



# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Steering Committee Meeting  
March 9, 2023, 10a-12:30p

# Agenda

Meeting Part	Topic	Presenter(s)	Shared via Zoom	Formal Committee Action Requested Today	Start Time
DECISIONS	Meeting Open	Caitlin Chaffee, Chair	Agenda	Approve December meeting notes.	10:00a
UPDATES	Quarterly Report	Mike Gerel, NBEP Courtney Schmidt, NBEP Mariel Sorlien, NBEP Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:15p
	Committee Member Updates	Committee members	None	None.	10:35p
	Public Comment / Break				10:55a
INPUT	FY2023 Workplan New Ideas	Mike Gerel, NBEP	Whiteboard	None.	11:00a
HOMEWORK	Action Items	Mike Gerel, NBEP	None	None.	12:25p

## Decision #1

Does the Steering Committee approve the  
December meeting notes?

# NBEP Quarterly Program Report

# Financials

## NBEP Financials 1.31.23

Category	Section 320 & SNEP Funds <sup>(1)</sup>				BIL <sup>(2)</sup>				Program Income Allocated <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available			
	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(4)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(4)</sup>	Total Available To Spend		Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(4)</sup>	Total Available to Spend <sup>(5)</sup>
Salary	\$860,038	\$368,904	\$368,904	\$491,134	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$860,038	\$368,904	\$368,904	\$491,134
Fringe	\$278,259	\$76,463	\$76,463	\$201,796	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$278,259	\$76,463	\$76,463	\$201,796
Travel	\$13,175	\$6,045	\$6,045	\$7,130	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$13,175	\$6,045	\$6,045	\$7,130
Office Supplies	\$7,254	\$8,721	\$8,721	-\$1,467	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$7,254	\$8,721	\$8,721	-\$1,467
Contracts	\$116,200	\$17,300	\$35,638	\$80,562	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$116,200	\$17,300	\$35,638	\$80,562
Subawards	\$1,309,942	\$154,854	\$1,084,996	\$224,946	\$1,819,600	\$8,100	\$909,800	\$909,800		\$3,129,542	\$162,954	\$1,994,796	\$1,134,746
Meals	\$8,160	\$4,681	\$4,681	\$3,479	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$8,160	\$4,681	\$4,681	\$3,479
Event Hosting	\$2,400	\$3,912	\$3,912	-\$1,512	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$4,000	\$5,512	\$5,512	\$88
Prof Development	\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308
Phone	\$11,128	\$6,710	\$6,710	\$4,418	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$11,128	\$6,710	\$6,710	\$4,418
Printing	\$5,479	\$264	\$264	\$5,215	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$5,479	\$264	\$264	\$5,215
Advertising	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200
Registration Fees	\$1,250	\$1,672	\$1,672	-\$422	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900	\$2,150	\$2,572	\$2,572	\$478
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$2,618,000</b>	<b>\$649,733</b>	<b>\$1,598,213</b>	<b>\$1,019,787</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$8,100</b>	<b>\$909,800</b>	<b>\$909,800</b>		<b>\$4,440,100</b>	<b>\$660,333</b>	<b>\$2,510,513</b>	<b>\$1,932,087</b>
<b>Indirect</b>	<b>\$169,151</b>	<b>\$70,924</b>	<b>\$70,924</b>	<b>\$98,227</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$169,151</b>	<b>\$70,924</b>	<b>\$70,924</b>	<b>\$98,227</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,787,151</b>	<b>\$720,657</b>	<b>\$1,669,137</b>	<b>\$1,118,014</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$8,100</b>	<b>\$909,800</b>	<b>\$909,800</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$4,609,251</b>	<b>\$731,257</b>	<b>\$2,581,437</b>	<b>\$2,030,314</b>

(1) Includes all Section 320 and SNEP monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2021 and FY2022. This **DOES NOT include** FY2023 Section 320 (\$850K) and SNEP (\$250K) funding totalling ~\$1.1M expected by October 1, 2023.

(2) Includes all BIL monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2022 and FY2023.

(3) This is \$2,500 provided to RWU/NBEP by URI as a sponsor of our 2022 Annual Science Event.

(4) Total Encumbered includes all funds that have been obligated to a specific external party via our workplan and/or formal agreement. These funds may not have been fully spent yet, but are not available for other purposes.

(5) Salary and fringe is available to cover 15 months of personnel time moving forward. We expect to have 7+ months worth left in the bank at the end of the fiscal year on 9/30/23. We also expect to spend down the contract budget to pay for Vision 2032 consultants, partner stipends, and non-RWU interns. The 1.1M available in subawards will be encumbered via the already approved \$675K RFP for this spring and via a second ~\$460K RFP in late calendar 2023.

