



NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Steering Committee Meeting
June 16, 2022

Agenda

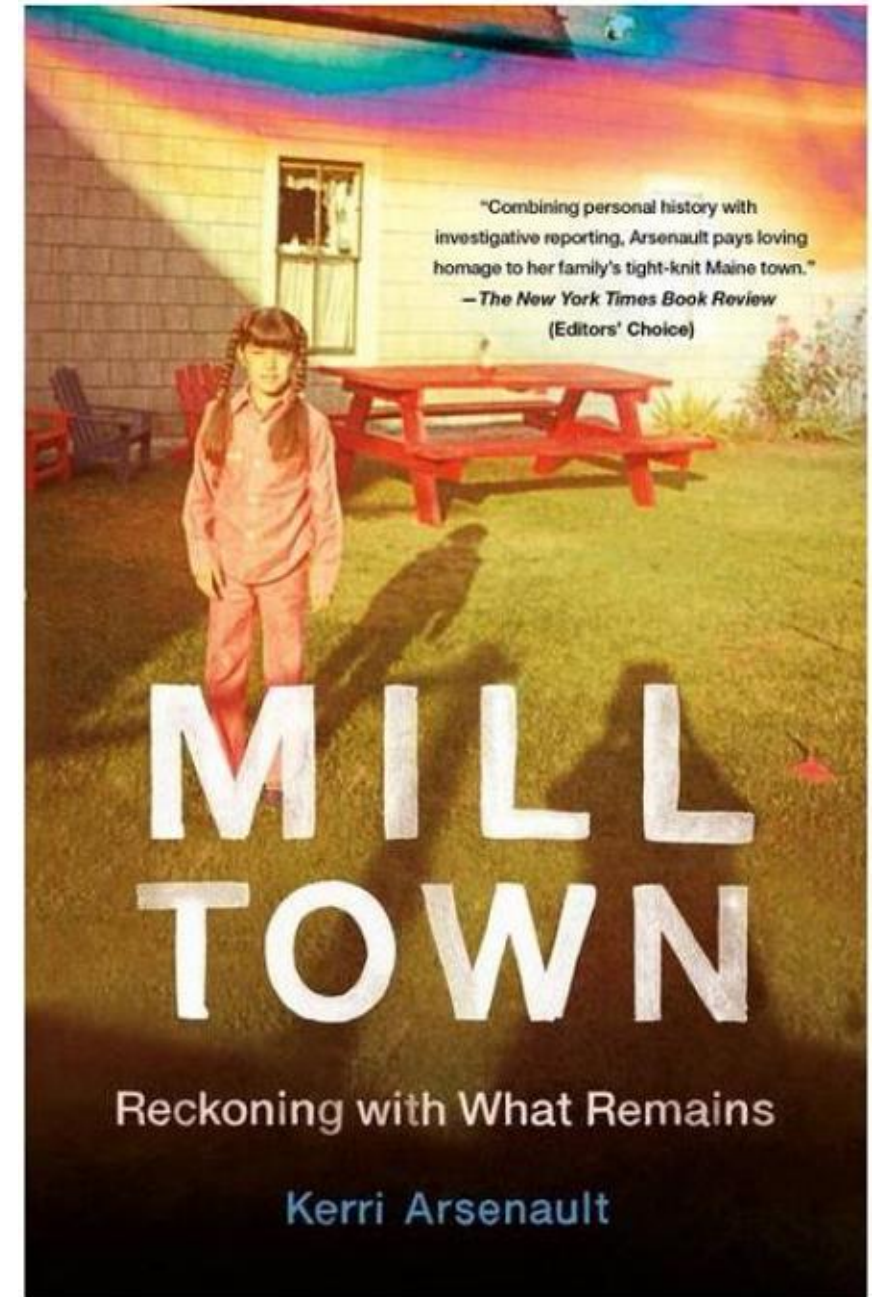
Subject	Presenter(s)	Shared via Zoom	Formal Committee Action Requested Today	Time
Meeting Open	Regina Lyons, EPA, Chair	Agenda	Approve March notes.	10 min
Guest Speaker and Environmental Storytelling Exercise	Kerri Arsenault , Author, <i>Milltown: Reckoning with What Remains</i>	None	None.	60 min
Program Report*	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	None	20 min
Public Comment/Break				5 min
Proposed Workplan Amendment to Add New Task	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	Consider approving new task for FY2021 Workplan—\$15,000 subaward to RISD to support the Blackstone paddle event in August.	10 min
Background on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Justice 40	Regina Lyons, EPA Caitlyn Whittle, EPA	None	None.	10 min
NBEP BIL Workplan & Budget	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	Discuss BIL Workplan and Budget and decide whether to provisionally approve today OR wait for EPA guidance.	30 min
NBEP §320 and SNEP Workplan & Budget	Mike Gerel, NBEP	PPT	Consider approving §320/SNEP workplan and budget. Commit to submit match forms.	30 min
Meeting Close	Mike Gerel, NBEP	None	None.	5 min

