



**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**December 7, 2023**  
**10-11:30 AM**  
**Zoom**

# Agenda

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Shared via Zoom</b>	<b>Formal Committee Action Requested Today</b>	<b>Time</b>
Meeting Open	Caitlin Chaffee, Chair	Agenda	Approve October 2023 Executive Committee notes.	10:00
NBEP Quarterly Financial Report	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:05
Steering Committee Membership Update	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:10
Vision 2034 Update and Goals Framework	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:20
Draft NBEP Research Plan	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:50
2024 Meeting Dates	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	11:10
Committee Member Updates	Executive Committee	None.	None.	11:20
Adjourn Meeting	Caitlin Chaffee, Chair	None.	Adjourn meeting.	11:30

**Approve October 13, 2023  
Executive Committee Meeting Notes**

# NBEP Quarterly Financial Report

# Financials as of September 30, 2023

## NBEP Financials as of September 30, 2023

Category	Section 320 & SNEP Funds - FY2021 and FY2022 <sup>(1)</sup>				Section 320 & SNEP Funds - FY2023				BIL <sup>(2)</sup>				Program Income		Total Available				Notes
	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Awarded	Spent	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available to Spend	
Salary	\$860,038	\$601,365	\$601,365	\$258,673	\$463,257	\$0	\$0	\$463,257	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$1,323,295	\$601,365	\$601,365	\$721,930	FY23 budget is for 5 FTEs (Executive Director and Ecologist hires) and RWU interns; still have 8 months of salary in the bank
Fringe	\$278,259	\$133,869	\$133,869	\$144,390	\$169,458	\$0	\$0	\$169,458	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$447,717	\$133,869	\$133,869	\$313,848	
Travel	\$13,175	\$9,646	\$9,646	\$3,529	\$9,250	\$0	\$0	\$9,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$22,425	\$9,646	\$9,646	\$12,779	
Office Supplies	\$7,254	\$13,748	\$13,748	-\$6,494	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$22,754	\$14,248	\$14,248	\$9,006	
Contracts	\$116,200	\$34,426	\$67,938	\$48,262	\$45,734	\$4,725	\$4,725	\$41,009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$161,934	\$39,151	\$67,938	\$89,271	Vision 2034, non-RWU interns, community engagement, ANEP
Subawards	\$1,309,942	\$397,851	\$1,306,318	\$3,624	\$232,573	\$0	\$175,000	\$57,573	\$1,819,600	\$397,003	\$1,819,599	\$1			\$3,362,115	\$794,854	\$3,300,917	\$61,198	remaining amount for calendar year 2024 outreach awards
Meals	\$8,160	\$6,394	\$6,394	\$1,766	\$8,100	\$0	\$0	\$8,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$16,260	\$6,394	\$6,394	\$9,866	
Event Hosting	\$2,400	\$3,912	\$3,912	-\$1,512	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$5,500	\$5,512	\$5,512	\$1,588	
Prof Development	\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308	
Phone	\$11,128	\$10,599	\$10,599	\$529	\$4,776	\$0	\$0	\$4,776	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$15,904	\$10,599	\$10,599	\$5,305	
Printing	\$5,479	\$523	\$523	\$4,956	\$11,622	\$0	\$0	\$11,622	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$17,101	\$523	\$523	\$16,578	
Advertising	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500	
Registration Fees	\$1,250	\$2,822	\$2,822	-\$1,572	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$4,650	\$3,722	\$3,722	\$1,828	
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$2,618,000</b>	<b>\$1,215,361</b>	<b>\$2,157,340</b>	<b>\$460,660</b>	<b>\$964,070</b>	<b>\$4,725</b>	<b>\$179,725</b>	<b>\$784,345</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$397,003</b>	<b>\$1,819,599</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$5,404,670</b>	<b>\$1,620,090</b>	<b>\$4,154,939</b>	<b>\$1,248,006</b>	
<b>Indirect</b>	<b>\$169,151</b>	<b>\$117,416</b>	<b>\$107,980</b>	<b>\$61,171</b>	<b>\$135,930</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$135,930</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$305,081</b>	<b>\$117,416</b>	<b>\$107,980</b>	<b>\$197,101</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,787,151</b>	<b>\$1,332,777</b>	<b>\$2,265,320</b>	<b>\$521,831</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,725</b>	<b>\$920,275</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$397,003</b>	<b>\$1,819,599</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$5,709,751</b>	<b>\$1,737,505</b>	<b>\$4,262,919</b>	<b>\$1,445,107</b>	

(1) Includes all Section 320 and SNEP monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2021 and FY2022. FY2023 is a **NEW** award that will be tracked separately.

