



NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Executive Committee Meeting
August 9, 2022

Agenda

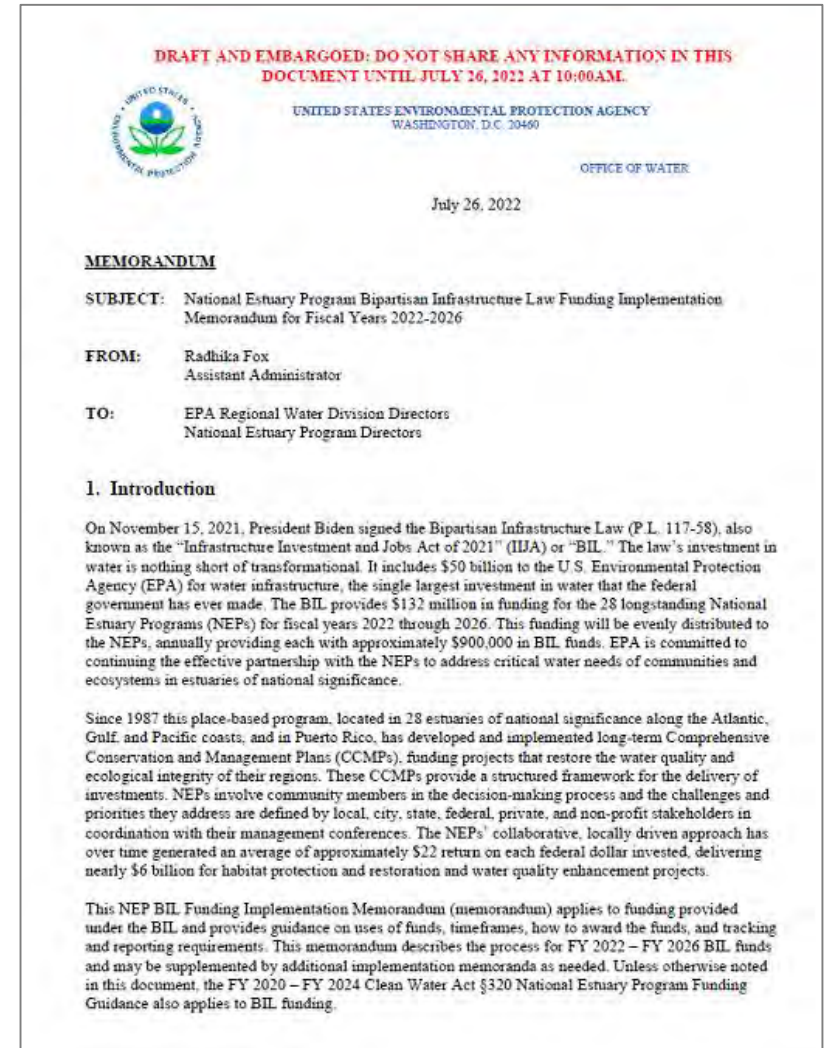
Subject	Presenter(s)	Shared via Zoom	Formal Committee Action Requested Today	Time
Meeting Open	Regina Lyons, Vice Chair	Agenda	Approve June notes.	10 min
Final FY2022 BIL Workplan & Budget	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	Consider sending Final BIL Workplan and Budget to Steering Committee for approval via email.	30 min
Quarterly Program Report	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	None.	20 min
Public Comment / Break				5 min
Committee Member Updates	Committee members	None	None.	20 min
FY2021 Funds Re-Budget Discussion	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	Provide input on best use of unspent FY2021 funds.	30 min
Meeting Close	Courtney Schmidt, NBEP	None	None.	5 min

Decision #1

Does the Executive Committee approve
the June 6, 2022 meeting notes?

Final NBEP BIL Workplan and Budget

- EPA BIL guidance released July 26th
- NBEP's BIL Workplan and Budget provisionally approved consistent with guidance
- No match requirement for Years 1 and 2
- Only change is the award will now include 2 years of BIL funding (*changes in yellow in docs*)
 - Workplan includes a new objective/task to use an RFP to subaward all Year 2 funding (\$909,857) for projects
 - Budget now is \$1,891,714, covering Year 1 and 2



New Objective 4, Task 4a

barrier to new project development in our study area. For the purposes of this workplan, “projects” are those that reduce pollution, restore habitat, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity. “Project development” is the process of advancing projects through the 4-phased, 9-step process from problem to construction described in the graphic below.