*Committee members will be asked to provide their own updates via the Chat function during this session and the break.

Decision #1

Does the Steering Committee approve the
March 17, 2022 meeting notes?

Kerri Arsenault
*Milltown: Reckoning with What
Remains*



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 ^{(7),(8)}
	Budget	FY2022 Expenditures ⁽¹⁾	Balance ⁽²⁾	Budget ⁽⁸⁾	FY2022 Expenditures ⁽¹⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	\$ 161,102	\$ 13,692	\$ 147,410	\$ 650,000	\$ -	\$ 650,000	\$ 811,102	\$ 13,692	\$ 797,410	\$ 2,000
Other Administrative ⁽⁴⁾	\$ (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 ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 42,796	\$ 16,762	\$ 26,034	\$ 119,946	\$ 34,288	\$ 85,658	\$ 162,742	\$ 51,050	\$ 111,692	\$ 111,692
Total	\$ 444,758	\$ 215,898	\$ 228,860	\$ 1,787,151	\$ 217,120	\$ 1,570,031	\$ 2,231,909	\$ 433,018	\$ 1,798,891	\$ 1,003,481

(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 31st
 - 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 5th
 - 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 Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Annual Workplan for \$320 and SNEP Funds	
Applicant:	Roger Williams University
Applicant Contact:	Mike Gerel Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 235 Promenade Street – Suite 393 Providence, Rhode Island 02908 (804) 332-1197 mike.gerel@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, 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, 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.

June 10, 2022 Draft, Page 1 of 11

DEIJ Assessment

- Final 3-hour workshop held on May 26th
- 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 7th
- 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

Public Comment / Break

Workplan & Budget Amendments

- NBEP Bylaws state that the Executive Committee must review and the Steering Committee must review and approve any “major amendment”
 - A major amendment is a new task not in the approved Workplan, or an individual budget line item revision in the approved Budget that exceed 10% of the year’s base Clean Water Act §320 allocation
 - Bringing a major amendment to you today

Proposed New Task for FY2021 Workplan

- Blackstone River Expedition 2022 will take place August 12-14th
- Led by team of Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, local groups, and RISD (fiscal sponsor)
- Paddle the 48 mile length of river from Worcester, MA to Pawtucket, RI
- Builds on the needs assessment to connect people and place
- NBEP proposes to add a new task to our FY2021 Workplan that will be accomplished via a **subaward \$15K to RISD for the paddle** to support
 - Pay speakers (up to \$650 federal limit/person)
 - Print fold-out posters
 - Transportation
 - Liability insurance
 - Paddling/portage gear
- At their meeting on 6.6.22 the Executive Committee sent this proposed amendment to the Steering Committee for review and approval

Decision #2

Does the Steering Committee approve this
FY2021 Workplan Amendment to add the
new Blackstone paddle task?

**Brief Overview of
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funds
and
Justice40 Initiative**

Regina Lyons, EPA

NBEP FY2022 Work Planning Introduction

- Two workplans/budgets this year
 - BIL
 - §320 and SNEP
- Plans are responsive to conditions on the ground in the study area and federal requirements for use of funds
- Since EPA BIL Guidance is still pending we may need to make changes and come back to committees
- Funding available by October 2022

