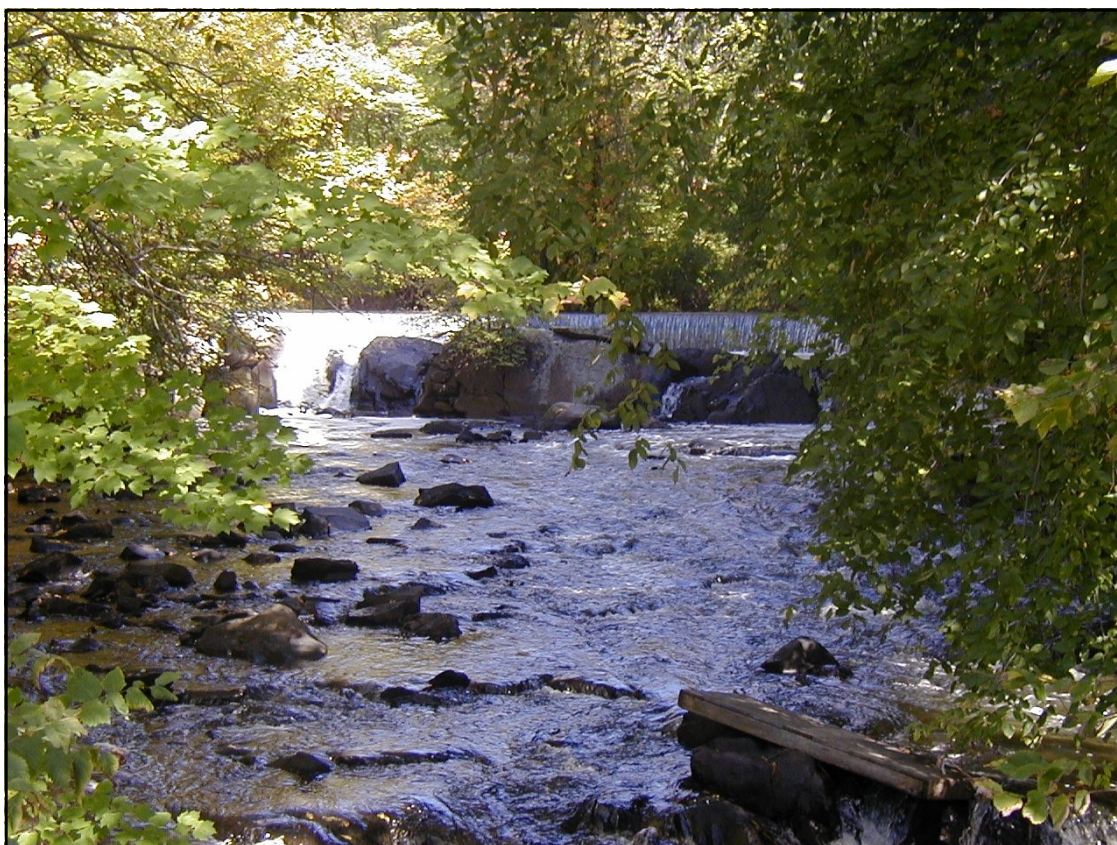


NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

2009 Annual Report





Published December 2010

This report covers NBEP activities over the FY2009 grant fiscal year covering July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is part of the National Estuary Program (NEP), created and funded under Section 320 of the federal Clean Water Act. The NEP is a national network of 28 estuary programs, working along U.S. coasts from Puget Sound to Casco Bay. These stakeholder-based programs are charged with the restoration and protection of estuarine and watershed resources for the benefit of citizens who live and work in estuaries designated by the U.S. Congress as being nationally significant to the ecology and economy of the United States. Established in 1985, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has a 25-year history of accomplishment in the Narragansett Bay region. For more information, please see www.nbep.org

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency manages the National Estuary Program, providing funding and oversight to the national program. Match for federal funding is provided by state, regional and local partner agencies and organizations, including program host institutions the University of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
URI Bay Campus—Box 27
215 South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI 02881
(401) 874-6233
www.nbep.org

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program FY2009 Annual Report

Program Overview

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is one of 28 National Estuary Programs (NEPs) established by Congress under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to protect and restore American estuaries of critical importance. Throughout the U.S., the NEPs work for collaborative solutions by engaging state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and local communities in planning and management decisions and actions, resulting in estuary management plans called Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMP). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides base funding and oversight of the NEPs, while management of individual programs is the responsibility of a stakeholder-based committee.

In 1993, the Governor of Rhode Island and the Administrator of EPA signed the Narragansett Bay CCMP, committing both entities, with other partners who developed the plan's recommendations, to implementation of the Bay plan. Concurrently, the CCMP was accepted as part of the R.I. State Guide Plan, requiring that State agency and municipal plans are consistent with the CCMP. The plan is intended to be a dynamic document which is periodically revised to address current needs and issues.

