

**National Estuary Program Funding**  
**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program**  
**Annual Workplan for §320 and SNEP Funds**

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**QA/QC Plan Required:** Yes

**Project Period:** October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025

**Resources Requested:** This is a new award. Total budget is \$2,000,000 (FY2022 funds and required non-federal match). Attachment A provides the FY2022 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.

**Federal Cost:** Current request: \$1,000,000 (FY2022 funds)

**Non-Federal Match:** The match includes \$1,000,000 received from various partners for FY2022.

**Abstract:** This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 15 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2022 allocation of funds to its host Roger Williams University (RWU) from the EPA Clean Water Act §320 and Southeast New England Program (SNEP) funds during the first year of this multi-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA that starts Oct 1, 2022. The agreement has a three-year project period (October 1, 2022 – September 2025). This annual “NBEP Base Workplan” for FY2022 includes efforts that the program has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, have support by the NBEP Steering Committee, and are intended to advance the NBEP’s mission, [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.

## I. OBJECTIVES

This work plan includes four objectives that align with NBEP's mission, current CCMP, core 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 FY2022. See the table below for a summary of the 4 objectives and 15 tasks.

Summary of FY2022 NBEP Base Workplan Objectives and Tasks

| Objective                                   | Task   |
|---|--|
| 1. Ensure Sound Program Management.         | a. Program Leadership.   |
|   | b. Host Institution Program Support.   |
|   | c. EPA Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking.  |
|   | d. Committee Support.  |
|   | e. Land Acknowledgment Development.  |
|   | f. Grant Writing.  |
| 2. Provide Watershed Analysis and Planning. | a. Science Working Group Facilitation.   |
|   | b. Status and Trends Updates.  |
|   | c. Vision 2032 Development.  |
|   | d. Blackstone River Initiative Implementation.   |
| 3. Award Project Funding.                   | a. Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Succotash Marsh Resilience Project Subaward. |
| 4. Deliver Targeted Tech Transfer.          | a. Annual Science Event.   |
|   | b. NEPORT Reporting.   |
|   | c. Southeast New England Program Support.  |
|   | d. Strategic Outreach.   |

### **Objective 1: Ensure Sound Program Management.**

#### **Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:**

This objective supports all 2012 CCMP goals.

#### **Task 1a: Program Leadership**

The Executive Director and delegated NBEP staff 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 NBEP's [bylaws](#), 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 and interns, collaborating with the host institution on staff and intern hiring and performance reviews, development of staff and intern work plans, and ongoing mentoring; (6) reviewing and managing documentation for all NBEP contracts and subawards (including those funded using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding); and (7) elevating and amplifying diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice consistent with NBEP's [2022 DEIJ Assessment](#). Through these responsibilities, the Executive 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 Institution Program Support**

RWU 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, NBEP's bylaws, and annual workplan. This will be accomplished by (1) employing all NBEP staff and interns; (2) overseeing staff hiring and performance review; (3) serving as the program's fiscal sponsor; (4) formally applying for, accepting, and distributing public and private funding on behalf of the program; (5) developing contracts, subawards, and attendant documentation (including those funded using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding); (6) establishing and managing NBEP office space agreement; (7) submitting required reports to funders; (8) support joint NBEP/RWU communications and events as appropriate; and (9) coordinating with the Executive Director and the EPA Project Office as needed. Task 1b will be accomplished through personnel time of RWU staff.

### **Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking**

The Executive Director will develop workplans and budgets for approval by the NBEP Executive Committee/Steering Committee by June of each year. RWU complete a final annual grant application for submission to EPA by July 1 of each year. From FY2022 to FY2025, NBEP will complete two sets of materials for EPA, one for §320 and SNEP funds, and another for bipartisan infrastructure law (BIL) funds. The Executive Director and RWU will collaborate to track and report on progress toward completion of workplan 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 RWU staff.

### **Task 1d: Committee Support**

NBEP is guided by three major committees: Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee. Presently there are also three subcommittees: Vision 2032, Grants, and Nominating Subcommittees. The Steering and Executive Committees meet quarterly, and the Science Advisory Committee three times a year. The Executive 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 NBEP bylaws, and facilitate member 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 1d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and community engagement contracts.

### **Task 1e: Land Acknowledgment Development**

Indigenous people have occupied NBEP's study area since time immemorial. First people's homelands in the region include the Eastern Nehantick, Mohegan, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Pequot, Pokanoket, and Wampanoag. Land Acknowledgments are completed to recognize the traditional land stewardship, contributions, and continuation of these people. NBEP intends to create a Land Acknowledgement as the beginning of including an indigenous voice, supporting indigenous nations and organizations, and working as equals to attain shared goals. We intend to partner with indigenous people, scholars, and others to authentically and respectfully develop a Land Acknowledgement consistent with the insights of Loren Spears of the Tomaquag Museum found [here](#). Work will be coordinated with RWU administration, as well as faculty with expertise in the area. Task 1e will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff, community engagement contracts, and other contracts.

### **Task 1f: Grant Writing**

The Executive Director will develop up to 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 Executive Director will explore a range of grant opportunities, update the Executive and Steering Committee as prospects, and draft proposals. RWU will submit proposals and administer any awarded funds. In addition to creating up to two proposals, NBEP staff will provide

support for partner proposals that are consistent with the CCMP. Task 1f will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff

**FY2022 Tasks, Target Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes**

| Task and Staff  | Target Completion Date                | Outputs   | Outcome   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Task 1a: NBEP Program Leadership</b> (Executive Director)  | Ongoing                               | Annual NBEP and staff work plans are executed per requirements and values.<br>Maintain relationships with approximately 100 partners.<br>Develop twenty (20) new partners.<br>Represent NBEP in at least five (5) public forums.<br>Collaborate with the host institution on hiring staff and completing performance reviews.<br>Oversee documentation for all contracts and subawards (e.g., scope of work, budget, agreement, reports).<br>Travel for meetings. | Performance, reputation, and morale is such that the program advances the NBEPs mission and CCMP.   |
| <b>Task 1b: RWU Program Support</b> (RWU Assistant Provost for Global and Community Engagement, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)  | Ongoing                               | Develop and submit two (2) EPA grant application (\$320/SNEP and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding)<br>Oversee staff hiring and performance review.<br>Submit up to two (2) other proposals.<br>Submit reports as required.<br>Accept funding, execute contract and subaward documentation, and pay invoices.   | Program operations are efficient and effective such that the program operates per its bylaws, advances the CCMP, and staff and partners are afforded high quality support.          |
| <b>Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking</b> (Executive Director, RWU Assistant Provost for Global and Community Engagement, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)  | June 2023 and per reporting deadlines | Produce two (2) work plans and two (2) budgets (\$320/SNEP and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding).<br>Create and deliver program reports for each Executive and Steering Committee meeting.   | Work plan is consistent with federal requirements, tasks/budget align with available capabilities and funding, and outputs/outcomes are achieved that advance our mission and CCMP. |
| <b>Task 1d: Committee Support</b> (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Assistant Provost for Global and Community Engagement, RWU Department of Biology, Marine Biology, and Environmental Science, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs) | Ongoing                               | Four (4) Steering Committee meetings, materials, and notes.<br>Four (4) Executive Committee meetings, materials, and notes<br>Three (3) Science Advisory Committee, materials, and notes<br>Up to three (3) community engagement contracts.   | Program oversight by the committees is meaningful and effective and staff and committee members are satisfied with processes, interactions, and results.                            |

| Task and Staff   | Target Completion Date | Outputs  | Outcome  |
|--|------------------------|--|--|
|  |                        | Meals for the four (4) Steering Committee meetings.<br>Travel for meetings.  |  |
| <b>Task 1e: Land Acknowledgment Development</b> (Executive Director, Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Associate Provost for Global and Community Engagement)                          | September 2023         | One (1) land acknowledgement expert consultant contract.<br>Up to five (5) community engagement contracts.<br>One (1) land acknowledgement approved by the Steering Committee. | Land Acknowledgments in place that recognize the traditional land stewardship, contributions, and continued presence of indigenous people in the study area. |
| <b>Task 1f: Grant Writing</b> (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager, RWU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs) | September 2023         | Up to two (2) grant proposals developed.   | NBEP funding is augmented and more diversified.  |

**Objective 2: Provide Watershed Analysis and Planning Services.**

**Primary 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 saltwater.
- 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 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 6.6: 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: Science Working Groups**

NBEP staff will continue to manage the subject area working groups that offer a results-driven forum to facilitate information exchange, coordination, and decision making that responds to scientific research needs, informs resource management, and otherwise helps address vexing issues facing the region. Existing working groups are formed at the behest of stakeholders around issues not being fully addressed by other organizations or processes at this time, including salt marshes, submerged aquatic vegetation, water clarity, and fisher's ecological knowledge (FEK). NBEP will involve the Science Advisory Committee members with relevant expertise as appropriate. Each group is expected to meet several times per year. Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff, volunteer time of partners, as well as outside contract support in areas that are outside NBEP staff expertise/capacity to complete.

### **Task 2b: Status and Trends Reporting**

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. NBEP Science Working Groups have been exploring revised (water clarity) and new (social science) indicators. We will also continue to 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. Further, in preparation for beginning full-scale development of the next status and trends report in FY2024, in the second half of this fiscal year NBEP will create a "roadmap" for the next report and draft select chapters as time allows. A quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to cover these updates was approved in that runs from May 2019 to September 2024. The NBEP staff will work with the Science Advisory Committee, working groups, and other experts to prioritize salient topics for updates and the forthcoming next report. Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of 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 2c: Vision 2032 Development**

NBEP expects the next 10-year CCMP, called Vision 2032, to be published by the end of FY2023. EPA requires revisions of these primary NEP guiding documents roughly every 10 years. Vision 2032 will be a community inclusive, holistic, and realistic plan that informs delivery of NBEP and their partner's services in the region. From 30-50 detailed Action Plans will form the core of Vision 2032. All actions will be evaluated through the lenses of climate resilience, sustainable use of common resources, and DEIJ. Development of Vision 2032 has been pursued strategically deliberately since late 2019—focusing on work that can be done virtually and instituting periodic pauses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NBEP has used a larger committee and subject area workgroup [meetings](#) to worked deliberately through [committee](#) meetings to create a set of tools and new data that will inform development of the new plan, including a [Vision 2032 website](#), [Vision 2032 Blueprint](#), [Vision 2032 Survey](#), [DEIJ Survey](#), and [Vision 2032 Action Planning Worksheets](#). With the return of in-person meeting expected in Summer 2022, NBEP will shift from 'planning to plan' to writing the document, expecting to complete all draft action plans by the end of calendar year 2022. Work in 2023 will focus on the introductory chapters, final Action Plans, required appendices, and hard copy and on-line design. Development of Vision 2032 will continue to be intentional about the "people" aspect of developing Vision 2032, including seeking early and continuing feedback from 'usual and unusual

suspects' on both the process and individual Action Plans, assessment of the capacity needed to execute plans, and consideration of the impacts and appropriate responses to actions on ecology and communities, especially those that are underserved. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case light lunch for up to six (6) Vision 2032-related meetings during normal business hours to enable longer meetings and encourage active participation (Approximate cost per person \$12; anticipated attendance 30; total cost per meeting: \$360; total cost: \$2160). Task 2c will be accomplished through personnel time of the NBEP staff and outside contract support for writing and communication 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. In Fall 2021 we awarded \$91,000 in funding to Clark University to hire a manager to create and oversee the [Blackstone Watershed Collaborative](#) to help implement the findings of the [Blackstone Needs Assessment](#), and continued our work at the behest of RIDEM leading the [Lower Blackstone Fish Passage Project](#), which seeks to advance stalled plans for achieving diadromous fish passage and river connectivity on the lower river in Rhode Island. The Collaborative has met 8 times as of this date, and has been an overwhelming success advancing recommendation actions in the needs assessment and otherwise building coordinated support for the watershed. In fall 2021 NBEP formed a Lower Blackstone Fish Passage Core Team of 16 key entities, facilitated two Core Team meetings and one-on-one meetings between RIDEM and members to identify a path forward that maximized consensus and achievement of stakeholder needs. In spring 2022, RIDEM leadership determined that completion of designs for fish passage at all four dams as one package was the best way to overcome the many complexities and barriers to progress. Note that NBEP is proposing to help fund part of the planning and supporting outreach work with BIL funds.

Under this workplan, NBEP will continue to financially support the nascent Collaborative through a subaward to Clark University, as well as lead design-focused Core Team meetings and ad hoc diplomacy as needed to enable stakeholder engagement in the planning process throughout. Further, NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case light lunch for up to two (2) Core Team meetings during normal business hours to enable longer meetings and encourage active participation (Approximate cost per person \$12; anticipated attendance 30; total cost per meeting: \$360; total cost: \$720). Task 2d will be accomplished through NBEP personnel time and a subaward.

**FY2022 Tasks, Target Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes**

| Task and Staff  | Target Completion Date | Outputs   | Outcome   |
|---|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Task 2a: Status and Trends Updates</b> (Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager)       | Ongoing                | Four (4) science updates created.<br>One (1) roadmap for next status and trends report.   | Improved understanding and reporting on the health and resilience of the study area.                                  |
| <b>Task 2b: Science Working Groups</b> (Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager)          | Ongoing                | At least six (6) working group meetings.<br>Travel for meetings.  | Greater coordination, information exchange, and collaborative next step decision-making in place for priority issues. |
| <b>Task 2c: Vision 2032</b> (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager) | September 2023         | At least six (6) Vision 2032 meetings, agendas, and notes.<br>One (1) final plan.<br>One (1) writing contract.<br>One (1) outreach contract.<br>One (1) website contract.<br>Up to five (5) community engagement contracts. | NBEP is on-track to release a community-informed, focused, and achievable plan by the end of 2023.                    |

| Task and Staff  | Target Completion Date | Outputs  | Outcome   |
|---|------------------------|--|---|
|   |                        | Meals for six (6) meetings.<br>Travel for meetings.  |   |
| <b>Task 2d: Blackstone Initiative</b> (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager) | Ongoing                | One (1) scope of work, budget, and subaward agreement with Clark University.<br>At least four (4) Lower Blackstone Fish Passage meetings, agendas, and notes.<br>Meals for two (2) Lower Blackstone meetings.<br>Travel to meetings. | Recommendations in the Blackstone Needs Assessment and otherwise developed by the community are advanced. |

**Objective 3: Award Project Funding**

**Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:**

Section 1:

- 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 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.

Section 3:

- Goal 2: Restore degraded or lost habitats and habitat functions.
- Goal 3: Manage habitats to sustain and enhance habitat function.
- Goal 5: Improve science, communication, and information to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.

Section 4:

- 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 2: Improve public and private infrastructure to withstand anticipated climate change impacts.
- 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: Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Succotash Marsh Resilience Project Subaward**

NBEP has funded a wide range of activities and project types for decades. Based on discussions with NBEP committee and working group members, and considering the mix of activities funded by NBEP in FY2021 (green infrastructure planning) and proposed for FY2022 using BIL funds (local capacity, habitat connectivity planning), NBEP intends to provide a direct subaward to the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) to lead the design and permitting of a sediment placement project at Succotash Marsh in South Kingstown RI. NBNERR has the unique mix of mission, technical expertise, and administrative track record necessary to advance restoration at Succotash that has been discussed for many years. Operated by RIDEM as a Wildlife Management Area, this 182-acre unditched salt-marsh system is composed of open water, tidal flat, high marsh and low marsh zones. Areas around the marsh perimeter include upland grassland and coastal shrubland. Small islands vegetated with shrub and tree species, tidal creeks, and intertidal flats provide a diverse habitat. The marsh provides breeding grounds for a diverse assemblage of birds, including salt marsh sparrows, and supports local commercial (e.g., aquaculture) and recreational (e.g., hunting, kayaking, birding) interests. The marsh has been identified by the [Atlantic Coast Joint Venture](#) (ACJV) as a priority site for salt marsh sparrow conservation in RI. Sea-level rise threatens the marsh and development encroaches from the uplands, preventing the high marsh zone from moving inland and



subjecting it to more frequent flooding and runoff. One strategy used to adapt to this challenge in the region, and recommended for this site specifically by ACJV, is to add sediment to raise the elevation of the system so it can retain its form and function in the face of higher seas. NBNERR will hire a consultant to pursue necessary studies and designs for a sediment placement project at Succotash. Task 3a will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a and 1b and a subaward. This project will also leverage additional capacity building funds from NOAA Office for Coastal Management to NBNERR for project management.

