National Estuary Program Funding
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
EPA Support FY2021-FY2023

Applicant:	TBD
Applicant Contact:	TBD
USEPA Region 1 Project Officer:	Caitlyn Whittle U.S. EPA Region 1 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1) Boston, MA 02109-3912 (617) 918-1748 whittle.caitlyn@epa.gov
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Program Director:	Mike Gerel Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 235 Promenade Street – Suite 393 Providence, Rhode Island 02908 (804) 332-1197 mike.gerel@nbep.org
QA/QC Plan Required:	Yes
Project Period:	October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023
Resources Requested:	This is a new award. Total budget is $3,574,302 (FY2021 funds and required non-federal match). Attachment A provides the FY2021 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.
Federal Cost:	Current request: $1,787,151 (FY2021 funds)
Non-Federal Match:	The attached match documentation includes $1,787,150 received from various partners for this period.
Abstract:	This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 'Program Narrative' ("work plan") includes four objectives and 17 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2021 allocation of EPA Clean Water Act §320 and Southern New England Program funds during the first year of this multi-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA that starts Oct 1, 2021. The agreement has a three-year project period (October 1, 2021 – September 2023). This annual work plan for FY2021 includes efforts that the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, have support by the NBEP Steering Committee, and are intended to advance the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's mission, 2012 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan ("CCMP") and approved revisions for the program's study area of Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

I. OBJECTIVES

This work plan includes four objectives that align with the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's ("NBEP" or "program") current CCMP, capabilities, and funding. The objectives cover the following topics: (1) Program Management; (2) Watershed Analysis and Planning Services; (3) Clean Water, Wildlife, and Habitat Project Funding; and (4) Technical Transfer. The CCMP goals addressed in this work plan are listed for each NBEP objective. Each objective includes specific tasks, with target completion dates, outputs, and outcomes provided for FY2021. See the table below for a summary of the objectives and tasks.

Summary of FY2021 NBEP Objectives and Tasks

Objective	Task
1. Ensure Sound Program Management.	a. Program Leadership.
	b. Host Entity Program Support.
	c. EPA Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking.
	d. Individual Staff Work Plan Development.
	e. Governance Document Revision.
	f. Committee Support.
	g. Committee Membership Update.
	h. Grant Writing.
2. Provide Watershed Analysis and Planning.	a. Status and Trends Updates.
	b. Science Working Groups.
	c. Vision 2032 Development.
	d. Blackstone Initiative.
3. Award Clean Water, Wildlife, and Habitat Project Funding.	a. Watershed Project Subawards.
	b. Research Project Subawards or Contracts.
4. Deliver Targeted Tech Transfer.	a. Study Area Science Event.
	b. NEPORT Reporting.
	c. Southeast New England Program Support.
	d. Strategic Outreach.

Objective 1: Ensure Sound Program Management.

2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

This objective supports all 2012 CCMP goals.

Task 1a: Program Leadership

The Program Director will work with the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, and other committees to assure sound governance, performance, and standing of NBEP. This will be accomplished by (1) ensuring work is consistent with grant agreements, the *Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Guiding Principles for Program Management* ("Guiding Principles"), the most current CCMP, and annual work plans and amendments; (2) assuring an approach that is science-based, collaborative, community-driven, and otherwise consistent with the National Estuary Program ("NEP") model; (3) maintaining relationships, pursuing new partnerships, and representing NBEP in appropriate forums to optimize awareness of NBEP's unique role and value; (4) managing, reporting on, and leveraging new funding to augment and diversify funding; (5) providing day-to-day management of the NBEP office, including direct supervision of staff, collaborating with the host on staff hiring and performance reviews, development of staff work plans, and ongoing mentoring; (6) managing documentation