# Status of 23 Existing Subawards

Project	Short Project Description	Location	Source	Award*	Balance	Current Status
Audubon Society of RI	Test low-cost monitoring of green infrastructure projects in Roger Williams Park and across Providence.	Providence, RI	SNEP 2021	\$73,000	\$47,976	Finished field work for the season and now compiling and analyzing data; coordinating training related to project.
Town of Barrington, RI	Complete stormwater drainage system geodatabase to identify opportunities to retrofit existing or install new green infrastructure.	Barrington, RI	SNEP 2021	\$33,700	\$28,058	Started analyzing data for completeness; prepping for spring data collection.
Town of Bristol, RI	Develop 10% concept designs for up to three green infrastructure projects in the Sowams and Annawamscutt neighborhoods.	Bristol, RI	SNEP 2021	\$70,818	\$70,818	QAPP submitted to EPA for review/approval.
Clark University	Work with municipal decision-makers in Woonsocket and Worcester to create conditions for installation of nature-based solutions.	Blackstone Watershed, RI/MA	SNEP 2021	\$25,000	\$25,000	Developed avenues for student/researcher participation; held training sessions to broaden participation.
City of East Providence, RI	Develop conceptual plans for stormwater management in Runnins River watershed, including design and permitting for 1 green infrastrucure practice.	East Providence, RI	SNEP 2021	\$45,000	\$45,000	Choosing BMP locations and completing QAPP.
Groundwork RI	Advance renderings of green infrastructure projects at the south end of Blackstone Boulevard to 75% design and public engagement stage.	Providence, RI	SNEP 2021	\$92,039	\$81,732	Completed QAPP and held stakeholder engagement meetings.
NBNERR	Complete conceptual designs, plans, costs, and permitting for at least 4 green infrastructure practices on reserve property.	Prudence Island, RI	§320 2021	\$50,015	\$50,015	Developing scope of work and contacting potential landscaping firms.
Southern RI Conservation Dist	Complete designs, permitting, and outreach for 4 private sites that builds on existing engineering designs for Green Hill Pond watershed.	Westerly, RI	SNEP 2021	\$75,000	\$5,694	Finished work and awaiting final report.
Town of South Kingstown, RI	Complete designs, permitting, and outreach for 4 private sites that builds on existing engineering designs for Green Hill Pond watershed.	South Kingstown, RI	§320 2021	\$99,000	\$99,000	Expecting January QR in March; finalizing site selection for GI projects prior to permit submittal and public outreach.
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	Engage engineers and residents to create effective, community-supported 30% designs for green infrastructure on Salmon Avenue.	Providence, RI	SNEP 2021	\$60,410	\$57,544	Held a press event to celebrate opening of bike path access at Salmon St; pivoting to work on new site due to Salmon St site ownership change.
Blackstone River Watershed Council	Purchase safety equipment for educational events, host events, compensate community members for expertise, complete one-on-one outreach.	Central Falls to Pawtucket, RI	§320 2021	\$10,000	\$4,067	Purchased safety equipment, printed educational materials and supplies, and paid community members for participation in 2 events.
RI School of Design	Organize paddle down Blackstone River, develop posters and outreach materials highlighting key issues on the river, develop publication on efforts	Blackstone Watershed, RI/MA	§320 2021	\$15,000	\$4,808	Revised scope and no-cost extension approved use remaining funds to two events and publication through 10/31/23.
Boston University	Advancing FEK work from 2020, will create a database of drift seaweed (species, location, biomass, and C/N conc) collected by fishermen and scientists to increase our understanding of changing conditions in Narragansett	Narragansett Bay, RI/MA	§320 2021	\$110,954	\$110,954	QAPP under development, initial meetings with RIDEM and fisherman. Potential to dovetail with existing TNC and RIDEM survey work.
NBNERR	Complete the planning and design phases of a sediment placement project to improve the resilience of Succotash Marsh.	South Kingstown, RI	SNEP 2022	\$200,000	\$200,000	Finalizing an agreemnt with URI EDC for elevation surveys, bathymetry, and other data colleciton to inform design; QAPP nearly done.
Clark University	Support the opaacity of the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative for FY23.	Blackstone Watershed, RI/MA	§320 '21/SNEP '22	\$100,000	\$100,000	First QR expected 4/10/23.
Environmental Council of RI / REJC	Advance 6 projects in Green Justice Zones per the 2020 Providence <a href="#">Climate Justice Plan</a> in the Providence Port and Olneyville neighborhoods.	Providence, RI	BIL 2022	\$100,000	\$100,000	Contracting on hold pending ECRI work with consultant to set administrative policies that will allow them to accept federal funds.
SRPEDD	Support for circuit rider to provide technical support for 10 projects in municipalities lacking sufficient capacity for project development.	Taunton River Watershed, MA	BIL 2022	\$100,000	\$100,000	First QR expected 4/10/23.
Old Colony Planning Council	Develop 6 projects in partnership with municipalites in the Upper Taunton River Watershed who are short capacity.	Brockton to Plymouth, MA	BIL 2022	\$75,000	\$67,132	Advanced projects a total of 7 steps. Developed 3 proposals for drinking water, vulnerability, and brownfields. Helped with NBS workshop series.
Groundwork Southcoast	Provide capacity funding to cultivate 6 projects in a new Fall River's Resilience District.	Fall River, MA	BIL 2022	\$85,000	\$85,000	First QR expected 4/10/23.
Save The Bay	Develop capacity to develop 10 habitat restoration/adapation projects in Narragansett Bay watershed.	NBEP study area in RI/MA/CT	BIL 2022	\$100,002	\$100,002	Have hired one new staff partially paid for via this subaward.
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association	Devfelop a cold water stream restoration plan for the upper Wood-Pawcatuck watershed and construct at least 1 restoration project.	Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, RI	BIL 2022	\$134,800	\$134,800	First QR expected 4/10/23.
Nature Conservancy of RI	Complete fish passage planning and design work for the four lower dams along the Blackstone River, RI	Valley Falls to Pawtucket, RI	BIL 2022	\$300,000	\$300,000	Contracts in place with Fuss & O'Neil to get Main St and Slaters Mill dams through permitting and Elizabeth Webbing and Valley Falls to alternatives; kick-off meetings and subsurface investigations soon.
Blackstone River Watershed Council	Build new knowledge and connections with the BIPOC community to advance recommendations in the Blackstone Needs Assessment. Support water quality testing to raise awareness of ongoing issues that restrict recreational use.	Central Falls to Pawtucket, RI	BIL 2022	\$15,000	\$6,650	Conducted pilot educational events with Narragansett Tribe; leveraged this work to submit a \$75k proposal to the United Way to expand educational work with the tribe. Participated in water quality testing.

