

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

Applicant: Roger Williams University

Applicant Contact: Darcy Young
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
235 Promenade Street – Suite 393
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
(401) 633-0551
dyoung@nbep.org

USEPA Region 1 Project Officer: Caitlyn Whittle
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1)
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(617) 918-1748
whittle.caitlyn@epa.gov

QA/QC Plan Required: Yes

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

Resources Requested: This is a new award. Total budget is \$1,819,600. Attachment A provides the FY2022-FY2023 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.

Federal Cost: Current request: \$1,819,600 (FY2022 and FY2023 funds)

Non-Federal Match: None.

Abstract: This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 10 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2022 and FY2023 allocation of funds to its host Roger Williams University (RWU) from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) during the first two years of this multi-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA that starts Oct 1, 2022. The agreement has a 5-year project period (October 1, 2022–September 2027). This “NBEP BIL Workplan” for FY2022 and FY2023 will fund partners to create the pre-conditions for more projects that address pollution, degraded habitat, climate change, and environmental inequity. This plan includes efforts that the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, has been approved by the NBEP Steering Committee, is consistent with the requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Justice40 Initiative, and will advance NBEP’s mission and 2012 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the program’s study area of Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

I. SHORT SUMMARY

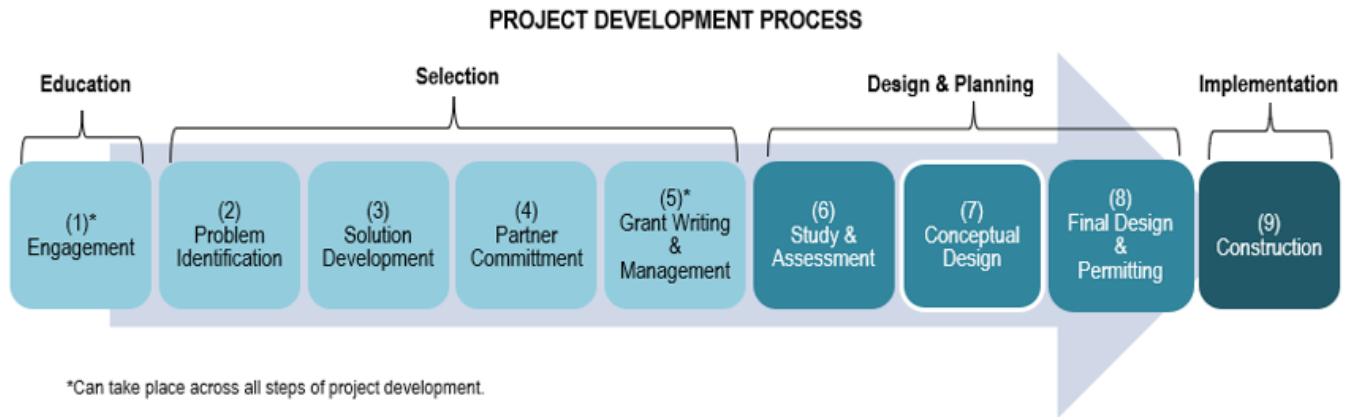
This workplan includes 4 objectives and 10 tasks that align with NBEP's [mission](#), [CCMP](#), capabilities, and funding, the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ([BIL](#)) and attendant guidance, and the commitments regarding disadvantaged communities in the Biden Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#). Through this plan NBEP will provide funding to partners with the local expertise and trust to develop high-quality projects that reduce pollution, restore habitat improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity.