for contracts and subawards; (7) coordinating with NEIWPCC on subawards or contracts they continue to administer and final project close-out; and (8) ensuring NBEP operates in a manner that supports diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice for all touched by the program. Through these responsibilities, the Program Director assures delivery of additive, actionable information, tools, and funding that advances water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the study area. Task 1a will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1b: Host Entity Program Support
TBD will support NBEP by providing specific services that enable the program to employ quality staff, meet a high standard of financial management, and otherwise operate consistent with legal requirements and NBEP's goals. This will be accomplished by (1) employing all NBEP staff; (2) leading staff hiring and performance review; (3) serving as the program's fiscal sponsor; (4) formally applying for, accepting, and distributing funding on behalf of the program; (5) develop contracts; (6) establishing and managing NBEP office space agreements as needed; (7) submitting required reports to funders; and (8) communicating with the Program Director and the EPA Project Office as needed. Task 1b will be accomplished through personnel time of TBD staff.

Task 1c: EPA Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking
The Program Director will develop a work plan and budget for approval by the NBEP Executive Committee and Steering Committee by June of each year. TBD will complete a final annual grant application for submission to EPA by July 1 of each year. The Program Director and TBD will collaborate to track and report on progress toward completion of work plan tasks consistent with funder requirements, and as otherwise requested by the Steering Committee or EPA. Task 1c will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP and TBD staff.

Task 1d: Individual Staff Work Plan Development
The Program Director will oversee development of internal work plans for all NBEP staff by November of each year. The Program Director will use a standard tabular template for these plans. These plans will describe activities, deadlines, metrics, percent of time committed, and connect to the appropriate tasks in this work plan. These plans will ensure alignment with current CCMP goals, enable decisions regarding the best use of time, and assist in annual performance evaluation. Individual work plans will be developed for the three existing staff in the fall and the new hire as soon as they are onboard. Task 1d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1e: Governance Document Revision
The Host and Program Director, in coordination with appropriate NBEP committees, will adapt the Guiding Principles into a new organizational governance document. A concise document will be developed that is consistent with NEP guidance, current NBEP approaches, applicable law, and best collaborative governance practice. Task 1e will be accomplished through personnel time of the Host, NBEP staff, and outside contract support with specialized expertise in collaborative conservation and governance.

Task 1f: Committee Support
NBEP is guided by three major committees: Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee. Presently there are also four subcommittees: Vision 2032, Grants, Nominating, and Ad Hoc Host Search Subcommittees. The Steering Committee meets quarterly, the Executive Committee every other month, and the Science Advisory Committee three times a year. The Program Director in collaboration with the committee Chairs, lead the Steering and Executive Committees, while the Staff Scientist with the committee Chair(s) lead the Science Advisory Committee. NBEP leads schedule meetings; develop agendas, program reports, and recommendations for consideration; recruit speakers; conduct meetings; draft notes; and post meeting materials publicly as appropriate. Meetings are designed to inform members, seek their expertise and approval of staff recommendations per the Guiding Principles, and facilitate coordination and relationships. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch, for all quarterly Steering Committee meetings held during normal business hours to enable longer meetings, encourage active participation, and acknowledge the considerable commitment people make as a member of these committees (Steering Committee meetings: approximate cost per person $12; anticipated attendance 35; total cost per meeting: $420; total cost: $1,680). Task 1f will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and volunteer time of committee members.

Task 1g: Committee Membership Update
The Program Director, in consultation with the Nominating Subcommittee, will pursue the addition of new members to NBEP's standing committees to replace existing members that cycle off and to add new interest groups not currently represented on the committee. A defined and transparent process for identifying, vetting, recruiting, and selecting new members will be utilized to ensure NBEP needs are met and candidates are treated with respect. NBEP will consider approval of members in December each year. Task 1g will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and volunteer time of Nominating Subcommittee members.

Task 1h: Grant Writing
The Program Director will develop at least two (2) proposals for private or public funding to augment and diversify program funding each fiscal year. Proposals will be developed, submitted, and any awards administered in compliance with the Guiding Principles, EPA's *FY2021-FY2024 Clean Water Act §320 National Estuary Program Funding Guidance*, dated October 13, 2020, and OMB's Uniform Guidance. The Program Director will explore a range of grant opportunities, update the Executive and Steering Committee as prospects, and draft proposals. TBD will submit proposals and administer any awarded funds. In addition to creating two proposals, NBEP staff will provide support for partner proposals that are consistent with the CCMP. Task 1h will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff.

