

Executive Committee Bimonthly Program Report

October 7, 2019



HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE AUGUST 4, 2019 REPORT

1. Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) finances [Update]
2. Committee leadership and expansion [Discussion during report]
3. New Cooperative Agreement approval [Update]
4. Guiding Principles revision [Discussion later this morning]
5. CCMP development [Update]
6. Shovel-ready restoration project solicitation [Update]
7. Grant writing [Update]
8. NEPORT submittal [Update]
9. Progress on external projects [Update]
10. Upcoming activities [Update]



I. MANAGING THE PROGRAM

1. Financials

- FY19 EPA Cooperative Agreement Approval. NBEP's FY19 agreement with EPA was awarded on August 15, 2019. While the "action" constituted by this agreement provides \$600,000 funding for NBEP for the coming year, this agreement covers a total of three years and up to a total of \$2.5 million through September 30, 2024. Annual actions will be required to obtain the funding authorized each year.
- FY18 Cooperative Agreement Work Plan Amendment. EPA approved Amendment #1 on August 19, 2019 that moves some SNEP funding to NBEP personnel/fringe to support the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project and deletes three tasks no longer being pursued.
- FY15 Cooperative Agreement Subward Amendment. NEIWPC approved an amendment to the Codiga project subward on August 7, 2019 to extend the term until June 30, 2020.

➤ NBEP's detailed funding status as of **October 7, 2019** is included in the table below.

FY15 (JCC: 318) 10/1/2015 - 9/30/2020	FY18 (JCC: 338) 10/1/2018 - 9/30/2022
Personnel and Fringe Balance	Personnel and Fringe Balance
\$0	\$414,473 (+\$149,250 for Blackstone Needs Assessment)
Subawards/Contracts Balances	Subawards/Contracts Balances
FY15 SNEP Subawards [\$5,071]	NBEP SNEP [\$606,000]—includes \$152,000 from FY15
E. Providence \$5,071	\$131,260—Watershed planning subawards
FY15 NBEP Research Subawards [\$36,382]	\$101,590 for Blackstone Needs Assessment subawards
Clean Ocean Access \$14,542	\$223,900 for Shovel-Ready Projects subawards
Pete August (split 318, 332) \$0	Project Support [\$5,000]
John King \$0	Open source availability for manuscript \$5,000
Dan Codiga \$21,840	Remaining NBEP Tasks Initiated in FY18
FY18 NBEP SNEP Subawards [\$152,000—see JCC:338]	Finance Plan
Remaining NBEP Tasks Initiated in FY15	Case Statement
None	CCMP Development
STATUS: The King and August projects have closed with final reports approved and invoices submitted. Clean Ocean Access is expected to submit a final report and invoice in October. A no cost extension was approved until 6/30/20 for East Providence and Codiga subawards.	(-Storymaps, Habitat tools, and Restoration strategy)
	STATUS: An amendment was approved on August 19, 2019 to move \$149,250 in SNEP subaward dollars to NBEP personnel and fringe as well as remove three FY18 tasks. This change will show in the 4 th Quarter financials.
FY16 (JCC: 326) 10/1/2016 - 9/30/2020	FY18 (JCC: 0100-324) 10/1/2018 - 3/31/2021
Complete.	Personnel and Fringe Balance
STATUS: Awaiting EPA approval of closure request.	\$14,563
FY17 (JCC: 332) 10/1/2017 - 9/30/2020	Subawards/Contracts Balances
Personnel and Fringe Balance	\$0
\$27,384	NBEP Tasks Initiated in FY18
Subawards/Contracts Balances	GIS support for Hundred Acre Cove Project
Research Grants [\$0]	STATUS: All data and Tier 1 maps have been provided to STB. Awaiting guidance from STB to inform our development of Tier 2 maps.
Pete August (\$0)	
Contracts [\$41,987]	FY19 (JCC: 0349) 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2020
URI STORMTOOLS \$26,964	Personnel and Fringe Balance
Communications support \$0	\$439,824
Watershed Counts Archive (\$0)	Subawards/Contracts Balances
Priority projects \$15,023	Research Grants [\$35,000]
New photos \$5,000	NBEP Tasks to Be Initiated Under FY19 Agreement
Other Priority Projects \$10,023	Individual Staff Work Plans
Remaining NBEP Tasks Initiated in FY17	SC Process and Membership Update
- STORMTOOLS expansion to Mt Hope and Taunton	Communications Strategy Addendum & Implementation
STATUS: Funds previously budgeted for contracts under 'Communications support' were moved within this JCC. \$4,724 was moved to URI STORMPOOLS to cover a higher contract compared to budget and \$7,523 was moved to 'Other Priority Projects' creating a new total of \$10,023 for future CCMP contract support.	Data Management Protocol
	Social Science Workshop
	STATUS: Expenditure of these funds will not begin until sometime in FY2020. Work on the Staff Work Plans, Committee Updates, and the Data Protocol have begun.



