National Estuary Program Funding
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
FY2023 Annual Workplan for §320 and SNEP Funds

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QA/QC Plan Required:	Yes
Project Period:	October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026
Resources Requested:	This is a new award. Total budget is $2,200,000 (FY2022 funds and required non-federal match). Attachment A provides the FY2023 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.
Federal Cost:	Current request: $1,100,000 (FY2023 funds)
Non-Federal Match:	The attached match documentation includes $1,100,000 received from various partners for FY2023.

Abstract:

This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 17 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2023 allocation of Clean Water Act §320 and Southeast New England Program ("Base" funding) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to its host, Roger Williams University (RWU). The agreement has a three-year project period (October 1, 2023 – September 2026). This annual NBEP Base Workplan for FY2023 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 NBEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the program's Study Area of Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

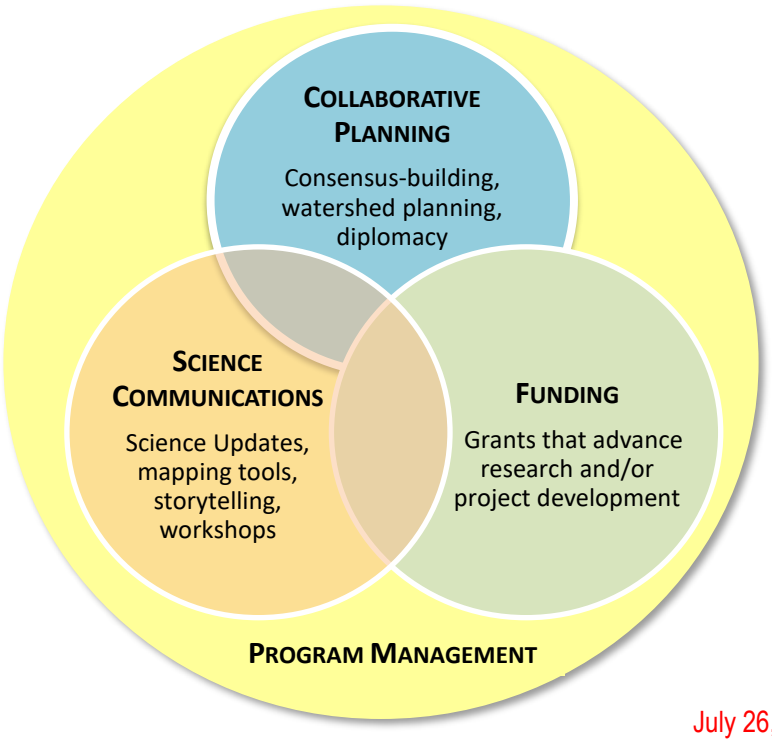
I. OBJECTIVES

This work plan includes four objectives that align with NBEP's mission, CCMP, services, and funding requirements. The objectives are grouped by NBEP's core services: (1) Program Management; (2) Collaborative Planning; (3) Science Communications; and (4) Partner Funding. The CCMP objectives addressed in this workplan are listed for each NBEP objective. Each NBEP objective includes specific tasks, with target completion dates and expected outputs and outcomes.

Summary of FY2023 NBEP Base Workplan Objectives and Tasks

Objective	Task
1. Ensure sound **program management** consistent with NBEP's mission, bylaws, and CCMP.	a. Program Leadership.
	b. Host Institution Program Support.
	c. Base Workplan and Budget Development.
	d. Committee Support.
	e. Subaward and Contract Management.
	f. Land Acknowledgment Development.
	g. Grant Writing.
2. Provide **collaborative regional planning** to advance more resilient, sustainable, and equitable natural resource management, use, and enjoyment.	a. Vision 2032 Completion.
	b. Science Working Group Convening.
	c. Regional Research, Restoration, Monitoring, Financial, & Outreach Planning.
	d. Southeast New England Program Support.
3. **Communicate science** in ways that is understood and useful to researchers, managers, other priority audiences.	a. Science Updates.
	b. Annual Science Event.
	c. Targeted Outreach.
4. **Award funding** to partners to help implement the CCMP.	a. Small Education and Outreach Subawards.
	b. RIDEM Fish & Wildlife Ecological Data Analyst Subaward.
	c. RINHS Biodiversity Database Subaward.

NBPE Core Services



Objective 1: **Ensure sound program management consistent with NBEP's mission, bylaws, and CCMP.**

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- This objective supports all 24 CCMP objectives.

Task 1a: Program Leadership
The Executive Director and delegated NBEP staff will work with the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, and other committees to assure sound governance, performance, and standing of NBEP. This will be accomplished by (1) ensuring work is consistent with grant agreements, the NBEP's bylaws, current CCMP, and annual workplans and amendments; (2) assuring an approach that is science-based, collaborative, community-driven, and otherwise consistent with the National Estuary Program (NEP) model; (3) maintaining relationships, pursuing new partnerships, and representing NBEP in appropriate forums to optimize awareness of NBEP's unique role and value; (4) EPA cooperative agreement and re-granting oversight, progress tracking, and reporting; (5) providing day-to-day management of the NBEP office, including direct supervision of staff and interns, collaborating with the host institution on staff and intern hiring and performance reviews, development of staff and intern work plans, and ongoing mentoring; and (6) elevating and amplifying diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice consistent with NBEP's 2022 DEIJ Assessment. Note that NBEP plans to hire an Ecologist in by January 2024 with §320 funds to broaden our technical expertise to fill gaps in the region by helping to implement Tasks 1e, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 4b, and 4c. Through these responsibilities, the Executive Director assures delivery of additive, actionable information, tools, and funding that advances water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the Study Area. Task 1a will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1b: Host Institution Program Support
RWU will support NBEP by providing specific services that enable the program to employ quality staff, meet a high standard of financial management, and otherwise operate consistent with legal requirements, NBEP's bylaws, and annual workplan. This will be accomplished by (1) employing all NBEP staff and RWU student interns; (2) overseeing staff hiring and performance review; (3) serving as the program's fiscal sponsor; (4) formally applying for, accepting, and distributing public and private funding on behalf of the program; (5) developing contracts, subawards, and attendant documentation (including those funded using BIL funding); (6) establishing and managing NBEP office space agreement; (7) submitting required reports to funders; (8) support joint NBEP/RWU communications and events as appropriate; and (9) coordinating with the Executive Director and EPA as needed. Task 1b will be accomplished through personnel time of RWU staff.

Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking
The Executive Director will develop workplans and budgets for review by the NBEP Executive Committee and approval by the NBEP Steering Committee in June each year. RWU will complete a final annual grant application for submission to EPA in July each year. For FY2023 NBEP will complete one set of materials for Base funding (the FY2022-FY2023 BIL Workplan was developed and approved by the Steering Committee last year). The Executive Director and RWU will collaborate to track and report progress toward completion of workplan tasks consistent with funder requirements, and as otherwise requested by the Steering Committee or EPA. Task 1c will be accomplished with personnel time of NBEP and RWU staff.

Task 1d: Committee Support
NBEP is guided by three standing committees: Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee. Presently there are also three subcommittees: Vision 2032, Grants, and Nominating. The Steering and Executive Committees meet quarterly, and the Science Advisory Committee three times a year. The Executive Director in collaboration with the committee Chairs, lead the Steering and Executive Committees, while the Staff Scientist with the committee Chair(s) lead the Science Advisory Committee. Refinement of the Science Advisory Committees priority roles and framework consistent with NBEP's bylaws will be explored into FY2023 to assure best of the committee in advancing the CCMP and regional science. NBEP leads schedule meetings; develop agendas, program reports, and recommendations for consideration; recruit speakers; conduct meetings; draft notes; and post meeting materials publicly as appropriate. Meetings are designed to inform members, seek their expertise and approval of staff recommendations per NBEP bylaws, facilitate member coordination and relationships, and engagement with stakeholders as appropriate. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch, for all quarterly Steering Committee meetings, and up to the equivalent of four other meetings, held during normal business hours to enable longer meetings, encourage active participation, and acknowledge

the considerable commitment people make as a member of these committees (Steering Committee meetings: approximate cost per person $15; anticipated attendance 30; total cost per meeting: $450; total cost for the equivalent of 8 meetings: $3,600). Further, community engagement contracts (up to $650/day) may also be provided to compensate non-committee members who attend to offer presentations, public comment, or otherwise provide their expertise and life experience. Task 1d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff, meals, and community engagement contracts.

Task 1e: Subaward and Contract Management
NBEP will distribute 60% of its total funding to external parties for the FY2018 to FY2023 period. The program expects to have over 30 active subawards and contracts during FY2023. These numbers include those funded with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) monies, which will be managed under this Base award. Some of these awards are highlighted here. Management of these awards is currently spread across three staff and includes collaboration with RWU on scope, budget, and agreement development, review and approval of quarterly reports and invoices, processing of amendments, and routine interaction with EPA, RWU, and awardees. Because oversight of these awards now takes considerable time, this work is called out as a separate task in this workplan. Task 1e is completed through personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1f: Land Acknowledgment Development
Indigenous people have occupied NBEP's study area since time immemorial. First people's homelands in the region include the Eastern Nehantick, Mohegan, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Pequot, Pokanoket, Wampanoag, and perhaps others. Land Acknowledgments are completed to recognize the traditional land stewardship, contributions, and continuation of these people. NBEP intends to create a Land Acknowledgement that recognize that indigenous voices are still here and document the program's commitment to working with them as equals to attain shared goals. The program intends to partner with indigenous people, scholars, and others to authentically and respectfully develop a Land Acknowledgement consistent with the insights of Loren Spears of the Tomaquag Museum found here. Work will be coordinated with RWU administration, as well as faculty with expertise in the area. This task was included in the FY2022 Workplan but was delayed until FY2023. Task 1e will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and interns, community engagement contracts, and a consultant contract, the later funded by remaining FY2022 funds.