FY2021 Target Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 1a: NBEP Program Leadership (Program Director)	Ongoing	Annual NBEP and staff work plans are executed per requirements and values. Maintain relationships with approximately 100 partners. Develop 20 new partners. Represent NBEP in at least 10 public forums. Collaborate with the Host on hiring staff and completing performance reviews. Manage documentation for all contracts and subawards (e.g., agreement, scope of work). Travel for meetings.	Performance, reputation, and morale is such that the program advances the NBEPs current CCMP and mission.
Task 1b: TBD Program Support (TBD)	September 2022* (*Hire staff and create office space agreement is due by October 2021)	*Formally hire all NBEP staff. *Develop and submit one (1) EPA grant application each fiscal year. Lead staff hiring and performance review. Submit at least two (2) other proposals. Establish one (1) NBEP office space agreement. Submit reports as required. Accept funding, execute contract and subward documentation, and pay invoices. Travel for meetings.	Program operations are efficient and effective such that the program advances the CCMP, and staff and partners are afforded high quality support.
Task 1c: EPA Work Plan and Budget Development and	June 2022 and per reporting deadlines	Produce one (1) work plan and one (1) budget.	Work plan supports the current CCMP, tasks and budget align with available

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Tracking (Program Director, TBD)		Create and deliver program reports for each Executive Steering Committee meeting.	staffing and funds, and outputs/outcomes are achieved that advance the CCMP and our mission.
Task 1d: Individual NBEP Staff Work Plan Development (Program Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Coordinator, New Hire)	November 2021	Create one (1) individual annual work plan for all NBEP staff.	Staff work plans align with the CCMP and NBEP work plan, the best use of staff resources is achieved, expectations are clear, and staff are fulfilled in their jobs.
Task 1e: Governance Document Revision (Program Director)	March 2022	One (1) new NBEP governance document.	NBEP governance is clear and consistent with current requirements and best practice.
Task 1f: Committee Support (Program Director, Watershed Coordinator)	Ongoing	Four (4) Steering Committee meetings, materials, and notes. Six (6) Executive Committee meetings, materials, and notes Three (3) Science Advisory Committee, materials, and notes Meals for the four (4) Steering Committee meetings. Travel for meetings.	Program oversight by the committees is meaningful and effective and staff and committee members are satisfied with processes, interactions, and results.
Task 1g: Committee Membership Update (Program Director)	December 2021	New members of committee are appointed as appropriate. Travel for meetings.	Committee members are actively engaged and inclusive of the range of interests, perspectives, and places in the study area.
Task 1h: Grant Writing (Program Director, Staff Scientist, New Hire)	September 2022	At least two (2) grant proposals developed.	NBEP funding is augmented and more diversified.

Objective 2: Provide Watershed Analysis and Planning Services.

2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 4.2: Fully utilize watershed-based plans, such as stakeholder-based plans, nonpoint source plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), and special area management plans to coordinate prioritized actions to protect, restore and manage the land and water resources within watersheds.
- Goal 5.5: Develop mechanism (e.g., workgroups) to examine local capacity to implement required environmental programs; examine regional solutions; report on funding issues related to local capacity to implement.
- Goal 6: Improve information, science, and analysis that support management efforts necessary to restore and protect fresh and saltwaters.
- Goal 6.1: Effectively manage, analyze, synthesize, and make available data to support management decision making, characterize environmental condition trends linked to ecological indicators, prioritize investments, and communicate to the public. Continue development of data driven analytical tools.
- Goal 6.4: Work with universities and federal agencies to improve scientific knowledge of water resource issues and technology including climate change implications and emerging contaminants; integrate new findings into

management schemes.
- Goal 6.5: Measure progress and provide the public with ongoing reports on key water quality implementation progress.