\*\$25,000 green infratsructure award to Groundwork Southcoast has been completed.



- **CoastWise Partners conversations with 17 SC members and others in February**
  - Thank you!
  - Will circulate CoastWise “findings” report with invite to next meeting
- **Next meeting April 12, 2023 10am-2pm @ RIDEM**
  - “Goals, Roles, and Stories”
  - Last meeting before we release first draft!
- **Next steps this winter and spring**
  - Staff creating Draft Action Plans and completing action-specific outreach
  - Hire writers and designer and map out stories and document format
- **Looking to complete in January 2024**

<b>Plan Structure</b>		
<b>Plan Part</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Includes...</b>
Story	Public	5 linked “feature” stories by environmental authors w/beautiful design that open selected chapters of plan & that are suitable for separate publication. “Illustrate the macro in the micro”
Action Plans	Partnership	39 2-page Action Plans
Appendices	EPA	“Box-checks”—Comparison to 2012 CCMP, Climate Vulnerability Assessment Table, etc.



# SNEP Network Funding Events

## Funding Nature Based Community Resilience in Southeastern Massachusetts

- Webinar held 2/15, in-person networking event this Monday, 3/13 10am - 12pm

## Funding Water Quality Restoration and Climate Resilience Projects in Rhode Island

- Webinar on Wednesday, 3/15 10am – 12pm

POLITICS

### Rural communities want to tap federal funding. But it's hard to know where to start

The USDA has hired people to help small communities tap the complex web of programs for money they need to address big problems. But that help is only available in select areas.

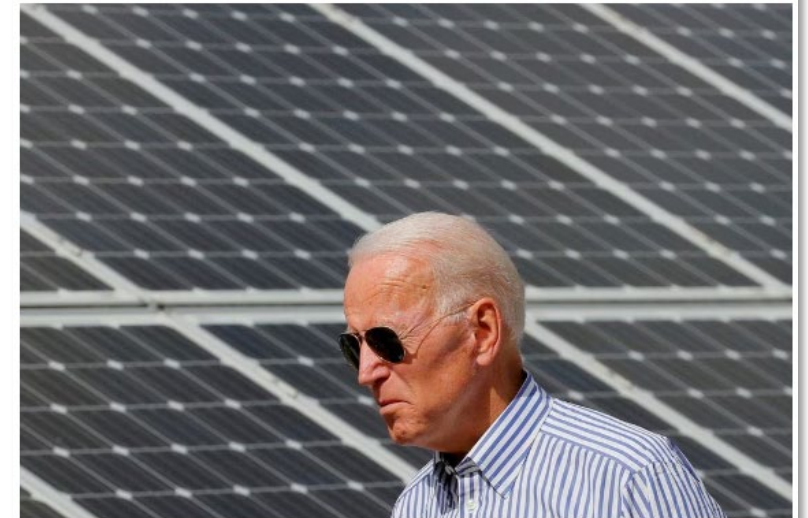
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Evan Vucci/AP