Task 1g: Grant Writing
NBEP staff will develop up to two (2) proposals independently or with partners to augment and diversify program funding each fiscal year. Proposals will be developed, submitted, and any awards administered in compliance with the NBEP's bylaws, EPA's *FY2021-FY2024 Clean Water Act §320 National Estuary Program Funding Guidance* (Funding Guidance) dated October 13, 2020, and OMB's Uniform Guidance. NBEP will explore a range of grant opportunities, update the Executive and Steering Committee on prospects, and draft proposals. RWU will submit proposals and administer any awarded funds. The finance plan described in Task 2c will guide whether NBEP pursues grant writing or other fundraising for internal purposes and/or to help implement the CCMP. NBEP staff may also provide letters of support for partner proposals that are consistent with the CCMP. Task 1f will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 1a: NBEP Program Leadership (Executive Director)	Ongoing	Oversee implementation of NBEP annual and staff workplans and amendments. Maintain relationships with up to 500 existing partners. Develop 30 new partners. Represent NBEP in at least 5 forums. Collaborate with the host institution on hiring a new Ecologist, RWU interns, and completing. performance reviews. Compile and submit 1 NBEP annual report and 1 NEPORT report to EPA. Travel for meetings.	Administrative and programmatic performance, reputation, and morale is such that NBEPs mission and CCMP are advanced.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 1b: RWU Program Support (RWU Associate Provost for Global and Community Engagement, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs, RWU Finance, RWU Office of General Counsel)	Ongoing	Develop and submit EPA Base Cooperative Agreement application and amendments to Base and BIL agreements as needed. Oversee staff hiring and performance review. Submit up to 2 other proposals. Submit NBEP reports, close-out documents, and other paperwork as required. Accept funding, execute contract and subaward paperwork, and pay invoices.	Program operations are efficient and effective such that the it is consistent with NBEP bylaws and federal rules, advances the CCMP, and staff and partners are afforded high quality support.
Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development (Executive Director)	July 2024	Base Workplan, budget, and any amendments are drafted and approved by the Steering Committee and provided to RWU.	Work plan is consistent with federal requirements, aligns with the program's core services and funding, and outputs/outcomes are achieved that advance the CCMP.
Task 1d: Committee Support (NBEP staff and interns)	Ongoing	4 Steering Committee meetings, materials, and notes. 4 Executive Committee meetings, materials, and notes. Up 3 Science Advisory Committee meetings, materials, and notes. Up to 4 NBEP subcommittee meetings and materials. Up to 4 community engagement contracts. Meals for the equivalent of 8 committee meetings. Staff travel for meetings.	Committee oversight of the program is consistent with the bylaws and meetings are efficient, inclusive, and useful.
Task 1e: Subaward and Contract Management (Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist)	Ongoing	Up to 40 subawards and contracts awarded under Base and BIL managed.	NBEP subawards and contracts are professionally managed to assure adherence to rules and obligations.
Task 1f: Land Acknowledgment Development (Watershed Outreach Manager and interns)	May 2024	Up to 4 community engagement contracts. Land acknowledgement approved by the Steering Committee. Staff travel for meetings.	Land Acknowledgments in place that recognize the traditional land stewardship, contributions, and continued presence of indigenous people in the area.
Task 1g: Grant Writing (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager)	September 2024	Up to 2 grant proposals developed.	NBEP funding is augmented and more diversified.

Objective 2: Provide collaborative regional planning to advance more resilient, sustainable, and equitable natural resource management, use, and enjoyment.

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- Objective 1.1: Reduce pollution from wastewater sources.
- Objective 1.2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.5: Improve funding for water projects and monitoring.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.4: Increase and retain recreational opportunities and public access to the shore.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.4: Monitor, control and prevent terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.2. Improve public and private infrastructure to withstand anticipated climate change impacts.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 2a: Vision 2032 Completion

Since late 2019 NBEP has been developing its next CCMP, called Vision 2032. EPA requires NEPs to develop these guiding documents roughly every 10 years in accordance with the *National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Revision and Update Guidelines*, May 2016 (CCMP Guidance). The program's first plan released in 1992 and the current update in place since 2012. The new plan will respond to best available science and local perspectives with a short-list of actions that can address priority problems in the region within the next decade. NBEP has held 17 meetings, received EPA concurrence on a Vision 2032 Blueprint in August 2020, received OMB approval to release two public surveys March 2021 and October 2021, created an Action Planning Worksheet in October 2022 that enables proposed actions to be sketched out and considered through the lenses of climate resilience, sustainable resource use, and equity, hired Coastwise Partners to consult on plan development, and maintained a Vision2032.org site for engaging the public. Based on significant feedback to date, the program set four topline goals (improving partner capacity to act, water quality, habitat quality and resilience, and the public's access to nature) in October 2022, identified 15 objectives and 38 actions for meeting those goals in March 2023, and completed worksheets for all 38 actions in May 2023. NBEP also finalized a novel plan structure organized by target audience—for the public, short stories by established authors as prologues to each goal-chapter, for conservation practitioners, 38 2-pp Action Plans, and mostly for EPA, an appendix with required checklists. Hiring of authors, photographers, graphic designers, and drafting of Action Plans is ongoing.

NBEP will finish Vision 2032 under this workplan. The program will assemble the draft plan, seek public comment, pursue Steering Committee and EPA review and approval, formally publish by June 2024, and seek media attention, including separate publication of the prologue stories, as a call to action to kick-off implementation. Task 2a will be achieved through personnel time of the NBEP staff and consultant contracts, the later funded by remaining FY2022 funds.

Task 2b: Science Working Group Convening

In the early 2000s, NBEP helped lead a Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team. This team served as a multi-interest/disciplinary habitat restoration workgroup to increase collaboration, effectiveness, and government funding for restoration. The formal convening of this team phased out in the 2010s as NBEP focused on development of the 2017 Report. Starting in 2020 at the suggestion of members of the Steering Committee, the program stepped back into this space by forming several science working groups to aid coordination and decision-making on key issues not being addressed by other organizations or venues, including salt marsh and SAV restoration, water clarity monitoring, use of fisher's ecological knowledge, and development of social science indicators. These groups have been cross-boundary (e.g., state) and "purpose-driven," in that they only meet when necessary and don't just 'meet to meet.' NBEP staff will continue to host the

existing working groups as needed and potentially form new groups. Habitat project prioritization and interstate water quality and habitat monitoring are topics stakeholders have said could benefit from new forums. NBEP will involve the Science Advisory Committee members with relevant expertise as appropriate. Further, hiring of a new NBEP Ecologist will expand our capacity to assist in this space. Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff.

Task 2c: Regional Research, Restoration, Financial, and Engagement Planning.
EPA CCMP and funding guidance call for NEPs to develop several a host of plans to support their operation and CCMP implementation. Monitoring, finance, outreach, and habitat restoration plans are specifically mentioned. NBEP has chosen not to develop these big picture plans to date for a host of reasons. NBEP was not viewed as an expert in these areas, management agencies and other stakeholders in each state were following their own plans, and the program was focused on completing foundational work, like publishing the Status and Trends Report and new bylaws, shifting to a new host, developing a new CCMP, and its niche in regional conservation. However, based on new programmatic stability and staffing and expected completion of Vision 2032 by June 2024, the program finds that development of several cross-boundary (e.g., states, towns, watersheds) regional plans would now be timely and useful for NBEP and its partners in FY2023. NBEP expects to pursue the following:

- Research Plan informed by regional research needs identified in the 2017 Report, FY2022 interviews with the Science Advisory Committee and subsequent committee meetings, and current literature,
- Engagement Plan that describe the target audiences, purpose, tactics, tools, and timing of NBEP's outreach work,
- Finance Plan that identifies the cost, benefits, and sources of funding for implementing Vision 2032,
- Habitat Restoration prioritization support that enables the region to acquire and deploy more funding, and
- Monitoring coordination support, including but not limited to, collaboration with the URI Coastal Institute/RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative on water quality and cross-state habitat monitoring building on the RI specific efforts in Tasks 4b and 4c in this workplan.

Task 2c will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff.

Task 2d: SNEP Support
NBEP has received funding and otherwise offered technical support to the SNEP program since its inception. NBEP staff participate actively on the following SNEP planning committees: SNEP Steering Committee, SNEP Policy Committee, SNEP Monitoring Subcommittee, SNEP Network Advisory Committee, and Restore America's Estuaries Grant Review Committee. Staff also help organize or attend SNEP forums, webinars, and other events. Due to an increase in requests for NBEP staff time from SNEP, the program will be strategic about its participation in SNEP activities. Task 2d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 2a: Vision 2032 Completion (NBEP staff and interns)	June 2024	Up to 38 Actions Plans developed. Up to 5 authors hired. Draft Vision 2032. Comments on draft plan. Final Vision 2032 approved by SC/EPA. At least 5 articles on the new plan.	Vision 2032 published and implementation begins.
Task 2b: Science Working Group Convening (Staff Scientist, Ecologist)	Ongoing	At least 6 working group meetings. Staff travel for meetings.	Greater coordination, information exchange, and collaborative decision-making for priority issues.
Task 2c: Regional Planning	Ongoing	At least 6 meetings.	Regional engagement, research, fundraising, and habitat restoration

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
(Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist, interns)	March 2024 September 2024 Ongoing	Research Plan and Engagement Plan. Finance Plan, habitat prioritization and monitoring coordination work Staff travel for meetings.	is more coordinated and effective at implementing the CCMP.
Task 2d: SNEP Support (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist)	Ongoing	10 SNEP activities attended. Staff travel for meetings.	Improvement of SNEP and its impact on the Study Area.

Objective 3: Communicate science in ways that is understood and useful to researchers, managers, other priority audiences.

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- Objective 1.1: Reduce pollution from wastewater sources.
- Objective 1.2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Objective 1.3: Reduce pollution from combined sewer overflows.
- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.4: Increase and retain recreational opportunities and public access to the shore.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 3a: Science Updates
NEPs periodically release complete a comprehensive status and trends report for their Study Area. NBEP's last status and trends report published in 2017, titled *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watersheds* (Report) and included 24 condition and stressor indicators. NBEP has worked with the Science Working Groups to publish Science Updates on an existing indicator (water clarity), potential new indicators (social science), and will continue to periodically publish updates that present new information related to existing/potential new indicators and emerging issues. These materials may take the form of Science Updates, Story Maps, geospatial information system (GIS) tools, data dashboards, white papers, newsletter pieces, data reports, or other means to best convey complex scientific information to specific target audiences, from restoration practitioners, to resource managers, to the general public. Exploring means to understand ecosystem change and advancing the initial social science indicators, especially public access to nature, are priorities. Further, in preparation for beginning full-scale development of the next status and trends report in FY2025, NBEP will create and seek Steering Committee and EPA concurrence on a "roadmap" for the next full Report. A quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to cover these updates was approved that runs from February 2023 to December 2024. NBEP staff will work with the Science Advisory Committee, working groups, and other experts to prioritize topics for updates and the next Report. Task 3a will be done via personnel time of NBEP staff and interns.

Task 3b: Annual Science Event
NBEP has been a leader in regional science for many years. Over 100 scientific reports funded by the program and the status and trends report have created a baseline of knowledge. NBEP will collaborate with the Science Advisory Committee and regional partners to design and host an annual science conference, workshop, or equivalent that addresses a topic that is especially germane to the Study Area and would benefit from deeper discussion. NBEP will be hosting a day-long

symposium on regional biodiversity and rare species stories, challenges, and opportunities at RWU on October 6, 2023. A meeting announcement, all presentations, and a meeting summary will be posted on the NBEP website. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch and snack for up to 150 meeting attendees during normal business hours to attract and keep participants (Rough cost per person $30; anticipated attendance 150; total cost: $4,500). Task 3b will be undertaken with personnel time of NBEP and RWU staff, program participation contracts, and contracts for event hosting.