Section 2:
- Goal 1.2: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to identify and implement green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) techniques; agencies should assign designated staff as point of contact on LID issues.
- Goal 2.3: Provide technical assistance, grants and financial and permitting incentives to expand use of conservation development designs and ordinances.
- Goal 3.3: Enhance existing or develop new mechanisms to provide planning resources to communities.
- Goal 6.2: Provide technical assistance to local NGOs and watershed groups to support local implementation of environmental improvement projects; include structuring state and federal funding opportunities in ways that facilitate participation by those groups.

Section 3:
- Goal 1.2: Improve and coordinate both state and federal habitat protection and restoration policies.
- Goal 5: Improve science, communication, and information to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Goal 5.1: Establish a comprehensive set of Narragansett Bay Region status and trends indicators for critical habitats to assess habitat changes, impacts, and conservation and restoration progress.
- Goal 5.3: Continue and enhance ecological approaches to fisheries management including monitoring, applied research, technical training.
- Goal 5.5: Examine science and assess need for additional land and water protections, including identifying applied research needs related to habitat and habitat function; provide resources to conduct needed research.
- Goal 6.4: Working with commercial fishermen and shellfishermen, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR), universities, angler associations and other community and technical stakeholders, examine potential for additional protected areas in Narragansett Bay and other coastal waters.
- Goal 6.6: Develop a continuing seagrass mapping program in RI and MA coastal waters.

Section 4:
- Goal 5.1: Continue to improve accuracy of inundation models for coastal and riverine floodplains to support long term planning; apply the results of state pilot projects and NEP Climate Ready Estuaries projects in planning for resilience.
- Goal 5.2: Identify applied research needs to better assess impacts of climate change on watershed and bay ecosystems.
- Goal 5.3: Use data generated by regional Light Detection and Ranging topographic surveys and high-resolution bathymetry databases to support floodplain mapping, sea-level rise and storm surge modeling.

Task 2a: Status and Trends Updates

NEPs release complete a comprehensive status and trends report for their study area roughly every five years. NBEP's last status and trends report, titled *State of the Narragansett Bay and its Watersheds*, was published in 2017 and included discussion of 24 condition and stressor indicators. The next report is expected in FY2024. In the interim, to offer timely scientific insights and create information in advance for the next status and trends report, NBEP will periodically publish Science Updates that present new information related to existing/potential new indicators and emerging issues in the study area. These materials will take the form of white papers, Story Maps, shorter "Science Corner" pieces, data reports, or other means to best convey complex scientific information. A quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to cover these updates was approved in May 2019 and runs through the end of FY2024. The NBEP staff will work with the Science Advisory Committee, Science Working Groups, and other experts to prioritize salient topics for updates. At least six science updates are expected per fiscal year. Task 2a will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff, volunteer time of members of the Science Advisory Committee and other partners, as well as contract support in science topics, design, and communications that are outside NBEP staff expertise/capacity to complete.

Task 2b: Science Working Groups

NBEP staff will manage subject area working groups that offer a results-driven forum to facilitate information exchange, coordination, and decision making that responds to scientific research needs, resource management, and other vexing

issues facing the region. Existing working groups are formed around issues not being fully addressed by other organizations or processes at this time, including salt marshes, submerged aquatic vegetation, social science, and water clarity. NBEP will involve the Science Advisory Committee members with relevant expertise as appropriate. Each group is expected to meet several times per fiscal year. Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff and other partners, as well as outside contract support for facilitation that are outside NBEP staff capacity to complete.