Any questions on the NBEP's current financials? Feedback or questions on format?

2. Staffing

- *New Chair/Vice-Chair.* The need for new Steering Committee leadership has been discussed at NBEP committee meetings since June. Judith Swift and Nick Wildlife have each asked to step down. Several existing Committee members have been asked about assuming a leadership role, but all have declined. Since the Executive Committee last met, we have had one nomination and a few new ideas. Jim Boyd with CRMC suggested his colleague Caitlin Chafee as a potential Vice-Chair at the September Steering Committee meeting, and this was broadly supported by the group. Subsequently Sue Kiernan has suggested Liz Scott (formerly of RIDEM) or Russ Chateaufneuf of Horsley Witten Group (also formerly of DEM).
- *New Steering Committee Members.* For several months, NBEP and its committees have been discussing adding new Steering Committee members from interests not currently represented on the Committee. The FY19 Work Plan includes a specific task to update the Committee. Mike has pursued member cultivation in earnest over the last six months and we now have a Google document populated with ideas (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yh5sKSgEp6Z455fQ5yGWTsW23Vsna2QHr4oUCnsNs8A/edit#gid=0>). A handout of the current spreadsheet is provided today. Additional members, particularly those from the fishing, municipal government, and environmental justice communities are desired. Mike will bring a slate of new members to the December Executive Committee meeting for consideration for advancement to the Steering Committee.
- *Julia Bancroft % Time.* Julia will remain 100% FTE through November, and then will assume an 80%-time schedule for the remainder of FY2020 pending raising additional funds.



Any feedback on Chair/Vice-Chair and new Steering Committee members in the spreadsheet. Other ideas?

3. Organizational Governance and Planning

- *Guiding Principles Revision.* Mike has prepared a revised version of NBEP's Guiding Principles as a follow-up to the August Executive Committee meeting. The need for a new "official" NBEP document was to achieve consistency with current practice, address changes to the program's governance already suggested by NBEP committees, and provide some modest new text that will greatly assist with grant writing to help meet the EPA 2018 Program Evaluation edict that NBEP expand and diversify its funding. While several options were discussed (bylaws, principles revision, new resolution), Mike felt revising the Guiding Principles in the manner presented was the best option as doing so achieves all the needs above in the simplest manner and their revision is required this year. Thus, provided for Executive Committee for discussion today is a track-changes revision to the 2016 document, a clean copy not showing changes, and a table that describes the revision and why it

was included. Mike's hope is to bring a final version of the revision to the December Executive Committee for consideration for advancement to the Steering Committee.

- *Office Space.* A new MOA between RIDEM and NEIWPC covering office space through September 30, 2023 as fully executed on September 20, 2019.
- *Program Director partner engagement.* Mike continues to meet with NBEP committee members and key partners at a rate of about (2) two per week to increase the visibility of NBEP and cultivate new partners. Some highlights during this period included Stefanie Covino, City of Worcester; Kate Michaud, City of Warren; Pallavi Mande, Charles River Watershed Association; Shaun O'Rourke, RI Resilience Director/RI Infrastructure Bank; Leah Bamberger, City of Providence Sustainability Director; Alice Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council; Sue AnderBois, City of Providence, Director Food Strategy; and Amy Moses, Conservation Law Foundation.



A discussion of the Revised Guiding Principles will take place following this program report.