## U.S. EPA unveils \$550 mln in environmental justice grants

By Valerie Volcovici



Joe Biden walks past solar panels while touring the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative in Plymouth, New Hampshire, U.S., June 4, 2019. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

WASHINGTON, Feb 23 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden's administration announced on Thursday it will select 11 organizations across the United States to administer \$550 million in grants to disadvantaged communities for reducing legacy pollution and gaining access to clean energy.



# Interns

NBEP can support 4-5 interns per year. Our current budget supports 3 RWU interns (these are students of RWU) and 2 contract interns (from outside RWU).

Interns are paid \$15 or \$20 per hour depending on education level.



Intern	Mentor(s)	Project Summary	Start Date	End Date
Ethan Howard	Lilian Jeznach (RWU)	Develop a plastic monitoring procedures for rivers and streams	10/31/22	5/31/23
Nathan Silveira	Pamela Judge & Ahmet Akosman (RWU)	Develop soil erosion control mesh using 3D printed mesh made of soy-based ink	3/6/23	12/20/23
Erica Meier	Caitlin Chaffee (NBNERR)	Develop communication strategy and outreach materials for NBNERR	3/6/23	8/30/23
TBD*	Joel Singley (RWS)	Research the impacts of habitat and water quality change with removal of Kickemuit dam	TBD	TBD

\*interviewing interns in the next few weeks

# Social Science


## Working Group

# Social Science Update

- Convened working group in 2021
- Created a matrix of social science indicators to pursue including
  - Public access\*
  - Resilient municipalities\*
  - Public health\*
  - Watershed economy
- \*are indicators NBEP is starting to work on now