**FY2022 Tasks, Target Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes**

| Task and Staff   | Target Completion Date | Outputs*   | Outcome   |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Task 3a: NBNERR Succotash Subaward</b> (Staff Scientist, RWU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs) | January 2023           | One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement with NBNERR.<br><br>One (1) sediment placement project design and permitting. | A salt marsh resilience project at Succotash is ready for installation. |

\*Outputs may be refined in the final scope of work and agreement.

**Objective 4: Delivery of Targeted Tech Transfer.**

**Primary 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 and local levels and improve 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 and regional partners to design and host an annual science conference, workshop, or equivalent that addresses a topic that is especially germane to our study area and would benefit from deeper discussion. NBEP is pursuing a plastics workshop at RWU in October 2021. 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 and RWU staff, community engagement contracts, and other 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 habitat and financial leveraging 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: SNEP 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 Ecosystems Services Subcommittee, SNEP Network Advisory Committee, and Restore America's Estuaries Grant Review Committee. Task 4b will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

**Task 4d: Strategic Outreach**

Successfully communicating complicated issues facing our study area in a simple and compelling manner has become a specialty of NBEP. Ad hoc convenings, workshops, publications, GIS tools, Story Maps, presentations, and websites are all deployed. We will focus on pressing topics for NBEP (e.g., Vision 2032, grantmaking), the region (nutrients, salt marsh, infrastructure improvement), and nationally (climate change, environmental justice, green/blue economy). 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 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. NBEP also works to bring in outside speakers for two-way learning at committee and other meetings. 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. Task 4d will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff and contract support for community engagement, website design, and communications that are beyond NBEP staff capabilities.

**FY2022 Tasks, Target Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes**

| <b>Task and Staff</b>  | <b>Target Completion Date</b> | <b>Output</b>   | <b>Outcome</b>   |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Task 4a: Study Area Science Event</b> (Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager)         | Early summer 2023             | One (1) science event completed.<br>One (1) set of event materials.<br>Up to two (2) community engagement contracts.<br>Meals for the event.<br>Travel for the event. | An annual NBEP signature event is established where knowledge is developed and shared on a priority issue facing the region. |
| <b>Task 4b: NEPORT</b> (Staff Scientist, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager)   | September 2023                | One (1) update to NEPORT system.  | Enhanced EPA knowledge of project results in the study area.   |
| <b>Task 4c: SNEP Support</b> (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager) | Ongoing                       | Ten (10) SNEP meetings attended.<br>Twenty (20) one-on-one conversations with SNEP staff.   | Improvement of SNEP and its support for NBEP's study area.   |

|   |         |  |   |
|---|---------|--|---|
| <b>Task 4c: Focused Outreach</b><br>(Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager, RWU Communication Department) | Ongoing | Five (5) outreach publications.<br>Twenty-five (25) events joined.<br>One (1) communications contract. | 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 FY2022 are provided below by budget category. Match documentation can be provided upon request.

### NBEP FY2022 Match for Section 320 and SNEP Funds

| Category  | Match            | Source     |
|---|------------------|------------|
| <b>Personnel (10/1/22-9/30/23)*</b>   | <b>\$236,880</b> |            |
| TNC-RI staff  | \$4,400          | Non-profit |
| NBC staff   | \$49,871         | Private    |
| MADEP staff   | \$9,715          | State      |
| Ten Mile River Watershed Council, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)        | \$3,360          | Private    |
| Ten Mile River Watershed Council, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)        | \$5,409          | Non-profit |
| Ten Mile River Watershed Council, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)        | \$1,700          | State      |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match) | \$9,000          | City       |
| Save The Bay, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)                            | \$2,940          | State      |
| Save The Bay, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)                            | \$1,954          | City       |
| Save The Bay, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)                            | \$9,589          | Non-profit |
| Audubon Society of RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)  | \$23,653         | Non-profit |
| Barrington, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)   | \$13,100         | City       |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)   | \$2,505          | Non-profit |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)  | \$10,000         | City       |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)  | \$1,170          | Non-profit |
| Groundwork Southcoast (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)  | \$6,250          | Non-profit |
| NBNERR (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)   | \$17,124         | Non-profit |
| South Kingstown, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)  | \$33,000         | City       |
| Southern RI Conservation District (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                  | \$3,215          | State      |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$4,800          | Non-profit |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$5,000          | Private    |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$10,000         | City       |
| RIDEM staff   | \$9,125          | State      |

|   |                    |            |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| <b>Fringe (10/1/22-9/30/23)</b>   | <b>\$47,468</b>    |            |
| TNC-RI staff  | \$1,980            | Non-profit |
| NBC staff   | \$27,429           | Private    |
| MADEP staff   | \$4,070            | State      |
| Audubon Society of RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$3,964            | Non-profit |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                 | \$634              | Non-profit |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                              | \$1,000            | City       |
| Southern RI Conservation District (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                | \$1,476            | State      |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)          | \$1,440            | Non-profit |
| RIDEM staff   | \$5,475            | State      |
| <b>Travel</b>   | <b>\$307</b>       |            |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                 | \$307              | Non-profit |
| <b>Supplies</b>   | <b>\$29,434</b>    |            |
| NBC supplies  | \$22,700           | Private    |
| Audubon Society of RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$1,500            | Non-profit |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                              | \$1,125            | Non-profit |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                              | \$500              | City       |
| Groundwork RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                    | \$900              | Non-profit |
| Southern RI Conservation District (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                | \$2,709            | Non-profit |
| <b>Contracts</b>  | <b>\$679,356</b>   |            |
| TNC-RI projects   | \$79,000           | Non-profit |
| TNC-RI projects   | \$79,000           | Private    |
| TNC-RI projects   | \$25,000           | State      |
| CRMC (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match)                      | \$225,000          | State      |
| Norman Bird Sanctuary, RI (RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund award match) | \$30,000           | Private    |
| Audubon Society of RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                            | \$6,740            | City       |
| Bristol, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                      | \$23,606           | City       |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                 | \$2,200            | Non-profit |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                 | \$1,700            | City       |
| East Providence, RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                              | \$3,500            | City       |
| Groundwork RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                    | \$12,500           | Private    |
| Groundwork RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                    | \$14,546           | Non-profit |
| Groundwork RI (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                    | \$3,750            | City       |
| Southern RI Conservation District (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                | \$20,000           | State      |
| Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)          | \$10,000           | Non-profit |
| RIDEM projects  | \$142,814          | State      |
| <b>Other</b>  | <b>\$0</b>         |            |
| <b>Indirect Costs</b>   | <b>\$6,555</b>     |            |
| Clark University (Green Infrastructure Planning subaward match)                                 | \$1,733            | Non-profit |
| MADEP staff   | \$4,822            | State      |
| <b>Total Match</b>  | <b>\$1,000,000</b> |            |
| State   | \$455,352          |            |
| Non-state   | \$544,648          |            |

## Appendix A: New Subawards and Contracts Using FY2022 Funding

| Task(s)             | Project                                   | Amount    | Outputs*   | Procurement | Funding Close |
|---------------------|---|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|
| All tasks           | All tasks.                                | \$8,000   | Up to two (2) non-RWU interns hired to support NBEP or partners.   | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 1d, 1e, 2c, 4a | Community Engagement for specified tasks. | \$9,750   | Up to fifteen (15) outside people paid to speak or otherwise offer their professional or life experience.              | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 1d             | Land Acknowledgment Development.          | \$10,000  | One (1) tribal affairs expert hired to coordinate development of land acknowledgment.                                  | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 2c             | Vision 2032 Development.                  | \$50,000  | One (1) science/technical writer hired to draft Vision 2032 text.  | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 2c             | Vision 2032 Development.                  | \$15,000  | One (1) outreach expert hired to assist with Vision 2032 comms.  | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 2c             | Vision 2032 Development.                  | \$3,600   | One (1) website expert hired to maintain Vision2032.org.   | Contract    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 2d             | Blackstone Initiative.                    | \$50,000  | One (1) scope of work, budget, and subaward agreement with Clark University.   | Subaward    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 3a             | Succotash Marsh Resilience Project.       | \$200,000 | One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement with NBNERR.<br>One (1) sediment placement project design and permitting. | Subaward    | 9/30/25       |
| Task 4d             | Focused Outreach                          | \$4000    | One (1) contract with the Association of National Estuary Programs to develop factoids and communications materials.   | Contract    | 9/30/25       |

\*Outputs may be refined in the final scope of work and agreement.

## Appendix B: Grant Performance Report (CE00A00393, CE00A00407, CE00A00967)

The attached quarterly reports satisfy the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the programmatic terms and conditions of the grant.

## Appendix C: Travel Report

The attached report satisfies the obligation to submit documentation of \$320 funds used for travel as required under the NEP Funding Guidance.

## **Appendix B: Grant Performance Report**

June 23, 2021-June 16, 2022

This document compiles the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's four Quarterly Program Reports for this performance period.

# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

## Program Report September 2021

This report covers activities completed by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) from June 23, 2021 to September 20, 2021. To assist with tracking and reporting, the fiscal year, funding source, and task number(s) for the NBEP Work Plan where the activities were billed is provided in parentheses after each update title. Further, hyperlinks ([blue-underlined text](#)) are provided for noted documents, organizations, and websites. Contact Mike Gerel with NBEP at [mike.gerel@nbep.org](mailto:mike.gerel@nbep.org) with questions about this report.

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Financials, pages 1-3.
- ❖ Host Transition, page 4-5.
- ❖ FY2021 EPA Grant Application Submittal, page 5-6.
- ❖ Vision 2032, page 6-7.
- ❖ Blackstone River Initiative, page 8.
- ❖ New NBEP Science, page 9.

### II. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #1: ENSURE SOUND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

#### A. Financials

1. Active Funding Sources ([FY19 NEP Work Plan](#) Task 1a and 1b). NBEP currently has funds remaining in five (5) EPA Cooperative Agreements ([National Estuary Program—NEP](#) and [Southeast New England Program—SNEP](#)) and one contract with [Save The Bay](#). Figure 1 below provides an overview of this funding.

**Figure 1: NBEP Active Funding Sources**

| Funder         | Vehicle               | Grant#     | Award     | Close Date | Administrator             |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------|
| Save The Bay   | Contract              | n/a        | FY2019    | 8/31/21    | NEIWPC                    |
| EPA NEP & SNEP | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00004 | FY2015    | 9/30/21    |                           |
| EPA NEP & SNEP | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00393 | FY2018    | 9/30/22    |                           |
| EPA NEP        | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00407 | FY2019    | 9/30/24**  |                           |
| EPA NEP        | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00407 | FY2020    | 9/30/24**  |                           |
| EPA NEP        | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00967 | FY2021*** | 9/30/24    | Roger Williams University |

\*Note that EPA uses the fiscal year when funds are delivered to name the award.

\*\*It is expected that all funds held by NEIWPC will be expended by September 30, 2022.

\*\*\*All funds to be awarded to RWU in October 2021 will be in a single FY2021 award.

2. September Financial Report Notes (FY19 NEP Work Plan Task 1a and 1b). NBEP's overall financials as of September 15, 2021 is provided in Figure 2 on page 3. The figure content has been revised and condensed, presenting monies administered by [NEIWPCC](#) (budgeted total: \$444,758), those to be held by [Roger Williams University](#) (RWU) (budgeted total: \$1,787,151), and total funds available to NBEP (total budget: \$2,231,909). Figure 3 on page 3 breaks down the monies still held by NEIWPCC. In summary, NBEP's financials are sound, with sufficient funds in place to meet current obligations. We estimate having 20 months of staff salary in place on October 1, 2021 (~8 months more than budgeted for the FY2022 fiscal year).

The following projects were completed this quarter (click the project name for the report):

- City of East Providence, [RI Sabin Point Park Stormwater Plan Implementation](#).
- [Mass Audubon](#)—[Broad Meadow Brook Revitalization](#).
- Save The Bay—[Salt Marsh Adaptation Projects, Enhancing the Resiliency of Marshes in the Salt Ponds Region](#).
- Dan Codiga—[Analysis and Synthesis of Eutrophication-Related Conditions in the Narragansett Bay](#).
- [Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone](#)—Capacity support for Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project.
- [Tanager Creative](#)'s maintenance contract for the Vision2032.org site. A new contract will be established between Tanager and RWU this fall.

The FY2015 EPA Cooperative Agreement and the two remaining capacity grants to organizations for the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment project will all close by September 30, 2021. Further, the [Aquidneck Island Planning Commission](#) was given a final extension until November 30, 2021 for their Wet Vegetated Treatment Project. Finally, NEIWPCC executed a contract with [Clark University](#) to support hiring of a Blackstone Watershed Manager. Clark selected your fellow committee member, Stefanie Covino, for this position, and she started on September 7, 2021 and has already created a website for the new [Blackstone Collaborative](#). Figure 4 on page 9 provides further detail on active NBEP funded projects.

3. RWU Funding Award (FY19 NEP Work Plan Task 1c). RWU's EPA grant application for FY2021 is expected to be approved and funds awarded by October 1, 2021, or shortly thereafter. However, pre-award costs were allowed starting September 27, 2021, which is the date NBEP staff will begin with RWU. Thanks to everyone at NEIWPCC, EPA, and RWU for hustling to complete this process. More detail on the host transition and EPA grant application submittal is provided in section II.C.3 and II.C.4 on pages 4 and 5 of this report.

## B. People

1. Julia Twichell Departure. Julia's last day as GIS/Watershed Specialist with NBEP was September 3<sup>rd</sup>. She did a superb job in her over two years with NBEP. We expect to pursue a new hire beginning in January 2022. Further discussion is pending to decide the responsibilities of the hire—GIS expertise, as well as writing and facilitation support, are needed as NBEP focuses on Vision 2032 in 2022. Depending on the final job description for the new hire and Julia's availability, we may pursue a modest GIS contract with her to develop a few Story Maps in the coming year.



