICR, provided it is in support of CCMP implementation. This is a very useful outcome for NBEP as it pursues its work.

- The GIS/watershed specialist reviewed ten (10) potential project proposals. Two pre-proposals for NFWF funding were evaluated, with the Executive Committee ultimately submitting a letter of consistency and joining a planning meeting for the MADER High Street Dam Removal and Bridge Replacement Project. Further, as part of the Review Committee for the CRMC Habitat Restoration Trust Fund, eight (8) proposals were evaluated.
- NBEP staff hosted a meeting to identify leverage opportunities between NBEP, TNC, Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and EPA around the idea to create a “StewMAP,” which would map watershed stewardship group coverage across the watershed to identify areas that lack local advocates. To date funding has not been acquired by the proponents of the project to support further work.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task under this cooperative agreement has ended.

**Appendix E: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00393)**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

This report provides an overview of the performance under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cooperative agreement for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). It includes activities completed and yet to be completed by the NBEP staff in Providence, RI, the staff of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in Lowell, MA (the NBEP's host entity), as well as the members of the Program's Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Science Advisory Committee, and subcommittees. This report follows the goals, tasks, and activities as set forth in the approved work plan and identifies any remaining tasks. In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

**EPA GRANT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

EPA Grant Number: CE00A00393

NEIWPCC Job Cost Code: #0338-001-000

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NBEP Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, and Julia Bancroft.

**Goal 1: Program Management**

**Task 1a: NEIWPCC Lowell Program Management**

Remaining Activities:

- An amendment is being prepared to realign the budget and remove tasks that will no longer be completed. Additional details are forthcoming in the amendment paperwork.

**Task 1g: Finance Plan Development and Implementation**

Activities Met:

- See performance report for CE00A00366 (JCC:332).

Remaining Activities:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

**Task 1h. Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan**

Activities Met:

- See performance report for CE00A00366 (JCC:332).

Remaining Activities:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

**Goal 2: Facilitate Sound Science to Protect and Restore Clean Water**

**Task 2f: Status and Trends Update**

Activities Met:

- An innovative Indicator Update Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was developed by the Staff Scientist and Program Director, reviewed and approved by NEIWPCC and EPA, and distributed in June 2019. This QAPP was designed to cover the range of future status and trend updates NBEP may pursue based on data availability, emerging conditions in the watershed, and thinking of NBEP and the Science Advisory Committee about how updates can have the most impact.
- At their May 9, 2019 meeting, the Science Advisory Committee and NBEP staff framed out the timing, form, and contents of future updates. Comprehensive status and trends updates will be completed every (5) five years, with periodic updates in between as new data, conditions, or thinking. Updates of one or multiple existing chapters in the *State of the Narragansett Bay Estuary and Its Watershed* report, presentation of new indicators, or discussion of rising issues may constitute an update. The committee also noted that NBEP should be compiling and synthesizing new data on an ongoing basis to be better prepared for indicator updates. Finally, the committee reviewed the current data gap prioritization (also discussed under Task 2h of this report) and identified indicators that are currently most ripe for update, including study of water clarity, nutrient budgets, benthic communities, shellfish harvest areas, climate indicators, and social/human indicators.
- The Environmental Analyst continued updating metadata underlying the *State of the Narragansett Bay Estuary and Its Watershed* report to aid future indicator updates and ready use of our GIS data by external parties.

Remaining Activities:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

**Task 2h: Priority Science Strategy**

Activities Met:

- The Staff Scientist worked with the Science Advisory Committee to refine the data gap prioritization created last year. Research, assessment, and monitoring needs were compiled, synthesized, and prioritized in what will be a “living” spreadsheet. This document will be used to inform future information development solicitations by NBEP’s and partners, especially data to support the potential indicator updates noted in Task 2f of this report.

Remaining Activities:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

**Goal 3: Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats**

**Task 3a: NEPORT**

Activities Met:

- Confirmed acceptance by EPA of annual NEPORT habitat and leveraging report.

Remaining Activities:

- Submittal of FY18 NEPORT data is expected in September 2019. NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and

other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

### **Task 3b: Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects**

#### Activities Met:

- See performance report for CE00A00366 (JCC: 332).

#### Remaining Tasks:

- All activity for this task has ended.