Summary of NBEP FY2022-2023 BIL Workplan

Objective	Task	Location	Funding
1. Support selection of projects that reduce pollution, restore habitat, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity.	a. Fund the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee to enable committee members and consultants to convene a year-long process in the Port and Olneyville neighborhoods in Providence, RI to advance projects consistent with the Providence Climate Justice Plan.	Providence, RI	\$100,000
	b. Fund the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District to support staff to help municipalities in the Taunton River watershed in MA advance projects that support sound planning, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience work.	Middle and lower Taunton River Watershed, MA	\$100,000
	c. Fund the Old Colony Planning Council to support staff to help municipalities in the Brockton area advance projects that enhance water quality and water supply resilience.	Headwaters of Taunton River Watershed, MA	\$175,000
	d. Fund Groundwork Southcoast to support dedicated staff that will lead their expansion into Fall River, MA by advancing projects that address heat islands, extreme flooding, and are otherwise centered on environmental resilience and equity.	Fall River, MA	\$167,300
	e. Fund Save The Bay to hire new staff to collaborate with municipalities and community groups in the Narragansett Bay watershed to advance a wide range of water quality, habitat, and resilience projects.	Narragansett Bay Watershed, RI and MA	\$200,000
	f. Fund the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative at Clark University to support staff to support the bi-state Blackstone River watershed and implement the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report.	Blackstone River watershed, MA and RI	\$100,000
2. Advance design and planning for priority habitat connectivity projects.	a. Fund the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to support existing staff and consultants to ground-truth existing data, identify priority obstructions, and complete designs that achieve free-flowing cold-water streams in the watershed's headwaters in RI.	Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed, RI	\$134,800
	b. Fund the Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island to hire an engineering consultant to complete conceptual designs for fish passage on the lower Blackstone River in RI that would connect Narragansett Bay with Lonsdale Marsh.	Pawtucket, RI to Lonsdale, RI	\$300,000
3. Assist community education on the value of a healthy Blackstone River.	a. Fund the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone to engage local communities via two-way learning activities that emphasize the ecological and social value of a healthy and connected Blackstone River.	Blackstone River Watershed, RI	\$15,000
4. Support development of projects consistent with our CCMP.	a. Fund project development through use of a Request for Proposals that is responsive to progress in Year 1 efforts noted above and is aligned with BIL priorities, this Workplan, and our CCMP.	Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, Coastal Ponds and their watersheds.	\$527,500

II. CONTEXT FOR PLAN OF WORK

For decades NBEP has funded a wide range of partner's projects—from staffing to research to planning to on-the-ground projects. Based on the results of extensive outreach in 2021 and 2022, which progressed outward from Steering Committee members to interests and people we have historically not engaged, a lack of local capacity was viewed as the single biggest barrier to new project development in our study area. For the purposes of this workplan, “projects” are those that reduce pollution, restore habitat, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity. “Project development” is the process of advancing projects through the 4-phased, 9-step process from problem to construction described in the graphic below.



Municipalities and community groups, particularly those in disadvantaged areas, do not currently have the staff, time, and expertise to pursue the significant new pots of money available for project development (e.g., Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, State Revolving Fund, Clean Water Act 319, MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, RI Municipal Resilience Program). Simply put, our study area is not prepared to get its fair share of these new financial resources and resulting improvements to environmental and socioeconomic health.

Thus, NBEP has chosen to use Year 1 and 2 of its 5 years of BIL funds to boost project development by providing direct subawards to partners with the proven knowledge and agency to act locally, but currently lack the capacity to fully develop projects. This direct subaward approach is also responsive to the range of external factors noted in the graphic to the right, such as [survey results](#) on how best to support disadvantaged areas like those present in much of our study area, federal [Justice40 requirements](#), consistency with the National Estuary Program’s [community-based model](#), and the desire to get funding working as soon as possible. Note that our current plan is that staff time at NBEP and RWU to develop and manage subawards will be covered by \$320 funds under a separate workplan.



Completion of an activity that advances a project at least 1 step forward in the 9-step project development process will constitute a “project advanced” for the purposes of this workplan. Projects advanced is a primary output/metric for tracking progress under this plan. For subawardees where what is meant by projects advanced is not clear at the start, a *Project Development Framework* (see Appendix B) will be a required deliverable. This document will specify what comprises project advancement for each project (by describing the starting and expected

finishing step) and anticipated next steps to get the effort to implementation. The collective outcomes expected from this workplan are described in the table below. Outputs and outcomes by task are provided later in this plan.

Term	Outcomes
Short (2 years)	Up to 70 quality projects advanced closer to implementation.
Medium (5 years)	A more secure network of local staff and expertise.
	Conditions in place to bring in more federal funds and implement more projects in the study area.
Long (10+ years)	More high-quality projects are constructed and maintained in the region.

NBEP will evaluate success achieving outputs and outcomes to inform whether to maintain this approach or make refinements during or after the project period to assure we are truly assisting and accelerating project development.