Figure 1: NBEP Financial Report (9.15.21)

| Expense Category       | Funds Remaining at NEIWPCC** |                  |                   | RWU Funds***        |                  |                     | Total               |                  |                     | Notes  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
|                        | Budget                       | Spending To Date | Balance           | Budget              | Spending To Date | Balance             | Budget              | Spending To Date | Balance             |  |
| Personnel and Fringe   | \$ 102,219                   | \$ -             | \$ 102,219        | \$ 834,476          | \$ -             | \$ 834,476          | \$ 936,695          | \$ -             | \$ 936,695          | Estimate ~20 months of salary available.             |
| Travel                 | (3,341)                      | \$ -             | \$ (3,341)        | \$ 12,750           | \$ -             | \$ 12,750           | \$ 9,409            | \$ -             | \$ 9,409            | Expect travel billing to pick up in next quarter.    |
| Supplies               | 10,178                       | \$ -             | \$ 10,178         | \$ 6,200            | \$ -             | \$ 6,200            | \$ 16,378           | \$ -             | \$ 16,378           |  |
| Contracts              | 146,988                      | \$ -             | \$ 146,988        | \$ 130,000          | \$ -             | \$ 130,000          | \$ 276,988          | \$ -             | \$ 276,988          | Several to close at/near close of next quarter.      |
| Other (breakout below) | -                            | \$ -             | \$ -              | \$ -                | \$ -             | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -             | \$ -                |  |
| Subawards              | 161,102                      | \$ -             | \$ 161,102        | \$ 650,000          | \$ -             | \$ 650,000          | \$ 811,102          | \$ -             | \$ 811,102          | Several ended Q4, with 6 more to close in FY2022 Q1. |
| Other Administrative*  | (15,184)                     | \$ -             | \$ (15,184)       | \$ 32,892           | \$ -             | \$ 32,892           | \$ 17,708           | \$ -             | \$ 17,708           |  |
| Total Direct           | 401,962                      | \$ -             | \$ 401,962        | \$ 1,666,318        | \$ -             | \$ 1,666,318        | \$ 2,068,280        | \$ -             | \$ 2,068,280        |  |
| Total Indirect         | 42,796                       | \$ -             | \$ 42,796         | \$ 120,833          | \$ -             | \$ 120,833          | \$ 163,629          | \$ -             | \$ 163,629          |  |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$ 444,758</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>      | <b>\$ 444,758</b> | <b>\$ 1,787,151</b> | <b>\$ -</b>      | <b>\$ 1,787,151</b> | <b>\$ 2,231,909</b> | <b>\$ -</b>      | <b>\$ 2,231,909</b> |  |

\*Includes Rental Space, Equipment Rental, Printing, Website Services, Conferences and Meetings, Conferences and Meeting Registration, Telephone, Advertising, and Computer Support from EPA approved budget. Note that Subawards are pulled out from the Other category.

\*\*Includes funds from FY2015, FY2018, and FY2019 EPA Cooperative Agreements still held by NEIWPCC.

\*\*\*Includes funds from FY2021 Cooperative Agreement with RWU, which includes FY2019 monies not kept by NEIWPCC, all FY2020 monies, and new FY2021 funding effective 10/1/21.

Figure 2: Estimated NBEP Funds Budgeted, Remaining, and Projections (As of 09.15.2021)

| Expense Category       | Active Job Cost Codes |               |                       |                |                       |                | Total Budget     | Total Balance Remaining |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|                        | FY15 (0318) Ends 9/21 |               | FY18 (0338) Ends 9/22 |                | FY19 (0349) Ends 9/24 |                |                  |                         |
|                        | Budget                | Balance       | Budget                | Balance        | Budget                | Balance        |                  |                         |
| Personnel and Fringe   | \$ 390,260            | \$ (1,299)    | \$ 584,480            | \$ 45,543      | \$ 471,658            | \$ 57,975      | \$ 1,446,398     | \$ 102,219              |
| Travel                 | 9,650                 | (1,273)       | 13,250                | (2,045)        | 496                   | (23)           | 23,396           | (3,341)                 |
| Supplies               | 6,057                 | 4,245         | 7,089                 | 5,693          | 619                   | 240            | 13,765           | 10,178                  |
| Contracts              | 130,841               | 96,716        | 5,000                 | -              | 77,025                | 50,272         | 212,866          | 146,988                 |
| Other (breakout below) | -                     | -             | -                     | -              | -                     | -              | -                | -                       |
| Subawards*             | 815,192               | (43,931)      | 316,500               | 205,033        | -                     | -              | 1,131,692        | 161,102                 |
| Other Administrative** | 47,700                | (15,785)      | 21,749                | (1,169)        | 16,651                | 1,770          | 86,100           | (15,184)                |
| Total Direct           | 1,399,700             | 38,673        | 948,068               | 253,055        | 566,449               | 110,234        | 2,914,217        | 401,962                 |
| Total Indirect         | 200,300               | (5,462)       | 151,932               | 27,038         | 108,900               | 21,220         | 461,132          | 42,796                  |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>1,600,000</b>      | <b>33,211</b> | <b>1,100,000</b>      | <b>280,093</b> | <b>675,349</b>        | <b>131,454</b> | <b>3,375,349</b> | <b>444,758</b>          |

\*Pending payment to Mass Audubon for Broad Meadow Brook, Blackstone River Watershed Council, Blackstone River Watershed Council, Blackstone Headwaters Coalition, and Blackstone River Coalition are not represented above.

\*\*Includes Rental Space, Equipment Rental, Printing, Website Services, Conferences and Meetings, Conferences and Meeting Registration, Telephone, Advertising, and Computer Support from our EPA approved budget. Note that Subawards are pulled out from the Other category.

### C. Organizational Governance and Planning.

1. NBEP Committee Meetings (FY19 Work Plan Task 1e). Since the Steering Committee last gathered the Executive Committee met on August 4, 2021, the Steering Committee on August 4, 2021, the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) met on August 20, 2021, the Vision 2032 Subcommittee Planning Groups met from July 12-15, 2021, and the Ad Hoc Host Subcommittee met several times in July 2021.
2. New Steering Committee Members (FY19 NEP Work Plan Task 1f). Cristina Kennedy with Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, Donna Williams with the Blackstone River Coalition and Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and Richard Carey with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) were unanimously approved to join the Steering Committee by the Executive Committee on June 17, 2021 and Steering Committee on June 24, 2021. All three (pictured in order below) replaced existing members and will finish out their terms. There is no process for mid-term replacement in NBEP's Guiding Principles, so a majority vote was used by both committees. Note that we expect to utilize the formal process established in 2020 and convene the Nominating Subcommittee early next year to enable Executive and Steering Committee consideration of new members and reappointments at their meetings in 2022.



3. Science Advisory Committee (FY19 Work Plan Task 1e). NBEP hosted a SAC meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>. First, new SAC members were introduced. NBEP staff then presented the Vision 2032 Planning Group approach to the SAC, encouraging them to attend and participate in the Vision 2032 process as it proceeds through 2022. Much of the **meeting was dedicated to a “check-in”** conversation on how the SAC can best work together in the future. Follow up conversations included brainstorming topics for a NBEP's science event planned for spring 2022. See more on the event in Section III.D.3 on page 9 in this report.
4. Host Transition (FY19 NEP Work Plan Task 1a and 1b). At the Ad Hoc Host Subcommittee's behest, EPA reached out to RWU on July 13, 2021 to offer them the opportunity to be formally considered as NBEP's new host. RWU accepted this invitation on July 21, 2021. The Executive and Steering Committees unanimously approved RWU as NBEP's new host on August 4, 2021, and RWU was notified of the decision that same day. Since then, the NBEP Director, NEIWPC staff, EPA NBEP Coordinator, RWU team have worked diligently in



August and September to complete the following priority tasks to enable NBEP to officially shift to RWU on September 27, 2021:

- a. NBEP Director finalized and sent to EPA and RWU the FY2021 Work Plan and Budget per Executive and Steering Committee comments on August 4, 2021; the RWU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs worked with the NBEP Director to make budget revisions consistent with those approved by NBEP committees and submitted the full grant application package to EPA on September 1, 2021; the EPA NBEP Coordinator reviewed the package and sent a recommendation to fund to EPA Region 1 Grants Office on September 15, 2021; and the application is now at the EPA Region 1 Grants Office. See Sections II.A.3 and II.C.4 of this report for more.
  - b. EPA Region 1 and RWU legal teams agreed to four additional administrative conditions for the pending award on September 1, 2021. Most germane to the Steering Committee is the requirement that the Executive and Steering Committees approve bylaws governing NBEP's operation *by December 31, 2021*.
  - c. RWU collaborated with the NBEP Director in August to create a first draft of bylaws informed by RWU's bylaws and NBEP's existing Guiding Principles. RWU plans to bring the draft to the full NBEP partnership as a foundation for discussion this fall.
  - d. RWU's Assistant Provost for Global and Community Engagement (Allen Hance—who will supervise the NBEP Director), RWU Human Resources, and the NBEP Director crafted job descriptions for NBEP staff (including titles, pay grades, and salaries), ensured completion of required HR forms, and otherwise worked through a long list of logistics to ensure the organization is operational on Day 1 with RWU. Staff titles at arrival at RWU will be Mike Gerel, Executive Director, Courtney Schmidt, Staff Scientist, and Julia Bancroft, Watershed Coordinator.
  - e. RWU Communications, EPA Region 1, and the NBEP Director drafted press release about the transition, which is expected to include quotes from the EPA Region 1, NBEP Director, RWU's President and Law School Dean, and members of the RI/MA Congressional delegation. The plan it to make the announcement the week of September 27<sup>th</sup> as follow-up to National Estuaries week.
  - f. RWU Facilities and IT, NEIWPC, and the NBEP Director are coordinating to assure computer software, files, the copier, and attendant billing are shifted to the NBEP Director or RWU ASAP.
5. FY2021 Grant Application (FY19 Work Plan Task 1c). At the June 24<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, members were asked to provide comments to the NBEP Director on the draft FY2021 work plan and budget by July 8<sup>th</sup>. Two comments were received, and these were included in the draft documents and PowerPoint presented to the Executive and Steering Committees on August 4, 2021. No further comments on the materials were provided by participants in the August 4<sup>th</sup> meetings. During August, RWU and the NBEP Director collaborated to finalize key parts of the application package. Changes made to the work plan and budget included those approved by the Executive and Steering Committees on August 4<sup>th</sup>, inclusion of final match and RWU as host, fixing numerical errors and typos, and attachment of standard appendices (Grant Performance Report and Travel Report). Since final changes to the package were minor or consistent with changes already approved by the NBEP committees on August 4<sup>th</sup> the Steering Committee Chair and NBEP Director decided that the materials did not require further review or approval by the Executive of Steering Committees prior to submittal to EPA by RWU. Thus, RWU submitted the entire

grant application to EPA via grants.gov on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Further, note that the required 1:1: non-federal match of \$1,787,151 was provided via submittal of signed match commitment forms as follows: [RI Department of Environmental Management](#): \$1,388,925; [The Nature Conservancy, RI Chapter](#): \$228,810; [Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council](#) \$718; MassDEP: \$17,748. A sincere thank you to everyone who committed match and all who developed, reviewed, and submitted the application to EPA under tight deadline.

6. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Organizational Assessment (FY19 Work Plan Task 1a). Our consultant, [Impact by Design](#) (IbD) finalized their plan for the organizational assessment, completed interviews with Steering Committee members and DEIJ experts/stakeholders, summarized the interview feedback, and has designed a survey to collect perspectives from around the study area. NBEP will draft and submit a fast-track ICR request to EPA in October to enable the survey to launch. IbD is to develop a final assessment and host a workshop to share findings with NBEP and external partners by the end of the year. Our overriding goal is to learn, adjust our perspectives and practices accordingly, and ultimately do our very best to lead by example when it comes to DEIJ. The proposal and assessment plan for this project are available [here](#).

#### D. Fundraising

1. Grant Writing (FY19 Work Plan Task 1i). The NBEP Director expects to begin pursuing additional funding sources in FY2022. This is an important development enabled by the new EPA NEP Funding Guidance and host that will allow the program to augment and diversify its funding. The [Rhode Island Department of Transportation](#) (RIDOT) has already approached NBEP about a partnership where RIDOT will provide funding for green infrastructure projects.



### III. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #2: PROVIDE WATERSHED PLANNING & ANALYSIS

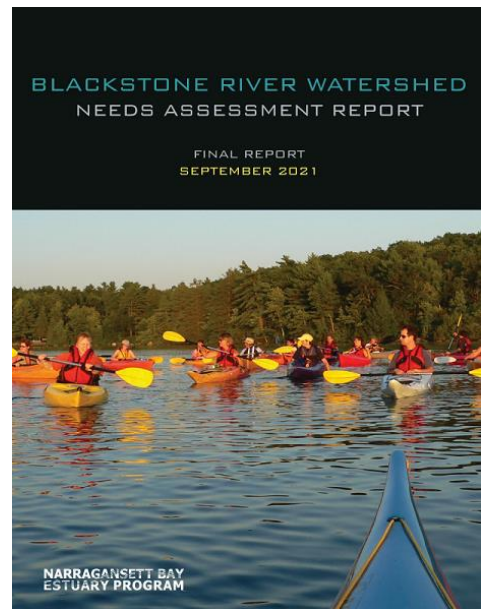
#### A. Vision 2032 (FY19 Work Plan Task 1j).

1. Planning Group Meetings. NBEP hosted [Vision 2032](#) Planning Group meetings from [July 12-15<sup>th</sup>, 2021](#) for all four goal areas (Habitat & Wildlife, Water Quality, Quality of Life, Capacity for Action). The following tasks were completed at each meeting:
  - Review the Vision 2032 Roadmap.
  - Refine “action buckets” that will become objectives later.
  - Define the basic and critical lens criteria that will be used to screen and refine the individual action plans that will make up the core of Vision 2032.
  - Discuss type, roles, and timing of outreach for development of action plans.
  - Share the location in an [on-line Google Drive](#) where all Vision 2032 plan development materials will live and be available for review, download, and offering feedback.

Since these meetings, NBEP staff finalized the action buckets, compiled a comprehensive list of existing plans (including NBEP’s 2012 CCMP), mined these plans to complete a list of potential actions coded by focal area, and completed an *Action Planning Worksheet*, which will be used to create standardized action plans. Based on Zoom fatigue among participants and our view that the next steps in the planning process are best done in-person, NBEP



- B. **Science Working Group Meetings** ([FY20 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2b). NBEP’s [Science Working Groups](#) have remained active. These specific purpose-driven groups are convened at the request of partners to address vexing or unaddressed scientific issues facing the region. Highlights since June:
1. [Social Science Working Group](#). This group met on July 16, 2021. The group explored developing social science metrics to match the environmental science metrics (indicators) already in use by NBEP. Based on the group’s feedback, Emily Shumchenia (our facilitator) and NBEP will create a document highlighting the priority social science metrics and how they fit with the environmental science indicators. The goal of the next meeting is to start to develop approximately three social science metrics to be used for NBEP’s next State of the Watershed report. The next meeting is slated to occur by November.
  2. [Water Clarity Working Group](#). This group held its kick-off meeting on July 9, 2021. For many years there has been debate among the academic and resource management community about the best way to measure water clarity (e.g., secchi disk, photometer) and how such data could inform the assessment and management of waterbodies. Topics of discussion included existing data, how best to share this data, and what makes a good water clarity indicator. NBEP is currently analyzing data shared by the group and will present it at the next meeting to advance discussions. The next meeting should take place by November.
- C. **Blackstone Initiative** ([FY20 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 5a and 5b). The new FY2021 Work Plan rolls up our current Blackstone River Watershed activities into one “Blackstone Initiative” task.
1. [Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project](#). NBEP hosted a meeting of this project on July 7, 2021. Clark’s plan to hire a Blackstone Watershed Manager was announced, RISD presented on their “Turning to the River Project,” which will explore local people’s connections to the Blackstone, and NBEP presented feedback to date on the draft needs assessment. To collect further input, a public comment period was opened from July 27<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> and four separate public hearings were held across the watershed. Altogether, 20 additional comments were received. The final [Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report](#), which includes 20 recommended actions for addressing priority needs in the region, was released on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The project will conclude with a joint NBEP/Blackstone Collaborative meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, where the final report will be presented and printed copies distributed, and the project passed to the collaborative. NBEP will join the collaborative and offer in-kind staff support to the group as needed.
  2. [Lower Blackstone Dams Fish Passage Group](#). NBEP has been asked by RIDEM to serve as an independent convener for a renewed effort to overcome barriers to achieving fish passage past the first four dams on lower Blackstone River in Rhode Island. Over the last several months NBEP completed one-on-one interviews with all 12 initial members of the project “Core Team” (RIDEM, NRCS, FWS, Army Corps, NPS, TNC, Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, City of Pawtucket, all four dam owners), compiled a list of priority issues, and crafted an agenda for the kick-off meeting to be held September 30<sup>th</sup> via



Zoom. All members are confirmed for this meeting. Team members will be asked to confirm/add to the list of issues, consider means to address them and assign leads to explore them further, and consider other interests that should be invited to join the team. The goal is to create a consensus document by next summer that can definitively deliver the approvals and funding to install fish passage.