### **Task 3c: Development of Restoration Projects Strategy**

#### Activities Met:

- Consistent with the decision to no longer pursue the Habitat Restoration and Protection Mapping Tool described in the performance report for CE00A00366 (JCC: 332), activity to expand the tool unto a restoration strategy will not be pursued.

#### Remaining Tasks:

- All activity for this task has ended.

## **Goal 4: Manage Land for Conservation and Community by Building Local Capacity**

### **Task 4a: Southeast New England Program**

#### Activities Met:

- See Task 3b in the performance report for CE00A00366 (JCC:332).

#### Remaining Tasks:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

### **Task 4b: Southeast New England Program Subawards**

#### Activities Met:

- NBEP had a total of \$606,000 in Southeast New England Program (SNEP) funding to support planning or implementation projects in the Bay watershed. Seven (7) planning -pre-proposals requesting were received in response to the NBEP Request for Proposals (RFP) for SNEP funds on February 19, 2019. No pre-proposals were received for large restoration projects. We were told this was due to the amount of dollars available per project and the requirement that projects be complete within 24 months. The NBEP Grants Subcommittee met on April 11, 2019 and decided to invite full proposals from (5) five applicants. Initial plans were to award 2-3 small projects, but it was decided that due to the lack of any large projects, all five (5) planning projects could be funded if they have merit. Five (5) full proposals were submitted and all were selected for funding by the Grants Subcommittee on May 21, 2019. NBEP staff completed pre-project discussions with each subawardee and NEIWPC is pursuing subaward paperwork with each organization by July 2019. NBEP is pleased with the mix of planning projects and our ability to fill an existing funding gap by supporting work that creates the pre-conditions for future projects. The selected projects are:
  1. Broad Meadow Brook Restoration, MassAudubon.
  2. Watershed Restoration Planning for Anadromous Fish Passage at Pontiac Dam, Pawtuxet River Authority.

3. Mill Brook Bogs Restoration Project, MADER.
  4. Beaver River Watershed Restoration Planning Assessment, Town of Richmond, RI.
  5. Planning and Design for a Stormwater Management Master Plan at Mt. Hope High School, Town of Bristol, RI.
- NBEP considered submitting a proposal for Restore America’s Estuary (RAE) SNEP funding to complete a comprehensive needs assessment for meeting the watershed restoration and protection goals of the Blackstone River Watershed. The project would bring together stakeholders from across this large subwatershed of the Narragansett Bay Estuary watershed via a series of facilitated meetings to develop a targeted, bottom-up assessment that will include priority needs and corresponding actions to address them. This document would provide immediately actionable information for local NGOs, government officials, and funders that informs their selection of capacity-building, data development, planning, and on-the-ground projects. Unfortunately, RAE/SNEP were unwilling to meet NEIWPCCC’s requirement for 30% of funding up-front, so a proposal was not submitted.
  - With roughly \$475,000 of SNEP funds remaining after the five (5) planning grants noted above, NBEP and NEIWPCCC engaged with EPA National Estuary Program (NEP) and SNEP staff to discuss means to deploy these funds that provides the greatest watershed lift. Two paths have been tentatively approved by EPA pending submittal of an amendment to document the reassignment of funds:
    - Roughly \$250,000 for the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment, which will cover NBEP staff time, capacity-building subawards to local NGOs, and/or contracts with municipalities or private firms to help prepare Project Support Documents that advance at least two projects closer to implementation. This effort is included as new task in the FY19 Work Plan.
    - For the approximately \$225,000 that remains, priority will be placed on funding next steps for the planning projects of needs identified in the Blackstone. Further, small shovel-ready implementation projects may be pursued via a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). A priority is being placed on spending the \$152,000 left over from the incomplete City of West Warrick project by June 30, 2020 noted in the performance report for CE00A00004 (JCC:318).

Remaining Tasks:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.
- An amendment is currently being developed to clarify the use of existing SNEP funds for the Blackstone River Watershed Assessment and other projects to be solicited as appropriate.