**2023**  
Social Science Indicators  
for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay,  
Coastal Salt Ponds



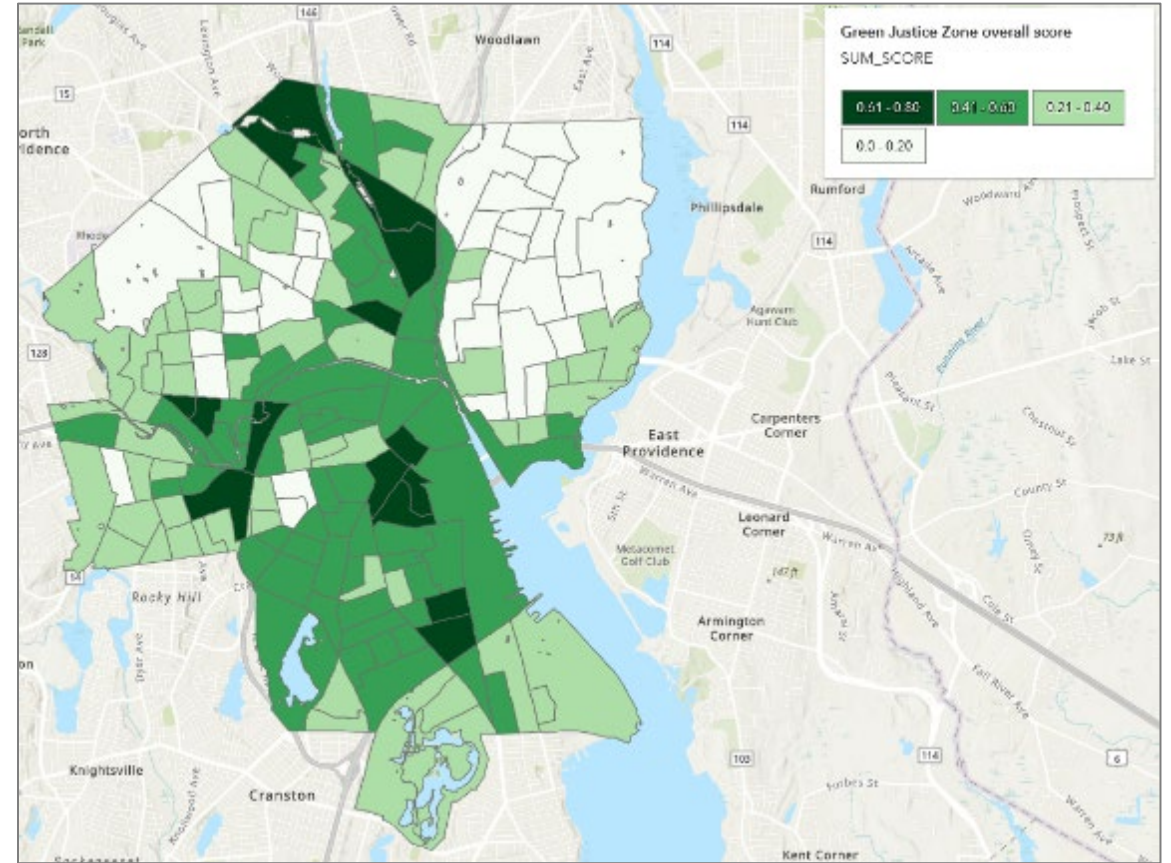
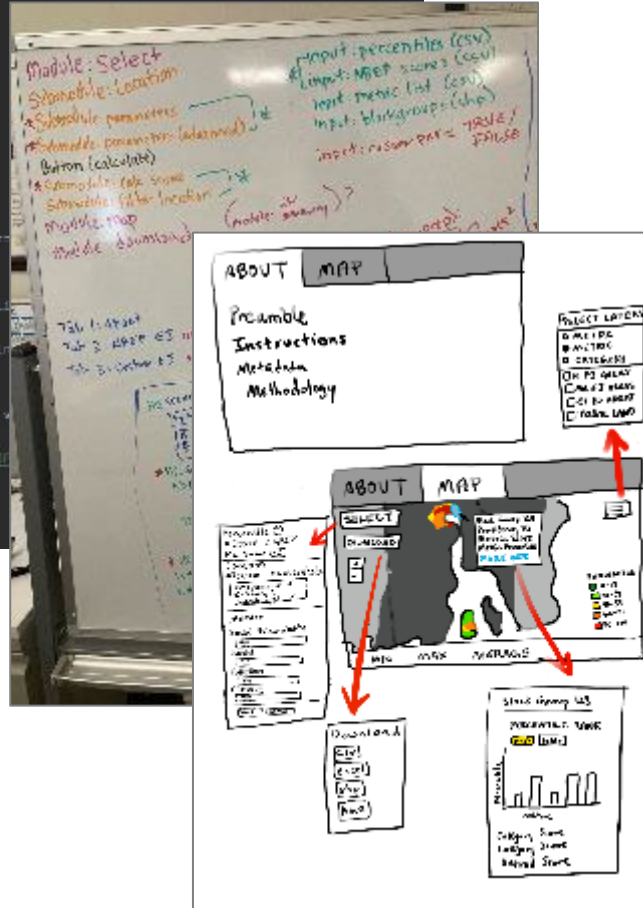
**NARRAGANSETT BAY  
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