#### D. New NBEP Science

1. Comprehensive Plan to Restore Water Quality in Hundred Acre Cove Project (FY19 NEP Work Plan, Task 3b). NBEP prepared several detailed maps to tie off our work on this project. We previously created two [online tools](#) to assist the project. STB completed the [final report](#) for this project on August 16, 2021. It was a pleasure to support STB on this project and we are proud of our contribution to the final product.
2. Narragansett Bay Chlorophyll Study (FY19 NEP Work Plan, Task 2a, 2e, and 5c). Under contract to NEIWPCC/NBEP, Dan Codiga completed his [final report](#) on how nutrient loading and climate is changing hypoxia and algal blooms in the Narragansett Bay. This work confirmed the positive impact that recent wastewater treatment plant upgrades have had on the health of the Bay. NBEP is hosting a [webinar](#) on September 28<sup>th</sup> highlighting Dan's and RIDEM's work on changing eutrophication finfish communities in Mt Hope Bay.
3. Science Event (Proposed FY21 NEP Work Plan, Task 4a). As noted earlier in this report, NBEP is planning to host a Narragansett Bay Region-centered science event in spring 2022. The idea is to bring together experts for presentations and small group discussions to learn and explore means to address an important issue facing our region. A [brainstorming exercise](#) at the last SAC and further outreach to partners has resulted in a short list of potential topics (e.g., emerging or persistent contaminants, climate change impact on uplands, salt marsh restoration). We expect to form a Science Event Subcommittee to pick a final topic and begin planning. *Steering Committee members with ideas for topics, partners, or keynote speakers should reach out to Courtney at [courtney.schmidt@nbep.org](mailto:courtney.schmidt@nbep.org).*
4. NBEP's EJ Tool (FY19 Work Plan Task 1j). NBEP has created an "[Environmental Justice Planning & Mapping Tool](#)" (and accompanying [users guide](#)), which can be used to locate, characterize, and prioritize communities where the impacts of environmental can be intensified. This new tool provides a means to identify and respond to the issues highlighted in our [EJ Story Map](#), which was highlighted in a cover story in EcoRI titled, "[Narragansett Bay Mapping Project Details Big Picture of Region's Health and Equity](#)." We encourage committee members to give this tool a try and consider how it can assist your work.
5. Science Corner ([FY20 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2a). NBEP has created a new [Science Corner](#) where we post short updates on timely scientific issues facing the region. Four updates have posted so far (Land Use in Narragansett Bay, Land Use in Little Narragansett Bay and the Coastal Salt Ponds, Nuisance Flooding, and Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition) and one short piece on how underwater sound impacts seagrass growth. Future corners will focus on eutrophication, ground-mounted solar arrays, and salt marshes.



#### IV. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVES #1-#3: NBEP FUNDED PROJECTS

- A. **NBEP Funded Projects** ([FY20 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2f; FY18 NEP Work Plan, Task 4b). See Figure 3 on page 10 for an overview of the 7 active NBEP-funded projects.

Figure 3: NBEP Funded Projects

| Funding Source |      | Project Type | Recipient/ Location   | Project Description   | Status as of September 20, 2021   | Closing Date |
|----------------|------|--------------|---|---|---|--------------|
| 2018           | SNEP | Capacity     | <a href="#">Blackstone Valley Tourism Council</a>                       | <u>Blackstone River Needs Assessment Project</u> . Support the project by preparing for meetings, taking meeting notes, and reviewing written materials.  | Attended the July 7 <sup>th</sup> needs assessment meeting, provided comments on final draft assessment, and hosted public meetings on September 1 <sup>st</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> .   | 9/30/21      |
| 2018           | SNEP | Capacity     | Mass Audubon  | <u>Blackstone River Needs Assessment Project</u> . Support the project by preparing for meetings, hosting a public meeting, and reviewing written materials.  | Attended the July 7 <sup>th</sup> needs assessment, joined public meetings, provided comments on the final draft assessment, and assisted with planning for the final Blackstone meeting on September 28 <sup>th</sup> .  |              |
| 2018           | SNEP | Installation | Aquidneck Island Planning Comm (AIPC)*<br>Portsmouth and Middletown, RI | <u>Wet Vegetated Treatment System Project</u> . The project will upgrade three existing stormwater detention basins on Aquidneck Island to Wet Vegetated Treatment Systems (WVTS). WVTS are lined filters consisting of pea gravel, crushed gravel and organic soil that is with densely planted wetland vegetation. The existing detention basins currently provide minimal, if any, treatment. Upgrades that include installation of forebays and debris separators, reconfiguring basins to operate as WVTS, and creating maintenance access to facilitate future upkeep.                              | Construction is underway on the two ponds to turn them into WVTS. Work on WVTS #1 (Oakland Farms) was progressing but is now delayed due to water encountered during excavation. Work on WVTS #2 is on hold pending completion of WVTS #1. NEIWPCC continues to have periodic meetings with AIPC to advance this long-delayed project.        | 11/30/21     |
| 2018           | SNEP | Capacity     | Clark University*   | <u>Hire Blackstone River Watershed Manager</u> . Develop a job description, work plan, and then hire a Watershed Manager to help implement the final Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment and otherwise lift coordinated efforts for the watershed.  | Blackstone Watershed Manager job description completed, and position filled September 7 <sup>th</sup> .   | 9/30/22      |
| 2019           | NEP  | Research     | Impact by Design*   | <u>Organizational Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Assessment</u> . Impact by Design is coordinating a DEI assessment of the NBEP partnership. This effort will include convening a NBEP DEI Planning Group, creating an assessment plan, conducting interviews and a survey to collect perspectives, and present a final report at workshop for the partnership to share results and recommended actions to best address DEI in the region.   | Finalized the assessment plan, completed 6 interviews, summarized interview feedback, and designed the survey to collect broader regional perspectives.   | 11/30/21     |
| 2019           | NEP  | Research     | <a href="#">Shining Sea Fisheries Consulting</a> *                      | <u>Cataloging commercial fishers' observations of ecosystem change in Narragansett Bay</u> . NBEP is collaborating with Shining Sea to analyze, map, and create a report on 37 commercial fisherman interviews that compiled observations of Bay conditions mostly quahog and lobster from 2019, compare results to agency monitoring data to look for useful information (e.g., fill temporal and spatial gaps, similarities/anomalies, trends), seek input from an advisory panel, and ultimately inform the future collection and use of fishers' knowledge to assess conditions and inform decisions. | Submitted an extensive draft report on August 15 <sup>th</sup> . NBEP reviewed and provide comments on this strong draft. Additionally, NBEP helped develop the executive summary completed on September 19 <sup>th</sup> , which will be adapted to help recruit an advisory panel and assist outreach to key stakeholder groups in October. | 12/31/21     |
| 2019           | NEP  | Research     | <a href="#">E&amp;C Enviroscope</a> *                                   | <u>Facilitation support for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program</u> . E&C is supporting facilitation of two series of expert discussions: collection and use of water clarity data/information and collection and use of social science data/information.  | E&C has supported 4 meetings for 2 working groups (water clarity and social science). E&C has provided thoughtful input for meeting design and next steps   | 1/31/22      |

\*These five projects will be managed by NEIWPCC until completed.





## V. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #4: DELIVER TARGETED TECH TRANSFER

- A. **Website Updates** (FY19 NEP Work Plan, Task 1g). NBEP has created several new sections of the website, including an expansion of ‘[Projects We Fund](#),’ and the addition of ‘[Planning For Equity](#),’ the ‘[Science Corner](#),’ and an extensive gallery of our [photos](#).
- B. **Outreach** (FY19 Work Plan, Task 1g). NBEP staff continue to participate in regional and national workshops, trainings, and committees to share our work, learn skills, and build partnerships. Note that outreach was limited this quarter due to workload and summer vacations. Some highlights:
- 6/23/21—Courtney Schmidt met with EcoRI to discuss bacteria pollution and beaches.
  - 8/2/21—Mike Gerel joined the [Narragansett Bay SAMP Aquaculture Working Group](#).
  - 8/5/21—Mike and Julia Twichell met with [RI Coastal Resource Management Council](#) (CRMC) to discuss partnering opportunities, including NBEP’s GIS efforts and funding opportunities.
  - 8/6/21—Mike met with Steering Committee members from municipalities to discuss strategies for engaging other municipalities in the study area.
  - 9/8/21—Julia Bancroft presented the [Salt Ponds Story Map](#) at the RI Rivers Council meeting.
  - 9/15/21—Mike presented on NBEP programs to the STB Policy Committee.
  - 9/17/21—Mike met with [East Coast Shellfish Growers Association](#), CRMC, and [Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) to discuss Bay aquaculture.
  - 9/17/21—Mike met with the Clark University and the SNEP Network to discuss funding and partnering opportunities for the new Blackstone Manager and Collaborative.
  - 9/17/21—Mike met with co-presenters to discuss an October 19<sup>th</sup> presentation on recent Blackstone River initiatives at the [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions](#).



## VI. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

- A. **Priority Activities** (FY19-FY20 Work Plans).

Figure 4: Staff Priorities Through December 2021

| Gerel                              | Schmidt                | Bancroft                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RWU Transition                     | Science Updates        | Place-based Project Support |
| Lower Blackstone Fish Passage Meet | Science Working Groups | Vision 2032                 |
| Vision 2032                        | Vision 2032            | Wood-Pawcatuck Story Map    |
| RFP to Award SNEP Monies           | Science Event          | Website updates             |

- B. **NBEP meetings** (FY19 Work Plan Task 1c, 1j, and 4a).
- Blackstone Needs Assessment Project: September 28<sup>th</sup>, 9-11:30am in person, 3 Paul Clancy Way, Blackstone Valley Corridor Visitor Center, Worcester, MA.
  - NBEP webinar: A Changing Narragansett Bay: Exploring Changes in Eutrophication and Fin Fish Communities, with a focus on Mt. Hope Bay: September 28, 1-3pm via [Zoom](#).
  - Blackstone Fish Passage Core Team Meeting: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon via Zoom.
  - NBEP Executive Committee meeting: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am-noon via Zoom.

# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

December Program Report

# Financial Report

## Estimated NBEP Funds Budget, Expenditure, and Balance (12.13.21)

| Expense Category                    | NEIWPC <sup>(1)</sup> |                                    |                        | RWU <sup>(1)</sup>  |                                    |                     | Total Budget        | Total FY2022 Expenditures | Total Balance Remaining |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                     | Budget                | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(2)</sup> | Balance <sup>(3)</sup> | Budget              | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(2)</sup> | Balance             |                     |                           |                         |
| Personnel and Fringe                | \$ 102,219            | \$ 18,760                          | \$ 83,459              | \$ 834,476          | \$ 64,235                          | \$ 770,241          | \$ 936,695          | \$ 82,995                 | \$ 853,700              |
| Travel                              | \$ (3,341)            | \$ (1,197)                         | \$ (2,144)             | \$ 12,750           | \$ 62                              | \$ 12,688           | \$ 9,409            | \$ (1,135)                | \$ 10,544               |
| Supplies                            | \$ 10,178             | \$ 4,475                           | \$ 5,703               | \$ 6,200            | \$ 117                             | \$ 6,083            | \$ 16,378           | \$ 4,592                  | \$ 11,786               |
| Contracts                           | \$ 146,988            | \$ 108,456                         | \$ 38,532              | \$ 130,000          | \$ 6,000                           | \$ 124,000          | \$ 276,988          | \$ 114,456                | \$ 162,532              |
| Other (breakout below)              |                       |                                    |                        |                     |                                    |                     |                     |                           |                         |
| Subawards                           | \$ 161,102            | \$ (21,658)                        | \$ 182,760             | \$ 650,000          | \$ -                               | \$ 650,000          | \$ 811,102          | \$ (21,658)               | \$ 832,760              |
| Other Administrative <sup>(4)</sup> | \$ (15,184)           | \$ (4,219)                         | \$ (10,965)            | \$ 32,892           | \$ 511                             | \$ 32,381           | \$ 17,708           | \$ (3,708)                | \$ 21,416               |
| Total Direct                        | \$ 401,962            | \$ 104,617                         | \$ 297,345             | \$ 1,666,318        | \$ 70,925                          | \$ 1,595,393        | \$ 2,068,280        | \$ 175,542                | \$ 1,892,738            |
| Total Indirect <sup>(5)</sup>       | \$ 42,796             | \$ 6,366                           | \$ 36,430              | \$ 120,833          | \$ 12,847                          | \$ 107,986          | \$ 163,629          | \$ 19,213                 | \$ 144,416              |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$ 444,758</b>     | <b>\$ 110,983</b>                  | <b>\$ 333,775</b>      | <b>\$ 1,787,151</b> | <b>\$ 83,772</b>                   | <b>\$ 1,703,379</b> | <b>\$ 2,231,909</b> | <b>\$ 194,755</b>         | <b>\$ 2,037,154</b>     |

(1) On October 1, 2021, NEIWPC held ~\$444,758 of FY18 and FY19 EPA Cooperative Agreement funds. On October 1, 2021, RWU was awarded \$1,787,151 via the FY21 EPA Cooperative Agreement, which includes all FY20 and FY21 funds. NEIWPC is ready to submit paperwork to close-out the FY15 and FY17 grant awards.

(2) Note that expenditures for NEIWPC are as of 11.24.21 and RWU are as of 12.13.21.

(3) NBEP, NEIWPC, and EPA are discussing the best approach to address the estimated \$100K in funding that NEIWPC may not need to spent to complete their work plan.

(4) 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.

(5) 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 during this period.

# Programmatic Report

- Host transition
  - Mostly done—awaiting office phones, office space agreement, bylaws
- People
  - New hires—two job announcements at RWU, hope to post by holiday
  - Completed informal performance review for Courtney
- Vision 2032
  - Objectives/“Action Buckets” in place
  - On pause until February 2022, seeking to extend deadline until June 2023
- DEIJ Assessment Survey
  - Fast-Track ICR approved for survey, survey shared 11/8/21
  - 27 of 50 NBEP committee members responded, 189 from communities
  - Final assessment and workshop in January/February
- NBEP Green Infrastructure Planning RFP
  - Released 11/8/21, 15 calls so far, proposals due 12/20/21
- Blackstone Initiative
  - Blackstone Needs Assessment—NBEP done with final meeting on 9/28/21, continue \$ support for Clark, first collaborative meet 11/15/21
  - Blackstone Fish Passage—two meetings 9/30/21, 11/9/21), great progress



# Programmatic Report

- Fishers Ecological Knowledge Project
  - Final report complete
  - Advisory panel convened and reviewed report
  - Results of excellent 12/9/21 meeting inform next steps
- Science Working Groups
  - Water Clarity (10/27/21) and Social Science (11/19/21)—working on 2-pp summary documents on chosen indicators to be explored next year
- Science Update
  - Collaborating with RIDEM, MassDEP, and Mass Audubon to create 2-page “stimulator” on land use data aspect of solar development
- Subawards Contracts Status
  - All shovel-ready and planning subawards complete!
  - 2 subawards & 3 contracts remain at NEIWPC, 1 contract at RWU
- Presentations / Notable Meetings
  - Galveston NEP re EJ
  - Whitehouse staff re NBEP
  - Reed staff re Blackstone
  - LISS NEP re EJ
  - RWU Faculty re NBEP
  - RI Aquaculture SAMP
  - RWU researcher re plastics
  - Ocean Corps re HABS
  - Clary University re NBEP/solar data
  - Movement Education Outdoors re EJ
  - RWU Staff, Faculty, and Students re NBEP/RWU partnership
  - Latino Policy Institute re EJ
  - RI Habitat Trust Fund Review Committee
  - Groundwork South Coast re new place-based effort in Fall River



Photo Credit: Ayla Fox.

# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

## Program Report March 2022

This report covers activities completed by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) from December 17, 2021 to March 9, 2022. To assist with tracking and reporting, the fiscal year, funding source, and task number(s) for the NBEP Work Plan where the activities were billed are provided in parentheses after each update title. Further, hyperlinks ([blue-underlined text](#)) are provided for noted documents, organizations, and websites. Committee decisions since the last Steering Committee meeting are included as **red text**.

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- March 2022 Financials, pages 1-3
- Green Infrastructure Planning Subawards, page 3 and 8
- New Hires, page 4
- SC Reappointments, page 4
- Bylaws, page 6
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Work, page 7
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Funding, page 8
- Vision 2032 Progress, page 9
- Science Event, page 12 and 14

### II. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #1: ENSURE SOUND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

#### A. Financials

1. **Active Funding Sources** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a and 1b). NBEP has funds remaining in three (3) EPA Cooperative Agreements (Clean Water Action Section 320 [National Estuary Program—NEP](#) and [Southeast New England Program—SNEP](#)). Figure 1 below provides an overview of our current funding sources.

Figure 1: NBEP Active Funding Sources

| Funder        | Vehicle               | Grant#     | Award* | Close Date | Administrator |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|------------|---------------|
| EPA NEP, SNEP | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00393 | FY18   | 9/30/22    | NEIWPCC       |
| EPA NEP       | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00407 | FY19   | 9/30/24    |               |
| EPA NEP, SNEP | Cooperative agreement | CE00A00967 | FY21   | 9/30/24    | RWU           |

\*Note that EPA uses the fiscal year when funds are delivered to name the award.

2. **March Financial Report Notes** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a and 1b, [FY19](#) Task 1b, FY18 Work Plan Task 1a). NBEP’s financials as of March 9, 2022 are provided in Figure 2 on page 2. Approved budget, expenditure since October 1, 2021, and balance are provided for monies administered by [NEIWPCC](#), those held by [Roger Williams University](#) (RWU), and NBEP totals. In sum, NBEPs financials are sound, with sufficient funds in place to meet current obligations. Additional notes are provided on page 3 below:

**Figure 2: Estimated NBEP Funds Budget, Expenditure, and Balance (3.9.22)**

| Expense Category                    | NEIWPCC <sup>(1)</sup> |                                    |                   | RWU <sup>(1)</sup>  |                                    |                     | Total Budget        | Total FY2022 Expenditures | Total Balance Remaining |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                     | Budget                 | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(2)</sup> | Balance (3)       | Budget              | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(2)</sup> | Balance             |                     |                           |                         |
| Personnel and Fringe                | \$ 102,219             | \$ 50,582                          | \$ 83,459         | \$ 834,476          | \$ 119,460                         | \$ 715,016          | \$ 936,695          | \$ 170,042                | \$ 798,475              |
| Travel                              | \$ (3,341)             | \$ (1,197)                         | \$ (2,144)        | \$ 12,750           | \$ 291                             | \$ 12,459           | \$ 9,409            | \$ (906)                  | \$ 10,315               |
| Supplies                            | \$ 10,178              | \$ 4,475                           | \$ 5,703          | \$ 6,200            | \$ 489                             | \$ 5,711            | \$ 16,378           | \$ 4,964                  | \$ 11,414               |
| Contracts                           | \$ 146,988             | \$ 108,456                         | \$ 38,532         | \$ 130,000          | \$ 6,000                           | \$ 124,000          | \$ 276,988          | \$ 114,456                | \$ 162,532              |
| Other (breakout below)              |                        |                                    |                   |                     |                                    |                     |                     |                           |                         |
| Subawards                           | \$ 161,102             | \$ (17,658)                        | \$ 178,760        | \$ 650,000          | \$ -                               | \$ 650,000          | \$ 811,102          | \$ (17,658)               | \$ 828,760              |
| Other Administrative <sup>(4)</sup> | \$ (15,184)            | \$ (980)                           | \$ (14,204)       | \$ 32,892           | \$ 1,303                           | \$ 31,589           | \$ 17,708           | \$ 323                    | \$ 17,385               |
| Total Direct                        | \$ 401,962             | \$ 143,678                         | \$ 258,284        | \$ 1,666,318        | \$ 127,543                         | \$ 1,538,775        | \$ 2,068,280        | \$ 271,221                | \$ 1,797,059            |
| Total Indirect <sup>(5)</sup>       | \$ 42,796              | \$ 12,592                          | \$ 30,204         | \$ 120,833          | \$ 23,892                          | \$ 96,941           | \$ 163,629          | \$ 36,484                 | \$ 127,145              |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$ 444,758</b>      | <b>\$ 156,270</b>                  | <b>\$ 288,488</b> | <b>\$ 1,787,151</b> | <b>\$ 151,435</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,635,716</b> | <b>\$ 2,231,909</b> | <b>\$ 307,705</b>         | <b>\$ 1,924,204</b>     |

(1) On October 1, 2021, NEIWPCC held ~\$444,758 of FY18 and FY19 EPA Cooperative Agreement funds. On October 1, 2021, RWU was awarded \$1,787,151 via the FY21 EPA Cooperative Agreement, which includes all FY20 and FY21 funds.

(2) Note that expenditures for NEIWPCC are as of 1.31.22 and RWU are as of 3.9.22.

(3) Based on most recent NEIWPCC reporting, \$34,707 of NBEP funding remains unallocated at NEIWPCC. RWU has submitted paperwork to NEIWPCC to subaward \$33,507 to RWU (all remaining unallocated FY2018 money) to cover staff salary. Further, NEIWPCC will spend the ~\$1,200 (all remaining unallocated FY2019 money) to cover small bills for NBEP over the next few months. The only projects we expect NEIWPCC to administer into 3Q FY2022 are the Impact by Design (closes 5/30/22) and Clark University Blackstone (closes 9/30/22) subawards.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

- *Budgeted Salary.* Current projections show us having funds to cover roughly 1-year of salary on October 1, 2022. This is an increase of roughly four months due to NBEP being at two staff since October, and the new funds in NEIWPC Subaward noted below.
  - *FY2015 and FY2017 Awards.* NEIWPC closed out the FY2015 and FY2017 EPA Cooperative Agreements in February.
  - *FY2018 and FY2019 Awards.* Based on the reporting from NEIWPC (as of January 31, 2022), \$34,707 of NBEP funding remains unallocated at NEIWPC.
    - NEIWPC approved a subaward on March 10, 2022 to provide all remaining *unallocated* FY2018 funds (\$33,507) to RWU. NBEP plans to use these funds for cover staff salary to ensure they are spent before they expire on September 30, 2022. FY2018 monies staying at NEIWPC are allocated to cover the Clark University’s Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Project and support subaward oversight and close out.
    - NEIWPC will spend all remaining unallocated FY2019 money (~\$1,200) to cover small bills for NBEP over the next few months. FY2019 monies remaining at NEIWPC are allocated for the DEIJ work being led by Impact by Design.
    - All NBEP funds remaining at NEIWPC will be fully spent and awards closed by September 30, 2022.
  - *2019-2020 SNEP Projects Complete.* All planning (5), shovel-ready (4), and capacity-building (5) subawards funded by NBEP with SNEP monies in 2019 and 2020 are now complete. The long-delayed Aquidnick Island Planning Commission Project (AIPC) is finished. The final reports and short blurbs for the planning and shovel-ready project are available on our website (AIPC will be added shortly).
3. **FY2021 Cooperative Agreement Amendment** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a, 1b, and 1c). On March 9, 2022, EPA approved an amendment to the FY2021 Cooperative Agreement with RWU that revises the approved Work Plan and Budget to:
- Add the costs paid to staff for fringe benefits lost due to the transition from NEIWPC to RWU as approved by an August 25, 2021 EPA HQ memo (\$14K).
  - Re-program funds budgeted for Governance Support and travel to support a new community engagement task that will allow NBEP to compensate people up to \$650 for sharing their knowledge with NBEP (\$11K).
  - Adjust personnel costs to reflect 7-months with only two staff and a higher salary for the new Watershed Outreach Manger (compared to the Watershed Coordinator position) for the last 5 months of the fiscal year.
4. **New Green Infrastructure Planning Subawards** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 3a). NBEP released a [request for proposals](#) for green infrastructure planning projects on November 8, 2021. A total of 14 proposals were received. **An expanded NBEP Grants Subcommittee of 13 members, including several new folks with expertise in green infrastructure, met on January 21, 2022 and recommended 11 projects for funding (8 for full funding, 3 for partial funding) to the Executive Director.** Agreements were drafted over the last 6 weeks, and were sent out to all 11 entities by March 10, 2022 for final signature. See Figure 6 on page 13 of this report for further details on the projects. Special thanks to Peter Wong and Bob McCarthy with RWU Research and Special

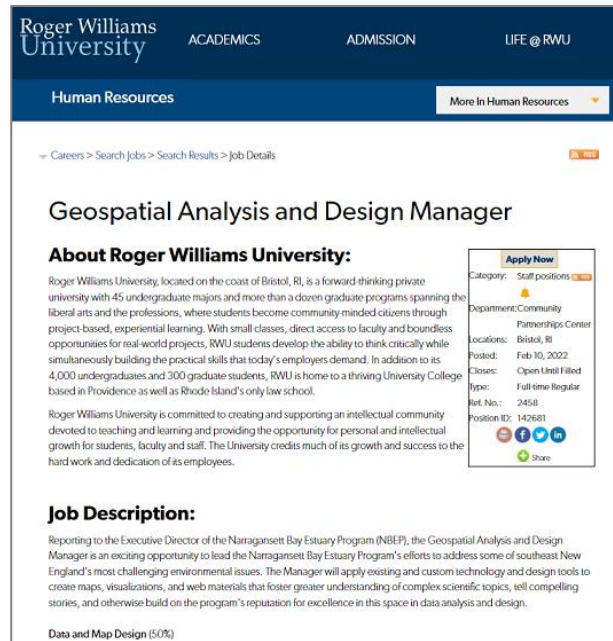


Programs, Polla Mearns with RWU Finance, and Courtney Schmidt with NBEP for shepherding this effort and setting up a solid process for us to use for future awards. NBEP will be working with RWU Communications to develop a press release for these awards by late March.

## B. People

1. **New Staff Hires** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a and 1b). NBEP worked with RWU Human Resources and Finance to develop and submit job descriptions, announcements, and other paperwork needed to post our two open positions on February 10, 2022. The two positions are:

- [Geospatial Analysis and Design Manager](#)—This position will apply existing and custom technology and design tools to create maps, visualizations, and web materials that foster greater understanding of complex scientific topics, tell compelling stories, and otherwise build on the program's reputation for excellence in this space. The position builds on Julia Twichell's job description by adding design elements she brought to the position. As of March 9, 2022, we have seven applications for this position.



The screenshot shows the job posting page for the 'Geospatial Analysis and Design Manager' position at Roger Williams University. The page header includes the university logo and navigation links for 'ACADEMICS', 'ADMISSION', and 'LIFE @ RWU'. Below the header, there is a 'Human Resources' section with a 'More In Human Resources' dropdown menu. The main content area features the job title, a breadcrumb trail ('Careers > Search Jobs > Search Results > Job Details'), and an 'Apply Now' button. The 'About Roger Williams University' section provides a brief overview of the university's mission and programs. The 'Job Description' section details the role's responsibilities, including reporting to the Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) and leading efforts to address environmental issues. A sidebar on the right contains job details such as 'Category: Staff positions', 'Department: Community Partnerships Center', 'Locations: Bristol, RI', 'Posted: Feb 10, 2022', 'Closes: Open Until Filled', 'Type: Full-time Regular', 'Ref. No.: 2458', and 'Position ID: 142681'. Social media sharing icons are also present.

- [Watershed Outreach Manager](#)—This position will create and communicate the work of partnerships and cultivate projects that help achieve NBEP's mission. The position replaces Julia Bancroft's coordinator position with a higher-level position that will lead community engagement and writing for Vision 2032 at the outset. We have received 15 applications for this position.

*Through March 24<sup>th</sup>, please send anyone who may be interested in these positions to our website ([www.nbep.org](http://www.nbep.org)) where the links to the job announcements pop-up automatically on the home page. We expect to review applications and schedule first interviews over Zoom for the positions in early April 2022. Right now, Mike Gerel and Courtney with NBEP, Allen Hance with RWU, and Regina Lyons with EPA make up the interview committee.*

2. **Future Interns** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a and 1b). NBEP staff have clarified the process for bringing on interns from RWU (hire them through RWU Career and Professional Development) or from other schools (pay them as consultant). Mike spoke to faculty at RWU Biology, Marine Biology, and Environmental Science (BMES) and the broader university about NBEP to spark interest in internships, research, and other collaborations. Courtney Schmidt with NBEP will work directly with Career Development and faculty to pursue at least one summer intern from RWU to support NBEP or a partner. SC members with intern needs should contact Courtney at [courtney.schmidt@nbep.org](mailto:courtney.schmidt@nbep.org).

3. **SC Reappointments** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1g). The following eight members terms were up as of 12/31/21, and are up for reappointment:

- Richard Carey, MA Department of Environmental Protection
- Rob Johnson, Clark University
- Cristina Kennedy, MA Division of Ecological Restoration
- Jim McCaughey, Narragansett Bay Estuary Commission (NBC)
- Bill Napolitano, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Tom Kutcher, RI Natural History Survey
- Cassius Spears, Narragansett Indian Tribe (term ended 12/31/20)
- Susan Sullivan, NEIWPC

Richard, Rob, Cristina, Bill, and Tom each indicated they would like to be reappointed. NBC and NEIWPC recommended new people, Eliza Moore and Richard Friesner, respectively. Short bios for the two new folks are provided below:

- *Eliza Moore* is the Senior Environmental Scientist at the Narragansett Bay Commission, Rhode Island's largest wastewater treatment agency. Ms. Moore has worked in the wastewater industry for over 10 years, finding a niche that satisfies her interests in coastal ecology and data management with her drive to improve environmental health and community well-being in the region. Ms. Moore received a bachelor's degree in biology (marine science focus) from Northeastern University in 2005 and is an alumna of the Three Seas Program. She earned a master's degree in biology (marine ecology focus) from San Diego State University in 2008.
- *Richard Friesner* joined NEIWPC in 2016 as Director of Water Quality Programs. Richard works on a variety of projects including wetlands, monitoring, water quality standards, nutrients, TMDLs, mercury, harmful algal blooms, and aquatic nuisance species. He serves as the NEIWPC representative on the Management Committee for the Long Island Sound's TMDL. Richard joined NEIWPC with 10 years of experience in the environmental science and policy field and most recently worked at the George Mason University's Office of Admissions. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from George Mason University, an M.S. and B.S in Environmental Science from the University of Kansas.