III. OBJECTIVES

The 4 objectives in this work plan provide funding, through subawards, to partners with the local expertise and trust to advance development of projects that reduce pollution, restore habitat, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity. Each objective includes specific tasks, target completion dates, outputs, and outcomes. Objectives 1-3 will be initiated in Year 1 of this award, while Objective 4 will be started in Year 2. The main CCMP goals addressed are also listed for each objective. Also, the Justice40 Initiative, requires that 40% of overall benefits from federal investment in climate change and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. EPA guidance is pending to define what is meant by ‘benefits,’ how the 40% requirement can be met, and other specifics. Nonetheless, NBEP’s [Environmental Justice Planning & Mapping Tool](#), was used to offer a preliminary judgment whether each task benefits disadvantaged communities. For the purposes of this workplan, a project directly benefits these communities if it physically takes place within its boundaries, is undertaken upstream of these communities, or it is reasonable that assume that residents of any disadvantaged communities can visit the project area.

Objective 1: Increase local capacity to complete projects that reduce pollution, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental equity.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 2.1: Provide enhanced funding and technical assistance to municipalities in key areas of stormwater management.
- Goal 4.3: Build and increase capacity of nongovernmental organizations in implementing protection and restoration actions.

Section 2:

- Goal 1.2: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to identify and implement green infrastructure and LID techniques.
- Goal 3.3: Enhance existing or develop new mechanisms to provide planning resources to communities.
- Goal 6: Increase the role of watershed organizations and municipalities to serve critical partners in watershed management.
- Goal 6.1: R.I. and Massachusetts should provide technical planning resources to towns in less developed areas to proactively protect ecological resources and to support implementation of state and federal environmental regulatory requirements.
- Goal 6.2: Provide technical assistance to local NGOs and watershed groups to support local implementation of environmental improvement projects.

Section 3:

- Goal 6: Build capacity to implement ecological restoration at state and local levels and improve interstate coordination.
- Goal 6.5: Support the efforts of the R.I. Habitat Restoration Team to improve and coordinate habitat restoration projects, funding and policy.

