

Executive Committee Meeting
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Room 200C1
February 19, 2019
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Conference line: **712-775-7031** Call in PIN: **853616**

AGENDA

1. **Chair's Report** **9:30am-9:45am**
Judith Swift, Coastal Institute, University of Rhode Island
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Approval of January 9, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - c. Upcoming committee meetings:
 - Executive Committee:
 - March 6, 2019—**9:30am-10:30am** at RI DEM, Room 340C
 - April 3, 2019—TBD
 - Steering Committee: March 6, 2019—**10:30am-2:30pm** at RI DEM, Room 300
 - Steering Committee: June 12, 2019—10:30am-2:30pm at TBD
2. **NBEP Going Forward** **9:45am-10:15am**
Mike Gerel, Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
 - a. The NBEP today
 - b. 'Initial' vision for NBEP in 2019 and beyond
 - c. Current view of priority tasks:
 - Connect with critical bi-state partners
 - Case statement
 - CCMP Revision committee and development plan
 - Finance plan
 - FY20 Work plan and budget
 - 2019 SNEP proposal selection
 - Grant writing
 - *Please consider: Priority for the above tasks and whether any are missing or should be removed.*
 - d. Executive Committee feedback and discussion
 - *Please consider: How can we "activate" Mike's vision, the State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Report, the science strategy, and the other tools-projects to advance CCMP goals and better market the Program.*
3. **Program Report Highlights** **10:15am-11:00am**
Mike Gerel, Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
 - a. Status of EPA cooperative agreements and upcoming amendments
 - EPA approved our plan to pursue a no-cost extension for 318 (FY15) and closeout of 326 (FY16)
 - FY19 application (work plan, budget) due to EPA in June 2019—request for match to support application will go out soon
 - b. Committee updates

- Science advisory committee—Synthesis manuscript nearing completion, Science strategy under review, and 1-2-page marking piece and SAC chair job description coming soon
- Grants subcommittee—NBEP SNEP RFP to be released this week, final report review ongoing
- Finance subcommittee—Mike will be working with Jonathan and the committee on the finance plan
- c. Blackstone Event update—April 29th in Worcester
 - Confirmed speakers: Janet Coit (RIDEM), Martin Suuberg (MassDEP), Ken Moraff (EPA)
 - Excellent February 11th planning meeting in Pawtucket with strong partner input and support—agenda to be revised (past, present, and future), recruiting speakers, and discussing how to appropriately obtain sponsors
- d. Habitat Restoration and Protection Mapping Tool
 - Eivy and Julia met with TNC-Boston to identify next steps for this local/basin-wide tool
 - TNC to collect data; QAPP to be submitted by end of the month to enable our use of data
 - Still exploring connections/synergy with RISD's StewMap project
- e. Data Management
 - Both Eivy and Julia completed training in a new ArcEnterprise and ArcPro software that will be used to organize and display data—plan is to have new tool functional in 2-3 weeks
 - Considering new long-term data management options with NEIWPC
 - Continuing to develop metadata for GIS data in technical report
- f. Photography
 - Considering utility and timing for pursuing an NBEP RFP
 - Mike suggested pursuing the International League of Conservation Photographers' Rapid Assessment Visual Expedition (RAVE) program to obtain nearly free high quality photos—used in Chesapeake Bay in 2010 <https://conservationphotographers.org/?expedition=chesapeake-bay-rave>
- g. On-the-Ground Project updates:
 - Save the Bay/NBEP Hundred Acre Cove Project
 - Eivy met with STB's team to start NBEP's tasks for this project, including creating a list of data needs and sources for GIS mapping purposes
 - Eivy reviewed pre-proposals and submitted letter of consistency for two funders of the MADER's High Street Dam Removal and Bridge Replacement
 - In the context of next year's work plan, discussing with EPA and other partners the viability of an expanded role for NBEP projects consistent with our habitat tool—stormwater is option
 - *Please consider: What we mean by 'expanded role in projects'—from continuum of general support to boots on-the-ground work—in the context of our mission, budget, etc.*
- h. Funding Opportunities
 - RAE's Upcoming SNEP RFP—expected to be released February 19th
 - NBEP has developed a spreadsheet to proactively capture and begin vetting grant writing opportunities to be pursued consistent with the forthcoming finance plan
 - *Please consider: Means to coordinate with EPA, NEIWPC, and partners in the region to ensure proper use of 320 funds, avoid competition, and identify true gaps we can fill with additional grant writing*

4. **Other Announcements**

11:00am-11:15am

Executive Committee Members

- a. Committee Member announcements

5. **Action Items**

11:15am-11:30am

Mike Gerel, Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

- a. Note key action items captured during the meeting