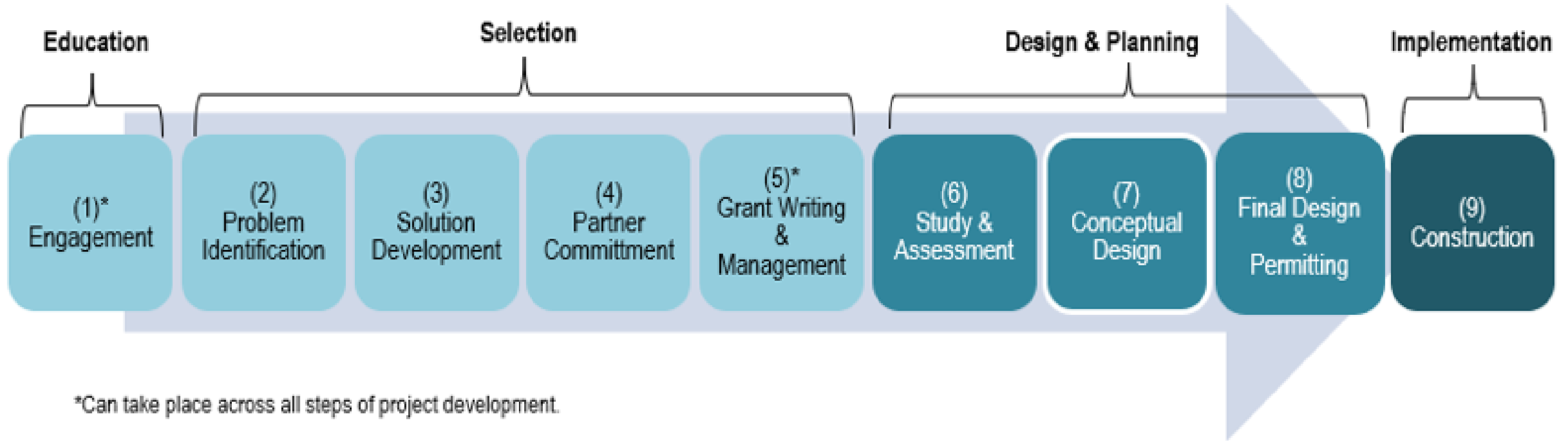
NBEP BIL Workplan and Budget

- 5-year award (appropriation for 1st year in place)
- \$909,857 available for Year 1 (FY2022)
- **NO** non-federal match required as of now
- Pipeline of shovel-ready work is very limited
 - #1 barrier to more projects is lack of capacity for project development at municipalities and community groups

Why Direct Subawards for Project Development?



What Do We Mean by Project Development?



- Projects are actions 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

Eight Subawards

- Propose to use ALL funds for 8 subawards to partners to advance projects consistent with our CCMP closer to implementation
 - 5 awards for project selection
 - 2 awards for project design & planning
 - 1 award for education
- Roughly 85% of subawards can benefit disadvantaged areas
- NBEP staff time to oversee subawards funded by \$320 money

Metrics

- Primary metric for tracking progress under this plan is “projects advanced.”
- Project advanced is an activity that advances a project at least 1 step forward in the 9-step development process.
- *Project Development Framework* required when what constitutes a project advanced is not clear for a given subawardee/project
 - Will specify what comprises project advancement by describing the starting and finishing step
 - Anticipated next steps to get to project implementation
 - And be completed as beginning and end of award

5 Project Selection Subawards

Objective 1	Recipients under Tasks 1-5	Metrics	Location	Funding
Support selection of projects.	1. Racial and Environmental Justice Committee —representatives of the BIPOC community that led development of the Providence Climate Justice Plan.	10	Lower South Providence, Washington Park, and Olneyville neighborhoods, Providence, RI	\$100,000
	2. SRPEDD —supports 22 municipalities in NBEP’s study area across the Taunton River Watershed.	12	Middle & Lower Taunton River Watershed, MA	\$100,000
	3. Old Colony Planning Council —supports 15 municipalities in our study area north and west of SRPEDD—from Brockton to Plymouth.	6	Upper Taunton River Watershed, MA	\$75,000
	4. Groundwork Southcoast —supports sustained improvement of the environment through community-based partnerships from New Bedford to Fall River, MA.	6	Fall River, MA	\$75,000
	5. Save The Bay —replicate work of Director of Habitat Restoration to support municipalities, state/federal agencies, and community groups.	12	Narragansett Bay and Coastal Pond Watersheds, RI & MA	\$100,000

2 Design & Planning Project Subawards

Objective 2	Recipients under Tasks 6-7	Metrics	Location	Funding
<p>Advance planning for priority habitat connectivity projects.</p>	<p>Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association—support creation of more free-flowing cold-water streams in the watershed’s headwaters.</p>	<p>--A master planning document that prioritizes field-ground-trusted barriers ripe for removal --2 projects advanced</p>	<p>Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, RI</p>	<p>\$134,857</p>
	<p>Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island—continue role as habitat connectivity contracting leader for RIDEM.</p>	<p>--60% designs, studies, permits, and construction bid materials for Main Street and Slaters Mill Dams --Feasibility alternatives for Elizabeth Webbing and Valley Falls Dams --4 projects advanced</p>	<p>Pawtucket to Lonsdale, RI</p>	<p>\$300,000</p>