Task 4a: Support development of projects consistent with our CCMP.

Fund project development in Year 2 that is responsive to Year 1 efforts described in Objectives 1-3 and is otherwise align with BIL priorities, this Workplan, and our CCMP. NBEP will develop a Request for Proposals (RFP), utilize the Grants Subcommittee to review and select projects, and issue subawards to up to 20 entities that serve our study area (individual awards likely from \$50,000 to \$100,000) that advance projects in line with both local priorities and our CCMP. With this task taking place anywhere in the study area, where nearly 80% of census block units include an environmental justice area, it is very likely that some projects developed will take place within and/or directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 4a will be accomplished through subawards.

Task 4a	Up to 20 subawards to entities in the NBEP study area based on response to Request for Proposals.	\$909,857	One (1) Request for Proposals document. One (1) final list of selected subawardees Up to 20 scopes of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> as appropriate for each subawardee. Up to 45 projects advanced (assume 5 capacity-building awards [8 projects per] and 5 individual project design/planning awards)	Subawards	September 30, 2027
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Next Steps

- View this new project RFP task as a “placeholder” that we can amend in the future should we decide to continue direct subawards, cover staff time, etc. for these additional funds
- Money should be awarded by the end of calendar 2022
 - Want to submit to EPA ASAP to get in line at the EPA Grants Office that expects to be very busy
- Since the changes are modest since their provisional approval in June, suggest seeking Steering Committee full approval via email soon—their next scheduled meeting is 9/16/22

Discussion, Comments, Questions?

Decision #2

Does the Executive Committee support sending the Final BIL Workplan and Budget to the Steering Committee for review and approval via email?

NBEP Quarterly Program Report

Financial Report

FY2021 NBEP Budget vs. Actuals 8.8.22⁽¹⁾

Expense Category	RWU FY2021 320 & SNEP Funds			Balance Remaining Less Encumbered Subawards ^{(5),(6)}
	Budget ⁽⁴⁾	FY2022 Expenditures	Balance	
Personnel and Fringe	\$ 835,363	\$ 205,289	\$ 630,074	\$ 630,074
Travel	\$ 5,750	\$ 475	\$ 5,275	\$ 5,275
Supplies	\$ 6,200	\$ 949	\$ 5,251	\$ 5,251
Contracts	\$ 137,000	\$ 6,650	\$ 130,350	\$ 130,350
Other (breakout below)				
Subawards	\$ 650,000	\$ 31,739	\$ 618,261	\$ 1,000
Other Administrative ⁽²⁾	\$ 32,892		\$ 32,892	\$ 32,892
Total Direct	\$ 1,667,205	\$ 245,102	\$ 1,422,103	\$ 804,842
Total Indirect ⁽³⁾	\$ 119,946	\$ 41,058	\$ 78,888	\$ 78,888
Total	\$ 1,787,151	\$ 286,160	\$ 1,500,991	\$ 883,730

(1) All FY18 and FY19 EPA Cooperative Agreement funds held by NEIWPCC will be fully spent by September 2022 (~\$60K is left to be paid out to close out two subawards funded by FY18 funds). Thus, for the the purposes of this report, these funds are "zeroed-out" and are not included here. We expect NEIWPCC to formally close out these agreements with NEIWPCC by September.

(2) Includes Phone, Outside Printing, Internet, Research Supplies, Catering/Meals, Rental Space, Equipment Rental, Event Hosting, Event Meals, NBEP Meeting Meals, Meeting Attendance, Professional Development, Advertising, and Computer Support.

(3) The RWU budget takes all indirect "off the top" at the beginning of the year, and does not report indirect charged per period or otherwise on an ongoing basis. Therefore, the indirect included in this table is an NBEP calculated figure based on 20% of charged personnel and fringe to date.

(4) On 3.9.22, an amendment to the FY2022 EPA Cooperative Agreement to RWU was approved that realigned the budget to (1) accommodate a higher salary (and accordant new fringe and indirect costs) for the upgraded Watershed Outreach Manager position, (2) add a new line item to cover staff 'Lost Fringe Benefits' in the transition from NEIWPCC to RWU, (3) and shift funds from travel to contracts, and (4) and shift money within existing and to new contracts. Approval documentation available upon request.