Cassius Spears with the Narragansett Indian Tribe has not been in contact with the program for nearly four years, and has not responded to any inquiries during that period. Cassius' term expired last year but the SC suggested giving it one more year to reach him or the tribe to discuss a replacement. While NBEP had some initial conversations with tribal members during that time, due to COVID and other challenges, staff believe we are not at a place to seek a replacement for Cassius. Staff further felt that the most respectful approach at this time was to send Cassius a note indicating his term has expired, thanking him for his service, and sharing our desire to engage with the tribe in the future. The DEIJ Organizational Assessment that will be complete by late spring can guide our next actions, including stepping back and working with regional tribes to develop a land acknowledgement for NBEP.

The Nominating Subcommittee met on February 4, 2022 to discuss these reappointments. The group recommended sending the seven reappointments noted above to the EC for discussion at their next meeting and supported the approach noted above for the Narragansett Indian Tribe. Note that the subcommittee suggested holding a seat for NBC, as Eliza had not been designated as NBC's nominee in time for the meeting. Finally, the subcommittee decided not to

recommend any new members this cycle due to the current SC membership of 33 people and the need to focus on completing NBEP bylaws.

At their meeting on February 8, 2022, the Executive Committee (EC) supported the recommendations of the Nominating Subcommittee and sent the seven reappointments to the SC for approval and echoed the approach noted above for the Narragansett Indian Tribe. At the [March 17, 2022 SC meeting](#), these reappointments will be discussed and considered for formal approval.

4. **Individual Staff Work Plans** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1d). Mike and Courtney developed and obtained approval in January 2022 of Individual Work Plans for FY2022. Our two new hires will complete similar plans using our standard template within 60 days of hire.

**C. Organizational Governance and Planning.**

1. **NBEP Committee Meetings** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1f). Since the SC last gathered, the EC met on [February 8, 2022](#), the Nominating Subcommittee on February 4, 2022, and the Grants Subcommittee on January 21, 2022.
2. **Host Transition** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a and 1b). NBEP’s transition from NEIWPC to RWU is nearly complete. Staff expense reimbursements processes are now in place and the office phones were connected on March 11, 2022. The final tasks are RIDEM execution of NBEP’s office space agreement and completion of bylaws.
3. **NBEP Bylaws** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1e). Per the terms and conditions of RWU’s FY2021 Cooperative Agreement with EPA for Section 320 NEP funds, NBEP must approve formal bylaws to replace the existing Guiding Principles. A [first draft](#) was discussed by the EC and SC at their meetings on December 16, 2021 and a [final draft](#) was reviewed by the RWU Office of General Council by the EC along with a supporting [PPT](#) on February 8, 2022. In total, 10 sets of written comments were received on the final draft. The five substantive changes noted in Figure 3 below are now included in the final version.

**Figure 3: Bylaw Revisions Since December 2021**

| Issue   | Change  | Reasoning   |
|---|---|---|
| (1) Standing Committees                         | Replaced the term “Management Conference” with “Standing Committee”   | Management Conference is a term from the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA origin of the program is noted in Section 2 of the bylaws, so retaining the language for that purpose is not necessary. Reviewers felt the Management Conference terminology was confusing and dated. |
| (2) Term Limits                                 | Added a narrow exception to term limits that may occur with a 2/3 vote of the SC.   | There was a desire to cover extenuating circumstances where there is simply no other person on staff at a key stakeholder to replace a termed out co-worker.  |
| (3) SC Approval of Workplan & Budget Amendments | Added language that defined major amendments that require SC approval as (1) new tasks not in the Workplan and (2) Individual | Want to balance host primacy on personnel issue, appropriate SC oversight and use of their time, and flexibility for  |

Figure 3: Bylaw Revisions Since December 2021

| Issue  | Change  | Reasoning   |
|--|---|---|
|  | Budget line item revisions that exceed 10% of the year's CWA §320 allocation.   | the NBEP Executive Director to make decisions.  |
| (4) EC Membership                                      | Added language that specified that the EC must include a rep from RIDEM, MassDEP, and a non-government organization (NGO) from RI and MA. | Feeling was it is vital that the EC include the CWA implementing agencies, and as a balance, include one NGO from each state. |
| (5) Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Frequency | Added a requirement that the SAC meet at least three times a year.  | Want to ensure this important committee remains engaged and active via regular meetings.                                      |

At their meeting on February 8, 2022, the EC recommended sending the final draft bylaws to the SC for consideration for approval at their next meeting.

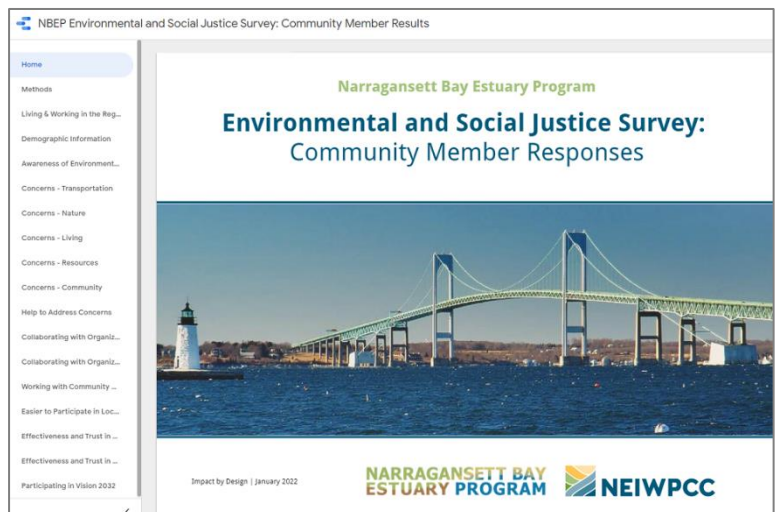
Subsequent to this meeting, two changes for clarity were included in the final version to be presented to the SC:

- *Term Limits.* Circumstances justifying an exception for term limits must be documented and submitted in writing to the SC for consideration.
- *EC Membership.* The language was clarified to indicate that there are six standing seats and one at-large seat. A provision was added that in the event that existing EC seat holders are unable to fill the Chair and/or Vice-Chair positions, by a 2/3 vote of the SC, an EC standing seat or seats may be converted to at-large for a given term to accommodate existing SC members willing to fill vacant officer positions.

At the [March 17, 2022 SC meeting](#), the final version will be discussed and considered for formal approval.

4. **DEIJ Organizational Assessment** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a). NBEP continues to work with our consultants ([Impact by Design](#), IbD, and [Resolve Conservation](#)) to complete a DEIJ assessment of the NBEP partnership. This assessment is especially important for our study area based on the high number of environmental justice (EJ) communities and requirement that new federal funds better serve these communities. To date, IbD has completed an [assessment](#)

[roadmap](#), [developed pre-survey interview questions](#) to inform final [survey questions](#), and compiled dashboards of survey results from [community members](#) and [SC members](#). 182 community members and 17 of 50 SC and SAC members completed the survey, offering a wealth of useful information. NBEP is working with the consultants to plan



a workshop in April to share the results with the SC/SAC and explore appropriate concrete actions the NBEP partnership can take to elevate and amplify DEIJ in our day-to-day work. A final written assessment is due by the end of May 2022. Overall, NBEP staff is very pleased with the progress and outcomes of this project so far, and looks forward to discussing the results and becoming a more active ally in this space. SC members are encouraged to peruse the results in advance of the workshop.

5. **DEIJ Pilot Actions** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#)). While the DEIJ Assessment has been ongoing, NBEP staff have proactively pursued the activities below on a pilot-basis to respond to insights to date and stimulate thinking and action by our partners:
  - i. *Education*. Educating ourselves and others on the scope and scale of the inequities and burdens faced by underserved communities in our study area by creating and presenting story maps ([Environmental Justice in the Narragansett Bay Region](#) and [How Do We Use Our Coasts?](#)), a new online [EJ mapping tool](#), and NBEP's emerging DEIJ approach to EPA's National Estuary Program Environmental Justice/Diversity Equity and Inclusion Workgroup, [Northeast Arc Users Group](#), [Rhode Island Sea Grant webinar](#), and directly to partners and other NEPs.
  - ii. *Action Development*. NBEP has committed via our [Vision 2032 Blueprint](#) and *Action Planning Worksheet* (noted on page 10 of this report) to review all actions considered for Vision 2032 through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  - iii. *Staff Recruitment*. Position recruiting, including the two newly posted jobs, include a provision in the announcement that education and experience requirements may be excepted where the candidate can demonstrate an equivalent combination of qualifications preparing the candidate for success in the position.
  - iv. *New Staff Job Description*. Hiring a new Watershed Outreach Manager, who among other tasks, will work to broaden our engagement with and services to new interests, including those working in underserved communities.
  - v. *Project Selection*. Scoring used in our green infrastructure planning request for proposals provided points for projects located in or that beneficially impact underserved areas.

#### **D. Grant Writing and Fundraising**

1. **Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Funding** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1h). BIL funding arrived at EPA Region 1 on March 9, 2022. NBEP is slated to receive \$909,857 each year through 2026. Draft BIL funding guidance indicates that climate and equity projects are priorities. NBEP/RWU will need to prepare and seek SC approval of a BIL Annual Work Plan and Budget and submit all required paperwork to EPA this spring-summer to obtain the funds. BIL NEP Funding Guidance is in draft, so exact rules and timing are pending. Here are a few notes:
  - At the February EC meeting, Mike indicated that since NBEP has sufficient Section 320 and SNEP funding to cover staff salary and other obligations, we will be able to re-grant *all* of these new funds to external partners in 2022. He also noted that ideally NBEP will fund no more than 5-7 awards due to the existing workload associated with the 11 new green infrastructure awards.
  - Based on lots of outreach by NBEP staff over the last few months, it is clear that the highest and best use of these funds is for local capacity-building and planning to support future acquisition of BIL and other funds for future implementation projects.

Municipalities, NGOs, and state agencies in our study area are tapped out, and not sufficiently equipped or coordinated to pursue and deploy the significant BIL funds on the way. All told, lack of capacity for problem/solution identification, proposal writing, and grant management are top barriers to getting more BIL funds on the ground.

- Figure 4 below offers some preliminary projects ideas for NBEP BIL funds for 2022. There is a mix of direct and competitive funding. Note that EPA and RWU permit non-competitive subawards if external parties benefit from the funds and the concept is included in the approved Workplan. At the next SC meeting on [March 17, 2022](#) staff will present these project ideas and members will be asked to provide feedback on them or offer their own ideas. Depending on EPA deadlines, we expect the SC will need to review and approve a BIL Workplan and Budget for a final list of projects at an earlier special meeting or their next meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Figure 4: 2022 BIL Funding Preliminary Ideas

| Capacity-Building  |
|--|
| <a href="#">One Square World/Providence Racial Environmental Justice Committee</a><br>Providence, RI<br>\$100K to hire full time staff to help the community implement the <a href="#">Providence Climate Justice Plan</a> .   |
| <a href="#">Groundwork Southcoast</a><br>Fall River, MA<br>\$75K to help hire a dedicate staffer to build the planned resilience district in Fall River, which emulates the existing district operating in New Bedford, MA.  |
| <a href="#">Save The Bay</a><br>RI and MA<br>Up to \$100K to help hire new staff to support development of local projects, modeled after Wenley Ferguson’s role and the <a href="#">National Fish &amp; Wildlife Foundation circuit rider/liaison program</a> .  |
| Targeted Planning  |
| <a href="#">The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island</a><br>Pawtucket and Central Falls, RI<br>\$300K to augment existing state bond funds and help pay for fish passage design for the four lower dams on the Blackstone River creating the conditions to acquire BIL funds from NOAA for construction. |
| Habitat-Climate Planning Request for Proposals   |
| Planning for Habitat Restoration and Preservation Projects That Improve Climate Resilience<br>RI and MA<br>\$335K to support 2-3 planning projects TBD.  |



### III. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #2: PROVIDE WATERSHED ANALYSIS & PLANNING SERVICES

- A. **Vision 2032** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2c). Work on Vision 2032 has continued since public meetings were paused in August 2021. Over the last six months, based on feedback so far, NBEP staff made decisions and drafted documents to shift planning from a predominately remote and on-line to in-person later this spring as COVID hopefully recedes. Some highlights of preparation work include:
- **Stakeholder Input.** NBEP has completed considerable outreach to diverse interests across the study area to inform Vision 2032, including some organizations and people historically not engaged by the program. Some metrics about our outreach activities to date:

- o Hosted 15 meetings attended by 111 individual attendees supported by an active MailChimp mailing list of 232 members.
- o Maintained a Vision 2032-specific website, which describes the purpose of the plan in plain language, offers meeting updates, and lists ways to get involved.
- o Successfully launched two surveys that captured hyper-local perspectives, including a Vision 2032 survey that was completed by 169 individuals, and a related DEIJ survey that was completed by 199 people, which included 100 responses from BIPOC.
- o Offered 25 formal presentations completed 187 one-on-one meetings/conversations contributing to Vision 2032 since March 2020.

In short, despite COVID, we are pleased to have already solicited, compiled, and integrated into the planning process more input from more diverse sources than anytime in our past. While we believe the data obtained is sufficient to allow us to move on from ‘planning to plan’ to the drafting phase, we will pursue further purposeful action-targeted outreach driven by the *Action Planning Worksheet* described below.

- **Draft Goals and Objectives.** Staff carefully compiled and considered input from the Vision 2032 Subcommittee and Planning Groups to date to draft the 3 goals and 12 objectives listed in Figure 5, which offer a framework for planning. We expect these goals and objectives to be tweaked as the plan is developed.

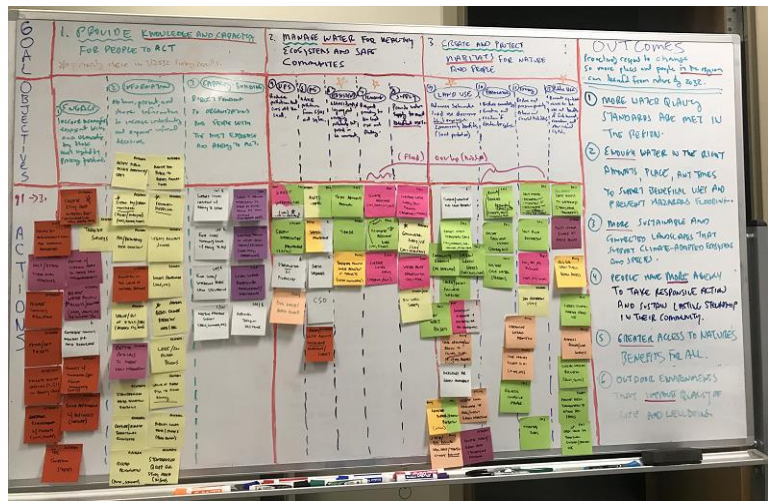


Figure 5: Vision 2032 Final Draft Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Provide knowledge and capacity for people to act.

- Objective #1: Engagement—Increase meaningful engagement with and ownership by those most impacted by proposed actions.
- Objective #2: Data—Obtain, preserve, and share information to increase understanding and empower informed decisions.
- Objective #3: Capacity—Direct funding to organizations and people with the expertise and agency to act.

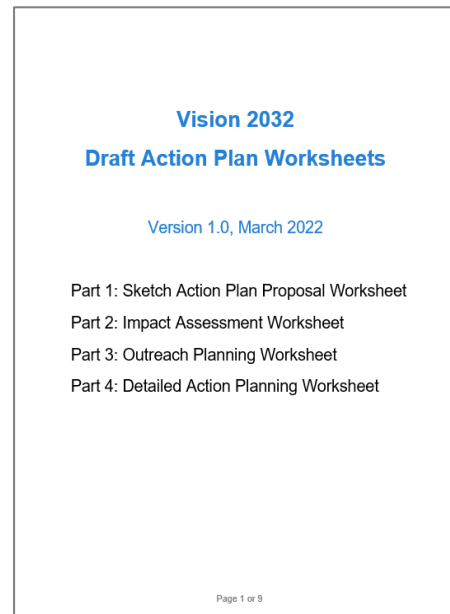
Goal #2: Manage water for healthy ecosystems and communities.