Task 3c: Targeted Outreach

NEPs are community-based organizations. NBEP has been making a concerted effort to authentically connect with more people impacted by natural resource challenges and related actions in the Study Area. The desire it to drive more understanding of complex issues, avenues for providing input, and ownership of solutions. Further, a clear lesson from Vision 2032 outreach is that storytelling about the region's successes (e.g., reduced nutrient pollution, open shellfishing areas) and challenges (e.g., climate change, environmental justice, emerging contaminants) is absolutely vital to realizing this deeper engagement. Hope over pessimism will be the rule. The ultimate goal is two-way learning and relationship-building from all engagement. Direct outreach avenues include attendance at NBEP's own convenings, regional meetings and workshops, one-on-one meetings, and an active and growing MailChimp contact list of 520 partners. Indirect engagement is accomplished through publication of Science Updates, Story Maps, fact sheets, GIS tools, a monthly newsletter, press interviews and releases, and website updates. NBEPs outreach to date has generally been project-specific and opportunistic. NBEP plans to become more strategic by developing the Engagement Plan noted under Task 2c. Task 3c will be accomplished through the time of NBEP staff, consultant contracts, and the small outreach subawards noted under Task 4a.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Output	Outcome
Task 3a: Status and Trends Updates (Staff Scientist, Geospatial and Design Manager, Ecologist, interns)	Ongoing Ongoing June 2024	Up to 5 science updates created. 3 GIS/web-based tools developed. 1 roadmap for next Status and Trends Report.	Greater understanding and availability of scientific information on the Study Area.
Task 3b: Annual Science Event (Watershed Outreach Manager, Geospatial and Design Manager)	October 6, 2023	1 science event completed. 1 set of event materials posted. Up to 7 program participation contracts. Meals for the event. Travel for the event.	Event advances knowledge of an issue of local importance and NBEP/RWU as leaders in regional science.
Task 3c: Targeted Outreach (Watershed Outreach Manager, interns)	Ongoing	Up to 10 new/revised outreach publications. At least 6 monthly newsletters. At least 10 presentations offered. 50 meetings/events joined. 1 set of NEP communications materials from Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP). Up to 5 program participation contracts.	Greater understanding by the interested public of the environmental issues facing in the Study Area and NBEP's and partners work to address them.

Objective 4: Award funding to partners to help implement the CCMP.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.2: Preserve open space and natural systems.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.

- Objective 3.1: Conserve natural landscapes at risk by development and climate change.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.4. Monitor, control and prevent terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 4a: Small Education and Outreach Subawards
NBEP is looking to extend its outreach work to new audiences in the Study Area. Tasks 2c and 3c speak to this plan. The program is pursuing direct engagement with certain interests, and recently began funding local partners with their own outreach programs whose goals align with the CCMP (e.g., Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, Blackstone River Watershed Council, RI School of Design). This indirect outreach via partners has worked well, especially building new trusting connections with indigenous communities. NBEP intends to expand and formalize this support by creating a Small Education and Outreach grant program that will fund partners' programs and events that connect new people to local environmental issues and provide ready opportunities to celebrate successes and take action to address problems moving forward. A request for proposals (RFP) or direct awards may be used to share funds. NBEP expects to provide up to 10 subawards that range from $5K-$15K. Task 4a will be accomplished through the time of NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a and 1b and subawards up to $57,573.

Task 4b: RI Department of Environmental Management Ecological Data Analyst Subaward
The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) serves as the steward for the State's natural resources, such as marine and anadromous species and terrestrial wildlife. To sustainably manage these resources, the RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries and Division of Fish and Wildlife conduct long-term monitoring of biota to determine how their population trajectories change over time, and discern what is driving change (e.g. climate, harvest, ecosystem dynamics, habitat alteration, anthropogenic stressors). While the data themselves are a primary scientific basis for informing management actions as needed, supplemental analytical tools or statistical models are often built, with these data as input, to account for non-observed processes from the data but operating in the system. Common examples of this are stock assessment models: observations on relative abundance from agency programs are a critical data source for the models, but the models themselves can predict larger scale biological indicators (e.g. recruitment) or processes (e.g. mortality). While many of the joint state-federally managed resources have adequate financial support and staffing, state-only managed species or resource management programs do not have such support available. DMF and DFW have many analytical and modeling needs to help better manage these resources in RI and their systems that expand into other states (e.g., Narragansett Bay), but they are often inhibited from developing these tools due to short staffing. As a result, RIDEM is left without staff to assemble existing data, run and build models, coordinate with neighboring states, and deliver information in a format that is timely and readily useable for tracking performance, assessing system changes, and adapting programs.

NBEP will subaward $75,000 through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to RIDEM to cover three-quarters of a new contract Ecological Data Analyst (modeler, biometrician, statistician) dedicated to providing these services. RIDEM will provide the remaining $25,000 to fund a full FTE. The Ecological Data Analyst will include, but are not limited to:

- Advancing the historical, currently used Narragansett Bay Atlantic Menhaden Management Area model used to estimate fine scale abundance and distribution of this species,
- Developing data limited stock assessment models for Atlantic Horseshoe Crabs in Rhode Island waters,
- Construct a stock assessment model for Northern Quahog,
- Use available River Herring long-term relative abundance data to quantify ecological and economic benefits from prospective river passage enhancement, and understand what is driving current population levels.
- Use Narragansett Bay time series data to discern which environmental condition have contributed to the bay's ecosystem change over time.
- Conduct landscape-level analysis of bird atlas data.

NBEP will manage the subaward, including the agreement with ASMFC that will define the tasks to be completed by the new hire, but will not be involved in the hiring process. The program intends to support this position at some level over the next few years to allow time for development of work products that will help the state establish a long-term financially sustainable and FTE to complete this work. Task 4b will be accomplished through NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a and 1b and subaward to ASMFC.

Task 4c: RI Natural History Survey Biodiversity Database Subaward

The RI Natural History Survey (RINHS) connects people with knowledge about the state's animals, plants, and natural systems with each other and those who can use that information for research, education, and conservation. Documentation of RI's plants and animals are spread across individual monitoring databases, assessments, restoration project reports, and volunteer initiatives, often only in printed form that are scarce. This wealth of data on the state's rare species, invasive species, and overall biodiversity is not compiled and collated in one place where restoration practitioners and managers can access this information. This data isolation at the site level prevents evaluation of status and trends at other geographic and conceptual scales where ecological restoration is best pursued. A comprehensive biodiversity database has been needed some time that illuminates conditions, priorities, management decisions at the landscape scale. In the early 2000s, RINHS built an all-taxa biodiversity database, the Biota of Rhode Island Inventory System (BORIIS) to document species presence. Due to data quality concerns and technical reasons, BORIIS has limited usability and updates ceased in 2008. A successor database, BORIIS2, has been under development for several years, which would create a more complete and useable index of species, observer, date, location, and evidence. A proposal by RINHS submitted to the RI Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Trust Fund to advance BORIIS2 for wetlands plants was viewed very favorably by the review committee, but not competitive for the funding source. However, RINHS has secured a multi-year commitment of provide funding of roughly $15,000 per year to support the development effort. Further, the survey has also recently established a user group of key stakeholders to guide development of the new tool.

NBEP will subaward $100,000 to RINHS to match existing private funding to develop a "beta" RI biodiversity database (called BORIIS2 or otherwise). The existing BORIIS/2 work will be leveraged as appropriate, data captured, cleaned, and input, and the tool tested to guide creation of queries and reports, assess user experience, and inform more final development steps. RINHS will also coordinate with neighboring states and consider existing national biodiversity tools to maximize continuity and ease future collaboration. The goal is a beta database that creates a curated index of best available biodiversity data that is usable by RINHS staff and at least select restoration partners and is ready for final development. The extent of RI biota included and degree of functionality and public accessibility of the beta version will be determined based on total available funding and included in the final subaward agreement between RWU and RINHS. With a foundational tool in place, upgrades to include modeling (like that built into MA's BioMap), integration of data from public observation apps, and other expansions may be explored based on need and funding availability. Task 4c will be accomplished through NBEP and RWU staff time under Tasks 1a and 1b and a subaward to RINHS.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 4a: Small Education and Outreach Subawards (Watershed Outreach Manager)	Ongoing	One RFP and related solicitation documents (if used) Scopes of work, budget, and agreements with subawardees Up to 10 outreach efforts funded. Final reports.	People are more knowledgeable about the environmental challenges facing the area and how they can help.
Task 4b: RIDEM Fish & Wildlife Data Analysis Subaward (Ecologist)	Start Jan 2024	1 scope of work, budget, and agreement. 1 Ecological Data Analyst hired by RIDEM. At least 4 revised/new modeling tools completed. Quarterly and final reports, including funding strategy for coming years.	RIDEM has greater capacity to analyze existing fish and wildlife data, analysis is used to inform management decisions, and the position's value is established.

FY2023 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 4c: RINHS Biodiversity Database Subaward (Ecologist)	Start Jan 2024	1 scope of work, budget, and agreement. 1 working beta biodiversity database. Quarterly and final reports, including next steps to achieve a final version.	Beta biodiversity database that offers sufficient data and functionality to improve the quantity, quality, and availability of information on RI biota.

II. Non-Federal Match

NBEP's Steering Committee includes many partners that are implementing projects that directly implement the actions consistent with the 2012 CCMP. A summary of each entity providing 1:1: non-federal match for this FY2023 cooperative agreement is included below and match documentation is provided for each source of funds:

- Narragansett Bay Commission: Staff time and supplies for Bay monitoring--$100,000
- RI Department of Environmental Management: Staff time, fringe benefits, and State bond projects--$980,905
- MA Department of Environmental Protection: Staff time, fringe benefits, and indirect--$19,095

Appendix A: New Subawards and Contracts Using FY2023 Funding*

Task(s)	Project	Amount	Major Outputs	Procurement	Funding Close
All tasks	All tasks.	$31,984	Up to 4 non-RWU students hired to support NBEP or partners.	Contract	9/30/26
Task 1d, 1e, 3b, 3c	Community Engagement Contracts for specified tasks.	$9,750	Up to 20 outside people paid to speak, attend, or otherwise offer their experience.	Contract	9/30/26
Task 3c	Targeted Outreach.	$4,000	1 set of NEP communications materials from ANEP.	Contract	9/30/26
Task 4a	Small Education and Outreach Subawards	$57,573	Up to 10 outreach efforts funded.	Subaward	9/30/26
Task 4b	RIDEM Fish & Wildlife Ecological Data Analyst Subaward	$75,000	1 Ecological Data Analyst position hired by RIDEM through ASMFC	Subaward	9/30/26
Task 4c	RINHS Biodiversity Database Subaward	$100,000	1 working beta biodiversity database created.	Subaward	9/30/26

*Partial funding for Community Engagement contracts (Tasks 1d, 1e, 3b, 3c) and full funding for the Land Acknowledgement (Task 1f) and Vision 2032 Completion (Task 2a) are included in the FY2022 Base Workplan.

Appendix B: Grant Performance Report

The NBEP Steering Committee presentations provided after Page 13 of 13 below include quarterly reports that collectively satisfy the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement (CE00A00967).