(2) Includes all BIL monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2022 and FY2023.

(3) Total Encumbered includes all funds that have been spent OR obligated to a specific external party via our workplan and/or formal agreement. These funds may not have been fully spent yet, but are not available for other purposes.

# Steering Committee Membership Update

# NBEP Steering Committee Membership Update

<b>NBEP Steering Committee members with terms expiring in 2023</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Attendance since Dec '22</b>
Colleen Brown	Conservation Agent	Town of Swansea, MA	Do not reappoint	1 out of 4 mtgs
Stefanie Covino	Blackstone Watershed Manager	Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, Clark University	Reappoint	2 out of 4 mtgs (alternates sent)
Allison Hamel	Principal Environmental Scientist	RI Department of Transportation	Reappoint	3 out of 4 mtgs
Hillary King	Central Regional Coordinator	MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program	Reappoint	All mtgs
Alicia Lehrer	Executive Director	Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	Reappoint	2 out of 4 mtgs (alternates sent)
Conor McManus	Deputy Chief	RIDEM Marine Fisheries	Reappoint	2 out of 4 mtgs
Dave Monti	Charter Boat Captain, Author	No Fluke Fishing	Reappoint	4 out of 4 mtgs
Karla Sangrey	Engineer-Director/Treasurer	Upper Blackstone Clean Water	Reappoint	4 out of 4 mtgs
Topher Hamblett	Executive Director	Save The Bay	Reappoint	3 out of 3 mtgs (appointed in March 2023)

Overall: 17 Rhode Island-centric, 10 Massachusetts-centric, 0 Connecticut-centric

# Vision 2034 Writing Update and Goals Framework



# Vision 2034 Writing Update

- List of Actions is relatively final (total = 35)
- In process of writing final Action drafts
  - NBEP staff
  - Mike Gerel hired as short-term consultant (\$8,250) through spring 2024 specifically to write 17 Actions
- 41N Magazine Spring 2024 issue in development
  - Photographer, six writers hired and working on Vision 2034 stories:
    - Community engagement on Blackstone River dams
    - “Human infrastructure” / people as key to conservation
    - Urban waters with a focus on flooding
    - Changes in Narragansett Bay – focus on NBEP-funded seaweed work, Providence River fisheries work
    - Wildlife story
    - Freshwater public access

# Vision 2034 Action List (n = 35)



Actions to address public engagement, information availability, governance, and funding

## PEOPLE

- Engagement Plan
- Convening
- Research Plan
- Indicators
- Monitoring Clearinghouse
- Cultural Knowledge
- Models
- Science Communication Tools
- Shared Goals
- Policy
- Accountability
- Funding People
- Funding Projects



Actions to address nonpoint source pollution, point source pollution, and sea level rise and flooding

## WATER

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Stormwater Management
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Stormwater Maintenance
- Trash and Marine Debris
- Centralized Wastewater Treatment
- Onsite Wastewater Systems
- Combined Sewer Overflows
- Climate Resilience Planning
- Climate Resilience Projects



Actions to address estuarine living resources, freshwater living resources, and watershed living resources

## HABITATS & WILDLIFE

- Estuarine Habitat Plans
- Estuarine Habitat Projects
- Freshwater Connectivity
- Freshwater Restoration Plans
- Freshwater Habitat Projects
- Upland Habitats
- Land Use / Smart Growth
- Biodiversity



Actions to address public access and public health

## PUBLIC SPACES

- Water Access
- Green Space Access
- Pathogens
- Harmful Algae

# Draft Action Plan Format

1-3 word title	Full Action Name
<b>Action Description</b>	
Action Type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-Building <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring
NBEP Steering Committee Experts	
NBEP Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Support
Action Location (75 words)	
Action Description and Statement of Need (350 words)	▼