Task 1a: Racial and Environmental Justice Committee Capacity Subaward

Provide a direct (non-competitive) subaward to the [Racial and Environmental Justice Committee](#) (REJC) through their fiscal sponsor, One Square World, to advance Green Justice Zones per the 2020 Providence [Climate Justice Plan](#) (CJP) in the Providence Port and Olneyville neighborhoods. The REJC, formed in 2016 and made up of volunteer community members, received an [Environmental Merit Award](#) from EPA Region 1 in 2021 for their leadership in creating the trailblazing CJP. Green Justice Zones will use a collaborative governance model to identify community-derived projects that address concerns in neighborhoods that have been disinvested in and are overburdened with pollution. Some priority strategies called out in the CJP include developing climate resilience and adaptation plans, maximizing green spaces with health and climate benefits, pursuing land use policies that reduce pollution, supporting development of a Green Port Initiative, and pursuing dedicated funding for work in Green Justice Zones. Subaward funding will be used to compensate historically volunteer REJC members and community members for their time and hire outside consultants to work alongside City officials to host meetings, trainings, and otherwise assist the community in activating their own Green Justice Zones that will advance projects that align with the CJP and hyper-local needs. This task will take place within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 1a will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 1b: Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District Capacity Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to the [Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District](#) (SRPEDD) to support staff to help municipalities advance projects in the middle and lower portions of the Taunton River watershed in MA. Since the 1950s SRPEDD has served as a regional community organization for 27 municipalities that helps implement projects that elevate local champions and achieve results in line with local needs. These funds enable SRPEDD to provide specialized support to advance projects that enhance use of nature-based solutions and/or improve climate resilience in the 22 municipalities (and their Boards, Commissions, and Committees) in our study area. Services will include community engagement, land use bylaw review and amendment, project design, grant writing, and peer-to-peer learning. The mostly small municipalities served by SRPEDD lack the capability to hire and maintain staff to provide these services, so SRPEDD and this expanded capacity are vital. Subaward funding will be used to help pay the salary of existing staff members to advance projects in partnership with municipalities. This task will directly take place and/or benefit disadvantaged communities, which are predominately concentrated around and east of Taunton. Task 1b will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 1c: Old Colony Planning Council Capacity Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to the [Old Colony Planning Council](#) (OCPC) to support a staffer to help municipalities advance projects in the headwaters of the Taunton River watershed in MA. Since 1976 OCPC has assisted 17 municipalities in planning for present and future needs. Community-driven, collaborative, and data-driven, OCPC works to address common challenges like air and water pollution, resilience, and equity that span local boundaries. These funds will help advance water supply resilience, nature-based solution, and septic upgrade projects in the 15 municipalities in our study area, with an emphasis on Brockton, Bridgewater, and Stoughton, MA. Services will include stakeholder engagement, bylaw and plan review, water supply assessment, and grant writing and management. This support is important because municipalities in OCPC's service area generally do not have the capability to offer these professional services on a consistent basis. Subaward funding will be used to help pay the salary of an existing staff member to advance projects in partnership with municipalities. This task will take place within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 1c will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 1d: Groundwork Southcoast Capacity Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to [Groundwork Southcoast](#) (GWSC) to help support a dedicated staffer to lead creation and activation of a Resilience District in Fall River, MA, modeled on their successful [effort in New Bedford](#). GWSC works to bring about sustained improvement and management of the environment by developing community-based partnerships that promote environmental, economic, and social well-being. A Resilience District is a defined area that has disproportionate climate and public health impacts, particularly heat islands and extreme weather flooding in the case of Fall River. GWSC deploys Groundwork USA's [Climate Safe Neighborhoods](#) program to inform solutions that are responsive to current and future climate impacts in environmental justice communities. An existing subaward between RWU/NBEP issued in Spring 2022 covers a modest amount of time for an existing staffer, who was born and raised in Fall River, to launch the program in Fall River. Adding this new award, will support 75% of an FTE across 4 staff to cultivate community relationships, seek funding, design, and otherwise advance projects that address these priority issues. This task will take place within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 1d will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 1e: Save The Bay Capacity Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to [Save The Bay](#) (STB) to help support the hiring of a new staff member to collaborate with municipalities, state/federal government, local community groups, and other outside entities to advance projects across the Narragansett Bay watershed. Since 1970 STB has worked in the field to restore water quality and habitats, educate the community, and advocate for changes that maintain strong protection for the Bay and its watershed. The new position will be modeled after the existing Director of Habitat Restoration role, which for two decades has been the linchpin for countless projects in the region. Ad hoc technical assistance, which spans all project development steps, will be offered to a range of project types, including water quality improvement, dam removals, culvert replacement, salt marsh restoration and migration, and climate resilience. Specific geographies or problems may be targeted based on local relationships, leverage funding, and project readiness. With this task taking place anywhere in the Bay watershed, where nearly 80% of census block units include an environmental justice area, it is very likely that some projects developed will take place within and/or directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 1e will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 1f: Blackstone Watershed Collaborative at Clark University Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to the [Blackstone Watershed Collaborative](#) at Clark University support program staff to implement the findings of the Blackstone Needs Assessment. Since its formation in 2019, the Collaborative has had overwhelming success in advancing recommendation actions in the needs assessment and otherwise building coordinated support for the watershed.

Contacts, Target Completion Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff	Target Completion Date	Outputs*	Outcome
Task 1a: REJC Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	September 2024	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. Compensation for 25% of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing REJC members. Community engagement funds for up to twenty (20) people. Up to two consultants hired. At least ten (10) meetings hosted. At least ten (10) projects recommended to the City.	Green Justice Zones are operating in the Port and Olneyville neighborhoods that assures a voice for residents and forum to advance project recommendations in line with the CJP.
Task 1b: SRPEDD Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	September 2024	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Compensation for 50% of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing SPREDD staff. At least ten (10) projects advanced.	Conditions in place to acquire funding and implement more projects in the Taunton River watershed.
Task 1c: OCPC Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	September 2023	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Compensation for 40% of one (1) existing OCPC staff. At least six (6) projects advanced.	Conditions in place to acquire funding and implement more projects in OCPC's service area.
Task 1d: GWSC Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	September 2024	At least one (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close.	Conditions in place to obtain funding and implement more projects in Fall River.

Task and Staff	Target Completion Date	Outputs*	Outcome
		Compensation for 75% of one (1) of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing GWSC staff. At least six (6) projects advanced.	
Task 1e: STB Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	December 2024	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Hire one (1) new STB staffer. At least ten (10) projects advanced.	Conditions in place to acquire funding and implement more projects across the Narragansett Bay watershed.
Task 1f: Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Subaward (NBEP Executive Director, NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	December 2024	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. At least five (5) projects advanced.	Conditions in place to acquire funding and implement more projects across the Blackstone River watershed.

*Additional outputs may be included in the formal agreement.