Appendix C: Travel Report

NBEP Trips Taken June 17, 2022 to June 16, 2023

Date	Purpose	Destination	Staff	Cost
				$8,097.39
6/22/2022	New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) meeting	Warwick, RI	Courtney Schmidt	96.00
9/23/2022	STEAM'd Podcast	New Haven, CT	Courtney Schmidt	62.00
9/30/2022	NBEP Plastics Event	Bristol, RI	CA WRB	1.076.47
11/17/2022	NEERs Conference	Providence, RI	Courtney Schmidt	125.00
11/17/2022	NEERs Conference	Providence, RI	Mike Gerel	19.00
12/4/2022	Restore American Estuaries Conference	New Orleans, LA	Mike Gerel	1,744.32
12/4/2022	Restore American Estuaries Conference	New Orleans, LA	Courtney Schmidt	1,725.94
2/1/2023	Hack4Oceans Class	Narragansett, RI	Courtney Schmidt	30.31
2/2/2023	URI STORMTOOLs	Narragansett, RI	Courtney Schmidt	30.31
2/21/2023	Vision 2032 Tour	Warwick, RI	Courtney Schmidt	25.06
3/1/2023	Brown University Bay modeling	Providence, RI	Courtney Schmidt	1.69
3/20/2023	EPA National Estuary Program Workshop	Washington, DC	Mike Gerel	1,949.76
3/21/2023	Coastal Institute C-SEA meeting	Barrington, RI	Darcy Young	15.20
4/11/2023	Vision 2032 meeting	Pawtucket, RI	Darcy Young	3.93
4/13/2023	Lower Blackstone Dam tour	Pawtucket, RI	Darcy Young	6.29
4/14/2023	URI GSO Class	Narragansett, RI	Courtney Schmidt	31.77
4/18/2023	Save The Bay and SRPEDD tour	Lakeville, MA	Darcy Young	53.32
4/24/2023	Science Advisory Committee meeting	Providence, RI	Darcy Young	6.81
4/27/2023	NEERs Conference	Brooklyn, NY	Courtney Schmidt	912.78
5/3/2023	Mass ECAN Conference	Worcester, MA	Darcy Young	51.48
5/9/2023	RTWN meeting	Dighton, MA	Darcy Young	31.18
5/16/2023	Save The Bay and SRPEDD Event	Lakeville, MA	Darcy Young	52.14
5/18/2023	RI Sea Grant meeting	Narragansett, RI	Darcy Young	37.34
5/21/2023	Lower Blackstone Dams Passage Parade	Pawtucket, RI	Darcy Young	6.29

NBEP Trips Anticipated June 17, 2023 to September 30, 2023

Date	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Est. Cost
				$200.44
6/28/2023	NBEP 2023 Program Evaluation	Pawtucket, East Providence, Providence, Westerly, RI	Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Darcy Young, Mariel Sorlien	65.06
6/29/2023	NBEP 2023 Program Evaluation	Weekapaug, RI; New Bedford, MA; Bristol, RI, Providence, RI	Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Darcy Young, Mariel Sorlien	98.75
6/30/2023	NBEP 2023 Program Evaluation	Providence, RI	Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Darcy Young, Mariel Sorlien	10.50
9/14/2023	NBEP Steering Committee meeting	Taunton, MA	Mike Gerel, Courtney Schmidt, Darcy Young, Mariel Sorlien	26.13

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

235 Promenade Street, Suite 393
Providence, RI 02908
401-633-0550
info@nbep.org
www.nbep.org

FY2024 Annual Workplan

§320 and SNEP Funds

National Estuary Program Funding

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Applicant:	Roger Williams University
Applicant Contact:	Darcy Young Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 235 Promenade Street – Suite 393 Providence, Rhode Island 02908 (860) 912-5727 dyoung@nbep.org
USEPA Region 1 Project Officer:	Caitlyn Whittle U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—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, 2024 – September 30, 2027
Resources Requested:	This is a supplemental amendment to 00A01306. Total budget is $2,200,000 (FY2023 and FY2024 funds and required non-federal match). Attachment A provides the FY2024 budget summary and itemized budget for this award.
Federal Cost:	Current request: $1,100,000 (FY2024 funds)
Non-Federal Match:	The attached match documentation includes $1,100,000 received from various partners for FY2024.

Abstract:

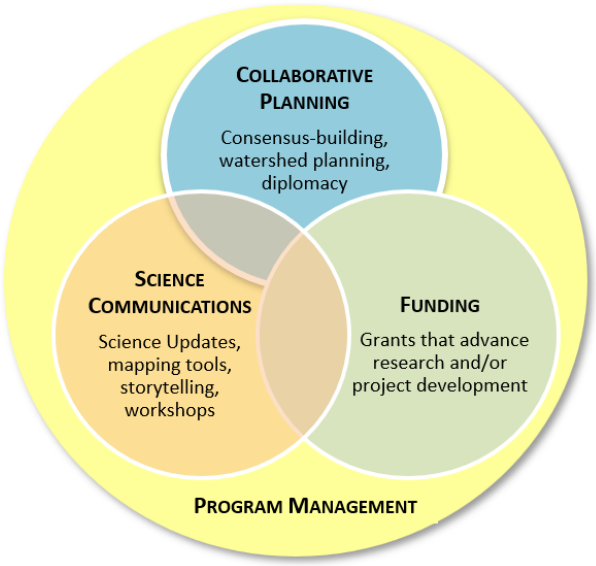
This Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP or program) Narrative Workplan (workplan) includes 4 objectives and 18 tasks that will be undertaken with this FY2024 allocation of Clean Water Act §320 and Southeast New England Program ("Base" funding) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to its host, Roger Williams University (RWU). The agreement has a three-year project period (October 1, 2024 – September 2027). This annual NBEP Base Workplan for FY2024 includes efforts that NBEP has the authority, capability, and funding to complete, have support from the NBEP Steering Committee, and are intended to advance NBEP's 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.

OBJECTIVES

This work plan includes four objectives that align with NBEP's mission, CCMP, services, and funding requirements: (1) Program Management, (2) Collaborative Planning; (3) Science Communications; and (4) Partner Funding. The CCMP objectives addressed in this workplan are listed for each core service. Each NBEP objective includes specific tasks with target completion dates and expected outputs and outcomes.

Summary of FY2024 NBEP Base Workplan Objectives and Tasks

Objective	Task
1. Ensure sound **program management** consistent with NBEP's mission, bylaws, and CCMP.	a. Program Leadership.
	b. Host Institution Program Support.
	c. Base Workplan and Budget Development.
	d. Committee Support.
	e. Subaward and Contract Management.
	f. Land Acknowledgment Development.
	g. Grant Writing.
2. Provide **collaborative regional planning** to advance more resilient, sustainable, and equitable natural resource management, use, and enjoyment.	a. CCMP Revision Completion.
	b. Science Working Group Convening.
	c. Regional Research, Restoration, Monitoring, Financial, & Outreach Planning.
	d. Southeast New England Program Support.
3. **Communicate science** in ways that is understood and useful to researchers, managers, other priority audiences.	a. Science Updates.
	b. Annual Science Event.
	c. Targeted Outreach.
4. **Award funding** to partners to help implement the CCMP.	a. Small Education and Outreach Subawards.
	b. NBEP Research Plan Subaward(s).
	c. RIDEM River Connectivity Project Coordinator Subaward.
	d. RIDEM Rhode Island Stormwater Management, Design, and Installation Handbook Update Subaward.



NBEP Core Services.

AWARD SPENDDOWN STATUS

Since August 2023, NBEP has operated with only three Full Time Employees (FTEs) out of the budgeted five due to the prior Executive Director's departure. NBEP and RWU decided not to hire additional staff until a new Executive Director was hired. Thus, NBEP personnel expenses have been lower than expected in the FY2023 workplan and budget period, and NBEP continues to pay for all costs except subawards on FY2022 funds (00A00967). The NBEP Executive Committee and RWU appointed Darcy Young, NBEP's former Watershed Outreach Manager, as NBEP's new Executive Director in March 2024. RWU and NBEP anticipate hiring a new Watershed Outreach Manager in July 2024 and transitioning all costs (except existing subawards and contracts) to 00A01306 (FY2023 and new FY2024 funds) by October 1, 2024. To account for underspending on internal costs due to understaffing, NBEP and RWU have budgeted only 8 months of salary for two FTEs (Executive Director and Staff Ecologist, to be hired by May 2025) and have budgeted less than the usual amounts in several other internal spending categories in FY24, thus tapping into unspent FY23 balances for the full requirements. NBEP and RWU anticipate that the amount available for personnel in the FY2023 and FY2024 budgets will cover one year of salary (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) for five FTEs and part-time interns, plus provide for the 6-8 months of salary reserve that the NBEP Steering Committee has directed.

OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE SOUND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONSISTENT WITH NBEP'S MISSION, BYLAWS, AND CCMP.

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- This objective supports all 24 CCMP objectives.

Task 1a: Program Leadership

The Executive Director and delegated NBEP staff will work with the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, and other committees to assure sound governance, performance, and standing of NBEP. This will be accomplished by (1) ensuring work is consistent with grant agreements, the NBEP's bylaws, current CCMP, and annual workplans and amendments; (2) assuring an approach that is science-based, collaborative, community-driven, and otherwise consistent with the National Estuary Program (NEP)

model; (3) maintaining relationships, pursuing new partnerships, and representing NBEP in appropriate forums to optimize awareness of NBEP's unique role and value; (4) EPA cooperative agreement and re-granting oversight, progress tracking, and reporting; (5) providing day-to-day management of the NBEP office, including direct supervision of staff and interns, collaborating with the host institution on staff and intern hiring and performance reviews, development of staff and intern work plans, and ongoing mentoring; and (6) elevating and amplifying diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice consistent with NBEP's 2022 DEIJ Assessment. Note that NBEP plans to hire an Ecologist by May 2025 with §320 funds to broaden our technical expertise to fill gaps in the region by helping to implement Tasks 1d, 1e, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3a, and 3b. Through these responsibilities, the Executive Director assures delivery of additive, actionable information, tools, and funding that advances water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the Study Area. Task 1a will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1b: Host Institution Program Support

RWU will support NBEP by providing specific services that enable the program to employ quality staff, meet a high standard of financial management, and otherwise operate consistent with legal requirements, NBEP's bylaws, and annual workplan. This will be accomplished by (1) employing all NBEP staff and RWU student interns; (2) overseeing staff hiring and performance review; (3) serving as the program's fiscal sponsor; (4) formally applying for, accepting, and distributing public and private funding on behalf of the program; (5) developing contracts, subawards, and attendant documentation (including those funded using BIL funding); (6) establishing and managing NBEP office space agreement; (7) submitting required reports to funders; (8) support joint NBEP/RWU communications and events as appropriate; and (9) coordinating with the Executive Director and EPA as needed. Task 1b will be accomplished through personnel time of RWU staff.

Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development and Tracking

The Executive Director will develop workplans and budgets for review by the NBEP Executive Committee and approval by the NBEP Steering Committee in June each year. RWU will complete a final annual grant application for submission to EPA in July each year. For FY2024, NBEP will complete two sets of materials: one for Base funding (this package) and one for FY2024-FY2025 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. The Executive Director and RWU will collaborate to track and report progress toward completion of workplan tasks consistent with funder requirements, and as otherwise requested by the Steering Committee or EPA. Task 1c will be accomplished with personnel time of NBEP and RWU staff.