Version 1.11, last modified October 2023

**Activities**

Activity description (50 words each)	Implementation timeline (S, M, L)	Estimated Costs	Potential Funding Sources

**Implementation Metrics**

Outputs	Bulleted list
Outcomes	Bulleted list
Impacted State of the Watershed Indicator(s)	List

**References**

Related Plans and Programs	
Literature	

Version 1.11, last modified October 2023

NBEP will work with a designer for the final format - this draft version shows content only.

# Vision 2034: Proposed approval process

January &  
February 2024

- Meetings with implementing partners to review Actions
- Will send Action drafts in advance for partner review
- Mainly seeking key tasks that partners plan to take on within the Actions

March 2024

- Proposed joint meeting of NBEP committees to review Action drafts and discuss goals and targets framework

April & May  
2024

- Required public comment period for full document

June 2024

- Steering Committee approval of final Vision 2034 draft
- Submission to EPA for concurrence

**Questions, Feedback on Proposed  
Vision 2034 Drafting and Approval Process?**

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

- Aim to connect Vision 2034 with Status and Trends Report and adopt a framework of shared goals, objectives, and targets within Vision 2034 to tell the story of our partnership's plans to achieve our vision
- Developed in response to April 2023 Vision 2034 Subcommittee meeting and Coastwise Partners interviews with Steering Committee and SAC members (refer to summary of 4/12/23 meeting)
- NBEP role
  - Regional, partnership-based, non-regulatory organization with consistent funding to enable long-term commitment
  - Aligns with our key services of convening and science communication

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

NBEP proposes to convene a March 2024 meeting to discuss topics and research needs to create a limited number of regional shared, quantifiable, time-bound **targets** to develop over the next 10 years.

*For example:*

Goal	Objective	Target	Supporting Vision 2034 Actions	Related Status & Trends Indicators
Reduce Water Pollution to Improve Habitat	Estuarine water quality supports healthy aquatic life.	By _____, water quality in ___ percent of estuarine waters assessed by states is adequate to support healthy aquatic life.	Estuarine Habitat Plans, Estuarine Habitat Projects, Biodiversity	Water Quality Conditions for Aquatic Life, Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity, Chlorophyll

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

Goal	Objective(s)
Develop and Fund Leaders and Organizations	<p>People and organizations with agency to act have increased capacity to address environmental issues in their communities.</p> <p>Local environmental projects are adequately funded to reach their objectives.</p> <p>Training opportunities for jobs in environmental fields are available to local students and community members.</p> <p>NBEP committee membership reflects the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of people living within the watershed.</p>
Obtain and Synthesize Data Necessary to Inform Decisions and Adaptation	<p>Relevant data and information for management and adaptation are collected, analyzed and synthesized in publicly-accessible formats.</p>
Reduce Water Pollution to Improve Public Health	<p>Estuarine waters are safe for swimming.</p> <p>Lakes, ponds and streams in the watershed are safe for designated recreational uses.</p> <p>Shellfish harvest areas are open.</p>
Reduce Water Pollution to Improve Habitat	<p>Estuarine water quality supports healthy aquatic life.</p> <p>Water quality in the watershed supports healthy aquatic life.</p>
Advance Sustainable Land Use and Watershed Protection	<p>Landscapes protect residents and infrastructure from floodwaters.</p> <p>Nutrient loadings to the Bay are maintained at levels that are protective of living resources.</p>
Restore Habitat Connectivity, Function, and Resilience	<p>Rivers and streams allow anadromous fish passage to historic spawning areas.</p> <p>Coastal salt marshes are resilient to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Forested areas and open space with high ecological integrity are protected.</p> <p>Increased seagrass acres support fish and wildlife dependent upon them.</p>
Support Climate-Adapted Wildlife	<p>Biodiversity is monitored, cataloged, and incorporated into management and policies.</p>
Provide Equitable Access to Benefits of Natural Resources	<p>Urban heat islands are reduced.</p> <p>All watershed residents and visitors have access to the shore.</p> <p>All watershed residents and visitors have access to rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.</p> <p>All watershed residents and visitors have access to green spaces in the watershed.</p>



# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

In April 2023, the Vision 2034 Subcommittee meeting participants prioritized these ten topics as prime (timely, needed, feasible) for setting quantifiable targets over the next 10 years:

1. Estuary living resources
2. Nonpoint source pollution
3. Public access
4. Point source pollution
5. Wildlife
6. Governance
7. Freshwater living resources
8. Sea Level Rise & Flooding
9. Public & Partner Engagement
10. Information and storytelling

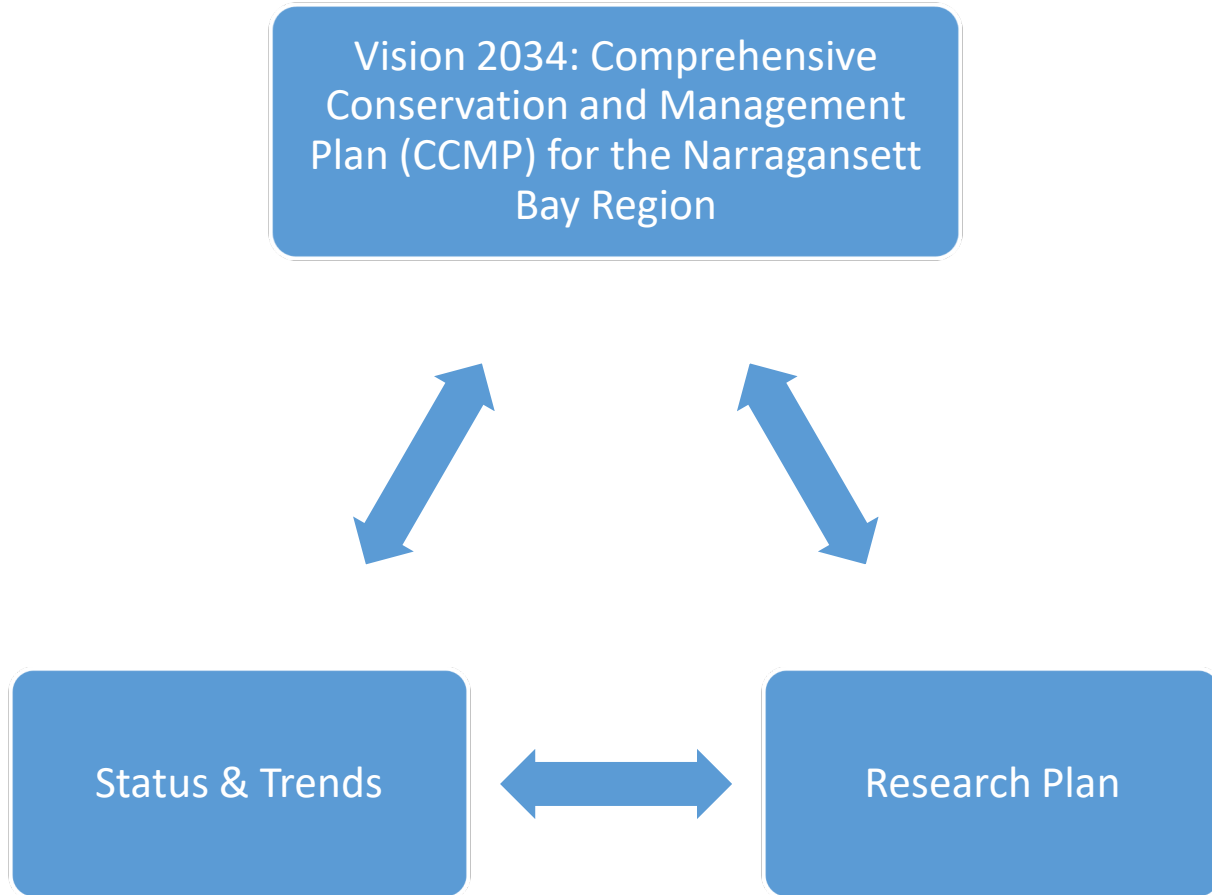
# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

- Proposed timeline for target development
  - March 2024: Joint EC, SC, SAC Meeting
    - Partners to advise on data availability, relevant partner goals and plans, and other factors that will influence target development.
    - Committees to choose topics and determine data and research needs for target development and determine a rough timeline for developing the targets.
  - 2024-2034
    - NBEP convenes meetings as needed to develop targets and a framework for tracking and communicating about progress.