Objective 2: Advance planning for priority habitat connectivity projects.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams and lakes to prevent degradation and restore beneficial uses.
- Goal 4.2: Fully utilize watershed-based plans, such as stakeholder-based plans, NPS plans, TMDLs, and special area management plans to coordinate prioritized actions to protect, restore and manage the land and water (including groundwater) resources within watersheds.
- Goal 4.3: Build and increase capacity of NGOs in implementing protection and restoration actions.

Section 2:

- Goal 6: Increase the role of watershed organizations and municipalities to serve critical partners in watershed management.
- Goal 6.2: Provide technical assistance to local NGOs and watershed groups to support local implementation of environmental improvement projects.

Section 3:

- Goal 2: Restore degraded or lost habitats and habitat functions.
- Goal 2.1: Improve river connectivity and habitat by removing dams, upgrading culverts and creating structural fish ways to restore free-flowing rivers and anadromous fish passage; implement state fish passage plans.
- Goal 3: Manage habitats to sustain and enhance habitat function.
- Goal 3.7: Identify and protect cold water fishery streams/headwater areas using Clean Water Act tools, state, federal, and non-profit land acquisition programs and other strategies.

Section 4:

- Goal 1.1: Identify, protect and restore watershed and riverine natural resources.

Task 2a: Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association Design Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to the [Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association](#) (WPWA) to support staff and a consultant to undertaken planning activities that sustain mostly undisturbed free-flowing cold-water streams on protected lands in this coastal watershed in RI. Since 1983 the WPWA works to preserve land and water through education, land protection and habitat restoration, and advocacy. WPWA seeks to implement the findings of the [Flood Resiliency Management Plan](#), which calls for the removal of defunct dams, head cuts, and perched culverts on first and second order streams in the headwaters to reduce

water temperature and increase connectivity on these highly productive streams that support eastern brook trout and other unique biota. This effort will involve field ground-truthing man-made obstructions listed in the management plan that are truly ripe for action and then complete planning documentation prioritized sites. Funding will be used to compensate WPWA staff to lead a project team (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, RIDEM, municipalities), oversee planning, and obtain landowner and municipal approval, as well as to hire a consultant to create a master planning document that compiles existing research, new field investigations and mapping, a restoration plan, and engineering designs, costs, and permits for prioritized barriers. The project team will also collaborate to develop grant applications to support construction of the most shovel-ready projects. This task will take place upstream and potentially benefit of disadvantaged communities in and around Charlestown. Task 2a will be accomplished through a subaward.

Task 2b: Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island Design Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to [The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island](#) (TNC-RI) to hire an engineering consultant to complete design work for fish passage on the lower Blackstone River in RI. For more than 50 years TNC-RI has been protecting lands and waters in the state. A particular focus of the RI state program is cultivating and managing fish passage and connectivity projects. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, dams on this urbanized section of the lower river have blocked passage of river herring, American shad, and American eel from historic habitat and limited river connectivity for ecosystems and communities along the river downstream. Four dams, Main Street, Old Slater Mill, Elizabeth Webbing, and Valley Falls, located from Pawtucket to Central Falls, RI, currently do not accommodate diadromous fish passage between Narragansett Bay to the newly restored Lonsdale Marsh in Lincoln, RI above Valley Falls, which provides 80 percent of the habitat in this lower section. All told, estimates say passage past these dams would open up 206 acres of spawning nursery habitat, generate over 200,000 adult spawning river herring and 10,000 adult spawning shad per year, generate forage fish for commercial species in the Bay, and create new recreational and educational opportunities in the region. When implemented in the future, this project would constitute the largest fish passage project in the Narragansett Bay watershed, in one of the most underserved communities in all of New England.

Dedicated efforts pursued in fits and starts over the last 20 years to restore this system failed to accomplish implementation of fish passage. The urban setting, engineering complexity, public and private landownership, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permitting decisions, high construction costs, and lack of transparent process and trust among stakeholders have all hindered progress. At the request of RIDEM, [NBEP led a process](#) beginning in the summer of 2021 to re-boot the fish passage effort via an inclusive and systematic approach. NBEP staff reviewed past planning documents, interviewed stakeholders, formed and led two meetings of a Core Team of 16 key entities (government, NGOs, dam owners, elected officials), and facilitated one-on-one meetings between RIDEM and key stakeholders and funders, all with the intend of identifying a path forward that maximized consensus and achievement of stakeholder needs. After nearly a year of work around the new Core Team that resulted in significant progress addressing the many long-standing challenges, RIDEM leadership determined that advancing designs for fish passage at all four dams as one package was the best way to overcome the many complexities and confounding “chicken or egg” issues (e.g., can’t fund without a plan, can’t plan without implementation funds) that have plagued this project.