Task 1d: Committee Support

NBEP is guided by three standing committees: Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Science Advisory Committee. Presently there are also three subcommittees: CCMP (previously Vision 2032), Grants, and Nominating. The Steering and Executive Committees meet quarterly, and the Science Advisory Committee three times a year. The Executive Director in collaboration with the committee Chairs lead the Steering and Executive Committees, while the Staff Scientist with the committee Chair(s) lead the Science Advisory Committee. Refinement of the Science Advisory Committees priority roles and framework consistent with NBEP's bylaws and NBEP's newly-approved Research Plan (2024) will be explored into FY2024 to assure best use of the committee in advancing the CCMP and regional science. NBEP leads schedules meetings, develops agendas, program reports, and recommendations for consideration, recruits speakers, conducts meetings, drafts notes, and posts meeting materials publicly as appropriate. Meetings are designed to inform members, seek their expertise and approval of staff recommendations per NBEP bylaws, facilitate member coordination and relationships, and engagement with stakeholders as appropriate. NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch, for two meetings of NBEP committees or working groups, held during normal business hours to enable longer

meetings, encourage active participation, and acknowledge the considerable commitment people make as a member of these committees (Steering Committee meetings: approximate cost per person $15; anticipated attendance 30; total cost per meeting: $450; total cost for the equivalent of 2 meetings: $900). Unspent funds for meals and community engagement contracts (up to $650/day), to compensate non-committee members who attend meetings to offer presentations, public comment, or otherwise provide their expertise and life experience, in the FY23 budget will also be spent on this task during the FY24 workplan period. Task 1d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff, meals, and community engagement contracts.

Task 1e: Subaward and Contract Management

NBEP expects to manage more than 30 active subawards and contracts during FY2024. These numbers include those funded with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) monies, which will be managed with staff time funded under this Base award. Some of these awards are highlighted on the NBEP website. Management of these awards is currently spread across two staff (Executive Director and Staff Scientist) and includes collaboration with RWU on scope, budget, and agreement development, review and approval of quarterly reports and invoices, processing of amendments, and routine interaction with EPA, RWU, and awardees. Because oversight of these awards now takes considerable time, this work is called out as a separate task in this workplan, and the two new hires in FY2024 will contribute staff time to this task. Task 1e is completed through personnel time of NBEP staff.

Task 1f: Land Acknowledgement Development

Indigenous people have occupied NBEP's study area since time immemorial. First Peoples' homelands in the region include the Eastern Nehantick, Mohegan, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Pequot, Pokanoket, Wampanoag, and perhaps others. NBEP intends to create one or more communications and/or partnership tools, such as a land acknowledgement, that recognize that Indigenous people are still here and that document the program's commitment to working with them as equals to attain shared goals. NBEP intends to partner with Indigenous people, scholars, and others to authentically and respectfully develop one or more communications and/or partnership tools by and for Indigenous people that emphasize connection to the land and recognize First Peoples as traditional stewards of the watershed. Work will be coordinated with RWU administration, as well as faculty with expertise in the area. This task was included in the FY2022 Workplan but has been delayed until FY2024. Task 1e will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff and interns, community engagement contracts, and at least one consultant contract, the latter funded by remaining FY2022 funds.

Task 1g: Grant Writing

NBEP staff will develop up to two (2) proposals independently or with partners to augment and diversify program funding each fiscal year. Proposals will be developed, submitted, and any awards administered in compliance with the NBEP's bylaws, EPA's *FY2021-FY2024 Clean Water Act §320 National Estuary Program Funding Guidance* (Funding Guidance) dated October 13, 2020, and OMB's Uniform Guidance. NBEP will explore a range of grant opportunities, update the Executive and Steering Committee on prospects, and draft proposals. RWU will submit proposals and administer any awarded funds. The finance plan described in Task 2c will guide whether NBEP pursues grant writing or other fundraising for internal purposes and/or to help implement the CCMP. NBEP staff may also provide letters of support for partner proposals that are consistent with the CCMP. Task 1f will be accomplished via personnel time of NBEP staff.

FY2024 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 1a: NBEP Program Leadership (Executive Director)	Ongoing	Oversee implementation of NBEP annual and staff workplans and amendments. Maintain relationships with up to 500 existing partners. Develop 30 new partners. Represent NBEP in at least 5 forums. Collaborate with the host institution on hiring a new Watershed Outreach Manager, new Ecologist, RWU interns, and completing performance reviews. Compile and submit 1 NBEP annual report and 1 NEPORT report to EPA. Travel for meetings.	Administrative and programmatic performance, reputation, and morale is such that NBEPs mission and CCMP are advanced.
Task 1b: RWU Program Support (RWU Provost or designee, RWU Research and Sponsored Programs, RWU Finance, RWU Office of General Counsel)	Ongoing	Develop and submit EPA Base Cooperative Agreement application and amendments to Base and BIL agreements as needed. Oversee staff hiring and performance review. Submit up to 2 other proposals. Submit NBEP reports, close-out documents, and other paperwork as required. Accept funding, execute contract and subaward paperwork, and pay invoices.	Program operations are efficient and effective such that the it is consistent with NBEP bylaws and federal rules, advances the CCMP, and staff and partners are afforded high quality support.
Task 1c: Work Plan and Budget Development (Executive Director)	July 2025	FY2025 Base Workplan, budget, and any amendments are drafted and approved by the Steering Committee and provided to RWU.	Work plan is consistent with federal requirements, aligns with the program's core services and funding, and outputs/outcomes are achieved that advance the CCMP.
Task 1d: Committee Support (NBEP staff and interns)	Ongoing	4 Steering Committee meetings, materials, and notes. 4 Executive Committee meetings, materials, and notes. Up to 3 Science Advisory Committee meetings, materials, and notes. Up to 4 NBEP subcommittee meetings and materials. Up to 4 community engagement contracts. Meals for the equivalent of 8 committee meetings. Staff travel for meetings.	Committee oversight of the program is consistent with the bylaws and meetings are efficient, inclusive, and useful.

FY2024 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Staff Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 1e: Subaward and Contract Management (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist)	Ongoing	Up to 40 subawards and contracts awarded under Base and BIL are managed.	NBEP subawards and contracts are professionally managed to assure adherence to rules and obligations.
Task 1f: Land Acknowledgment Development (Watershed Outreach Manager and interns)	September 2025	Up to 4 community engagement contracts. Up to 2 consultant contracts. Land Acknowledgement or other communication/partnership tool that recognizes the traditional land stewardship, contributions, and continued presence of Indigenous peoples in the area. Staff travel for meetings.	Deeper two-way partnerships with Indigenous peoples that emphasize shared goals.
Task 1g: Grant Writing (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist)	September 2025	Up to 2 grant proposals developed.	NBEP funding is augmented and more diversified.

OBJECTIVE 2: PROVIDE COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL PLANNING TO ADVANCE MORE RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE, AND EQUITABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, USE, AND ENJOYMENT.

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- Objective 1.1: Reduce pollution from wastewater sources.
- Objective 1.2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.5: Improve funding for water projects and monitoring.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.4: Increase and retain recreational opportunities and public access to the shore.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.4: Monitor, control and prevent terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.2. Improve public and private infrastructure to withstand anticipated climate

change impacts.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 2a: CCMP (Formerly "Vision 2032") Completion

Since late 2019, NBEP has worked to develop its next CCMP. EPA requires NEPs to develop these guiding documents roughly every 10 years in accordance with the *National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Revision and Update Guidelines*, May 2016 (CCMP Guidance). The program's first plan was released in 1992 and the current update has been in place since 2012. The new plan will respond to best available science and local perspectives with a short-list of actions that can address priority problems in the region within the next decade. NBEP has held 17 meetings, received EPA concurrence on a CCMP Blueprint in August 2020, received OMB approval to release two public surveys March 2021 and October 2021, created an Action Planning Worksheet in October 2022 that enables proposed actions to be sketched out and considered through the lenses of climate resilience, sustainable resource use, and equity, hired Coastwise Partners to consult on plan development, and maintained a website site for engaging the public. Based on significant feedback to date, the program set four topline goals (improving partner capacity to act, water quality, habitat quality and resilience, and the public's access to nature) in October 2022, identified 30 actions for meeting those goals, and hired Shafer Consulting LLC for professional writing services to complete the document by June 2025. NBEP also finalized a novel plan structure organized by target audience—for the public, short stories by established authors as prologues to each goal-chapter, for conservation practitioners, 30 2-pp Action Plans, and an appendix with required checklists.

NBEP will finish the CCMP revision under this workplan. The program will assemble the draft plan, seek public comment, pursue Steering Committee and EPA review and approval, work with a consultant to design the final PDF document, formally publish by June 2025, and seek media attention as a call to action to kick-off implementation. Task 2a will be achieved through personnel time of the NBEP staff and consultant contracts, the latter funded by remaining FY2022 funds ($44,800) and FY2024 funds ($45,000).

Task 2b: Science Working Group Convening

In the early 2000s, NBEP helped lead a Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team. This team served as a multi-interest/disciplinary habitat restoration workgroup to increase collaboration, effectiveness, and government funding for restoration. The formal convening of this team phased out in the 2010s as NBEP focused on development of the 2017 Report. Starting in 2020 at the suggestion of members of the Steering Committee, the program stepped back into this space by forming several science working groups to aid coordination and decision-making on key issues not being addressed by other organizations or venues, including salt marsh and SAV restoration, water clarity monitoring, use of fisher's ecological knowledge, and development of social science indicators. These groups have been cross-boundary (e.g., state) and "purpose-driven," in that they only meet when necessary and don't just 'meet to meet.' NBEP staff will continue to host the existing working groups as needed and potentially form new groups. Habitat project prioritization and interstate water quality and habitat monitoring are topics stakeholders have said could benefit from new forums. NBEP will involve the Science Advisory Committee members with relevant expertise as appropriate. Further, hiring of a new NBEP Ecologist will expand our capacity to assist in this space. Task 2b will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff.

Task 2c: Regional Research, Restoration, Financial, and Engagement Planning.

EPA CCMP and funding guidance call for NEPs to develop several a host of plans to support their operation and CCMP implementation. Monitoring, finance, outreach, and habitat restoration plans are specifically mentioned. NBEP has chosen not to develop these big picture plans to date for a host of reasons. NBEP was not viewed as an expert in these areas, management agencies and other stakeholders in each state were following their own plans, and the program was focused on completing foundational work, like publishing the Status and Trends Report and new bylaws, shifting to a new host, developing a new CCMP, and its niche in regional conservation. However, based on new programmatic stability and staffing and expected completion of NBEP's CCMP revision by June 2025, the program finds that development of several cross-boundary (e.g., states, towns, watersheds) regional plans would now be timely and useful for NBEP and its partners in FY2024. For example, in March 2024, the NBEP Steering Committee approved a final Research Plan to guide NBEP's Science Advisory Committee and research funding activities over the life of the CCMP revision. The Research Plan was informed by regional research needs identified in the 2017 Report, FY2022 interviews with the Science Advisory Committee and subsequent committee meetings, and current literature. NBEP expects to pursue development of the following supplementary plans in FY2024:

- Engagement Plan that describes the target audiences, purpose, tactics, tools, and timing of NBEP's outreach work,
- Finance Plan that identifies the cost, benefits, and sources of funding for implementing the revised CCMP,
- Habitat Restoration prioritization support that enables the region to acquire and deploy more funding, and
- Monitoring coordination support, including but not limited to collaboration with the URI Coastal Institute/RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative on water quality and cross-state habitat monitoring building on the RI specific efforts in Tasks 4b and 4c in this workplan.