**Questions, Feedback?**

# Draft NBEP Research Plan

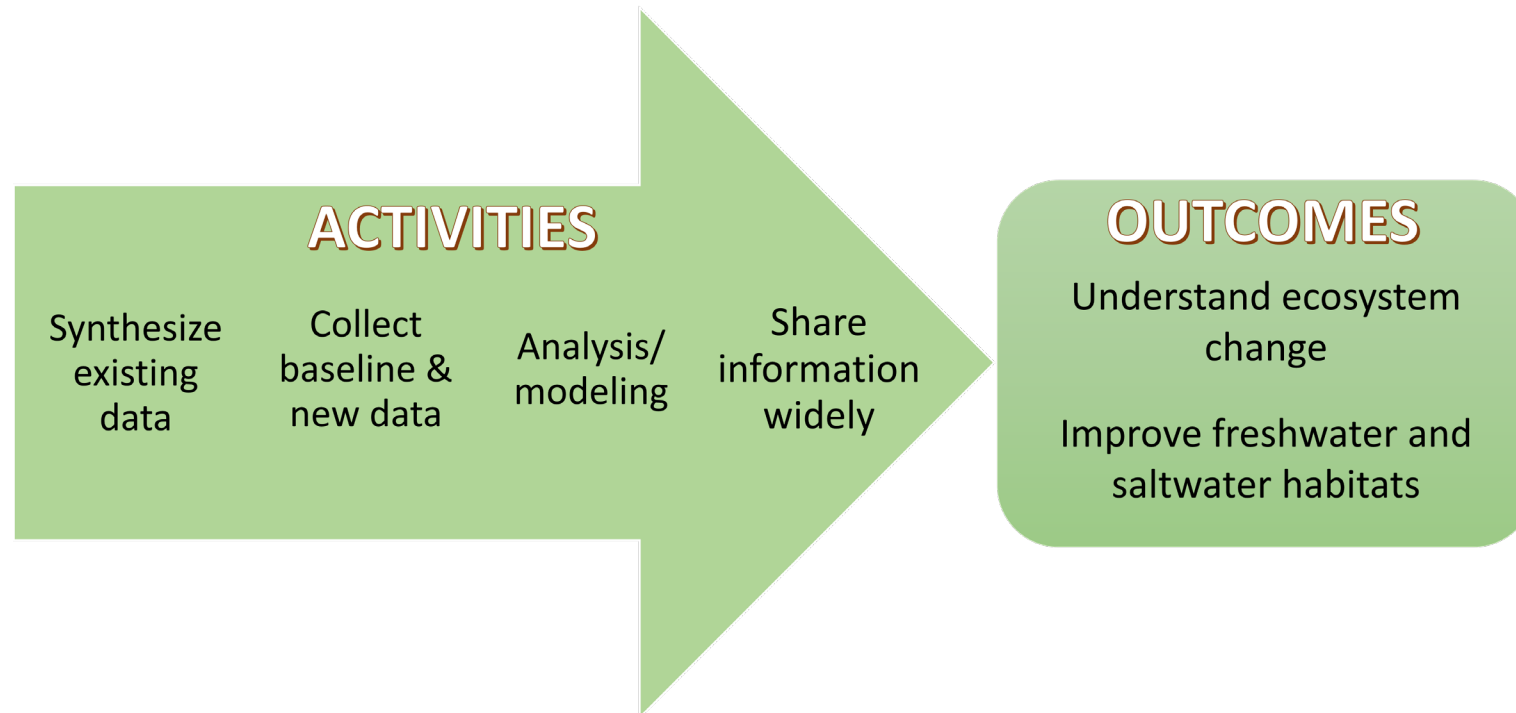
# Research Plan in relation to NBEP core documents



- **Vision 2034 (CCMP)** is the set of actions taken by the partnership in a 10-year period to progress toward shared goals with corresponding quantifiable and time-bound targets
- **Status & Trends** indicators track ecosystem stressors and conditions associated with shared goals
- **Research Plan** fills gaps in knowledge, identifies where more information is needed to develop and track indicators/targets, and provides a framework for better understanding social-ecological processes. (“Checks the box” for EPA-required Monitoring Plan.)