RIDEM and TNC-RI are working under an existing cooperative agreement in which RI-TNC would lead implementation of fish passage at Main Street and Slater Mill dams. RIDEM and RI-TNC are amending that agreement to direct State Bond funds toward engineering design work that builds work done to date. This subaward would provide \$300,000 to TNC to augment state funds of up to \$400,000 to support the estimated costs of engineering and/or consulting services for geotechnical and cultural resources assessments, creating 60 percent designs, and preparing and submitting permit applications for the first two dams, as well as pursuit of feasibility alternatives for the third and fourth dams. The Core Team would be involved throughout the design process—from the scope of work to the final document. BIL monies from NBEP, EPA, NOAA and others are potential future sources of funding for final design work and construction. Note that delivery of this subaward to TNC is contingent on execution of an agreement between TNC and RIDEM that enable use of State Bond funds that will fully fund this planning effort. This task will take place within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 2b will be accomplished through a subaward.

Contacts, Target Completion Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff	Target Completion Date	Outputs*	Outcome
Task 2a: WPWA Subaward (NBEP Staff Scientist,	September 2023	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement.	More shovel-ready cold-water stream connectivity projects in the Upper Wood-Pawcatuck.

RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)		Compensation for 15% of one (1) existing WPWA staff. One (1) master planning document with prioritized projects that are ripe for construction Up to two (2) projects advanced.	
Task 2b: TNC-RI Subaward (NBEP Staff Scientist, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs)	September 2023	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. 60% designs, studies, permits, and construction bid materials for Main Street and Slaters Mill Dams. Feasibility alternatives for Elizabeth Webbing and Valley Falls Dams.	Conceptual plans in place for the largest fish passage project in Narragansett Bay watershed history that can help attract implementation funding.

*Additional outputs may be included in the formal agreement.

Objective 3: Support targeted community engagement and education on the value of a healthy Blackstone River.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams and lakes to prevent degradation and restore beneficial uses.

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 5.4: Improve fish contamination studies and consumption advisories, particularly as pertains to urban and ethnic communities and populations at risk.

Task 3a: Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone Education Subaward

Provide a direct subaward to the [Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone](#) (BWRC) to engage local communities via outreach and education activities on the ecological and social value of a healthy and connected Blackstone River in RI. This balances our support for the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, which is bi-state, but MA-based in Worcester. For 30 years BWRC/FOB has been dedicated to restoring the Blackstone River in RI through community volunteer stewardship projects, educational programs, and advocacy for a river that local residents can enjoy. BWRC/FOB has strong relationships with the river community, especially indigenous communities in the region (see the [Kittacuck Speaks event](#)). This subaward will be used to enhance existing and build new knowledge and connections in the local community, with an emphasis on establishing equal, two-way partnership with BIPOC people. This award would be used to compensate members of the local community to participate/speak at events and pay for transportation and supplies for educational events. BWRC/FOB will offer general education, as well as information on specific efforts, like the lower Blackstone fish passage work and other recommendations in [Blackstone needs assessment](#) released by NBEP in 2021. This task will take place within and directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 3a will be accomplished through a subaward.

Contacts, Target Completion Date, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff	Target Completion Date	Outputs*	Outcome
Task 3a: BRWC Subaward (NBEP Watershed Outreach Manager, RWU)	December 2023	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. At least twenty-five (25) new individual contacts with community.	A more diverse mix of residents of the Blackstone River Watershed in RI are knowledgeable about,

Research and Sponsored Programs)		At least three (3) public events.	connected to, and ready to speak to the value of the river.
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*Additional outputs may be included in the formal agreement.