Task 2c will be accomplished through the personnel time of the NBEP staff.

Task 2d: SNEP Support

NBEP has received funding and otherwise offered technical support to the SNEP program since its inception. NBEP staff participate actively on the following SNEP planning committees: SNEP Steering Committee, SNEP Policy Committee, SNEP Monitoring Subcommittee, SNEP Network Advisory Committee, and Restore America's Estuaries Grant Review Committee. Staff also help organize or attend SNEP forums, webinars, and other events. Task 2d will be accomplished through personnel time of NBEP staff.

FY2024 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 2a: CCMP Completion (NBEP staff, interns, and consultants)	June 2025	30 Actions Plans developed. Up to 5 authors hired. Draft document. Comments on draft plan. Final CCMP revision approved by SC and EPA. At least 5 articles on the new plan.	CCMP revision published and implementation begins.
Task 2b: Science Working Group Convening	Ongoing	At least 6 working group meetings. Staff travel for meetings.	Greater coordination, information exchange, and

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
(Staff Scientist, Ecologist)			collaborative decision-making for priority issues.
Task 2c: Regional Planning (Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist, interns)	Ongoing June 2025 September 2025 Ongoing	At least 6 meetings. SC-approved Engagement Plan. Finance Plan, habitat prioritization and monitoring coordination work Staff travel for meetings.	Regional engagement, research, fundraising, and habitat restoration is more coordinated and effective at implementing the CCMP.
Task 2d: SNEP Support (Executive Director, Staff Scientist, Watershed Outreach Manager, Ecologist)	Ongoing	10 SNEP activities attended. Staff travel for meetings.	Improvement of SNEP and its impact on the Study Area.

OBJECTIVE 3: COMMUNICATE SCIENCE IN WAYS THAT ARE UNDERSTOOD AND USEFUL TO RESEARCHERS, MANAGERS, OTHER PRIORITY AUDIENCES.

Primary 2012 CCMP Objectives Addressed:

- Objective 1.1: Reduce pollution from wastewater sources.
- Objective 1.2: Reduce pollution from stormwater sources.
- Objective 1.3: Reduce pollution from combined sewer overflows.
- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.4: Increase and retain recreational opportunities and public access to the shore.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 3a: Science Updates

NEPs periodically release complete a comprehensive status and trends report for their Study Area. NBEP's last status and trends report published in 2017, titled *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watersheds* (Report), included 24 condition and stressor indicators. NBEP has worked with the Science Working Groups to publish Science Updates on existing indicators (water clarity, seagrass extent), potential new indicators (social science, solar array development in forests), and will continue to

periodically publish updates that present new information related to existing/potential new indicators and emerging issues. These materials may take the form of Science Updates, Story Maps, geospatial information system (GIS) tools, data dashboards, white papers, newsletter pieces, data reports, or other means to best convey complex scientific information to specific target audiences, from restoration practitioners, to resource managers, to the general public. Exploring means to understand ecosystem change and advancing the initial social science indicators, especially public access to nature, are priorities. Further, in preparation for beginning full-scale development of the next status and trends report (to be published in calendar year 2027), NBEP will in FY2024 create and seek Steering Committee and EPA concurrence on a "roadmap" for the next full Report. A quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to cover these updates was approved that runs from February 2023 to December 2024. NBEP staff will work with the Science Advisory Committee, working groups, and other experts to prioritize topics for updates and the next Report, and will seek to hire consultants to assist with updates as needed. Task 3a will be done via personnel time of NBEP staff and interns and consultant contracts ($67,000 in FY2024).

Task 3b: Annual Science Event

NBEP has been a leader in regional science for many years. Over 100 scientific reports funded by the program and the status and trends report have created a baseline of knowledge. NBEP will collaborate with the Science Advisory Committee and regional partners to design and host an annual science conference, workshop, or equivalent that addresses a topic that is especially germane to the Study Area and would benefit from deeper discussion. NBEP's 2022 and 2023 symposia, "Macro to Microplastic in the Narragansett Bay Region" and "Wild Things in the Narragansett Bay Region," respectively, successfully brought together nearly 100 attendees apiece and fostered several partnerships and projects that are ongoing today. For the FY2024 event(s), NBEP proposes to provide meals, in this case a light lunch for up to 75 meeting attendees during normal business hours to attract and keep participants (rough cost per person $15; anticipated attendance 75; total cost: $1,125). Unspent funds for meals and community engagement contracts (up to $650/day), to compensate non-committee members who attend meetings to offer presentations, public comment, or otherwise provide their expertise and life experience, in the FY23 budget will also be spent on this task during the FY24 workplan period. Task 3b will be undertaken with personnel time of NBEP and RWU staff, program participation contracts, and contracts for event hosting.

Task 3c: Targeted Outreach

NEPs are community-based organizations. NBEP has been making a concerted effort to authentically connect with more people impacted by natural resource challenges and related actions in the Study Area. The desire it to drive more understanding of complex issues, avenues for providing input, and ownership of solutions. Further, a clear lesson from outreach for NBEP's CCMP revision is that storytelling about the region's successes (e.g., reduced nutrient pollution, open shellfishing areas) and challenges (e.g., climate change, environmental justice, emerging contaminants) is absolutely vital to realizing this deeper engagement. The ultimate goal is two-way learning and relationship-building from all engagement. Direct outreach avenues include attendance at NBEP's own convenings, regional meetings and workshops, one-on-one meetings, and an active and growing email contact list of 652 subscribers. Indirect engagement is accomplished through publication of Science Updates, Story Maps, fact sheets, GIS tools, a bimonthly newsletter, press interviews and releases, and website updates. NBEP's outreach to date has generally been project-specific and opportunistic. NBEP plans to become more strategic by developing the Engagement Plan noted under Task 2c. Task 3c will be accomplished through the time of NBEP staff, consultant contracts, and the small outreach subawards noted under Task 4a.

FY2024 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task and Leads	Completion Date	Output	Outcome
Task 3a: Status and Trends Updates (Staff Scientist, Geospatial and Design Manager, Ecologist, interns)	Ongoing Ongoing March 2025	Up to 5 science updates created. Up to 3 GIS/web-based tools developed. 1 roadmap for next Status and Trends Report.	Greater understanding and availability of scientific information on the Study Area.
Task 3b: Annual Science Event (NBEP staff and interns)	October 2025	1 science event completed. 1 set of event materials posted. Up to 7 program participation contracts. Meals and travel for the event.	Event advances knowledge of an issue of local importance and NBEP/RWU as leaders in regional science.
Task 3c: Targeted Outreach (Watershed Outreach Manager, interns)	Ongoing	Up to 10 new/revised outreach publications. At least 6 bimonthly newsletters. At least 10 presentations offered. 50 meetings/events joined. 1 set of NEP communications materials from Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP). Up to 5 program participation contracts.	Greater understanding by the interested public of the environmental issues facing in the Study Area and NBEP's and partners work to address them.

OBJECTIVE 4: AWARD FUNDING TO PARTNERS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE CCMP.

Primary 2012 CCMP Goals Addressed:

- Objective 1.4: Manage estuaries, rivers, streams, and lakes to protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Objective 1.6: Improve information, science, and analysis to restore fresh and salt waters.
- Objective 2.2: Preserve open space and natural systems.
- Objective 2.5: Improve science, information, and communications for land use management.
- Objective 2.6. Increase the role of local organizations and municipalities in watershed management.
- Objective 3.1: Conserve natural landscapes at risk by development and climate change.
- Objective 3.3. Manage habitats to sustain and enhance function.
- Objective 3.4. Monitor, control and prevent terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Objective 3.5: Improve science and communication to guide management of habitats and biodiversity.
- Objective 3.6. Build capacity to implement and cooperate on ecological restoration at state/local levels.
- Objective 4.5: Improve science and information necessary for preparedness and response.
- Objective 4.6: Ensure that coastal habitat restoration and conservation efforts consider climate change.

Task 4a: Small Education and Outreach Subawards

NBEP is looking to extend its outreach work to new audiences in the Study Area. Tasks 2c and 3c speak to this plan. The program is pursuing direct engagement with certain interests, and recently began funding local partners with their own outreach programs whose goals align with the CCMP (e.g., Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, Blackstone River Watershed Council, Rhode Island School of Design). This indirect outreach via partners has worked well and has shown special promise in building new trusting connections with indigenous communities. In FY2023, NBEP launched a pilot Education and Outreach Grants program to fund programs and events that connect new people to local environmental issues and provide ready opportunities to celebrate successes and take action to address problems moving forward. The FY2023 call for proposals program drew considerable interest, demonstrating the need for more region-specific education and outreach funding. In FY2024, NBEP intends to continue and expand the program. A request for proposals (RFP) or direct awards may be used to share funds. NBEP expects to provide up to 8 subawards that range from ~$10K-$15K. Task 4a will be accomplished through the time of NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a and 1b and subawards up to $75,850.

Task 4b: NBEP Research Plan Subaward(s).

NBEP recently released a Research Plan (2024-2034) to guide NBEP-supported research over the next decade, with emphasis on advancing two initiatives: 1) development of Coastal Urban Watersheds Collaboratives (Providence-Seekonk River, Fall River-Mount Hope Bay, and Westerly-Little Narragansett Bay) and 2) development of quantifiable ecosystem targets that align with the goals and objectives of NBEP's expected 2025 CCMP revision. A request for proposals (RFP) will be issued to focus on addressing the priorities of the Providence-Seekonk River Collaborative, the first of the three planned watershed networks to be organized. RFP priorities will be determined by the Science Advisory Committee, but could include data synthesis to understand changes in nutrient dynamics, biodiversity (including primary producers and fish communities), and climate-related issues (flooding, sea level rise, temperature, heat islands, etc.). NBEP expects to provide up to 3 subawards that range from $25,000-$75,000. Task 4b will be accomplished through the time of NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a, 1b and 1e and subawards totaling up to $75,000.