**Goal 5: Develop and Strengthen Partnerships**

**Task 5a: State of the Taunton River Watershed Workshop**

Activities Met:

- NBEP utilized an Event Committee made up of local partners to plan a workshop to discuss the *State of the Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* report and local conservation opportunities and concerns. NBEP collaboratively developed an agenda with speakers, moderators, and local champions. NEIWPCCC collaborated with day-of logistics. The workshop was held on October

1, 2019 at Fall River Heritage State Park in MA. 84 people joined for an informative and lively discussion. More information on the workshop is available at nbep.org.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task has ended.

**Task 5b: State of the Blackstone River Watershed Workshop**

Activities Met:

- The Blackstone Workshop took place on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center in Worcester. The two collaborative pre-planning meetings with local partners, on-site NEIWPC support, and a dynamic agenda made the event a great success. There were 70 attendees, diverse opening speakers, two exceptionally interactive panel discussions, and an inspiring closing. Presenters and participants included a great mix of NBEP/NEIWPC and Steering Committee representatives; federal, state, and local agency staff; regional and local nonprofits, and local river advocates and citizens. The atmosphere at the meeting was collaborative, forward-looking, and created a family-like vibe around the shared goal to improve the watershed's ecology and community. At the end of the meeting NBEP staff were able to announce that they would be engaging more deeply via the Blackstone Needs Assessment, creating a perfect bridge from this workshop to a future where every will be able to collectively follow-up on the day's discussions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. More information on the workshop is available at nbep.org.

Remaining Activities:

- All activity for this task has ended.

**Task 5c: Technical Transfer and Outreach**

Activities Met:

- 92 outreach activities were completed this past year, including six (6) presentations to external parties.

Remaining Activities:

- NBEP staff efforts to date for this task were funded under CE00A00366 (JCC: 0332). All future activities under this task and other tasks per this goal will be pursued beginning June 17, 2019 under this cooperative agreement and subsequent awards as appropriate.

## Appendix F: Travel Report

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report satisfies the obligation to submit documentation of Clean Water Act §320 Funds Used for Travel as required under the National Estuary Program Funding Guidance.

### NBEP Trips Taken July 2018 to June 2019

Date	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Final Cost
<b>FY17 Quarter 4: July 1-Sept 30</b>				<b>\$6,323.75</b>
7/9-13/2018	Esri User Conference	San Diego, CA	1 NBEP Staff	\$2,688.19
8/19-23/2018	American Fisheries Society Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	2 NBEP Staff	\$3,369.90
9/19/2018	NBEP Steering Committee Meeting	Worcester, MA	3 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$67.48
9/28-29/2018	Inclusive SciComm Workshop	Kingston, RI	1 NBEP Staff	\$198.18
<b>FY18 Quarter 1: Oct 1-Dec 31</b>				<b>\$2,864.14</b>
10/1/2018	State of the Taunton Workshop	Fall River, MA	3 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$128.56
10/26-27/2018	NEERS Fall Meeting	New Bedford, MA	1 NBEP Staff	\$216.62
11/7/2018	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
12/5/2018	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
12/5/2018	Steering Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
12/8-14/2018	RAE Conference	Long Beach, CA	1 NBEP Staff	\$2,374.96
<b>FY18 Quarter 2: Jan 1-March 31</b>				<b>\$1,769.81</b>
1/10-11/2019	Leadership RI Session	Newport, RI	1 NBEP Staff	\$30.40
2/13/2019	EPA Region 1 Meeting	Boston, MA	1 NBEP Staff	\$96.84
2/19/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
2/26/2019	Meeting with 5 New England NEPs	Boston, MA	1 NBEP Staff	\$96.84
3/6/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
3/6/2019	Steering Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
3/12-14/2019	EPA-NEP Annual Workshop	Washington, D.C.	1 NBEP Staff	\$1,263.11