Objective 4: Fund project development consistent with our CCMP in Year 2.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

Section 1:

- Goal 1.4: Reduce the impacts of residential and commercial septic systems on water quality by implementing inspection, maintenance and financial assistance programs, and promoting adoption of more effective treatment technologies.
- Goal 1.8: Determine areas where advanced septic system treatment systems should be required to protect sensitive waters and other resources.
- Goal 2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Goal 2.1: Provide enhanced funding and technical assistance to municipalities in key areas of stormwater management – operations and maintenance, assessment, illicit detection, stormwater system retrofits, public communications, and financing.
- Goal 2.2: Prioritize retrofitting of BMPs to areas most affected by stormwater impacts, using LID and including physical and habitat restoration where feasible to achieve water quality goals.
- Goal 2.7: Ensure that data systems capture information on stormwater BMPs to assess effectiveness and track performance.
- Goal 3.3: Identify and implement LID and urban green infrastructure programs and practices that will optimize the performance of CSO abatement projects.
- Goal 4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams and lakes to prevent degradation and restore beneficial uses.
- Goal 4.2: Fully utilize watershed-based plans, such as stakeholder-based plans, NPS plans, TMDLs, and special area management plans to coordinate prioritized actions to protect, restore and manage the land and water (including groundwater) resources within watersheds.
- Goal 4.3: Build and increase capacity of nongovernmental organizations in implementing protection and restoration actions.
- Goal 5.5: Develop mechanism (e.g., regional workgroup) 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.
- 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.g., predictive models, biological indices.
- Goal 6.3: Support and develop volunteer monitoring programs where appropriate, building on existing volunteer monitoring programs; where feasible ensure resulting data helps fill gaps and has adequate quality assurance / quality control parameters to be used for state purposes.

Section 2:

- Goal 1: Implement low impact development.
- Goal 1.1: Develop and adopt state and local policies, regulations, and ordinances as needed to fully implement low impact development approaches to development and redevelopment.
- Goal 1.2: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to identify and implement green infrastructure and LID techniques; agencies should assign designated staff as point of contact on LID issues (permits, training, technical assistance, etc.).
- Goal 2: Preserve open space and natural systems.
- Goal 2.1: Identify and prioritize areas for acquisition, protection and restoration on an interstate basis; target acquisition of priority areas.
- Goal 2.2: Prioritize and permanently protect open space areas in both states that are now under non-permanent protection status (time-limited development rights, etc.).
- Goal 2.3: Provide technical assistance, grants and financial and permitting incentives to expand use of conservation development designs and ordinances.
- Goal 3.3: Enhance existing or develop new mechanisms to provide planning resources to communities.
- Goal 4: Increase and maintain regional recreation opportunities and public access to shorelines and waterfronts.
- Goal 4.1: Increase public access to watershed resources by developing public water and land trail systems that enable a range of user opportunities.
- Goal 4.3: Continue to plan and develop public fishing piers, boat ramps and other forms of public access to fresh and salt waters in the Narragansett Bay Region.

- 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.
- 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.
- Goal 6.6: Support bi-state cooperative work by nongovernmental organizations like the Blackstone River Coalition and the Taunton River Watershed Alliance.

Section 3:

- Goal 1: Conserve existing natural landscapes that have been and will be adversely affected by development, climate change, and invasive species.
- Goal 1.2: Improve and coordinate both state and federal habitat protection and restoration policies.
- Goal 2: Restore degraded or lost habits and habitat functions.
- Goal 2.1: Improve river connectivity and habitat by removing dams, upgrading culverts and creating structural fish ways to restore free-flowing rivers and anadromous fish passage; implement state fish passage plans.
- Goal 3: Manage habitats to sustain and enhance habitat function.
- Goal 3.6: Educate land owners, resource users and the public regarding habitat and wildlife conservation.
- Goal 3.7: Identify and protect cold water fishery streams/headwater areas using Clean Water Act tools, state, federal, and non-profit land acquisition programs and other strategies.
- Goal 5: Improve science, communication, and information to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Goal 6: Build capacity to implement ecological restoration at state and local levels and improve interstate coordination.
- Goal 6.4: Maintain and expand state-wide and regional mapping of critical watershed and coastal habitats including biodiversity hot spots; use data to support restoration, conservation planning, and enhanced enforcement.