1 Education Subaward

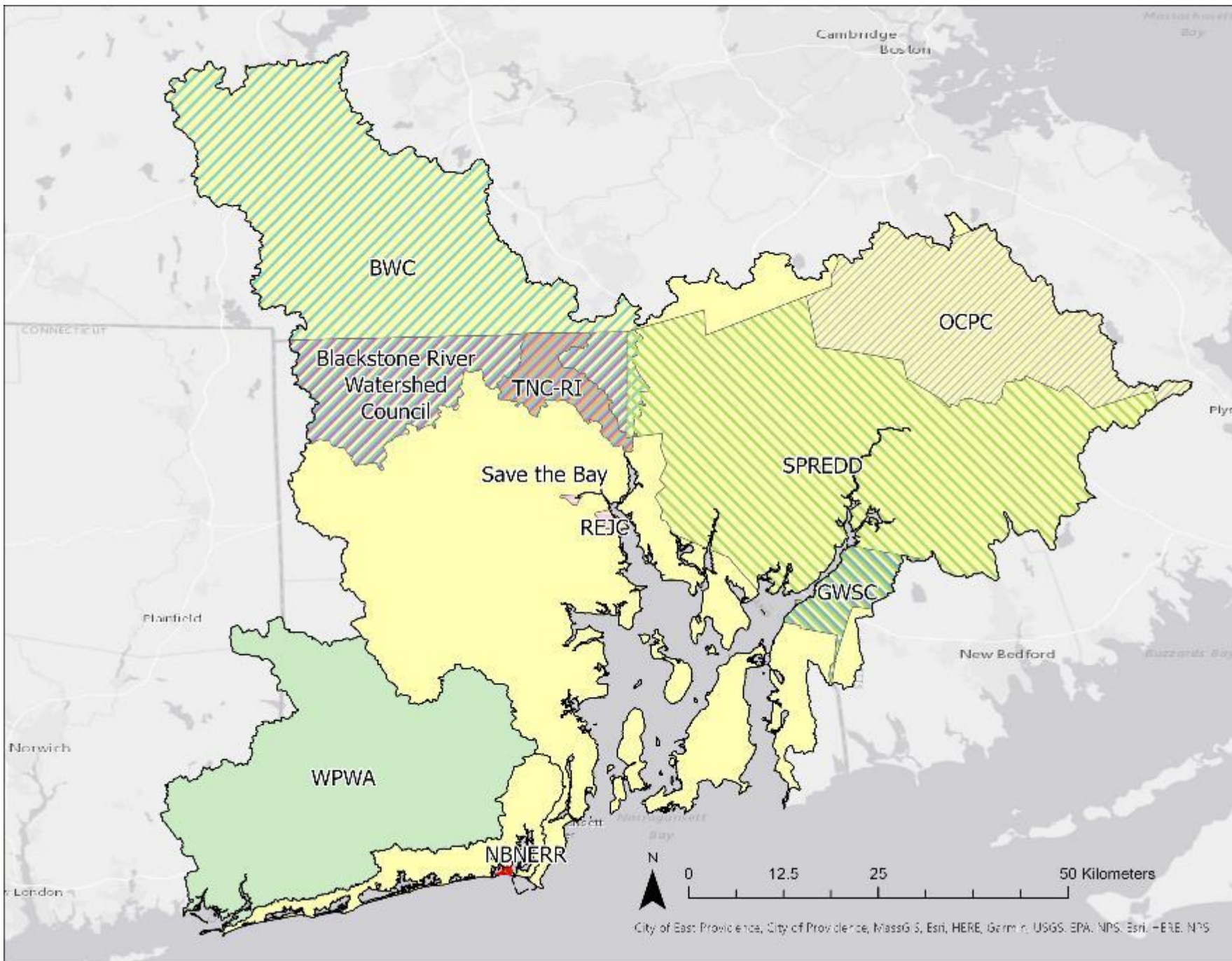
Objective 3	Recipient for Task 8	Metrics	Location	Funding
Support targeted community engagement and education on the value of a healthy Blackstone River.	Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone—supports community stewardship, education programs, and advocacy for the river.	--25 contacts with community members --3 public events	Blackstone River Watershed, RI	\$15,000

Outcomes

Term	Outcomes
Short (1 year)	<p>50 quality projects advanced closer to implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">--Conceptual plans in place for the largest fish passage effort in Narragansett Bay watershed history.--More shovel-ready cold-water stream connectivity projects in the Upper Wood-Pawcatuck.--More diverse mix of advocates in RI for Blackstone River projects.
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.