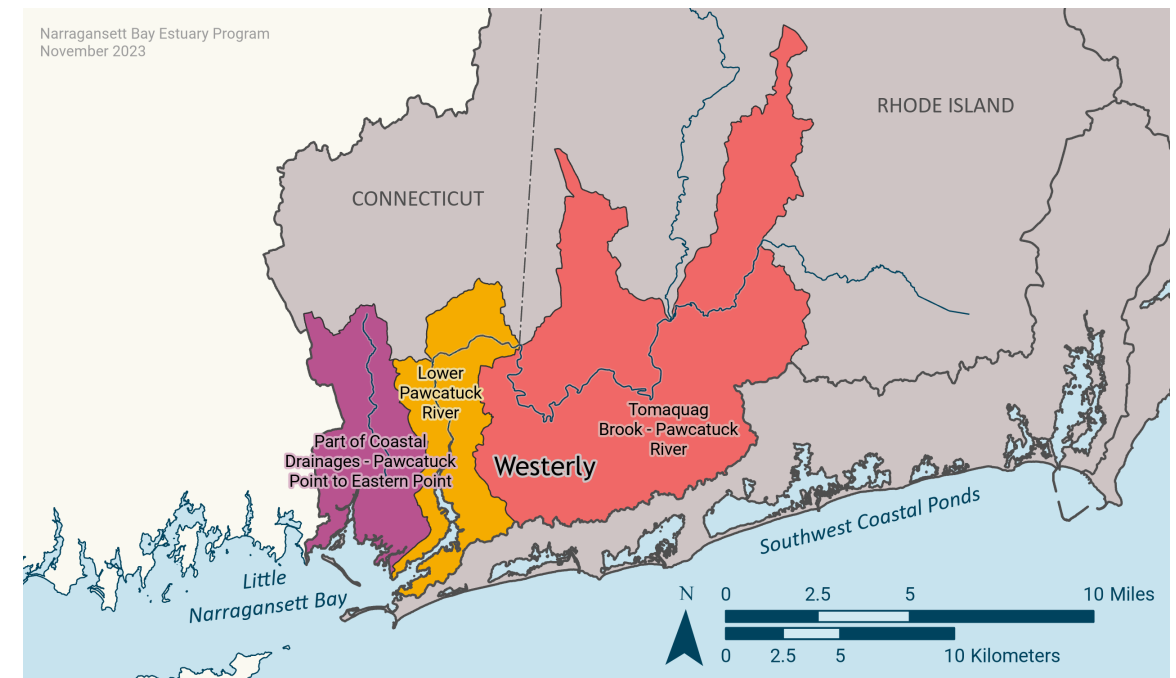
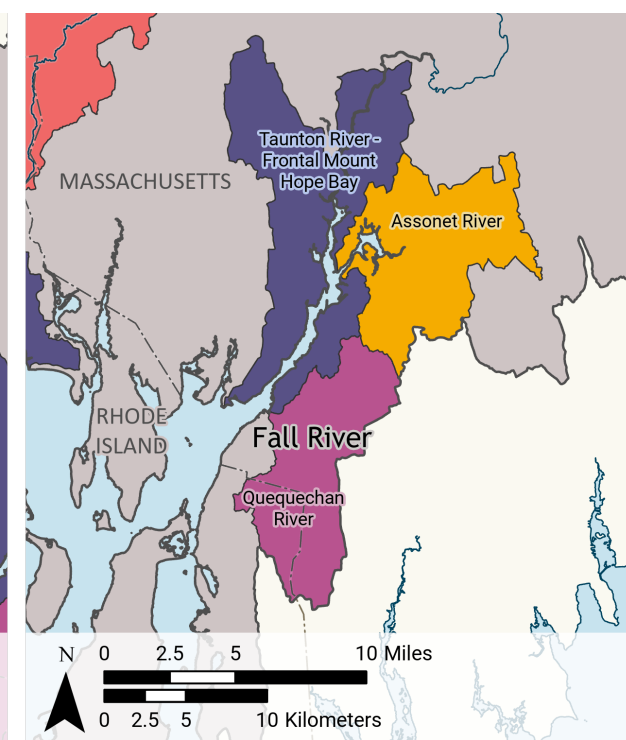
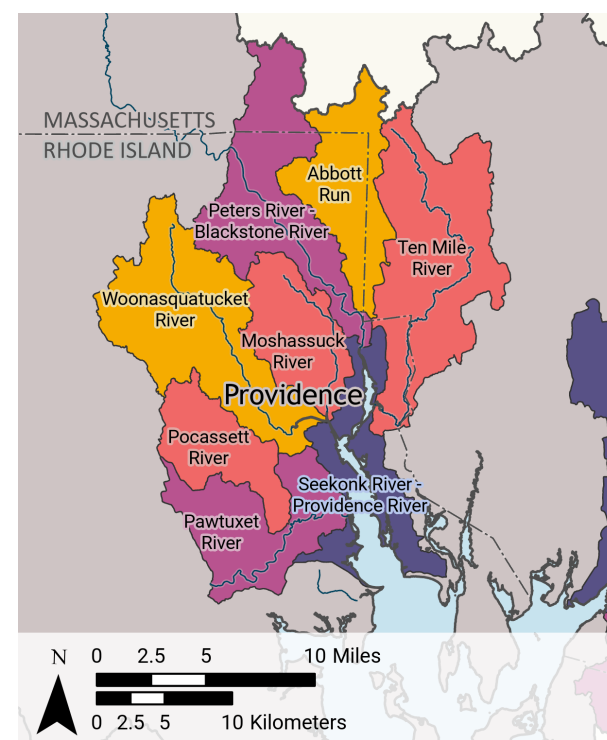
# NBEP's 1<sup>st</sup> Long-Term Research Plan