Section 4:

- Goal 1: Maximize preservation, conservation and restoration of green infrastructure to increase coastal and floodplain resilience.
- Goal 1.1: Identify, protect and restore watershed and riverine natural resources, e.g., wetlands and riparian areas to ensure their continuance as cost-effective protection.
- Goal 1.4: Use state and local permitting processes and adaptive restoration programs (e.g., living shorelines) to protect natural coastal features like salt marshes and beaches as well as coastal shoreline processes so that they can continue to provide cost-effective coastal protection.
- Goal 2: Improve public and private infrastructure to withstand anticipated climate change impacts.
- Goal 2.2: Design stormwater treatment facilities and green stormwater infrastructure to have adequate capacity over the life of the facility for predicted increased, intensified flow resulting from climate change.
- Goal 3.4: Assess and identify the most effective adaptation responses; prioritize implementation of these identified activities.
- Goal 6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts take sea level rise into account.
- Goal 6.1: Develop land conservation and adaptation plans for wetland migration to include protection of adjacent upland areas.
- Goal 6.3: Adopt an approach, where possible, that accommodates rather than resists flood waters by restoring flood plain buffers for use as marsh or forest land; Employ resilience design where possible to absorb stormwater in extreme events, particularly in light of projected increased precipitation.

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

Fund project development in Year 2 that is responsive to Year 1 efforts described in Objectives 1-3 and is otherwise align with BIL priorities, this Workplan, and our CCMP. NBEP will develop a Request for Proposals (RFP), utilize the Grants Subcommittee to review and select projects, and issue subawards to up to 18 entities that serve our study area (individual awards likely from \$50,000 to \$200,000) that advance projects in line with both local priorities and our CCMP. With this task taking place anywhere in the study area, where nearly 80% of census block units include an environmental justice area, it is very likely that some projects developed will take place within and/or directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Task 4a will be accomplished through subawards.

Appendix A: New Subawards Using FY2022-FY2023 BIL Funding

Task	Project	Amount	Outputs	Procurement	Funding Close
Task 1a	REJC project development in process in the Port and Olneyville Neighborhoods in Providence, RI.	\$100,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, agreement. Compensation for 25% of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing REJC staff. Community engagement funds for up to twenty (20) people. Up to two (2) consultants hired. At least ten (10) community meetings hosted. At least ten (10) projects recommended to the City.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 1b	SPREDD project development in the middle and lower Taunton River watershed, MA.	\$100,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Compensation for 50% of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing SPREDD staff. At least ten (10) projects advanced.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 1c	OCPC project development in in the upper Taunton River watershed, MA.	\$175,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Compensation for 40% of one (1) existing OCPC staff. At least six (6) projects advanced.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 1d	GWSC project development in Fall River, MA.	\$167,300	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Pay for 75% of one (1) of one (1) FTE across four (4) existing GWSC staff. At least six (6) projects advanced.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 1e	STB project development in Narragansett Bay watershed in RI and MA	\$200,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. One (1) <i>Project Development Framework</i> at project start and close. Hire one (1) new STB staffer. At least ten (10) projects advanced.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 2a	WPWA cold-water stream connectivity design project in Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, RI	\$134,800	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. Compensation for 15% of one (1) existing WPWA staff. One (1) master planning document with projects that are ripe for construction. Up to two (2) projects advanced.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 2b	TNC-RI lower Blackstone RI dam fishway project from Pawtucket to Central Falls, RI	\$300,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. 60% designs, studies, permits, construction bid materials, and attendant documents for Main Street and Slaters Mill Dams. Feasibility alternatives for Elizabeth Webbing and Valley Falls Dams.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 3a	BWRC/FOB education project on Blackstone River, RI	\$15,000	One (1) scope of work, budget, and agreement. At least twenty-five (25) individual contacts with the community. At least three (3) public events.	Subaward	September 30, 2027
Task 4a	Subawards to entities for project development in the NBEP study area based on response to a Request for Proposals.	\$527,500	One (1) Request for Proposals document. One (1) final list of selected subawardees. Up to 18 scopes of work, budget, and agreement. Up to 25 projects advanced.	Subawards	September 30, 2027

Appendix B: Project Development Framework

The nine (9) steps in NBEP’s Project Development Process are included in the graphic on the page 3 of this document. This framework is intended to help NBEP and those developing projects communicate what is expected pre-subaward, what is actually delivered when the subaward is closed, and in turn, assure required outputs in project paperwork reflects these expectations. For each project developed, please enter the project name, the development step occupied by the project at start, the development step expected at the end of the subaward, and proposed next steps to get to full project implementation. If you do not have specific information at project start (e.g., further community education and outreach is needed to identify project details), include as much information as you are able to assist in tracking against required outputs in your scope of work (e.g., number of projects advanced, specific deliverables provided). Complete and submit this framework at the start of the project with your scope of work and at project close with your final report.

Project Name	Starting Step	Finishing Step	Proposed Next Steps to Get to Implementation