Task 4c: RIDEM River Connectivity Project Coordinator Subaward

The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) serves as the steward for the State's natural resources, such as marine and anadromous species and terrestrial wildlife. As part of these duties, RIDEM also leads projects to restore habitat connectivity and anadromous fish passage on the State's river systems. To successfully manage these projects, which by their nature are complex and involve many stakeholders, the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) requires additional project management capacity. The DFW office of Freshwater and Diadromous Fisheries employs a staff of highly qualified fisheries biologists who monitor freshwater fish populations and assess and maintain diadromous fish passage structures throughout the state. DFW fisheries biologists work with numerous fish passage project teams on new habitat restoration projects to assist with preliminary planning, feasibility, alternate selection, design, permitting, outreach, and construction oversight. In addition, DFW operates and maintains existing fishways and conducts fish surveys monitoring migratory fish at various life stages. However, there is a need for additional staff capacity for developing and managing new river connectivity projects, especially those that are large in scale, require federal funding, and involve broad sets of stakeholders. Developing and moving these projects forward requires specific skillsets such as grant writing, budget development and management, stakeholder engagement, facilitation, grants administration, contract management, and public procurement. There is currently an urgent need for this capacity for flagship projects such as the Blackstone River Phase I fish passage effort, and other river connectivity projects that are in varying stages of planning, design, and implementation. Adding project

management capacity will help to move current projects along this continuum and create opportunities to develop new projects as needs are identified and prioritized.

NBEP will subaward $75,000 to RIDEM to cover three-quarters of a new contract River Connectivity Project Coordinator through a contracting agency dedicated to providing these services and to be determined following state procurement procedures. RIDEM will provide the remaining $25,000 to fund a full FTE. The duties of the River Connectivity Project Coordinator will include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with the development of federal funding proposals for the design and construction of projects within the Blackstone River Phase I Fish Passage effort.
- Coordinating with the Blackstone Fish Passage Advisory Committee, the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, the Blackstone Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone, the National Parks Service, the City of Pawtucket and other key stakeholders to provide updates on project progress, incorporate stakeholder feedback into project design and implementation, and organize public outreach and communication efforts.
- Coordinating with The Nature Conservancy to advance design and permitting of the Main Street / Slater Mill and Elizabeth Webbing dam fishways.
- Assisting with the identification and prioritization of river connectivity projects, and assisting with coordination and stakeholder input on RI's Strategic Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fishes to Rhode Island's Coastal Streams which is currently being updated.
- Assisting with the development and management of federal funding proposals for river connectivity projects.
- Building and maintaining partnerships to advance RIDEM's river connectivity efforts.

NBEP will manage the RIDEM subaward, including the agreement with the contracting agency, that will define the tasks to be completed by the new hire, but will not be involved in the hiring process. The program intends to support this position at some level over the next few years to allow time for development of work products that will help the state establish a long-term financially sustainable and FTE to complete this work. Task 4c will be accomplished through NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a, 1b, and 1e and subaward to RIDEM.

Task 4d: RIDEM Rhode Island Stormwater Management, Design, and Installation Handbook Update Subaward.

In response to a legislative directive in "The Smart Development for a Cleaner Bay Act of 2007" (RIGL 45-61.2), the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) jointly developed the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual which was first published in 2010 and then amended in 2015. With emphasis on the utilization of low impact development (LID), the manual provides guidance for planning and designing effective stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to persons developing properties subject to state and local regulatory review. In addition to the manual guidance, specific stormwater management standards and performance criteria are imposed by DEM and CRMC state rules. During the almost ten years since the last change to the manual, conditions in Rhode Island (RI) have changed and are driving the need to undertake a timely update of the manual as part of an adaptive management approach to managing stormwater in RI. As with the entire Northeast, RI is experiencing more intense and frequent rainfall events that result in urban and riverine flooding. Five of the top 10 wettest years in RI have occurred since 2000, with 2023 recording 57.66" of precipitation, the 6th highest amount since 1904.

In very recent years, State and local agencies have seen an increase in complaints and inquiries from the public about flooding, including in areas where it hasn't been an issue previously. To adapt to changing precipitation patterns, guidance in the stormwater manual, as well as design standards reflected in state

agency rules, need to be reviewed and updated to reflect our evolving scientific understanding about precipitation patterns. The expected updates are needed to ensure on-going land development and redevelopment is done in a manner that adequately accounts for our changing climate and helps contributes to building community resiliency. The update is expected to include changes to the storm sizing used for design of Best Management Practices (BMPs). In addition to climate change, RI agency experience with the manual has identified some additional needed changes to the manual content that involve clarifications and updated technical information,f among other changes. The project will assist RIDEM and CRMC with integrating, where appropriate, new technical approaches including tools that have been developed by the EPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP); e.g., performance curves as related to stormwater retrofitting.

NBEP will award $75,000 to RIDEM, which, with additional state matching funds, would collaborate with CRMC to form a public team and retain consulting engineering services to: 1) assist in the review of the current stormwater manual and rules, 2) develop revised content to update the stormwater manual, and 3) support publication of a revised manual. Stakeholder input would be part of process for developing a draft updated manual along with broader public review of the draft product. The agencies would also pursue rulemaking, e.g., changes to the state stormwater rules, as needed based on the results on the project.

Task 4d will be accomplished through NBEP and RWU staff under Tasks 1a, 1b, and 1e and subaward to RIDEM.

FY2024 Tasks, Completion Dates, Outputs, and Outcomes

Task	Completion Date	Outputs	Outcome
Task 4a: Small Education and Outreach Subawards (Watershed Outreach Manager)	September 30, 2027	One RFP and related solicitation documents (if used) Scopes of work, budget, and agreements with subawardees Up to 8 outreach efforts funded. Final reports.	People are more knowledgeable about the environmental challenges facing the area and how they can help.
Task 4b: NBEP Research Plan Subaward(s). (Staff Scientist)	September 30, 2027	One RFP and related solicitation documents (if used). Scopes of work, budgets, and agreements with subawardees. Up to 3 research efforts funded. Quarterly and final reports.	Environmental management in target geographies is better-informed and more data-driven.
Task 4c: RIDEM River Connectivity Project Coordinator Subaward (Executive Director)	September 30, 2027	1 scope of work, budget, and agreement. 1 River Connectivity Project Coordinator hired by RIDEM. Quarterly and final reports, including funding strategies for coming years.	RIDEM has greater capacity to develop and manage new and ongoing river connectivity projects, particularly the Blackstone River Fish Passage Phase I effort.
Task 4d: RIDEM Rhode Island Stormwater Management, Design, and Installation Handbook Update Subaward. (Staff Scientist)	September 30, 2027	1 scope of work, budget, and agreement. 1 draft revised handbook. Quarterly and final reports.	RI stormwater projects are better designed and managed for changing climate conditions and better informed by new technical standards, leading to better performance.

NON-FEDERAL MATCH

NBEP's Steering Committee includes many partners that are implementing projects that directly implement the actions consistent with the 2012 CCMP. A summary of each entity providing 1:1: non-federal match for this FY2024 cooperative agreement is included below and match documentation is provided for each source of funds:

- Narragansett Bay Commission: Staff time and supplies for Bay monitoring--$100,000
- RI Department of Environmental Management: Staff time, fringe benefits, monitoring projects, restoration projects, and indirect costs -- $501,647
- The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island: Staff time, fringe benefits, and aquatic connectivity projects -- $414,257
- Save the Bay: Staff time, fringe benefits, and indirect costs -- $55,204
- Northern Rhode Island Conservation District: Staff time, fringe benefits, and indirect costs -- $28,892

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: New Subawards and Contracts Using FY2024 Funding
- Appendix B: Grant Performance Report
- Appendix C: Travel Report

APPENDIX A: NEW SUBAWARDS AND CONTRACTS USING FY2024 FUNDING*

Task(s)	Project	Amount	Major Outputs	Procurement	Funding Close
Task 2a	CCMP Completion	$45,000	Final CCMP revision approved by SC and EPA.	Contract(s)	9/30/27
Task 3a	Science Updates	$67,000	Up to 5 science updates created.	Contract(s)	9/30/27
Task 4a	Small Education and Outreach Subawards	$75,850	Up to 10 outreach or education efforts funded.	Subaward	9/30/27
Task 4b	NBEP Research Plan Subaward(s)	$75,000	Up to three (3) research efforts funded.	Subaward(s)	9/30/27
Task 4c	RIDEM River Connectivity Project Coordinator Subaward	$75,000	1 River Connectivity Project Coordinator hired by RIDEM.	Subaward	9/30/27
Task 4d	RIDEM Rhode Island Stormwater Management, Design, and Installation Handbook Update Subaward.	$75,000	1 draft revised handbook.	Subaward	9/30/27

*Partial funding for CCMP Completion (Task 2a), full funding for the Land Acknowledgement (Task 1f) is included in the FY2022 Base Workplan, to be complete by 9/30/2025. Full funding for non-RWU interns (all tasks) and community engagement contracts (Tasks 1d, 1f, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3b, and 3c) is included in the FY2023 Base Workplan.

APPENDIX B: GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT

The NBEP Steering Committee presentations provided after Page 18 of 18 below include quarterly reports that collectively satisfy the obligation to submit an annual performance report as required under the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement (CE00A00967).

APPENDIX C: TRAVEL REPORT

NBEP Trips Taken June 17, 2023 to June 13, 2024

Date	Purpose	Destination	Staff	Cost
				$8,530.29
6/28/2023	EPA Program Evaluation Site Visits	Pawtucket, Riverside, Providence, and Westerly, RI	4 (Mike Gerel, Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien)	$303.64
6/29/2023	EPA Program Evaluation Site Visits	Westerly, Charlestown, Providence, and Bristol, RI	4 (Mike Gerel, Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien)	$322.60
8/16/2023	Project site visit	Wakefield, RI	1 (Courtney Schmidt)	$42.50
8/20/2023	Blackstone River Watershed Council Meeting	Lincoln, RI	1 (Darcy Young)	$45.73
10/6/2023	NBEP Biodiversity Symposium	Bristol, RI	3 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien)	$116.64
10/19/2023	NBEP Steering Committee Meeting	Brockton, MA	2 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt)	$146.64
11/10-11/16/2023	CERF Conference	Portland, OR	1 (Courtney Schmidt)	$4017.08
11/20/2023	Presentation to RWU Community Engagement class	Bristol, RI	1 (Darcy Young)	$38.88
1/8/2024	Aquidneck Land Trust meeting	Cranston, RI	1 (Darcy Young)	$9.92
3/9/2024	Rhode Island Land and Water Summit	Kingston, RI	1 (Courtney Schmidt)	$40.20
4/5/2024	Northeast Algal Society Meeting	Bristol, RI	2 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt)	$89.24
4/11/2024	RIDEM Eelgrass Assessment Training	Jamestown, RI	2 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt)	
4/19/2024	Blackstone Collaborative Meeting for CCMP	Worcester, MA	1 (Darcy Young)	$52.26
4/18/-4/20/2024	NEERS	Freeport, ME	1 (Courtney Schmidt)	
4/28-5/2/2024	Annual EPA-NEP Meeting	Washington, DC	1 (Darcy Young)	
5/10/2024	Blackstone Collaborative Advisory Committee	Upton, MA	1 (Darcy Young)	$49.04
5/21/2024	Public access project check-in	Kingston, RI	2 (Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien)	$80.40
5/29/2024	Public access project check-in	Kingston, RI	1 (Mariel Sorlien)	$40.20
6/5/2024	Public access project check-in	Kingston, RI	2 (Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien)	$80.40