4. Committee Updates

- *Steering Committee.* NBEP held a very productive meeting on September 11, 2019. Notable parts of the meeting were a presentation from Emi Uchida with URI on the results of the new *Narragansett Bay Watershed Economy Project–The Ebb and Flow of Natural Capital*; a group process to take committee input on proposed new NBEP vision, mission, and intentions; and a demonstration of some new NBEP mapping skills and work products. The next Steering Committee meeting is December 4th in Providence.
- *CCMP Subcommittee.* NBEP also held a very constructive second meeting of the CCMP Subcommittee on September 19, 2019. Key sessions included presentations from Curtis Bohlen with the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and Pam DiBona with the Mass Bays National Estuary Program; a presentation of the governance, capabilities, and CCMP approach of 15 other NEPs; a assessment of what high priority actions in the 2012 CCMP were completed; a presentation of eight key elements of the draft CCMP development framework; and lastly a brainstorm of organizations/individuals that we should seek to join the group. The CCMP Subcommittee's next meeting is November 18th in Providence.
- *Grants Subcommittee.* The Grants Subcommittee met on September 30, 2019 to review proposals in response to NBEP's Request for Quotations (RFQ) for use of remaining SNEP funds shovel-ready watershed restoration projects. Roughly \$224k is available. Five excellent proposals were submitted for a total of \$317K. All five projects were scored, discussed, and a consensus recommendation discussed to award three projects full funding, and one project at half their request. The following projects were awarded for a total of \$223,900 (includes NEIWPC indirect) and are currently in contracting with NEIWPC:

- Aquidneck Island Planning Commission–Wet Vegetated Treatment Systems [RI]--\$100,000
- Mill Cove Causeway Project, Land Conservancy of North Kingstown [RI]--\$5,000
- Armory Village Green Infrastructure Project, Town of Millbury [MA]--\$75,000
- Salt Marsh Adaptation Projects, Save The Bay [RI]–partial funding--\$25,000

All projects must be complete by June 30, 2020, thus we will for sure spend down the \$152K from the failed City of West Warwick project that expires on that date.

5. Grant Writing

- *General.* As a general FYI, NBEP will target grant writing in FY2020 toward the following priorities:
 - Making the Environmental Analyst I position full time for FY2020 and beyond.
 - Increasing the amount of EPA dollars that NBEP can pass through for external research, planning, and restoration projects leading up to the CCMP release in 2022.
 - Supporting additional training and professional development for staff in line with CCMP work.
- *Draft Finance Plan.* Mike has now completed background research on other NEPs and similar organizations, fiscal sponsorship, and potential funding targets and has completed about 50% of a draft finance plan. His plan is to provide a draft to Jonathan Stone at STB for review this fall and a final draft to this Committee early next year. Note that this task was intentionally delayed in favor of completing the Guiding Principles Revision, which is viewed as essential adjunct to the finance plan.



II. BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

No NBEP hosted workshops or other formal convenings beyond the NBEP committees noted in Section I and outreach/professional development noted in Section IV of this document were completed.



III. SYNTHESIZING AND MANAGING DATA

- *Synthesis Manuscript.* The Technical Report Synthesis Manuscript titled, A synthesis of adaptive management case studies from Narragansett Bay emphasizing implementation of the U.S. Clean Water Act, was submitted to the journal Environmental Management on September 27, 2019. All told NBEP received and considered nearly 20 sets of detailed

comments on various drafts of this manuscript. We hope to find out whether it will be published in a month or so. Kudus to Courtney for this important milestone!

- *NEPORT Reporting.* NBEP's annual NEPORT report of funding leveraged and habitat restored/projected was submitted on September 9th. A total of \$4,000,931 of leverage and 35 acres of habitat were included. Thank you to Courtney for leading the compilation and everyone for your patience and response to this request. In the future, we hope to work with EPA to find a data collection approach under ICR Reference # 201705-2040-001 that is more efficient and less burdensome for our partners.
- *NBEP GIS Infrastructure Upgrade.* Julia and Julia have continued to make excellent progress re-organizing and cleaning up NBEP's GIS data files. Metadata development taking place concurrently with these upgrades. Julia Twichell is also developing a data portal to make our data conveniently available. Initial roll-out of the first sets of data via the portal is expected by the end of the calendar year.
- *Expand STORMTOOLS in Massachusetts.* A final contract for this work is with URI's financial staff for signature. The plan is for URI's Environmental Data Center and Graduate School of Oceanography to begin in October and completed by Spring 2020.
- *NBEP Grants Map.* Julia Bancroft completed a GIS map of the NBEP funded projects from 1988 to 2019 that are associated with a specific location. Major subbasins are represented, projects are color-coded by project type, and can be viewed by decade to screen out older data.