- Objective #4: Nonpoint source pollution—Reduce pollution that runs off the land.
- Objective #5: Point source pollution—Reduce pollution from CSOs and septic systems.
- Objective #6: Persistent pollutants—Address legacy, emerging, and trash pollution.
- Objective #7: Flooding—Respond proactively to sea level rise and flooding.
- Objective #8: Water supply--Provide water supply to meet beneficial uses.

Goal #3: Restore and protect habitats that support natural processes and people.

- Objective #9: Land use—Advance land use decisions that emphasize public benefits.
- Objective #10: Freshwater living resources—Restore connectivity, function, and resilience of freshwater systems.
- Objective #11: Estuary living resources—Restore and preserve priority estuarine and coastal habitats.
- Objective #12: Public Use—Provide equitable access to the use and benefits of fish harvest, recreation, and other natural capital.

- **Action Planning Worksheets.** NBEP staff dug in since last fall to study other planning processes around the country and respond to the effectiveness of processes NBEP has deployed so far to finalize an *Action Planning Worksheet*, which will be used to draft the Action Plans that will form the core of Vision 2032. The worksheet includes a “sketch” action plan (pages 1-5), impact assessment (page 6-7), outreach planning (page 8), and detailed action planning (page 9). This worksheet is currently under review by a few volunteered SC members. Staff plan to create sketch action plans for ~30 actions over the next 6 weeks so they can be discussed at the next Vision meeting this spring and set the stage for deeper action planning this summer.



- **Vision 2032 Completion Date.** The new target date for completing Vision 2032 is now June 2023.
- **Re-start of Vision 2032 Subcommittee Meetings.** Expect a meeting invite in April for an in-person subcommittee in May to vet our internal work and restart the public planning process.

B. **Science Working Group Meetings** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2a and 2b). NBEP’s [Science Working Groups](#) remain active. These specific purpose-driven groups are convened at the request of partners to address vexing or unaddressed scientific issues. Here are some highlights since December:

1. **Salt Marsh Restoration, Assessment, & Monitoring Program (RAMP).** This group last met on [January 12, 2022](#) to identify projects for upcoming funding opportunities and to explore NBEP/RAMP hosting a salt marsh science event (the topic has since changed to plastic pollution).
2. **Social Science Working Group.** NBEP has drafted a 2-pp document informed by the group’s work to date that describes priority social science metrics (three at this point) and how they fit with the existing environmental science indicators. NBEP staff will build on this piece through this summer to create social indicators for inclusion in the next Status and Trends Report.
3. **Water Clarity Working Group.** NBEP has drafted a 2-pp document that responds to group discussions by analyzing existing water clarity data to create a revised water clarity indicator for the next Status and Trends Report and perhaps future monitoring and management applications.
4. **Fishers Ecological Knowledge Working Group.** NBEP created a Fishers’ Ecological Knowledge (FEK) Working Group to host continued work to explore integration of data collected by commercial fisherman to assess conditions, guide research and management, and drive greater collaboration between fisherman and resource managers. The advisory panel assisting this project met on January 28, 2022 to review a next steps plan created by our consultant, [Shining Sea Fisheries Consulting](#). Potential actions include a meeting with commercial fishers to refine a future Phase 2 project and hiring of a professor/student (i.e. BU) to lead such an effort.

C. **Blackstone Initiative** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2d).



1. **Lower Blackstone Dams Fish Passage Project.** Since the last fish passage Core Team meeting in November, NBEP has hosted one-on-one meetings between RIDEM and key stakeholders (Old Slater Mill Association, National Park Service, NOAA, Army Corps, City of Pawtucket) to identify solutions to the highest priority barriers to progress. The ultimate goal is to create a viable consensus path by early summer for designing, funding, constructing this decades-stalled project. A sampling of positive outcomes includes:
  - Engaged 14-member Core Team is now convened that includes all key stakeholders necessary to move the project forward. NBEP staff has pursued persistent diplomacy with members of this group, which has resulted in growing trust in our role.
  - RIDEM commitment to lead the Core Team and pursuit of funding for design and construction of the project.
  - Following a meeting at Old Slater Mill with RIDEM Director and Fisheries lead, RIDEM has been invited to the Old Slater Mill Association’s next Board meeting to pursue an approach to land control at the site that enables passage (RIDEM purchase or easement).
  - After a long period of inadequate coordination, two meetings between RIDEM and the Army Corps has opened up channels of communications, resulting in the exchange of two potential designs for passing the dams at Main Street and Slater Mill and productive conversations about the best role for the Corps.
  - Extension of a contract between RIDEM and TNC, which enables ~\$800K in state bond funds held by TNC to be used to hire consultants to advance the project.
  - Leveraged progress generated by the new Core Team to engage NOAA to explore significant forthcoming BIL fish passage funding to cover construction costs for this effort.
  - Strategic engagement with Senators Reed and Whitehouse’s staff that has them speaking to agencies about the Blackstone River and poised to support the project in the future.

#### D. New NBEP Science

1. Science Event (Task 4a). Based on the Salt Marsh RAMP’s current focus on prioritizing projects for funding, NBEP pivoted our science event to focus on plastic pollution. The topic is still broad—from micro to macro pollution, from cradle to grave, from private to public actors. Brand-new research indicates plastics are a significant problem in Narragansett Bay. Courtney has been meeting with many national and regional experts to plan an event at RWU.
2. Science Corner ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 2a). NBEP published a new Science Corner Update titled, “[Into the Woods: Solar Fields in the Forest.](#)” Courtney worked with Clark University, URI, MassDEP, RIDEM, and Mass Audubon to create this piece to stimulate discussions to address lingering questions about how to balance energy needs with forest benefits when it comes to ground-mounted solar arrays in the Narragansett Bay region. Clark is working to create solar field maps to assist future work.



## IV. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVES #1-#3: NBEP FUNDED PROJECTS

- A. **NBEP Funded Projects** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Task 3a and 3b). See Figure 6 on page 13 for an overview of the 14 active NBEP-funded subawards and contracts (collectively, “projects”).

Figure 6: NBEP Funded Projects

| Funding Source | Project Type | Recipient/Location | Funded Amount                                   | Balance  | Short Project Description | Update as of March 9, 2022   | Closing Date   |         |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---|----------|---------------------------|--|--|---------|
| FY18           | SNEP         | Capacity           | Clark University, MA*                           | \$95,000 | \$85,150                  | Hire Blackstone River Watershed Manager to form a Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and implement the Needs Assessment                    | Manager hired September 7, 2022 and Collaborative has met 5 times. | 9/30/22 |
| FY19           | NEP          | Research           | Shining Sea Fisheries Consulting                | \$10,000 | \$3,500                   | Analyze existing FEK data that informs future collection and use of fishers' data that can help assess Bay conditions and guide decisions. | Submitted "next steps" document to NBEP to guide future work.      | 4/30/22 |
| FY19           | NEP          | Research           | Impact by Design                                | \$34,375 | \$25,782                  | Develop DEIJ Organizational Assessment, including interviews, surveys, workshop, and assessment to guide NBEP's efforts.                   | Summarized results and drafted plan for spring workshop.           | 5/31/22 |
| FY21           | NEP          | Outreach           | Association of National Estuary Programs        | \$4,000  | \$4,000                   | Create simple and compelling infographics and other communications materials that speak to the value of estuaries.                         | Contract in place and awaiting work products.                      | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | NEP          | Outreach           | Tanager Creative                                | \$6,000  | \$0                       | Provide domain, hosting, software, fonts, and on-call technical assistance for Vision2032.org website.                                     | Created framework for new resource library on site.                | 9/30/22 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Audubon Society of RI                           | \$73,000 | \$73,000                  | Conduct low-cost effectiveness monitoring of green infrastructure projects in Roger Williams Park and across Providence.                   | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Town of Barrington, RI                          | \$33,700 | \$33,700                  | Complete stormwater drainage system geodatabase to identify opportunities to retrofit existing or install new green infrastructure.        | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Town of Bristol, RI                             | \$70,818 | \$70,818                  | Develop 10% concept designs for up to three green infrastructure projects in the Sowams and Annawamscutt neighborhoods.                    | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Capacity-Building  | Clark University, MA                            | \$25,000 | \$25,000                  | Work with municipal decision-makers in Woonsocket and Worcester to create conditions for installation of nature-based solutions.           | Agreement executed March 10, 2022.                                 | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | City of East Providence, RI                     | \$45,000 | \$45,000                  | Develop conceptual plans for stormwater management in Runnins River watershed, including design and permitting for 1 green practice.       | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Groundwork Rhode Island, Providence, RI         | \$92,099 | \$92,099                  | Advance renderings of green infrastructure projects at the south end of Blackstone Boulevard to 75% design and public engagement stage.    | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Capacity-Building  | Groundwork Southcoast, Fall River, MA           | \$25,000 | \$25,000                  | Launch Resilience District model in Fall River that will create and maintain green open spaces that benefit the community                  | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | NEP          | Planning           | Narragansett Bay Reserve, Prudence Island, RI   | \$50,015 | \$50,015                  | Complete conceptual designs, plans, costs, and permitting for at least 4 green infrastructure practices on reserve property.               | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Southern RI Conservation District, Westerly, RI | \$75,000 | \$75,000                  | Develop a master plan with three concept designs and outreach for green infrastructure consistent with MRP/Comprehensive Plan.             | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | NEP          | Planning           | Town of South Kingstown, RI                     | \$99,000 | \$99,000                  | Complete designs, permitting, and outreach for 4 private sites that builds on existing engineering designs for Green Hill Pond watershed.  | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |
| FY21           | SNEP         | Planning           | Woonasquatucket River WC, Providence RI         | \$60,410 | \$60,410                  | Engage engineers and residents to create effective, community-supported 30% designs for green infrastructure on Salmon Avenue.             | Agreement at awardee awaiting execution.                           | 9/30/24 |

\*These three projects will be managed by NEIWPC until completed. Balances as of 1/31/22.



## V. WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE #4: DELIVER TARGETED TECH TRANSFER

- A. **Website Updates** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#) Task 4d). Staff continually update the NBEP.org and Vision2032.org websites with new meeting information, news, Science Updates, and reports.
- B. **Outreach** ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#) Task 4c and 4d). NBEP staff has been busy participating in regional and national workshops, trainings, committees, and one-on-one meetings to share our work, learn skills, and build partnerships. Outreach since the last SC meeting includes:
- 12/21/21—[Center for Youth & Community Leadership in Education](#) (CYCLE) re: com engage.
  - 1/5/22—Pew Charitable Trusts re: Bay shellfish restoration planning.
  - 1/5/22—URI re: solar arrays
  - 1/6/22—Clark University re: solar arrays.
  - 1/7/22—Narragansett High School students re: youth and Bay health video.
  - 1/10/22—RWU Economics faculty re: value of the Bay/Vision 2032.
  - 1/11/22—[Southern California Coastal Water Research Project](#) re: CERF, plastics.
  - 1/11/22—ANEP Executive Committee re: BIL funding.
  - 1/11/22—SNEP Network Advisory Committee meeting.
  - 1/13/22—Fuss & O’Neil re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
  - 1/14/22—EPA AECD re: microplastics.
  - 1/19/22—ANEP External Communications & Legislative Committee re: BIL funds.
  - 1/20/22—RWU Executive staff re: [URI Blue Economy Initiative](#).
  - 1/20/22—RIDEM re: plastics.
  - 1/20/22—Save The Bay re: interview upon joining Lower Blackstone Core Team.
  - 1/20/22—RWU Communications re: website, social media, and partnering.
  - 1/20/22—RWU faculty re: plastics.
  - 1/21/22—URI Coastal Institute re: plastics
  - 1/25/22—URI CRC/GSO re: plastics.
  - 1/25/22—RIDOH/Health Equity Zones (HEZ) re: community engagement.
  - 1/26/22—Brown University re: take-over of “Insomniac” monitoring cruise.
  - 1/28/22—EPA Region 1 NEPs re: BIL funding.
  - 1/28/22—Clark University re: FY2023 Blackstone Watershed Manager funding.
  - 1/31/22—[Peconic Estuary Partnership](#) re: lost fringe benefits solutions.
  - 1/31/22—URI Foundation re: RI Blue Economy Initiative.
  - 2/1/22—SNEP Network leadership re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
  - 2/2/22—HEZ Learning Community re: presentation on climate justice work.
  - 2/3/22—EPA re: trash free waters and plastics event.
  - 2/4/22—RWU Engineering re: intern and research collaboration.
  - 2/4/22—RWU Law School re: plastics event.
  - 2/7/22—RI Aquaculture SAMP meeting.
  - 2/7/22—Clark University re: solar array data.
  - 2/9/22—Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
  - 2/10/22—STB Waterkeepers re: plastics event.
  - 2/10/22—Groundwork Southcoast re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
  - 2/10/22—NBC re: plastics event.
  - 2/11/22—EPA AECD re: microplastics.

*Continued below*

- 2/11/22—Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
- 2/14/22—NEERS re: bi-annual meeting planning.
- 2/14/22—Save The Bay leadership re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
- 2/15/22—Providence Racial and Environmental Justice (REJC) Committee re: BIL funding.
- 2/15/22—Syracuse University re: [Envision Resilience Narragansett](#).
- 2/16/22—ANEP External Communications & Legislative Com re: Tampa meeting, BIL funds.
- 2/18/22—RI Housing Works re: community engagement.
- 2/18/22—RWU Foundation and Corporate fundraising re plastics event.
- 2/22/22—RIDOH re: Vision 2032/barriers to local projects.
- 2/28/22-3/4/22—Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium.
- 2/28/22—URI Coastal Institute re: plastics event.
- 2/28/22—[Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force](#) meeting.
- 3/1/22—EPA Region 1 re: QAPP requirements.
- 3/1/22—EPA re: planning for RI part of Resilient Coastal Wetlands event.
- 3/1/22—Chair of HAB session at Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium.
- 3/2/22 – Chair Shellfish session at Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium
- 3/2/22—Sustainable marinas group (Curt Spaulding) re: partnering.
- 3/3/22—Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor re: trash.
- 3/8/22—SNEP Policy Committee meeting.
- 3/8/22—ANEP EC meeting re: BIL funding.
- 3/10/22—RWU re: Envision Resilience Narragansett.