(5) This column represents the fact that all but \$1,000 of the \$650,000 budgeted subawards have now under agreement so these monies are not available for the purposes of future projections and budgeting.

(6) We project to have ~\$800K left over at the close of this fiscal year.

New Hires On Board!



Mariel Sorlien

Geospatial Analysis and Design Manager
Leads all NBEP data and visualization work



Darcy Young

Watershed Outreach Manager
Leads outreach, Vision 2032 drafting, social media

FY2023 Work Planning

National Estuary Program Funding
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Workplan for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds

Applicant: Roger Williams University

Applicant Contact: Mike Garel
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
235 Promenade Street – Suite 393
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
(804) 332-1197
mike.garel@nbus.org

USEPA Region 1 Project Officer: Caitlyn Whittle
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEPO6-1)
Boston, MA 02108-3912
(617) 918-1748
cwhittle.caitlyn@epa.gov

QA/QC Plan Required: Yes

Project Period: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2027

Resources Requested: This is a new award. Total budget is \$1,819,714. Attachment A provides the FY2022, FY2023 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.

Federal Cost: Current request \$1,819,714 (FY2022 and FY2023 funds)

Non-Federal Match: None

Abstract: This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEPP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 9 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2022 and FY2023 allocation of funds to its host Roger Williams University (RWU) from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) during the first two years of this multi-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). The agreement has a 5-year project period (October 1, 2022–September 2027). This "NBEPP Bil. Workplan" for FY2022 and FY2023 will fund partners to create the pre-conditions for more projects that address pollution, degraded habitat, climate change, and environmental inequity. This plan includes efforts that the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, has been approved by the NBEPP Steering Committee, is consistent with the requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Justice40 Initiative, and will advance NBEPP's mission and 2012 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the program's study area of Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

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- Completed and submitted final FY2023 Workplan and Budget for §320 and SNEP to EPA (\$1M)
 - 1:1 in non-federal match received
- Completed final FY2023-24 Workplan and Budget for BIL funds (\$1.8M)
 - No match required
 - Guidance and forms ready for subawardees to complete this fall
- Thanks everyone!

Science Advisory Committee Meet—July 13th



Nitrogen Reduction
a Huge Success in
Narragansett Bay

Candace [Oviatt](#)

NBEP - SAC
July 13, 2022

Role for NBEP in stimulating creation of a simple, open-source Bay model to help answer questions?