Indicator	Criteria	Scale of data	Objective Information		Subjective Info Subjectivity*	Tasks	Actions	
			Limitations/Caveats	Status/Gaps			Who	When
Public Access	Number of access points/spaces	Town, state, watershed, study area	Currently only know shoreline, saltwater access points. RI has location of parks.	Need to know parks (MA & CT), river access, RI beaches	Quality can be subjective; need to define with metrics that we have or can be quantified	Define point/space for PI/SW beaches, parks, river access, shoreline access.	NBEP	Comprehensive
	Space user Demographics		Known for popular shoreline activities (FPA/NREP study)	Need to expand to other points/spaces		Use telephone data (or other data) to determine		
	Travel time to points/space		Most data pertaining to quality is water or habitat quality, not other measures of quality	Need to know walking, car, bus travel times		Define travel time and start/end points		
Resilient Municipalities	Quality of access points/spaces	Town-level only; could scale to state level	Limited by program funding, town capacity, and town eligibility	Need to expand datasets to other points/spaces	This indicator could be a comparison of "haves" and "have-nots."	Use Impaired Waters list, beach closures, Toxic Release Inventory, Park Scores.	NBEP or Partners (could be done by interns)	Database of information on how towns have considered preparing for or are implementing plans to be resilient with a changing climate
	Participation in resiliency programs (e.g., MVR, MRP, CRCA, etc.)		Known by the groups administering the programs, could be cataloged for study area	Need to know if towns have them		Collect information from groups administering these programs		
	Has resilience plan/manager (or similar)		Limited by town capacity	Need to define "plan" and need to know if towns have them		Collect information from the internet for all towns in study area		
Public Health	Implementing Resiliency (or similar) Plan	Census block, town, state, watershed, study areas	Limited by town capacity	Need to know if towns have them	Will highlight socioeconomic differences if mapped with EJ tool	Map heat islands and low zones. Incorporate into EJ Tool	NBEP	Comprehensive database of public health threats with GIS bytown
	Location of heat islands		Need to think through how to decrease heat islands; could looking at tree cover help?	Need to know for the study area		Map flood risk from sea level rise, storms, and rivers.		
	Location of flood risk		Current information (STORMtools) only covers sea level rise	Need to know for rainfall, sea level rise, storm surge, and river flooding		Track number of people displaced by flooding		
Watershed Economy	Need to know impacts of impervious surfaces	State scale, watershed, study areas	Need to know impacts of impervious surfaces	Need to know impacts of impervious surfaces	These metrics will paint an incomplete picture. With proper caveats, that may be OK for our purposes	Incorporate into EJ Tool	Hire Consultant	More detailed EJ Tool for understanding heat and flood risks
	Employment and revenue supported by natural resources		"Natural resources" is a broad category	Known from a 2019 US report (limited areas)		Update 2019 report and conduct a literature review for additional materials		
Watershed Economy	Investments in watershed restoration & preservation	Town, state, watershed, study area	Expand on 2019 US report	Need more information from partners to use NERPT	Collect data from NFPPT	NBEP	Start of an economic review for watershed or Vision 2032	Increased awareness of how these issues impact the environmental justice communities in the study area
		Uses NERPT (National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool), which is only populated with data NBEP receives from partners	Need more information from partners to use NERPT					

\*These indicators can be very subjective in nature - for example, what is "good" or "healthy" therefore, we are trying to be as objective as possible. This category highlights some major areas of subjectivity that may pose down results or create confusion.  
\*\*Who refers to who can/will complete the tasks.

# Providence EJ Tool

```
92 a -----
93 a Run Script ---
94
95 print('\nReading in csv data')
96 print('\nTracts')
97 df_tracts = pd.read_csv(tracts_csv,
98                        sep=',',
99                        na_values='NoData')
100
101 print('\nColumn List')
102 df_cols = pd.read_csv(cols_csv, sep=',')
103
104 print('\nDropping extra rows')
105 if full_watershed is False:
106     print('\nFor tracts')
107     # Must be in state, town
108     df_tracts = df_tracts[df_tracts.State ==
109                           state]
110     print('\nFor column list')
111     # Must be in var_list
112     df_cols = df_cols[df_cols.VAR_COL.isin(var_list)]
113
114 print('\nDropping extra columns') # Must be in
115 print('\nFor tracts')
116 # Create List of percentile columns
117 percentile_list = [col_prefix + e for e in
118                   percentiles]
119 # Concatenate List of desired col
120 col_list = ['TR', 'State', 'Town', 'ACSTGTRF']
121 # Drop extra columns
122 df_tracts = df_tracts[col_list]
123
124 print('\nDone!')
125 return df_tracts, df_cols
```



# Blackstone Water Quality Data Tool

```

368 ['SourceYear', 'TEXT', 'SourceYear', 28, ""2023; 2022; 2012""],
369 ['NBEPYear', 'TEXT', 'NBEPYear', 18, ""2023""],
370 ['Study Area', 'TEXT', 'Study Area', 58, ""Narragansett Bay Watershed""],
371 ['Basin', 'TEXT', 'Basin', 50, ""Blackstone River""],
372 ]))
373
374 print('\tCalculate fields')
375 arcpy.CalculateFields_management(blackstone_final, "PYTHON3",
376 [[['DataSource', 'MID, MassGIS, RIGIS'],
377 ['SourceYear', '2023, 2022, 2012'],
378 ['NBEPYear', '2023'],
379 ['Study Area', 'Narragansett Bay Watershed'],
380 ]])
381
382 # Filter for selected towns
383 bs_town_filter <- reactive({
384   # required inputs
385   req(brcvar$townSelect())
386
387   bs_town_filter <- bs_town %>%
388     filter(Town_Name %in% brcvar$townSelect())
389
390   return(bs_town_filter)
391 })
392
393 # * river shapefile ----
394 # Read in data
395 bs_river <- readRDS(paste0(getwd(),
396   "/gis/RIVERS_BLACKSTONE_NBEP2023.rds")) %>%
397   mutate(Fishery = case_when(coldwater=="Yes"~'coldwater Fishery',
398     coldwater=="No"~'warmwater|Fishery'))
399
400 # Filter for selected watersheds
401 bs_river_watershed <- reactive({
402   req(brcvar$riverSelect())
403
404   df_river <- bs_river %>%
405     filter(HUC12_Name %in% brcvar$riverSelect())
406
407   return(df_river)
408 })
409
410 # Filter for selected towns
411 bs_river_town <- reactive({
412   req(brcvar$townSelect())
413
414   df_river <- bs_river %>%
415     filter(Town_Name %in% brcvar$townSelect())
416
417   return(df_river)
418 })