Task 2c: Vision 2032 Development

NBEP's next 10-year Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan ("CCMP"), called Vision 2032, will be released by the end of 2022. EPA requires revisions of these primary NEP guiding documents every 10 years. Vision 2032 will be a community inclusive, holistic, and realistic plan that informs delivery of funding and services in the region. Its tagline is "Many Voices, One Vision." A comprehensive structure and set of tools are in place to assist plan development, including the Vision 2032 Subcommittee, four Planning Groups (built around goals for water, wildlife/habitat, quality of life, and capacity for action), several planning materials (e.g., Vision 2032 Blueprint, Vision 2032 Survey, Action Planning Road Map, Action Planning Worksheets), and a comprehensive Vision 2032 website. 30-50 action plans consistent with "SMART" guidelines will form of the core of the plan. Setting it apart from past plan, Vision 2032 will be more intentional about the "people" aspect of developing and implementing Action Plans—from inclusive input early in its development, assessment of the capacity needed to implement actions, and the impacts of actions on communities. Up to four subcommittee meetings, at least 30 planning group meets, and extensive engagement with interested/impacted parties (via an on-line survey, peer review, and public comment) will be completed over the next fiscal year. Final on-line and hard copy versions of the plan are expected by December 2022. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case light lunch for up to 12 *Vision 2032*-related meetings during normal business hours to enable longer meetings and encourage active participation (Approximate cost per person $12; anticipated attendance 20; total cost per meeting: $240; total cost: $2880). Task 2c will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff and outside contract support for technical writing, communications, and graphic design tasks that are outside NBEP expertise/capacity to complete.

Task 2d: Blackstone Initiative

NBEP has offered targeted assistance to the Blackstone River Watershed, the second largest tributary to Narragansett Bay Watershed, since 2019. We will complete work on our Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project in September 2021. NBEP staff, particularly the Watershed Coordinator, will offer convening support to the new Blackstone Watershed Coordinator hired by Clark University and the newly formed Blackstone Collaborative. NBEP is also provided independent convening services for a renewed effort initiated by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to advance stalled plans for achieving diadromous fish passage past the four dams on the lower Blackstone in Rhode Island. NBEP will assemble a "Core Team" of key interests, design, conduct meetings, and develop all meeting materials (e.g., meeting agenda, processes, notes). NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case light lunch for up to 6 Lower Blackstone Fish Passage meetings during normal business hours to enable longer meetings and encourage active participation (Approximate cost per person $12; anticipated attendance 15; total cost per meeting: $180; total cost: $1080). Task 2d will be accomplished through NBEP personnel time.

FY2021 Target Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 2a: Status and Trends Updates (Staff Scientist, New Hire)	Ongoing	Six (6) science updates created.	Improved understanding of the current and future health and reslience of the study area.
Task 2b: Science Working Groups (Staff Scientist, New Hire)	Ongoing	At least six (6) working group meetings. Travel for meetings.	Greater coordination, information exchange, and collaborative next step decision-making in place for priority natural resources/issues.
Task 2c: Vision 2032 (Program Director, Staff	September 2022	Up to twenty-five (25) *Vision 2032* meetings and notes. One (1) draft plan.	The *Vision 2032* groups remains active, a draft plan is in place that reflects best science and diverse

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Scientist, Watershed Coordinator, New Hire)		Meals for twelve (12) meetings. Travel for meetings.	input, and NBEP is on-track to release a focused and achievable plan by the end of 2022.
Task 2d: Blackstone Initiative (Program Director, Watershed Coordinator, New Hire)	Ongoing	Attendance and support for at least six (6) Blackstone Collaborative (or equivalent) meetings. Host and prepare meeting materials for at least (6) Lower Blackstone Fish Passage meetings. Travel to meetings.	Recommended actions called for NBEP's Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report advanced.

Objective 3: Award Clean Water, Wildlife, and Habitat Project Funding

2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Goal 2.1: Provide enhanced funding and technical assistance to municipalities in key areas of stormwater management.
- Goal 2.2: Prioritize retrofitting of best management practices (BMPs) to areas most affected by stormwater impacts, using LID and including physical and habitat restoration where feasible to achieve water quality goals.
- Goal 2.7: Ensure that data systems capture information on stormwater BMPs to assess effectiveness and track performance.
- Goal 4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to prevent degradation and restore beneficial use.
- Goal 4.3: Build and increase capacity of nongovernmental organizations in implementing protection and restoration actions.
- Goal 5: Improve funding for water quality and quantity improvement and for resource assessment and monitoring.
- Goal 6: Improve information, science and analysis that support management efforts necessary to restore and protect fresh and salt water.
- Goal 6.1: Effectively manage, analyze, synthesize, and make available data to support management decision-making, characterize environmental condition trends linked to ecological indicators, prioritize investments, and communicate to the public. Continue development of data driven analytical tools.
- Goal 6.4: Work with universities and federal agencies to improve scientific knowledge of water resource issues and technology including climate change implications and emerging contaminants; integrate new findings into management schemes.