6/12/2024	SNEP Symposium	Bristol, RI	2 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt)	$50.38
6/13/2024	NBEP Steering Committee Meeting	Barrington, RI	4 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien, Delaney Borello)	$63.25

NBEP Trips Anticipated June 14, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Date	Purpose	Destination	Number of Staff	Est. Cost
				$222.98
6/14/2024	Project site visit	Succotash Marsh, South Kingstown, RI	1 (Darcy Young)	$48.51
6/18/2024	Public access project visit	URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI	3 (Courtney Schmidt, Mariel Sorlien, Delaney Borello)	$114.97
6/20/2024	Coastal Institute Fellows Day	Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI	2 (Darcy Young, Courtney Schmidt)	$15.28
6/20/2024	Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association Board of Directors	Hope Valley, RI	1 (TBD)	$44.22

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
FY2023 Funding and Expenditures

FY2023 GRANT FUNDING				
Description		**320**	**SNEP**	**Total**
FY2023 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cooperative Agreement		$ 850,000	$ 250,000	$ 1,100,000
Total Grant Funding		**$ 850,000**	**$ 250,000**	**$ 1,100,000**

FY2023 EXPENSES					
Category	**Notes**	**320**	**SNEP**	**Total**	**Match**
Personnel (10/1/23-9/30/24)	Full-time staff and interns at RWU	**$ 463,257**	**$ -**	**$ 463,257**	**$ 79,655**
Full-time Staff	5 FTE (3% FY2023 escalation) at RWU	$ 448,257	$ -	$ 448,257	
Interns	Interns hired at RWU (part-time)	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000	
NBC Salary match					$ 56,580
RIDEM Salary match					$ 13,170
MassDEP Salary match					$ 9,905
Fringe (10/1/23-9/30/24)	**Notes**	**$ 169,458**	**$ -**	**$ 169,458**	**$ 34,961**
Full Time Staff	FT Staff: 37.52%	$ 168,186	$ -	$ 168,186	
Part Time Staff	PT Interns 8.48%%	$ 1,272	$ -	$ 1,272	
NBC Fringe match					$ 22,632
RIDEM Fringe match					$ 8,034
MassDEP Fringe match					$ 4,295
Travel	**Notes**	**$ 9,250**	**$ -**	**$ 9,250**	**$ -**
Travel	Local (50@$50); Regional (20@$150); National (4@$1500)	$ 9,250	$ -	$ 9,250	$ -
Office Supplies	**Notes**	**$ 15,000**	**$ -**	**$ 15,000**	**$ 20,788**
Supplies	Traditional office supplies, furnishings, computer hardware, computer software, internet, postage, subscriptions	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000	
NBC Supplies match					$ 20,788
Contracts	**Notes**	**$ 45,734**	**$ -**	**$ 45,734**	**$ -**
ANEP	NBEP communications support	$ 4,000	$ -	$ 4,000	$ -
TBD	Non-RWU interns/fellow	$ 31,984	$ -	$ 31,984	$ -
TBD	Community Engagement Contracts (15 x $650)	$ 9,750	$ -	$ 9,750	$ -
Subaward	**Notes**	**$ -**	**$ 232,573**	**$ 232,573**	**$ 959,701**
TBD	Outreach & Education Small Grants (5-10 projects)	$ -	$ 57,573	$ 57,573	
ASMFC (RIDEM)	Ecological Data Analyst	$ -	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	
Rhode Island Nat. Hist. Survey	Biodiversity database initial development	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	
RIDEM Project Match					$ 959,701
Meals	**Notes**	**$ 8,100**	**$ -**	**$ 8,100**	**$ -**
Event meals	1 meeting x 150 people x 2 meals x $15	$ 4,500	$ -	$ 4,500	$ -
Committee meeting meals	8 meetings x 30 people x $15	$ 3,600	$ -	$ 3,600	$ -
Event Hosting	**Notes**	**$ 1,500**	**$ -**	**$ 1,500**	**$ -**
Annual Science Event	Event expenses except participant support costs & meals	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 1,500	$ -
Professional Development	**Notes**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Professional Development	Unspent funds in last year's budget sufficent	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Telephone	**Notes**	**$ 4,776**	**$ -**	**$ 4,776**	**$ -**
Office	Five office phones	$ 576	$ -	$ 576	$ -
Mobile	Mobile: $70 x 12 months x 5 staff	$ 4,200	$ -	$ 4,200	$ -
Printing	**Notes**	**$ 11,622**	**$ -**	**$ 11,622**	**$ -**
NBEP Printing	NBEP publications, copier paper	$ 1,622	$ -	$ 1,622	$ -
Vision 2032 Printing	Hard copy V2032	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ -
Advertising	**Notes**	**$ 300**	**$ -**	**$ 300**	**$ -**
Advertising	Posting open positions on-line	$ 300		$ 300	
Registration Fees	**Notes**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**
Event Registration Fees	Fees for workshops (travel costs under Travel)	$ 2,500		$ 2,500	
Total Direct Costs		**$ 731,497**	**$ 232,573**	**$ 964,070**	
Indirect Costs	10.2% on salaries, fringe, travel, supplies, consultants, and first $25K on subawards. Does not include participant support costs.	**$ 118,503**	**$ 17,427**	**$ 135,930**	**$ 4,895**
	MassDEP Match				$ 4,895
Total Expenses		**$ 850,000**	**$ 250,000**	**$ 1,100,000**	
Match (100%)					**$ 1,100,000**
Total Project	Total Expenses + Match				**$ 2,200,000**

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
FY2024 Funding and Expenditures

FY2024 GRANT FUNDING				
Description		**320**	**SNEP**	**Total**
FY2024 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cooperative Agreement		$850,000	$250,000	$1,100,000
Total Grant Funding		**$850,000**	**$250,000**	**$1,100,000**

FY2024 EXPENSES					
Category	**Notes**	**320**	**SNEP**	**Total**	**Match**
Personnel (10/1/24-9/30/25)	5 FTE and interns at RWU	**$385,161**	**$ -**	**$ 385,161**	**$ 128,252**
Full-time Staff	5 FTE (3% FY2024 escalation) at RWU; 2 positions at 8 months	$375,161		$ 375,161	
Interns	Interns hired at RWU (part-time)	$ 10,000		$ 10,000	
NBC Salary Match					$ 57,006
RIDEM Salary Match					$ 8,350
Save the Bay Salary Match					$ 37,798
TNC-RI Salary Match					$ 9,894
NRICD Salary Match					$ 15,204
Fringe	**Notes**	**$153,519**	**$ -**	**$ 153,519**	**$ 49,002**
Full Time Staff	FT Staff: 40.69%	$152,653		$ 152,653	
Part Time Staff	PT Interns 8.66%	$ 866		$ 866	
NBC Fringe Match					$ 22,802
RIDEM Fringe Match					$ 5,094
Save the Bay Fringe Match					$ 10,205
TNC-RI Fringe Match					$ 4,363
NRICD Fringe Match					$ 6,538
Travel	**Notes**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**
Travel	Local (25@$50); Regional (10@$150); National (2@$1500)	$ 2,500		$ 2,500	
Office Supplies	**Notes**	**$ 8,392**	**$ -**	**$ 8,392**	**$ 20,192**
Supplies	Traditional office supplies, furnishings, computer hardware, computer software, internet, postage, subscriptions	$ 8,392		$ 8,392	
NBC Supplies Match					$ 20,192
Contracts	**Notes**	**$112,000**	**$ -**	**$ 112,000**	**$ -**
TBD	Non-RWU interns/fellows (unspent FY23 funds sufficient)	$ -		$ -	
TBD	Vision 2034 writing and design contracts	$ 45,000		$ 45,000	
TBD	Status and Trends Indicators contracts	$ 67,000		$ 67,000	
Subawards	**Notes**	**$ 63,000**	**$237,850**	**$ 300,850**	**$ 886,233**
TBD	Outreach and Education Small Grants (5-10 awards)	$ 63,000	$ 12,850	$ 75,850	
RIDEM	Watershed Connectivity Project Manager Hire		$ 75,000	$ 75,000	
RIDEM	RI Stormwater Design Manual Revision		$ 75,000	$ 75,000	
TBD	Research Plan Grants (1-2 awards)		$ 75,000	$ 75,000	
RIDEM Project Match					$ 486,233
TNC-RI Project Match					$ 400,000
Meals	**Notes**	**$ 2,025**	**$ -**	**$ 2,025**	**$ -**
Event meals	1 meeting x 75 people x 1 meals x $15	$ 1,125		$ 1,125	
Committee meeting meals	2 meetings x 30 people x $15	$ 900		$ 900	
Event Hosting	**Notes**	**$ 1,400**	**$ -**	**$ 1,400**	**$ -**
Annual Science Event	Event expenses except participant support costs & meals	$ 1,400		$ 1,400	
Professional Development	**Notes**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**	**$ 2,500**	**$ -**
Professional Development	Classes, webinars, workshops, etc. for NBEP staff	$ 2,500		$ 2,500	
Telephone	**Notes**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Office	Unspent funds in FY23 budget sufficient	$ -		$ -	
Mobile	Unspent funds in FY23 budget sufficient	$ -		$ -	
Printing	**Notes**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
NBEP Printing	Unspent funds in FY23 budget sufficient	$ -		$ -	
Advertising	**Notes**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Advertising	Unspent funds in FY23 budget sufficient	$ -		$ -	
Registration Fees	**Notes**	**$ 1,000**	**$ -**	**$ 1,000**	**$ -**
Event Registration Fees	Fees for workshops (travel costs under Travel)	$ 1,000		$ 1,000	
Total Direct Costs		**$731,497**	**$237,850**	**$ 969,347**	
Indirect Costs	10.2% on salaries, fringe, travel, supplies, consultants, and first $25K on subawards. Does not include participant support costs.	**$118,503**	**$ 12,150**	**$ 130,653**	**$ 16,321**
RIDEM Indirect Match					$ 1,971
Save the Bay Indirect Match					$ 7,201
NRICD Indirect Match					$ 7,150
Total Expenses		**$850,000**	**$250,000**	**$1,100,000**	
Match (100%)					**$1,100,000**
Total Project	Total Expenses + Match				**$2,200,000**

00A01306 (FY23 & FY24) TOTALS

Total Grant Funding	**$2,200,000**
Personnel	**$ 848,418**
Full-time staff	$ 823,418
RWU Interns	$ 25,000
Fringe	**$ 322,977**
FT	$ 320,839
Interns	$ 2,138
Travel	**$ 11,750**
Supplies	**$ 23,392**
Contracts	**$ 157,734**
Subawards	**$ 533,423**
Meals	**$ 10,125**
Events	$ 5,625
Committees	$ 4,500
Events	**$ 2,900**
Professional Dev.	**$ 2,500**
Telephone	**$ 4,776**
Office phones	$ 576
Mobile	$ 4,200
Printing	**$ 11,622**
Advertising	**$ 300**
Registration Fees	**$ 3,500**
Direct Costs	**$1,933,417**
Indirect Costs	**$ 266,582**
Total Expenses	**$2,200,000**
Total Match	**$2,200,000**
Total Project	**$4,400,000**