- Stemmed from 2017 Status and Trends “data gaps and research needs” and Winter-Spring 2023 Science Advisory Committee conversations and meeting
- Intends to direct limited funds, capacity, and time to priority, gap-filling, local research to address complex questions impacting the region’s water, wildlife, and quality of life

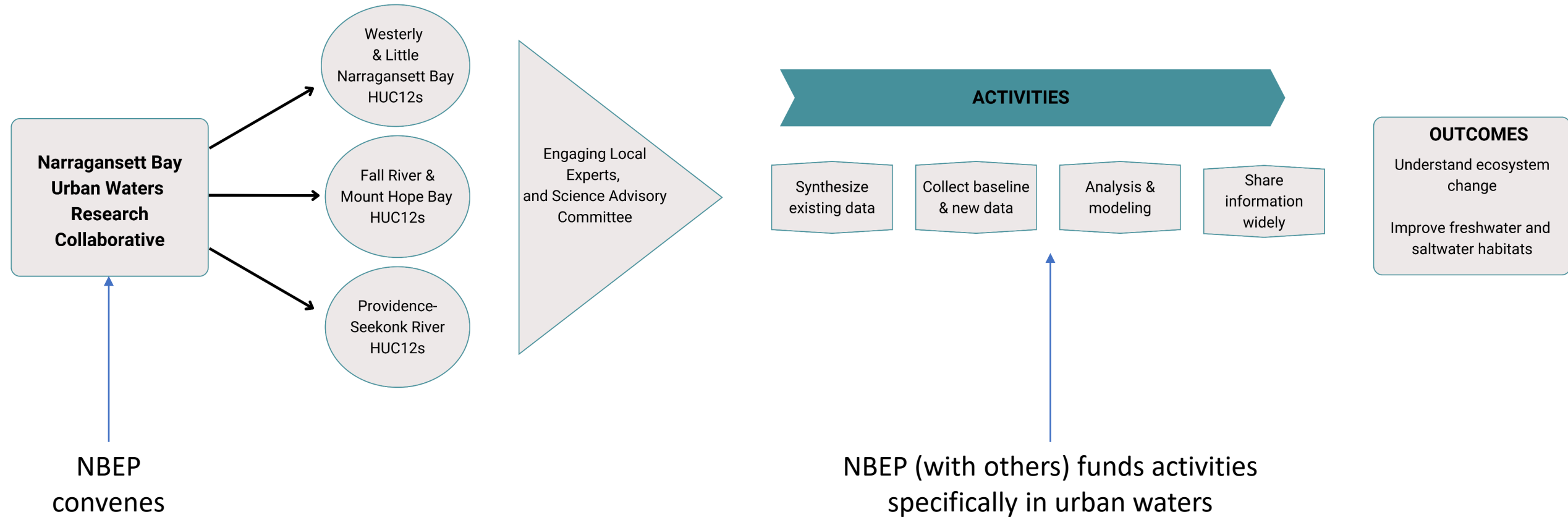


# Urban Waters Research Collaborative

- Focuses work on urban waters, where significant water quality management actions have taken place and are ongoing
  - Providence-Seekonk Rivers (706,667 people, 46% Underserved)
  - Fall River & Mount Hope Bay (118,488 people, 47% Underserved)
  - Westerly & Little Narragansett Bay (38,470 people, 17% Underserved)
- Makes strategic use of limited research funds
- Provides partners with an opportunity to explore interdisciplinary research in one space
- Works towards fully understanding the human-ecosystem dynamic



# Research Plan Structure





# Proposed Next Steps for Research Plan

- Establish collaborations and expand partnerships for Urban Waters Research Collaborative
  - Providence-Seekonk first followed by Fall River (Mount Hope Bay) and Westerly (Little Narragansett Bay) in upcoming years
- Literature Reviews for all geographies
  - To be conducted by NBEP and intern(s)
- FY2024 RFP (\$50-\$100,000) for synthesis activities in Providence-Seekonk
  - SAC to provide additional input on RFP topics

**Questions, Feedback?**

# 2024 NBEP Meeting Dates

# Proposed 2024 NBEP Meetings

	<b>Executive Committee 1-2:30pm, Zoom</b>	<b>Steering Committee 10am-12:30pm, Hybrid</b>	<b>Proposed Meeting Business and Activities</b>
Meeting 1	February 13	March 14 10am-4pm, joint with SAC	Vision 2034 Action drafts review, target topics development, FY2024 320 + SNEP workplan ideas