IV. SHARING INFORMATION

- Below is a list of NBEP's outreach efforts since the August 8th Executive Committee meeting. NBEP staff continue to be deeply engaged with partners via meeting, presentations, and trainings across the Narragansett Bay region.
 - August 9th Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (Twichell)
 - August 9th RI River Councils meeting (Bancroft)
 - August 14th RI Rivers Council Summer Meeting (Twichell)
 - August 15th RI Woodlands Partnership Urban Forest Tour (Twichell)
 - August 20th Shaun O'Rourke, Rhode Island Chief Resilience Officer/RI Infrastructure Bank (Gerel)
 - August 21st EPA Atlantic Ecology Division (AED), Environmental Justice focus group (Twichell)
 - August 21st Leadership Rhode Island, Defense (Schmidt)
 - August 22nd EPA Region 1 and AED Providence Port workgroup conference call (Twichell)
 - Sept 4th SNEP Monitoring meeting (Schmidt)
 - Sept 4th New England Estuary Research Society call (Schmidt)
 - Sept 5th Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Gerel)
 - Sept 6th Leah Bamberger, Director of Sustainability, City of Providence (Gerel)
 - Sept 14th Providence Ports and Environmental Justice meeting (Twichell)
 - Sept 13th Climate Adaptation and Resilience Sharing Information Group meeting (Gerel)
 - Sept 17-18 Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Coastal Zone Training in DC (Gerel)

- Sept 18th Leadership Rhode Island (Schmidt)
- Sept 25th Chesapeake Bay–Narragansett Bay Leadership Exchange in Newport (Gerel)
- Sept 26th NEIWPCCC Tech Transfer Call (Schmidt, Twichell, Bancroft)
- Sept 26th Mapping and Understanding Heat Health Vulnerability Webinar (Twichell, Bancroft)
- Sept 27th RI Infrastructure Bank Summit (Gerel)
- Oct 1-3 ANEP Technical Transfer Workshop (Gerel, Schmidt)
- Oct 4th Senator Whitehouse RI Energy and Water Summit (Gerel)
- Oct 8th Stefanie Covino, City of Worcester, (Gerel)



V. SUPPORTING EXTERNAL PROJECTS

- *EPA ORD Story Maps Pilot.* NBEP and EPA ORD have completed a very strong final draft Story Map based on the Population and Land Use chapters developed by EPA ORD for the technical report that flows from education to a connection to our CCMP update. We expect the piece to be complete and posted to our website in November. Applause to the Julia's for turning this into a truly useful work product that can inform our future use of similar tools.
- *Mapping for Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC).* Julia Twichell has been assisting the WRWC with some watershed mapping to be used for public signage and consulting on a Story Map project that are pursuing with high school children. WRWC is a very well-regarding and successful organization and we have high hopes for partnering with them further.
- *FY19 Planning Projects.* Scopes of work and contracts with NEIWPCCC are now in place for all five planning project awarded earlier this year with SNEP funds.
- *FY19 Shovel-Ready Watershed Restoration Projects.* See Section I, Committee Updates for the status of these external on-the-ground projects funded with SNEP funds.
- *NBEP SNEP Funding.* NBEP has now allocated all SNEP funds it holds across 9 projects (5 planning and 4 restoration).
- *FY17 NBEP and SNEP Projects.* Projects from East Providence (Sabin Point Park Stormwater Improvement Project), Clean Ocean Access Marine Beaches Bacteria Project), and Dan Codiga (*Analysis and Synthesis of Bay Oxygen, Chlorophyll and Temperature Data*) are progressing and on target for completion by June 30, 2020.



VI. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Priority staff activities for the next two months:

Gerel	Schmidt	Bancroft	Twichell
Committee meeting notes and follow-up	2020 indicator update	Support CCMP update and Blackstone assessment	GIS database redesign and metadata
Finance Plan	November SAC meeting		Data portal development
Next CCMP meet design	CERF presentation	Data organization support and metadata	2020 indicator update
Blackstone project kick-off	Complete Leadership RI	Website tweaks	Explore new projects
Partner Outreach		EJ org research	

- Upcoming NBEP Committee meetings:
 - Executive Committee: December 4th, 8:00am-10:00am, Location TBD [Date and time change]
 - Steering Committee: December 4th, 10:00am-2:00pm, Location TBD
 - CCMP Subcommittee: November 18th, 10:00am-3:00pm, RIDEM, Room 300 Providence RI