Section 2:

- Goal 1: Implement LID.
- Goal 1.2: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to identify and implement green infrastructure and LID techniques.
- Goal 3.3: Enhance existing or develop new mechanisms to provide planning resources to communities.
- Goal 6.2: Provide technical assistance to local NGOs and watershed groups to support local implementation of environmental improvement projects.

Section 3:

- Goal 1: Conserve existing natural landscapes that have been and will be adversely affected by development, climate change, and invasive species.

- Goal 2: Restore degraded or lost habitats and habitat functions.
- Goal 2.1: Improve river connectivity and habitat by removing dams, upgrading culverts, and creating structural fish ways to restore free-flowing rivers and anadromous fish passage; implement state fish passage plans.
- Goal 3: Manage habitats to sustain and enhance habitat function.
- Goal 3.7: Identify and protect cold water fishery streams/headwater areas using Clean Water Act tools, state, federal, and non-profit land acquisition programs, and other strategies.
- Goal 5: Improve science, communication, and information to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Goal 5.2: Continue and enhance ecological approaches to fisheries management including monitoring, applied research, technical training.
- Goal 5.5: Examine science and assess need for additional land and water protections, including identifying applied research needs related to habitat and habitat function; provide resources to conduct needed research.
- Goal 5.7: Develop tools and information on biodiversity and priority habitats and make them available to the public and local and other officials to help with planning and management.
- Goal 5.9: Working with commercial fishermen and shellfishermen, NBNERR, universities, angler associations and other community and technical stakeholders, examine potential for additional protected areas in Narragansett Bay and other coastal waters.

Section 4:

- Goal 1: Maximize preservation, conservation, and restoration of green infrastructure to increase coastal and floodplain resilience.
- Goal 1.1: Identify, protect, and restore watershed and riverine natural resources, e.g., wetlands and riparian areas to ensure their continuance as cost-effective protection.
- Goal 1.2: Remove dams where practicable and beneficial to public safety and/or river ecology; where dams must be retained, ensure that high and moderate hazard dams are fully maintained.
- Goal 2: Improve public and private infrastructure to withstand anticipated climate change impacts.
- Goal 2.2: Design stormwater treatment facilities and green stormwater infrastructure to have adequate capacity over the life of the facility for predicted increased, intensified flow resulting from climate change.
- Goal 2.3: Develop and implement natural hazard mitigation and adaptation plans for publicly owned wastewater facilities to reduce potential for pollution impacts from climate related events.
- Goal 3.2: Develop mechanisms to coordinate responses across the range of interests affected by climate change impacts – state and federal agencies, private sector, institutions, and municipalities.
- Goal 5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Goal 5.1: Continue to improve accuracy of inundation models for coastal and riverine floodplains to support long term planning; apply the results of state pilot projects and NEP Climate Ready Estuaries projects in planning for resilience.
- Goal 5.2: Identify applied research needs to better assess impacts of climate change on watershed and bay ecosystems.
- Goal 6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts take sea level rise into account.
- Goal 6.3: Adopt and approach, where possible, that accommodates rather than resists flood waters by restoring flood plain buffers for use as marsh or forest land.

Task 3a: Watershed Project Subawards

NBEP has funded a wide range of partner projects from staffing to planning to on-the-ground projects for decades. Based on the results of extensive outreach to identify funding gaps, we have recently focused our support on pre-project planning steps like capacity-building, feasibility studies, assessments, site plans, and other efforts that enable quality watershed restoration and protection projects. EPA Clean Water Act §320 and the Southern New England Program (SNEP) funding is used to support these projects. NBEP staff will develop a request for proposals or equivalent, review process, and scoring sheets to support competitive solicitation and selection. NBEP's Grant Subcommittee will review and formally select proposals as appropriate. See *Objective 1: Program Management* for more on solicitation, award, and management. We expect to award from 5-15 subawards of $50,000 to $100,000 this year directly or via a competitive process depending on requirements and circumstances. Task 3a will be accomplished through subawards and personnel time of NBEP staff, TBD, and partners.