Meeting 2	May 14	June 13	Vision 2034 approval, FY2024 320 + SNEP workplan approval
Meeting 3	August 13	September 12	
Meeting 4	November 12	December 12	Steering Committee member elections

## Other 2024 meeting business (timing uncertain) and possible activities

- BIL Years 3-5: discussion of plans, workplan development
- RFP(s)

**Questions, Feedback?**

# Reminder: NBEP Project Updates in Bimonthly Newsletter

- November 2023 highlights
  - Seagrass Indicator update for Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and the Rhode Island Coastal Salt Ponds
  - NBEP's new northern diamondback terrapin StoryMap highlights local conservation successes
  - NBEP awards \$748,822 for habitat restoration and public access project planning



## November 2023 Announcements

We hope you've enjoyed reading NBEP News this year. This is our last newsletter for 2023. We wish you a safe and festive season and look forward to returning to your inbox in January. Looking for past editions? Visit the [NBEP News Archive](#) on our website. As always, if you have suggestions for NBEP News, please respond to this email.

Warm wishes from your partners at NBEP (Courtney, Darcy, and Mariel).

## Join our team! NBEP hiring Executive Director



Roger Williams University (RWU) seeks candidates for the Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). Responsible for leading and ensuring the efficient and fiscally responsible operation of NBEP, the Executive Director provides overall program leadership, coordination, administration, and planning in cooperation with RWU personnel, the EPA Project Officer, NBEP committees, associated subcommittees, and other staff. A full position description is

# Executive Committee Member Updates

Thank you!