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Final Cost</b>
3/28-29/2019	NEIWPCC All Staff Meeting	Bedford, MA	3 NBEP Staff	\$138.62
<b>FY18 Quarter 3: April 1-June 30</b>				<b>\$1,240.59</b>
4/3/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Fall River, MA	1 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$22.04
4/4/2019	Esri GIS User Seminar	Boston, MA	1 NBEP Staff	\$56.46
4/11/2019	Grants Subcommittee Meeting—Pre-Proposal	Providence, RI	2 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
4/16/2019	Steering Committee Work Planning Meeting #1	Worcester, MA	2 NBEP Staff	\$42.92
4/24/2019	Graphic Facilitation Workshop	Warwick, RI	1 NBEP Staff	\$49.26
4/25/2019	Steering Committee Work Planning Meeting #2	Providence, RI	2 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
4/25-27/2019	NEERS Meeting	York, ME	1 NBEP Staff	\$493.80
4/29/2019	Blackstone Watershed Workshop	Worcester, MA	3 NBEP Staff	\$104.63
5/20/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48
5/21/2019	Grants Subcommittee Meeting—Full-Proposal	Providence, RI	3 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$48.00
5/30/2019	Meeting with EPA NEP and SNEP staff	Boston, MA	1 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$94.00
6/6/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Dighton, MA	1 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$67.28
6/12/2019	Steering Committee Meeting	Worcester, MA	2 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$118.20

**NBEP Trips Anticipated July 2019 to September 30, 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>FY18 Quarter 4: July 2019-Oct 2019*</b>				<b>\$3,905.28</b>
7/8/2019	NEIWPCC Coordination Meeting	Lowell, MA	4 NBEP Staff	\$81.20
7/16/2019	CCMP Subcommittee Meeting	Providence, RI	4 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$90.48
7/24/2019	Buzzards Bay NEP visit	East Wareham, MA	1 NBEP Staff	\$56.61
8/6/2019	NEIWPCC Tech Transfer Meeting	Lowell, MA	4 NBEP Staff	\$91.99
8/8/2019	Executive Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	1 NBEP Staff, NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$90.48
9/11/2019	Steering Committee Meeting	Providence, RI	4 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$90.48
9/17/2019	PREP Management Committee Meeting	Durham, NH	1 NBEP Staff	\$300.00
9/19/2019	CCMP Subcommittee Meeting	Worcester, MA	2 NBEP Staff, 1 NEIWPCC Project Manager	\$104.04
9/30/2019- 10/4/2019	ANEP Annual Conference	Dewey Beach, DE	2 NBEP Staff	\$3,000

\*Information subject to change which may influence number of staff travelling, locations, and subsequent cost.

## **Appendix G: Outreach Report**

**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

In addition to the reports submitted quarterly to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer, this report supplements the reports presented in previous appendices.

### **EPA Grant for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program**

EPA Grant Numbers: CE00A00004, CE00A00127, CE00A00366, and CE00A00393

EPA Project Manager: Caitlyn Whittle

NEIWPC Staff: Heather Radcliffe, Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Eivy Monroy, and Julia Bancroft

### **Outreach Overview**

The following is an overview of the types of outreach efforts pursued by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) over the last year under each of the five goals in the work plan over the last year:

#### **I: Program Management**

- Presentations at NBEP Committee meetings
- Meetings with EPA Region 1, Southeast New England Program (SNEP), and Headquarters staff
- Meetings with other National Estuary Program (NEP) Directors
- One-on-one meetings with partners and other Bay watershed stakeholders

#### **II: Facilitate Sound Science to Protect and Restore Clean Water**

- Technical assistance offered for partner research and management projects—from conception to implementation
- Press releases for award and results of research grants

#### **III: Protect and Restore Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats**

- Contact with Steering Committee member organizations to support NEPORT reporting
- Assisted on Habitat Grant Selection Committee for RI Coastal Resources Management Council's (CRMC) Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund
- Active participation in RI Rivers Council (RIRC), Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN), RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative (RIEMC), and similar conservation networks

#### **IV: Manage Land for Conservation and Community by Building Local Capacity**

- Participation in SNEP Policy, Monitoring, and Ecosystem Services committee meetings
- Coordination with applicants and awardees of NBEP SNEP subawards

#### **V. Develop and Strengthen Local Partnerships**

- Extensive outreach on *2017 State of Narragansett Bay and its Watershed* report, including targeted workshops in the Taunton and Blackstone watersheds
- Presentations at scientific conferences, including American Association for the Advance of Science (AAAS), Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) Summit, NEARC, NPS, American Fisheries Society (AFS), New England Estuary Research Society (NEERS) and Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) events

## **Outreach Details by Date**

The following is a detailed list of substantive outreach activities completed over the last year:

### **2018**

June 12 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Executive Committee meeting in Providence (Radcliffe)
June 18-20 <sup>th</sup>	EPA Program Evaluation Site visit (Radcliffe, Schmidt, Monroy)
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Program Evaluation Committee about program accomplishments (Radcliffe, Schmidt, Monroy)
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP staff, Evaluation committee, and Executive committee site visits around watershed (Radcliffe, Schmidt, Monroy, Bancroft)
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Steering Committee meeting at EPA Narragansett Lab in Narragansett (All NBEP staff)
July 9-13 <sup>th</sup>	Esri User Conference, San Diego, CA (Monroy)
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Green Infrastructure meeting (Schmidt)
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	URI Coastal Institute Senior Fellows Meeting (Schmidt)
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Staff Field Trip with Nick Wildman, MA Department of Environmental Resources (MADER), (All NBEP staff)
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Boston to identify collaboration opportunities (Monroy and Schmidt)
August 7-8 <sup>th</sup>	Coastal Engineering Research Board Meeting, Providence (Monroy)
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	RTWN meeting, Taunton, MA (Radcliffe, Monroy, Schmidt)
August 20-23 <sup>rd</sup>	AFS Conference, Atlantic City, NJ (Schmidt and Monroy)
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with TNC to coordinate habitat restoration and protection meeting (Monroy and Schmidt)
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	SNEP event in Pawtucket (Monroy)
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Steering Committee meeting at Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) offices in Worcester (all NBEP)
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	NEIWPC Research Webinar on NBEP status and trends report (Schmidt and Monroy)
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Stormwater Conversations: Lessons in Green Infrastructure, RI Green Infrastructure Coalition and Providence Parks Department (Schmidt)
September 28-29 <sup>th</sup>	Inclusive SciComm Event, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI (Schmidt)
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	State of the Taunton River Watershed—Building Partnerships for Progress, Fall River Heritage State Park (all NBEP)
October 3-6 <sup>th</sup>	National Estuary Program Technical Transfer Conference, San Francisco (Schmidt call in)
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP with TNC habitat restoration and protection meeting (Monroy)
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Slow the Flow for Coastal Climate Resilience Workshop, Boston, MA (Bancroft)
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP presentation to Rhode Island Rivers Council (Monroy and Schmidt)
October 26-27 <sup>th</sup>	NEERS Fall Meeting, New Bedford, MA (Schmidt)
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Executive Committee meeting in Providence (Radcliffe)
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	RI Rivers Council Meeting (Bancroft)
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	RI Woodlands Partnership meeting (Bancroft)
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	State of the Blackstone River Watershed kick off meeting at MassDEP Worcester (all NBEP)
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	TNC MA and Charles River Watershed meeting on habitat restoration mapping tool (Schmidt and Bancroft)
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Executive Committee meeting in Providence
December 8-14 <sup>th</sup>	RAE Conference (Schmidt)

December 12<sup>th</sup> RIRC meeting (Monroy)  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> StewMap meeting with RI School of Design (RISD) and TNC (all NBEP)  
 December 14<sup>th</sup> RTWN meeting (Monroy)  
 December 19<sup>th</sup> RI Woodlands Partnership meeting, Climate change listening session (Monroy)  
 December 19<sup>th</sup> Sabin Point Park project groundbreaking event (Schmidt)  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> Habitat Restoration and Protection workgroup meeting (all NBEP)