Task 3b: Research Project Subwards or Contracts

NBEP has offered vital financial assistance for research since its founding. Our focus will be on funding work to address data gaps or emerging issues with new traditional bench or field research, participatory science (e.g., fisherman, user, community members), and/or analysis and explanation of existing data. EPA Clean Water Act §320 supports this work. Priority projects will be identified by the Science Advisory Committee, Science Working Groups, and NBEP staff and partners. NBEP staff will develop solicitation and selection processes and documents, as necessary. See *Objective 1: Program Management* for more on solicitation, award, and management. We expect to fund and begin work on at least one subaward or contract per fiscal year. Task 3b will be accomplished through subawards and personnel time of NBEP, TBD, and partners.

FY2021 Target Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 3a: Stormwater Project Subawards (Program Director, Staff Scientist, TBD)	December 2021	At least one (1) request for proposals or equivalent and supporting materials. Up to five (15) scopes of work and agreements for subawardees. Required reports from all subawardees. Travel for meetings.	New stormwater projects funded that advance the goals in the 2012 CCMP listed under Objective 3 of this work plan.
Task 3b: Research Project Subawards or Contracts (Program Director, Staff Scientist, TBD)		One (1) solicitation document and supporting materials, if necessary. One (1) scope of work and agreements for the subawardee. Required reports from all subawardees.	New projects funded that address identified research gaps and/or emergent needs.

Objective 4: Delivery of Targeted Tech Transfer.

2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 4.3: Build and increase capacity of nongovernmental organizations in implementing protection and restoration action.
- Goal 6: Improve information, science and analysis that support management efforts necessary to restore and protect fresh and salt waters.
- Goal 6.1: Effectively manage, analyze, synthesize, and make available data to support management decision-making, characterize environmental condition trends linked to ecological indicators, prioritize investments, and communicate to the public. Continue development of data driven analytical tools, e.
- Goal 6.4: Work with universities and federal agencies to improve scientific knowledge of water resource issues and technology including climate change implications and emerging contaminants; integrate new findings into management scheme.

Section 2:

- Goal 5: Improve science, information, and communication to support effective land use management.
- Goal 5.1: Use communications and outreach efforts to promote important watershed resources and ways in which citizens and governments can protect and restore the value of these resources.
- Goal 6: Increase the role of watershed organizations and municipalities to serve critical partners in watershed management.

Section 3:

- Goal 3.6: Educate landowners, resource users and the public regarding habitat and wildlife conservation.
- Goal 5: Improve science, communication, and information to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.

- Goal 6: Build capacity to implement ecological restoration at state (particularly in R.I.) and local levels and improve interstate coordination.

Section 4:

- Goal 5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.

Task 4a: Study Area Science Event

NBEP has been a leader in regional science for many years. Over 100 scientific reports funded by the program and the status and trends report have created a baseline of knowledge. NBEP will collaborate with the Science Advisory Committee to design and host a science conference, workshop, or equivalent that addresses a topic (or topics) that are especially germane to our study area and would benefit from deeper discussion. If successful, this could become an annual signature event. We expect a half-day to full-day event, with speakers, group sessions, and networking time. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch and snack for up to 150 meeting attendees during normal business hours to attract and keep participants engaged (Approximate cost per person $24; anticipated attendance 150; total cost: $3,600). Task 4a will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff and contract support for event hosting that is beyond NBEP staff expertise/capacity to complete.

Task 4b: NEPORT Reporting

EPA requires that all NEPs annually submit information about funding leveraged and habitat restored. NBEP staff work with the Steering Committee and other partners to compile information on projects the partnership supported in some fashion, through project participation, award of funding, provision of a consistency letter, or delivery of technical assistance. Data is entered into EPA's on-line "NEPORT" system in the fall each fiscal year. Task 4b will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and partners.