```

## Blackstone River Coalition Water Quality Data

Map Report Card Graphs Download Data

**Select Data**

**Select Location**

Select Watershed

Select Town

**Select Watersheds**

Abbott Run, Branch River, Chey

**Select Sampling Locations**

Albion Road, Auburn High Schc

**Select Parameter**

Dissolved Oxygen

**Select Year**

2019

Table 1: Blackstone River Report Card (2019)

Site	Town	Watershed	Parameter	Score
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Conductivity	No Data
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Dissolved Oxy Saturation	Good
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Dissolved Oxygen	Excellent
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	E. coli	No Data
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Nitrate	Fair
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Orthophosphate	Poor
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Turbidity	Fair
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Water Depth	No Data
Albion Road	Oxford, RI	Potomac River-Blackstone River	Water Temperature	Excellent
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	Conductivity	No Data
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	Dissolved Oxy Saturation	Good
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	Dissolved Oxygen	Excellent
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	E. coli	No Data
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	Nitrate	Excellent
Auburn High School	Auburn, MA	Kettle Book	Orthophosphate	Poor

# Outreach Highlights

12/19: RWU Law School re: partnering opportunities	2/6, 2/27: SNEP Steering Committee re: research projects
12/20: SNEP Network conservation development webinar	2/7, 2/16: City of Providence re: EJ tool
12/21: CT and NY Sea Grant LISS Review Panel	2/7: Vision 2032 Story and Design Team kick-off
1/4: NBEP officers and Executive Director re: meeting design	2/9: SNEP Ecosystems Services Subcommittee
1/5-3/8: SNEP Network Taunton Funding Workshop	2/15: RI Housing Works re: anti-dislocation/gentrification policy
1/5: SNEP Justice 40 Initiative Follow-up	2/15: Practical Tools for Collaborative Decision Making webinar
1/9: NBEP-EPA Program Evaluation Kick-Off	2/16: NOAA Southern New England Marine Debris Action Plan meeting
1/11: Saginaw MI Large Landscape Restoration re: lessons learned	2/16: URI Storms and Effects of Seal-Level Rise in New England project webinar
1/11, 3/8: RI Rivers Council	2/17: City of Providence re: Public Street access project
1/13, 3/2: Long Pond project planning	2/17: Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
1/13: Regional Seagrass re: LI to ME seeding idea	2/18: URI MESM re: mentoring, internships
1/17: TRWA visit re: intern/financial support opportunities	2/21-2/23: Coastwise Partners visit re: Vision 2032
1/18, 2/15: ANEP External Affairs re: communications deliverables	2/23: RI Habitat Trust Fund Review Panel
1/19: Senator Whitehouse RI staff re: introduce NBEP to new staff	2/24: URI plastics re: planned conference at URI
1/20: RI informal seagrass group re: RI eelgrass status opportunities	2/24: RWU economics: re Blue Economy Event
1/23: University of S. Maine re: climate resilience projects	2/27: RIEAA Facilitator Training
1/25: RIDEM re: trash/plastics ideas	3/1: NBNERR re: biodiversity event, funding support
1/25: STB re: Bay goals and accountability	3/1: SNEP Balancing Housing Needs with Clean Water webinar
1/27: Boston Harbor Now re: partnering	3/2: Inaugural RIDEM/TNC Fisheries Team Meeting
1/30: Rising Waters re: climate/SLR art installation	3/3: RI Water Resources Center Advisory Council
2/1. 2/23: ANEP Directors re: March DC meeting	3/6: RWU re: algae/seaweed work
2/1: RI Sea Grant: Subseafloor Hydrogeology: Moving Beyond Watershed	3/6: STB re: Little Narragansett Bay assessment/report card
2/1: URI Hack4Oceans event	3/7: RINHS re: biodiversity event
2/2: URI re: Bay models	3/8: RIDEM DMF re: biodiversity event