Plans for Future NBEP BIL Funds?

- Will evaluate success achieving outputs and outcomes to inform whether to maintain this approach with Year 2 funds or make refinements.
- Our hope is that this approach is successful and we can continue supporting these subawardees, and perhaps others, to develop projects and be ready to use BIL funds to begin construction in out years.



Across BIL and §320/SNEP Workplans subawards span:

- RI and MA
- All three sub-watersheds
- Upland and coast
- Urban and rural lands
- EJ and non-EJ areas
- Large and small groups
- Established and new groups

Preceding Executive Committee Action

At their meeting on 6.6.22, the Executive Committee sent the BIL Workplan & Budget to the Steering Committee for consideration with a request that NBEP staff make the following revisions:

1. Further describe the process and reasoning for direct subawards for project development, and
2. Better define the 'project advanced' metric and how it will tracked, and
3. Clarify desired outcomes.

Decision #3

Two Options:

1. Provisionally Approve the BIL Workplan and Budget.
2. Take no action today and take action when EPA BIL Guidance is released.

§320 and SNEP Funds Workplan and Budget

- \$1,000,000 available for FY2022—\$750K §320 and \$250K SNEP
- 1:1 non-federal match required
- Propose 4 objectives and 15 tasks
- Very similar to last year—pulled 2 tasks required by bylaws and added new Tribal Land Acknowledgment task
- Contracts for Tribal Land Acknowledgment, Vision 2032, outreach, and non-RWU interns
- Two subawards
 - NBNERR to get a long-discussed sediment replacement project shovel-ready at Succotash Marsh in South Kingstown, RI
 - Clark University to continue support for Blackstone Watershed Manager in RI and MA

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.

Budget

Expense Category	Budget	Notes
Personnel and Fringe	\$528,822	4 staff and interns, FTE fringe of 39.26%.
Travel	\$12,700	Assume travel ramps up to normal this fall.
Supplies	\$3,700	
Contracts	\$100,350	Vision 2032 writing, outreach, website; land acknowledgement, community engagement; non-RWU interns.
Other		
Subawards	\$250,000	\$200K to Succotach Marsh, \$50K to Clark (\$91K last year).
Other Administrative	\$27,833	
Total Direct	\$923,405	
Total Indirect	\$76,595	20% on personnel only.
Total	\$1,000,000	

Match

- TNC and NBC have committed \$291,380
- We need \$709,620 to match our \$1,000,000 award
- PLEASE complete and submit the Match Form to Mike ASAP
- Thanks!!

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

MATCH CERTIFICATION FORM

Certification of Use of Non-Federal Funds for Purposes of Providing Contribution of Services and Funds to the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

EPA Cooperative Agreement: Roger Williams University for Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Period of Performance: October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

Organization: _____

Itemization of Services Contributed:

Salary:

<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Salary Rate</u>	<u># Hours</u>	<u>Amount</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Fringe Benefits: (Fringe Benefit Rate: _____) _____

Travel: _____

Supplies: _____

Projects: _____

Total Direct Costs: _____

Indirect Costs: (Indirect Rate: _____) _____

Total Costs: _____

Certification:
I certify that the costs for these services are provided as non-federal matching funds to the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program for the listed period of performance and are not used to match other federally funded project. Upon request, supporting documentation shall be available to Narragansett Bay Estuary Program by contacting the following person (name, phone, email): _____

Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Revised: 5/16/2022

Preceding Executive Committee Action

At their meeting on 6.6.22, the Executive Committee sent the §320 and SNEP Workplan & Budget to the Steering Committee for review and approval.

Decision #4

Does the Steering Committee approve the
§320/SNEP Workplan and Budget?

Meeting Close

- Review Action Items
- Upcoming meetings
 - Vision 2032 meeting in August TBD
 - Executive Committee, August 9th, 1-3:30pm
 - Steering Committee, September 15th, 1-4pm
- Have a great summer!