Task 4c: Southeast New England Program Support

NBEP has received funding and otherwise offered technical support to the SNEP program since its inception. NBEP staff participate actively on the following SNEP committees: SNEP Steering Committee, SNEP Policy Committee, SNEP Monitoring Subcommittee, SNEP Ecosystems Services Subcommittee, SNEP Network Advisory Committee, and Restore America's Estuaries Grant Review Committee. Staff will attend at least ten (10) meetings and continue to interact with EPA SNEP staff one-on-one and review SNEP materials.

Task 4d: Strategic Outreach

Successfully communicating complicated issues facing our study area in a simple and compelling manner has become a well-known specialty of NBEP. Publications, GIS tools, Story Maps, presentations, and websites are all deployed. We will focus on pressing topics for NBEP (e.g., Vision 2032), the region (nutrients, salt marsh), and nationally (climate change, environmental justice). The target audience for this communication is the "interested public," that is, those that are already interested or impacted by NBEP and our partners' work. Further, NBEP staff attend a host of regional committee meetings (e.g., Rhode Island Environmental Monitoring Collaborative, Resilient Taunton Watershed Network, Blackstone Collaborative, Special Area Management Plan), workshops, and other ad hoc meetings across the study area. Lastly, we will perform regular maintenance of NBEP website, Data Hub, and local and on-line document and photo sharing utilities will also be undertaken on an ongoing basis. We expect to produce at least ten (10) outreach publications this year and participate in external events (e.g., webinars, workshops, conferences) as deemed timely and strategic by the Program Director. Task 4d will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff and outside contract support for website development, GIS, visual design, and communications that are beyond NBEP staff capacity to complete.

FY2021 Target Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Contact	Target Date	Output	Outcome
Task 4a: Study Area Science Event (Staff Scientist, Watershed Coordinator)	Spring 2022	One (1) science event completed. One (1) set of event materials. Meals for the event. Travel for the event.	A new NBEP signature event is established where knowledge is developed and shared on a priority issue facing the study area.

Task 4b: NEPORT (Staff Scientist)	September 2021	One (1) update to NEPORT system.	Enhanced knowledge of completed habitat protection and restoration project results in the study area.
Task 4c: SNEP Support (Program Director, Staff Scientist, New Hire)	Ongoing	Ten (10) SNEP meetings attended. Twenty (20) one-on-one conversations with SNEP staff.	Advancement in the quality of SNEP and its support for NBEP's study area.
Task 4c: Focused Outreach (Program Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Coordinator, New Hire)	Ongoing	Ten (10) outreach publications. Twenty-five (25) events joined.	Greater understanding of the study area and NBEP's work by the interested public.

II. Non-Federal Match

The NBEP's Management Conference includes many partners that are implementing projects that directly implement the actions consistent with the 2012 CCMP. A summary of each entity providing non-federal match for this request for FY2021 are provided below and match documentation is provided for each source of funds:

- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Quality (Staff Salary and State Bond Funded Projects) - $660,000
- The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island (Staff Salary and Non-Federally Funded Projects) - $228,810
- TBD - $898,651

Note that a subsequent amendment produced and approved by the Steering Committee and EPA in June 2022 and June 2023 will detail non-federal match for that amendment.

Appendix A: New Subawards and Contracts Using FY2021 Funding

Task	Project Title	Amount	Output	Procurement Type	Funding Close Date
Task 3a	Watershed Research Contract	$30,000	One (1) solicitation document or sole source justification document. One (1) scope of work and agreements for the subawardee. Required reports from contractor.	Contract	September 2024
Task 3b	Stormwater Project Subawards	$680,000	At least one (1) request for proposals or equivalent and supporting materials. Up to five (15) scopes of work and agreements for subawardees. Required reports from all subawardees. Travel for meetings.	Subaward	September 2024

Appendix B: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00004, CEOOA0336, CEOOA00393, CE00A00407)

This report satisfies the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

Appendix C: Travel Report

This report satisfies the obligation to submit documentation of Clean Water Act §320 Funds Used for Travel as required under the National Estuary Program Funding Guidance.