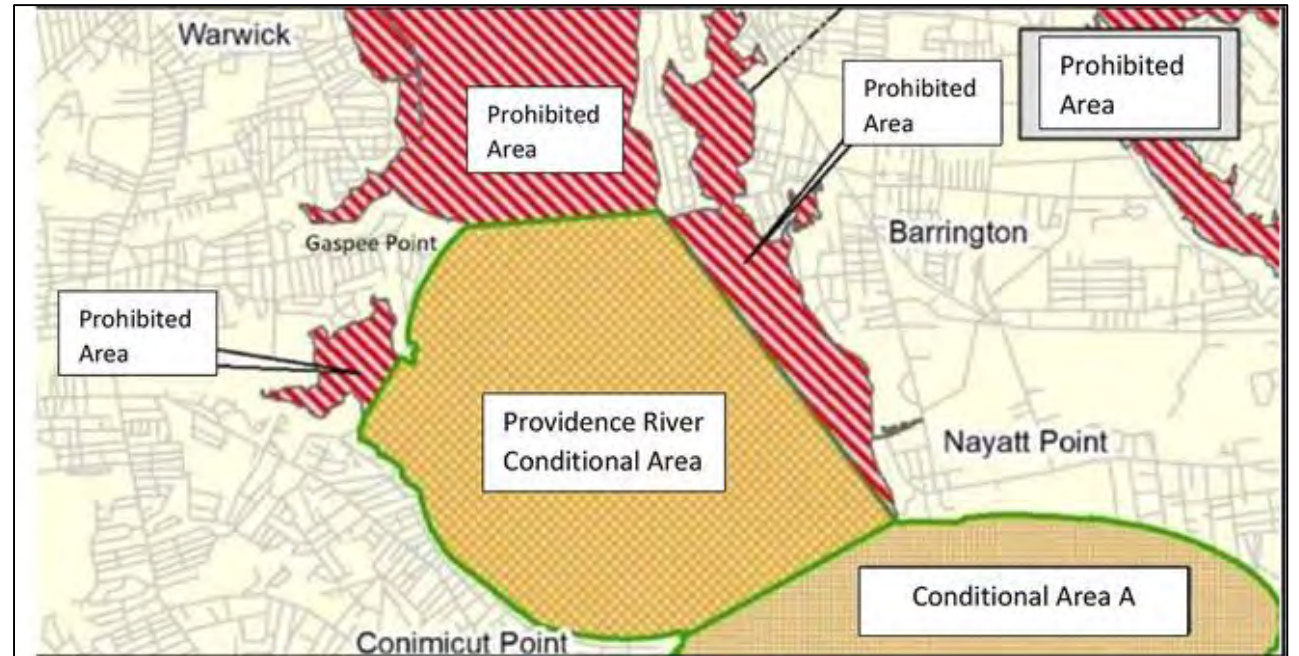
Water Clarity Science Update

- *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* included multiple types of data for water clarity
- NBEP formed a Water Clarity Working Group in 2020 to explore how to best communicate and use this data
- Update describes changes in water clarity, reasons for changes, and tools used to measure it, and also hopes to stimulate discussion about how to advance use of clarity in management decisions and identify areas for further research



Shellfish StoryMap

- Providence River in the Upper Bay opened for quohogging in 2021 for the first time in 75 years
- NBEP is culling data to craft a StoryMap that tracks the actions and resulting water quality improvements from 1995 to 2020 that led to opening
- Desire to show real world results of water quality improvements
- Ready this fall



Vision 2032



- Sketch Plans (first 5-pp of worksheet) for the 50 proposed actions are 1/3 done
- Preliminary date for re-boot meeting is September 22 in-person at RIDEM in Providence
- Darcy is reviewing our materials and planning for next meeting

Blackstone Paddle

- Blackstone River Expedition 2022 will take place August 11-14th
- Public portion is August 14th—4 miles from Festival Pier Boat Launch in Pawtucket to Gano Park Boat Launch in Providence



PUBLIC PADDLE & CELEBRATION
AUGUST 14, 2022

Free public event celebrating the Blackstone River Commons Expedition,
hosted by **Narragansett Brewing!**

PUBLIC PADDLE
12:30PM
Bring your own boat, or borrow a canoe.
All must pre-register by Aug 9!

Narragansett Beer
271 Tockwotton St.
Providence, RI 02903

CELEBRATION RECEPTION
4:00PM
Public screening of the short film
Kittacuck Speaks, live music by Hollow Turtle

Speakers will commemorate the expedition
and set the stage for future work to improve
the Blackstone River.

<https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/commons>

Outreach Highlights

Blue STEM Curriculum re: NBEP support, June 9, 2022	RI Rivers Council Boat Tour, July 13, 2022
Coastwise Partners re: San Juan NEP strategy, June 13, 2022	Blackstone Watershed Collaborative meeting, July 15, 2022
City of Providence re: Allens/Public St public access project, June 17, 2022	Quonnie Oyster Co re: plastics workshop, July 18, 2022
RISD re: Blackstone Paddle, June 21, 2022	Mass ECAN Slow the Flow Workgroup, July 19, 2022
Providence REJC re: BIL subaward, June 24, 2022	CRMC and Coastal Institute re: public access, July 22, 2012
RI Infrastructure Bank re: funding advances, June 24, 2022	Long Island Sound re: eel grass restoration, July 25, 2022
RI Foundation re: funding advances, June 27, 2022	SNEP Network Panel, July 26, 2022
RWU Law re: plastics workshop, June 27, 2022	NEERs Fall Meeting planning, July 27, 2022
EPA AED re: ocean acidification, June 28, 2022	NOAA/RIDEM re: Blackstone fishway funding, July 27, 2022
NBEP Salt Marsh Working Group meeting, June 29, 2022	Blackstone Park Project meeting, July 27, 2022
RWU Economics faculty re: proposed project, June 29, 2022	SNEP Network re: Canoe River Aquifer Project, July 28, 2022
RIDEM Fisheries re: FEK work, June 30, 2022	RWU Events re: plastics workshop, July 28, 2022
Island Foundation re: funding advances, July 1, 2022	RIDEM Directors Office re: Blackstone fish passage, July 29, 2022
Environmental Council of RI re: REJC hosting, July 5, 2022	RISD re: social science consulting, August 1, 2022
Resilient Taunton Watershed Network meeting, July 12, 2022	EcoRI News re: Blackstone Paddle, August 2, 2022
ANEP Executive Committee meeting, July 12, 2022	ANEP External Affairs Committee, August 3, 2022
SNEP Steering Committee Future Workgroup, July 13, 2022	Brown re: Bay modelling, August 3, 2022