# Busy March–June

- V2032 Contracting, Writing, Meeting
- Program Evaluation
- Science Advisory Committee meeting
- Habitat planning RFP
- 2023 §320/SNEP Workplan and Budget
- BIL Spending Plan
- BIL EJ Plan/Tool
- Committee meetings



# Committee Member Updates (20 minutes)

**Public Comment / Break  
(5 minutes)**



# NBEP Workplan Exercise (85 minutes)

# FY2023 §320/SNEP Workplan

- NBEP expects to receive \$1.1M from EPA by October 1, 2023
  - \$850K from §320 and \$250K from SNEP
  - This is in addition to the budget shared earlier
- Don't expect workplan to change much from FY2022
- Each year we consider adding a ideas (new hire, new tasks or subawards) that fit our niche
- Have roughly \$400K to play with
- Darcy will next lead an exercise to take ideas and rough costs, seek further detail on ideas offered, and then identify those with the most support
  - We have seeded the pot with some ideas from staff and committee members

Idea	Estimated cost	Who will do it
Revise <a href="#">RI Stormwater Design Manual</a> building on work of SNEP network including climate considerations. Maybe joint with MA DEP?	\$200,000	RIDEM, possibly with MA DEP
Watershed Economy indicator data gathering. Answer the question "how employment, revenue, and investments impact the study area."	Unknown	TBD
Hire more NBEP staff to help with projects from small/low-capacity orgs, such as on public access and data sharing.	Unknown	NBEP hires staff
Develop a traveling program for K-12 students that you can educate on the watershed and career paths in water.	\$50,000	TBD
Salt marsh (and other habitat?) assessment and monitoring database creation and management.	Unknown	TBD
Conservation/preservation of land	Unknown	TBD
Hire a contract grant writer that could support organizations that don't have the capacity to apply for larger funding opportunities.	\$50,000	NBEP contract(s)
Stormwater / retention pond retrofit on the Palmer River, in partnership with Save the Bay & Warren Land Trust. Replicable and simple enough to be performed by DPW staff. Pond discharges from an industrial area into a freshwater wetland and salt marsh.	\$100,000	Town of Warren, RI with Save the Bay and the Warren Land Trust
Worcester - Poor Farm Brook dam removal. City of Worcester owns the dam, which has been assessed to be in poor condition. Removal would restore cold-water stream habitat for brook trout and other wildlife.	\$50,000	TBD
Provide monitoring for the projects ourselves, and all the QA so that the data are consistent. Since we will not have to give the grant applicants money for monitoring, we will actually save money in the long run.	Unknown	TBD
Wetlands restoration projects, especially those with multiple benefits including to EJ communities. The Attleboro project is one example but I'm sure there are others.	\$200,000	TBD
Create an overall NBEP water quality monitoring data base from all of the projects that we fund.	Unknown	TBD
Expand use of <a href="#">Angler Catch app</a> , a citizen science app for recreational fishers to report valuable catch and discard data, supported by RIDEM and the RI Saltwater Anglers Association. Funding would help improve function and market to potential users.	\$40,000	NBEP subaward to RI Saltwater Anglers Association
Provide funding to support community engagement around Little Narragansett Bay and create outreach materials, such as a report card.	\$15,000	NBEP subaward(s) or contract(s)
Expand MyCoast community science flood app ( <a href="https://mycoast.org/ri">https://mycoast.org/ri</a> ) to reach more Rhode Island communities. App currently focuses on Aquidneck Island, Providence, and Bristol.	\$20,000	NBEP subaward to RI Sea Grant
Provide funding to increase staff capacity at RIDEM / TNC RI for fisheries assessment.	\$100,000	NBEP subaward to RIDEM / TNC
Provide funding to improve seagrass monitoring efforts in the Narragansett Bay region and participate in a future regional trial of seagrass seeding.	\$50,000	NBEP subaward(s)
Rhode Island biodiversity cataloging: provide funding to make needed improvements to biodiversity databases in RI and encourage their use.	\$100,000	NBEP subaward(s)
NBEP Small Outreach Grants: award small grants, \$5,000 or less apiece with minimal paperwork, to nonprofit organizations for events and education related to the NBEP mission.	\$50,000	NBEP subawards to multiple community-based nonprofits
NBEP Habitat Manager Hire: hire a new staff person at NBEP to work with partners to help coordinate and prioritize projects in the region.	\$120,000	NBEP hires staff

# Upcoming Meetings

- Vision 2032 Subcommittee, April 12<sup>th</sup> 10a-2p in-person in Providence
- Science Advisory Committee, April TBD
- Executive Committee, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1-2:30 pm via Zoom
- Steering Committee, June 9th, 10a-1p hybrid from NBC in Providence