## VI. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

### A. Priority Activities ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#)).

Figure 7: Staff Priorities Through May 2022

| Mike Gerel                             | Courtney Schmidt                                   |
|--|--|
| New Hires                              | Green Infrastructure Planning QAPPs and Presser    |
| Vision 2032 Action Planning Worksheets | SAC Meeting  |
| 2022 BIL Workplan and Budget           | Water Clarity and Social Science Indicator Updates |
| Lower Blackstone Fish Passage meetings | Fishers Environmental Knowledge Phase 2            |
| NBEP Committee meeting prep            | Summer Interns                                     |

### B. NBEP meetings ([FY21 NEP Work Plan](#), Tasks 1f, 2b, 2c, 2d).

- Lower Blackstone Fish Passage Core Team meeting, April-May 2022 TBD
- DEIJ Assessment Workshop, May TBD
- NBEP Executive Committee meeting, [May 10<sup>th</sup>](#), 1:00-3:30pm
- Vision 2032 Subcommittee Meeting Re-boot meeting, May 2022 TBD
- NBEP Steering Committee meeting, [June 16<sup>th</sup>](#), 12:30-3:30pm



# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

June 2022 Program Report

# NBEP Quarterly Program Report

# Financial Report

## NBEP Financials 6.13.22

| Expense Category                    | NEIWPC            |                                    |                        | RWU                   |                                    |                     | Total Budget        | Total FY2022 Expenditures | Total Balance Remaining | Balance Remaining Less Embumbered Subawards <sup>(7),(8)</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                                     | Budget            | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(1)</sup> | Balance <sup>(2)</sup> | Budget <sup>(8)</sup> | FY2022 Expenditures <sup>(1)</sup> | Balance             |                     |                           |                         |  |
| Personnel and Fringe                | \$ 102,219        | \$ 52,888                          | \$ 49,331              | \$ 835,363            | \$ 171,441                         | \$ 663,922          | \$ 937,582          | \$ 224,329                | \$ 713,253              | \$ 713,253   |
| Travel                              | \$ (3,341)        | \$ (1,197)                         | \$ (2,144)             | \$ 5,750              | \$ 379                             | \$ 5,371            | \$ 2,409            | \$ (818)                  | \$ 3,227                | \$ 3,227   |
| Supplies                            | \$ 10,178         | \$ 4,475                           | \$ 5,703               | \$ 6,200              | \$ 857                             | \$ 5,343            | \$ 16,378           | \$ 5,332                  | \$ 11,046               | \$ 11,046  |
| Contracts                           | \$ 146,988        | \$ 128,799                         | \$ 18,189              | \$ 137,000            | \$ 6,000                           | \$ 131,000          | \$ 283,988          | \$ 134,799                | \$ 149,189              | \$ 149,189   |
| Other (breakout below)              |                   |                                    |                        |                       |                                    |                     |                     |                           |                         |  |
| Subawards <sup>(3)</sup>            | \$ 161,102        | \$ 13,692                          | \$ 147,410             | \$ 650,000            | \$ -                               | \$ 650,000          | \$ 811,102          | \$ 13,692                 | \$ 797,410              | \$ 2,000   |
| Other Administrative <sup>(4)</sup> | \$ (15,184)       | \$ 479                             | \$ (15,663)            | \$ 32,892             | \$ 4,155                           | \$ 28,737           | \$ 17,708           | \$ 4,634                  | \$ 13,074               | \$ 13,074  |
| Total Direct                        | \$ 401,962        | \$ 199,136                         | \$ 202,826             | \$ 1,667,205          | \$ 182,832                         | \$ 1,484,373        | \$ 2,069,167        | \$ 381,968                | \$ 1,687,199            | \$ 891,789   |
| Total Indirect <sup>(5)</sup>       | \$ 42,796         | \$ 16,762                          | \$ 26,034              | \$ 119,946            | \$ 34,288                          | \$ 85,658           | \$ 162,742          | \$ 51,050                 | \$ 111,692              | \$ 111,692   |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$ 444,758</b> | <b>\$ 215,898</b>                  | <b>\$ 228,860</b>      | <b>\$ 1,787,151</b>   | <b>\$ 217,120</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,570,031</b> | <b>\$ 2,231,909</b> | <b>\$ 433,018</b>         | <b>\$ 1,798,891</b>     | <b>\$ 1,003,481</b>  |

(1) Note that expenditures for NEIWPC are as of 3.31.22 and RWU are as of 6.13.22.

(2) NEIWPC currently holds funds from the FY18 and FY19 EPA Cooperative Agreements. All monies are expected to be expended by the close of this fiscal year on 9.30.22.

(3) On 3.1.22, NEIWPC subawarded \$33,507 to RWU. RWU will use this money to cover NBEP staff personnel and fringe through 6.30.22. While technically this subaward shifts revenue/expense from NEIWPC to RWU, for tracking purposes these funds are retained on the NEIWPC side of the ledger as a subaward that will be drawn down. Approval documentation available upon request.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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 NEIWPC to RWU, (3) and shift funds from travel to contracts. Approval documentation available upon request, and (4) and shift money within existing and to new contracts.

(7) This column represents the fact that all but ~\$2,000 of budgeted subawards have now been awarded (\$146K by NEIWPC and \$649K by RWU), so the monies are not available for the purposes of future projections and budgeting.

(8) We project to have ~\$600K left over at the close of this fiscal year. We will discuss a re-budget for these monies at the August/September committee meetings.

# New Hires

- Two open positions filled
  - Mariel Sorlien, Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager
    - Started May 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Leads all NBEP data and visualization work
    - URI MESM grad
    - Past government and academic positions in data management and collection
  - Darcy Young, Watershed Outreach Manager
    - Starts July 5<sup>th</sup>
    - Re-grading of Julia Bancroft's position to higher level
    - Will lead all outreach, Vision 2032 development, social media
    - Comes to us from Sarasota NEP where she also led CCMP and outreach work
    - Undergrad and graduate studies at Clark



# Green Infrastructure Subawards

- Press release on 5.4.22
- Agreements in place for all 11 subawards
- QAPPs nearly complete for those that require them
- Work has begun
- First quarterly reports due in July



# FY2022 Work Planning

- Lots of outreach to Steering Committee members, partners, and others to inform FY2022 (begins Oct 1, 2022) work
- Drafted separate Workplans and Budgets for
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds
  - §320 and SNEP funds
- Completed preliminary review by EPA and RWU
- On 6.6.22 the Executive Committee sent both packages to Steering Committee for action—more later today

| National Estuary Program Funding<br>Narragansett Bay Estuary Program<br>Annual Workplan for §320 and SNEP Funds |   |
|---|---|
| Applicant:  | Roger Williams University   |
| Applicant Contact:  | Mike Gerel<br>Narragansett Bay Estuary Program<br>235 Promenade Street – Suite 393<br>Providence, Rhode Island 02908<br>(804) 332-1197<br><a href="mailto:mike.gerel@nbep.org">mike.gerel@nbep.org</a>  |
| USEPA Region 1 Project Officer:   | Caitlyn Whittle<br>U.S. EPA Region 1<br>5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1)<br>Boston, MA 02109-3912<br>(617) 918-1748<br><a href="mailto:whittle.caitlyn@epa.gov">whittle.caitlyn@epa.gov</a>  |
| QA/QC Plan Required:  | Yes   |
| Project Period:   | October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025  |
| Resources Requested:  | This is a new award. Total budget is \$2,000,000 (FY2022 funds and required non-federal match). Attachment A provides the FY2022 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.   |
| Federal Cost:   | Current request: \$1,000,000 (FY2022 funds)   |
| Non-Federal Match:  | The attached match documentation includes \$1,000,000 received from various partners for FY2022.  |
| Abstract:   | This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 15 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2022 allocation of funds to its host Roger Williams University (RWU) from the EPA Clean Water Act §320 and Southeast New England Program (SNEP) funds during the first year of this multi-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA that starts Oct 1, 2022. The agreement has a three-year project period (October 1, 2022 – September 2025). This annual "NBEP Base Workplan" for FY2022 includes efforts that the program has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, have support by the NBEP Steering Committee, and are intended to advance the NBEP's mission, <a href="#">2012 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</a> for the program's study area of Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. |

June 10, 2022 Draft, Page 1 of 11

# DEIJ Assessment

- Final 3-hour workshop held on May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Led by consultants Impact by Design and Resolve Conservation
- 27 NBEP staff and committees attended
- Objectives were
  - Reflect on history and outcomes of survey and consultant interviews
  - Prioritize actions NBEP and partners can take to elevate and amplify DEIJ in our work
- Some priority actions
  1. Staff and committee to attend community events—tabling
  2. Provide capacity funding to community groups/leaders
  3. Continue what we have been doing (e.g., speaker stipends, hiring, proposal criteria, action impact review)



# Vision 2032

- Paused external work for about a year to await new staff and ability to meet in-person
- 50 preliminary actions identified
- Action Plan Worksheet complete
- Sketch Plans (first 5-pp of worksheet) to be complete by August
- Re-boot meeting in August—announcement soon
- Plan to complete by December 2023



# Blackstone Initiative

- Great progress on Lower Blackstone Fish Passage Project
  - NBEP hosted 1-on-1 meetings with RIDEM and all Core Team members
  - RIDEM Director met with Old Slater Mill on site, plans to visit Main St
  - RIDEM leadership has decided a design for passage/connectivity for all four dams is needed to break logjam—RIDEM/NBEP seeking to fund conceptual design
  - RIDEM assigned new staff to support work
- Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and Blackstone River Watershed Council capacity/outreach funding
- Funded Clark Intern to work directly for Collaborative
- RISD paddle event—more to come later in meeting

# NBEP Plastics Event

- Set for October 7<sup>th</sup>
- Hosted at RWU
- Small group helping design event
- Wants to create a “learning forum” to share state of research and pollution in the Bay to inform future decisions
- Share any ideas with Courtney



# Outreach Highlights

|  |   |
|--|---|
| SNEP Ecosystem Service Committee meeting, 3.22.22      | FEK meet with Commercial fisherman, 5.10.22             |
| Coastal and Marine Stewardship Workgroup, 3.29.22      | RAE SNEP Watershed Grant Review Committee, 5.11.22      |
| Senator Whitehouse staff, 4.1.22                       | Latino Policy Institute, 5.11.22                        |
| RI/MA Salt Marsh Project Discussion, 4.8.22            | Blackstone River Watershed Council, 5.18.22             |
| RIDEM and FERC Dam owners on Blackstone, 4.8.22        | Town of Barrington, 5.19.22                             |
| SNEP Steering Committee, 4.20.22                       | Resilient Coastal Wetlands/Coastal Communities, 5.24.22 |
| RWU STEM Curriculum, 4.29.22, 6.9.22                   | New England Estuarine Research Society meet, 6.2-3.22   |
| Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation meet, 5.5-6.22 | Mass Audubon Attleboro Wetland Project, 6.3.22          |
| Island Foundation, 5.6.22                              | Lower Blackstone, Forage fish subgroup, 6.3.22          |
| Old Colony Planning District, 5.6.22                   |   |

Yellow=Courtney; Green=Mike

# In The News

- RWU/NBEP Green Infrastructure Planning Press Release, 5.4.22:  
<https://www.rwu.edu/news/news-archive/narragansett-bay-estuary-program-awards-649000-grants-green-project-planning-ri-and-ma>
- Courtney featured in So Rhode Island, June 2022:  
<https://sorhodeisland.com/stories/the-state-of-rhode-islands-quahog-industry,97143>
- Courtney featured in URI GSO Alumni piece, TBD



## Appendix C: Travel Report

### NBEP Trips Taken June 23, 2021 to June 16, 2022

| Date               | Purpose   | Destination        | Staff            | Est. Cost     |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                    |   |                    |                  | <b>659.41</b> |
| July 28, 2021      | Warren Floodplain Management Project meeting  | Warren, RI         | Julia Twichell   | 16.24         |
| August 5, 2021     | Blackstone Needs Assessment public meeting hosted by Blackstone River Watershed Alliance            | Whitinsville, MA   | Julia Bancroft   | 29.12         |
| August 31, 2021    | Hundred Acre Cove Project meeting   | Providence, RI     | Julia Twichell   | 5.71          |
| August 31, 2021    | Blackstone Needs Assessment public meeting hosted by Blackstone River Watershed Council             | Manville, RI       | Mike Gerel       | 11.20         |
| September 1, 2021  | Blackstone Needs Assessment public meeting hosted by Blackstone Valley Tourism Council              | Pawtucket, RI      | Julia Bancroft   | 5.60          |
| September 17, 2021 | East Coast Shellfish Growers Assoc, CRMC, and NBNERR to discuss Bay aquaculture                     | Portsmouth, RI     | Mike Gerel       | 35.84         |
| September 23, 2021 | Blackstone Needs Assessment public meeting at River Bend Farm                                       | Uxbridge, MA       | Julia Bancroft   | 34.60         |
| October 7, 2021    | Roger Williams University host meeting  | Bristol, RI        | Mike Gerel       | 22.40         |
| October 31, 2021   | Broad Meadow Brook Project site visit   | Worcester, MA      | Courtney Schmidt | 30.24         |
| November 3, 2021   | New Bedford Resilience District site visit with Groundwork Southcoast                               | New Bedford, MA    | Mike Gerel       | 36.96         |
| November 18, 2021  | Roger Williams University host meeting  | Bristol, RI        | Mike Gerel       | 22.40         |
| December 1, 2021   | Roger Williams University host meeting  | Bristol, RI        | Mike Gerel       | 22.40         |
| January 20, 2022   | Roger Williams University host meeting  | Bristol, RI        | Mike Gerel       | 23.40         |
| January 28, 2022   | Blackstone Watershed Collaborative meeting  | Worcester, MA      | Mike Gerel       | 54.99         |
| February 10, 2022  | Groundwork Southcoast meeting   | Boston, MA         | Mike Gerel       | 49.14         |
| March 23, 2022     | RWU Hawks Herald interview  | Barrington, RI     | Courtney Schmidt | 15.68         |
| March 30, 2022     | Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to discuss ghost gear and fishermen's ecological knowledge | East Greenwich, RI | Courtney Schmidt | 15.80         |
| April 6, 2022      | Roger Williams University host meeting  | Bristol, RI        | Courtney Schmidt | 28.14         |
| April 7, 2022      | Coastal and Community Resilience Lecture  | Narragansett, RI   | Courtney Schmidt | 28.67         |
| May 20, 2022       | Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to discuss FEK Project                                     | Kingston, RI       | Courtney Schmidt | 35.10         |
| May 22, 2022       | Bristol County Agricultural High School information session   | Dighton, MA        | Courtney Schmidt | 22.23         |
| June 2-4, 2022     | New England Estuarine Research Society  | Salem, MA          | Courtney Schmidt | 96.00         |
| June 3, 2022       | Mass Audubon Oak Knoll Wildlife Refuge site visit   | Attleboro, MA      | Mike Gerel       | 17.55         |

**NBEP Trips Anticipated June 17, 2022 to September 30, 2022**

| Date           | Purpose   | Destination     | Number of Staff   | Est. Cost     |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------|
|                |   |                 |   | <b>562.66</b> |
| June 21, 2022  | City of Providence Allens/Public Avenue Project | Providence, RI  | Mike Gerel  | 2.69          |
| July 1, 2022   | Island Foundation meeting                       | New Bedford, MA | Mike Gerel  | 37.44         |
| July 12, 2022  | Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN) meet | Taunton, MA     | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 24.57         |
| July 2022      | Blackstone Watershed Collaborative              | Worcester, MA   | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 47.15         |
| August 2022    | Old Colony Planning Council                     | Brockton, MA    | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 51.48         |
| August 2022    | Groundwork Southcoast                           | Fall River, MA  | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 23.40         |
| August 2022    | RTWN meet                                       | Taunton, MA     | Darcy Young   | 24.57         |
| August 2022    | Blackstone Watershed Collaborative              | Worcester, MA   | Darcy Young   | 47.15         |
| August 2022    | Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association            | Hope Valley, RI | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 38.61         |
| August 2022    | Blackstone River Watershed Council              | Manville, RI    | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 14.63         |
| August 2022    | Blackstone River Watershed Alliance             | Uxbridge, MA    | Mike Gerel, Darcy Young                                   | 29.25         |
| September 2022 | RTWN meet                                       | Taunton, MA     | Darcy Young   | 24.57         |
| September 2022 | Blackstone Watershed Collaborative              | Worcester, MA   | Darcy Young   | 47.15         |
| September 2022 | Travel for other outreach visits                | RI and MA       | Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Darcy Young, Mariel Sorlien | 150           |