Yellow=Courtney; Blue=Darcy; Pink=Marriel; Green=Mike

In The News

- Courtney featured in URI GSO Alumni piece
<https://web.uri.edu/gso/publications/board-gso/the-urban-waterscape-sp22/>
- Stefanie Covino and Mike in EcoRI piece on Blackstone River Paddle
<https://ecori.org/blackstone-river-commons-paddle-to-explore-hidden-waterways-charm/>



Public Comment / Break

Committee Member Updates

FY2021 Funds Re-Budget

- Expect to have ~\$800,000 of FY2021 dollars unspent on 9.30.22
 - Causes are NEIWPCC's requirement that we keep 1 year of funds in reserve, our roughly 9 months with only 2 staff, and not hiring Vision 2032 contractors while we paused that work
- EPA would like us to reduce this running unspent funds total
- EPA/NBEP staff have discussed
 - Putting out \$400K as subawards to partners this fall—habitat/access planning as its next in line
 - Holding \$400K for personnel costs

Two Questions

1. Does 50/50 split of remaining money make sense?
2. How to deliver subawards—direct award, RFP, both?

50/50 Split

- Provides ~9 months of funding for personnel time
- \$400K allows us to support 5-10 substantive planning efforts

Direct Subaward vs RFP vs Both

- Recent past approach
 - Used RFP for Green Infrastructure Planning subawards with FY2021 320/SNEP money earlier this year
 - Plan to use direct subawards for capacity/planning subawards with FY2022 BIL and 320 funds this fall
- EPA does not require that we compete funds
- NOTE: NBEP has been soliciting habitat project planning ideas for several months from SC members and other partners...

Potential project list for context...

Subawardee	Project	Type	Location	Rough Funding Need
Mass Audubon	Freshwater wetland restoration	Planning	Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary Attleboro, MA	\$100,000
City of Providence	Public access creation	Planning	Allens Avenue/Public Street Providence, RI	\$50,000
City of Providence	Fish passage	Planning	Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI	\$50,000
Town of Sharon	White Cedar swamp restoration	Planning	Canoe River Sharon, MA	\$50,000
Boston University	Seaweed in Bay*	Research	Narragansett Bay	\$50,000
TBD	Narragansett Bay model	Research	Narragansett Bay	TBD
			Total:	\$300,000

*Would add to current fishers' ecological knowledge project in FY2021 budget to now pay for a full student.

Inclined to Use Direct Subawards

Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Assures response to request by overwhelmed folks</p> <p>Easier on subawardees</p> <p>More inclusive by selecting competent organization and then doing formal paperwork</p> <p>Gets money out faster to projects that are ready</p> <p>Full Steering Committee engaged in decision</p>	<p>Lack of formal competition—perception of favoritism</p> <p>Could miss folks we have not engaged</p> <p>More work for NBEP/RWU staff upfront</p>

- Can potentially address disadvantages via sending formal request for project ideas out widely and utilizing process/templates from past subawards with RWU
- Seeking to fund projects that respond to needs and ensure fair process

Seeking Input

1. Re-budget that splits unspent FY2021 funds between personnel and subawards?
2. Approach to subawards?

Plan to consider input, continue outreach, and bring approach/projects to the SC in September for approval

Meeting Close

- **Review Action Items**
- **Upcoming meetings**
 - **Steering Committee, at RIDEM in-person, September 15, 1-4pm**
 - **Vision 2032 Subcommittee, at RIDEM in-person, September 22, ~10am-2pm**