**2019**

January 9<sup>th</sup> NBEP Executive Committee meeting via phone (Radcliffe)  
 January 10-11<sup>th</sup> Leadership RI overnight retreat (Schmidt)  
 January 30<sup>th</sup> Leadership RI focus day (Schmidt)  
 February 4-5<sup>th</sup> Esri Training (Monroy, Bancroft)  
 February 11<sup>th</sup> Blackstone River Watershed Workshop planning meeting #2 (all NBEP staff)  
 February 15<sup>th</sup> TNC-NBEP restoration mapping meeting (Monroy, Schmidt)  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting in Providence (Radcliffe, Gerel)  
 February 20<sup>th</sup> MADER NPS Plan development meeting (Gerel, Schmidt)  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup> RTWN meeting (Gerel, Monroy)  
 February 25<sup>th</sup> EPA SNEP Stormwater Technical Assistance Needs meeting (Gerel)  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting with New England NEPs in Boston (Gerel)  
 February 27<sup>th</sup> Leadership RI meeting (Schmidt)  
 February 28<sup>th</sup> RI Woodlands Partnership meeting (Bancroft)  
 March 2<sup>nd</sup> Girl Scouts Southeastern New England STEAM event (Schmidt)  
 March 6<sup>th</sup> NBEP Executive Committee meeting in Providence (Radcliffe, Gerel)  
 March 6<sup>th</sup> NBEP Steering Committee meeting in Providence (All NBEP staff)  
 March 12-14<sup>th</sup> EPA-NEP Annual Workshop in Washington, DC (Gerel)  
 March 28-29<sup>th</sup> NEIWPC's All Staff meeting (All NBEP staff)  
 April 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee meeting in Fall River, MA (Radcliffe, Gerel)  
 April 4<sup>th</sup> Esri GIS User Seminar, Boston, MA (Bancroft)  
 April 10<sup>th</sup> RIRC meeting (Gerel)  
 April 10<sup>th</sup> Bryant University Student Visit (Bancroft, Gerel)  
 April 11<sup>th</sup> NBEP Grants Subcommittee meeting for SNEP Pre-Proposal review (Bancroft, Gerel, Schmidt)  
 April 12<sup>th</sup> Leadership Rhode Island, Government Day (Schmidt)  
 April 16<sup>th</sup> RI Sea Grant Lecture: Harmful Algal Blooms (Schmidt)  
 April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Hundred Acre Cove SNEP Project Team (Bancroft, Gerel)  
 April 23<sup>rd</sup> RAE SNEP Pre-Proposal review meeting (Gerel)  
 April 23<sup>rd</sup> RIEMC meeting (Gerel)  
 April 24<sup>th</sup> RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Meeting (Schmidt, Gerel)  
 April 24<sup>th</sup> Graphic Facilitation Workshop (Bancroft)  
 April 25-27<sup>th</sup> NEERS Meeting, York Harbor, ME (Schmidt)  
 April 29<sup>th</sup> Blackstone Watershed Workshop, Worcester, MA (Bancroft, Gerel, Schmidt)  
 April 30<sup>th</sup> SNEP Monitoring Workshop, Fall River, MA (Gerel, Schmidt)  
 April 30<sup>th</sup> RIDOT Road-Stream Crossing Manual Stakeholder meeting (Bancroft)  
 May 1<sup>st</sup> SNEP Ecosystem Services Workshop, Fall River, MA (Schmidt)  
 May 2<sup>nd</sup> NEIWPC EC&C meeting, Providence, RI (Gerel)  
 May 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting with URI Environmental Data Center, Kingston, RI (Gerel, Bancroft)  
 May 7<sup>th</sup> ANEP Board of Directors meeting (Gerel)  
 May 8<sup>th</sup> RIRC meeting (Gerel)  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> RTWN meeting (Gerel)  
 May 14<sup>th</sup> MassDEP public meeting on new DO Criteria (Schmidt)

May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Rhode Island, Basic Needs Day (Schmidt)
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Executive Committee Meeting in Providence (Radcliffe, Gerel)
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	EC4 meeting (Schmidt, Gerel)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	NBEP Grants Subcommittee for SNEP Full Proposals review (Gerel, Schmidt, Bancroft)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Meeting with Senator Whitehouse's Staff (Gerel)
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting with TNC RI staff (Gerel)
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	CARIS meeting (Gerel, Schmidt)
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with EPA NEP and SNEP staff (Radcliffe, Gerel)
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Bay Boat Tour with Save The Bay (Gerel)
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with All-Covered to discuss GIS Data migration to cloud server (Bancroft)
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Executive Committee meeting, Dighton, MA (Radcliffe, Gerel)
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	NBEP Steering Committee meeting, Worcester, MA (Gerel, Bancroft)
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Rhode Island, midpoint (Schmidt)
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	RTWN meeting (Bancroft)
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	SNEP Monitoring Subcommittee meeting (Schmidt)
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Rhode Island, Crime and incarceration (Schmidt)
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	RAE SNEP Full Proposal review meeting (Gerel)
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	SNEP Ecosystem Service Subcommittee meeting (Schmidt)