

An underwater photograph of a bay estuary. The water is dark and slightly murky, with light filtering through from above, creating a dappled effect on the seabed. In the foreground, there are green seagrass plants growing from a rocky and pebbly bottom. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting

April 8, 2021

NBEP Host Tentative Timeline

- February 18 – EC meeting; EC supports search for NBEP host
- April 1 NBEP SC meeting – Steering Committee approves ad hoc search committee
- EPA requests committee participants and drafts Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI)
- April 8 NBEP EC – finalizes Ad Hoc Committee, reviews early draft RSOI
- Late April/Early May – Release of RSOI
- Mid-June RSOI closes
- Early-July – hold interviews
- Mid July–decision recommended to EC/SC for approval, make announcement
- Workplan submission; make FY 21 grant award by September 30, 2021
- Concurrently work with NEIWPCC to transfer eligible funds to new host

NBEP Host Update for EC

- Ad hoc Committee
 - Current Members: Sue K. (RI, State), Bill N. (MA, Reg. Planning), Stefanie C. (MA, Municipality)
 - *Question*: Do we need to add 1-2 more? NGO and/or additional Rep from RI?
- Search Process
 - *Question*: Targeted? Open solicitation? Hybrid?
- Request for Statements of Interest to Host the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
 - *Questions*:
 - Letter format?
 - Who should send out request? EPA, EC (chair/vice-chair) or Ad Hoc committee?
 - Who should receive responses?
 - Should statements be evaluated on a rolling basis or a strict deadline

EPA FY21 NEP/SNEP Work Plan and Budget Preview

Proposed New Tasks

Task	Notes
1. Revise Guiding Principles.	Work with a consultant to revise our Guiding Principles to be more consistent with current best practice.
2. Develop Finance Plan.	Create simple adaptive plan to guide our grant writing and fundraising over the next few years.
3. Create and submit three proposals.	Seek non-EPA funding from public and private sources.
4. New annual science event.	Host a new “signature” event next spring, which will focus on a Narragansett Region science issue, ~100 attendees
5. NBEP retreat.	NBEP staff and committees meet for an off-site retreat.
6. Manage contracts?	Manage NBEP contracts if new host does not provide this service, or we decide it is best for staff to take this on.

EPA FY21 NEP/SNEP Work Plan and Budget Preview

Proposed New Subwards/Contracts

Expenditure	Rough Amount	Description
Subawards		
Watershed planning RFP	\$300,000	Subward of \$200K SNEP and \$100K NEP funds. <i>Want to put out single RFP with FY20 subward money also.</i>
Contracts		
Blackstone Coordinator position	\$30,000	Contract for additional funding to support this position.
Guiding Principles revision	\$5,000	Contract with Coastwise Partners to guide GP revision.
Annual Science event	\$10,000	Contracts to support in-person event.
Vision 2032 economic study	\$40,000	Contract expert(s) to assign value to Vision 2032/actions.
NBEP retreat	\$5,000	Travel, lodging, food, speaker stipend cost.
Other		
Cover unfulfilled FY20 budgeted obligations to staff	\$24,000	NEIWPCC staff must be employed on 12/31/21 to receive this year's 10% 403(b) annual employer contribution. This amount was built into NBEP's approved FY20 budget fringe rate for staff. Because NBEP will go to a new host on 10/1/21, staff understand they are not eligible to receive this contribution. However, staff seek compensation in FY21 from the new host equivalent to the employer contribution for the 9 months they worked under the FY20 budget. Staff would be able to invest these funds in their retirement (taxes would apply). <i>The process for pursuing this action per rules needs to be discussed the appropriate NBEP committee, EPA, and the new host.</i>

NBEP Funding Projections for October 1, 2021

- Roughly \$116K of FY19-FY20 funds staying at NEIWPCC—to be finalized by NEIWPCC and EPA

Projections	Rough Amount
FY20 funds to be transferred to new host Includes both NEP and SNEP monies	\$800K
FY21 award to new host Includes both NEP and SNEP monies	\$950K
Subtotal	\$1.75M
FY21 NBEP total budgeted expenditure [<u>max</u> to allow unspent number below] Includes entire \$800K left over from FY20 and \$590K of new FY21 award	\$1.39M
FY21 funds unspent on October 1, 2022 Equates to 9 months of salary/fringe	\$360K

- Unknowns to be determined:
 1. Final amount spent by NEIWPCC to complete their support for the program into EPA FY21.
 2. Final amount to be transferred from NEIWPCC to new host.
 3. New host indirect rate.
 4. Any additional staffing needs based on host selection or final work plan.
 5. Desired amount of salary/fringe to be left on October 1, 2021.

Mass Audubon Update

Member Update Round-Robin

Upcoming Meetings

- Blackstone Needs Assessment Project: April 14th, 1-3pm via Zoom
- Focal Area Work Group Meetings: May 2021 TBD
- Executive Committee Meeting: June 17th
- Steering Committee: June 24th