In keeping with Congress' mandate, since 1993 the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program has been implementing the CCMP by coordinating planning, policy, technical assistance, science and outreach pertaining to Narragansett Bay's environment. The NBEP is affiliated with the Coastal Institute (CI) at the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, which provides program offices for five full-time staff plus interns. Program staff are managed under an unusual institutional arrangement involving the University, the R.I. Department of Environmental Management and the R.I. Natural History Survey which provides for an efficient use of program resources and provides flexibility to hire and oversee co-located or nonpermanent project staff. It has also allowed the program access to additional non-federal match.

NBEP Program Mission Statement

To protect and preserve Narragansett Bay and its watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality and promote community involvement.

The NBEP accomplishes this by:

- Promoting a holistic perspective of Narragansett Bay and its watershed that includes social, economic and environmental aspects;
- Coordinating actions to protect and restore coastal ecosystems;
- Initiating and managing restoration plans and projects;
- Using collaboration and partnerships to address common goals;
- Identifying information needs; acquiring, interpreting and disseminating data to support informed, science-based decision-making;
- Stimulating discussion on Bay issues and bringing expertise through public workshops, profes-

sional forums and scientific symposia and reporting on the results;

- Effectively keeping the public and policy-makers informed of Bay and watershed issues;
- Matching resources to management needs through grants and partnerships;
- Supporting local watershed organizations in restoration, protection and outreach initiatives;
- Convening and coordinating interagency technical teams and workgroups such as the Partnership for Narragansett Bay, R.I. Habitat Restoration Team and Dissolved Oxygen Strike Team.

The Narragansett Bay CCMP includes a set of overall goals developed through a consensus-based stakeholder process, as follows:

- *Protect and restore waters and water quality-dependent uses throughout the Bay and watershed;*
- *Protect and restore bay and watershed critical resources and habitats;*
- *Restore and better manage fisheries and other living resources;*
- *Use partnerships, joint planning and agreements to implement the CCMP on a watershed basis and monitor progress.*

Present NBEP priorities are based on the CCMP goals as well as more recent collaborative Bay planning initiatives. In 2006, the NBEP Management Committee recommended three consolidated areas of concentration for the NBEP that build on program strengths, identified needs, and are consistent with the CCMP goals:

- Analyze, synthesize, and interpret monitoring and other data in order to communicate timely, meaningful information on the condition of the Bay and its associated watersheds, including habitats, water quality, and institutional efforts;
- Serve as regional leader for establishing a watershed-based framework that reflects key management issues that can be addressed and acted on in both R.I. and Massachusetts;
- Focus program activities on key restoration and protection goals that engage constituencies and, concurrently, identify emerging issues and corresponding technical and information needs related to those issues.

The NBEP Role in Narragansett Bay Ecosystem Planning & Management

NBEP is the only entity with responsibility under the Clean Water Act for addressing environmental issues on a Narragansett Bay ecosystem basis. Its charge is to undertake planning, policy and projects in a highly collaborative manner, based on stakeholder priorities for the ecosystem as expressed through the CCMP. NEPs serve as catalysts for ecosystem-based management: working to direct federal and state funding and other resources toward local needs; building needed scientific information; informing the public and policy makers; convening collaborative workgroups around key issues; supporting local organizations; bringing together partners and projects to achieve the goals and objectives of estuary management plans.

The NBEP identifies areas of need where the program can have the greatest impact, filling data and action gaps. Using its skills in science, policy, management and communications, the NBEP seeks to address key issues in the Narragansett Bay watershed, through program and partnership action.

The program has taken leadership roles in several areas of Bay and watershed management including:

- Coastal and riverine habitat restoration;
- Measuring and assessing the impacts of low dissolved oxygen in Narragansett Bay;
- Improving interstate connections between Rhode Island Massachusetts through grant programs, technical assistance and planning;
- Developing critical scientific information—developing the first dissolved oxygen surveys of the Bay, creating the first baseline data sets on coastal habitats, and developing in 2009 the first watershed-wide environmental status and trends report, *Currents of Change*;
- Improving stakeholder understanding of the Bay ecosystem by developing the first consensus-based set of ecological indicators, as well as the most widely read publication dedicated to the Bay ecosystem—online and print versions of the *Narragansett Bay Journal*.

FY2009 Program Accomplishments

Bay Science & Monitoring

Targeted Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Surveys: In 2010, NBEP completed its eleventh year of DO monitoring on upper Narragansett Bay, continuing a program developed by NBEP in 1999. The DO surveys have led to significant improvements in scientific understanding of Narragansett Bay and greater awareness of nitrogen impacts on the Bay ecosystem. In combination with data from other more recent DO monitoring initiatives, such as fixed-site buoys, the NBEP surveys led to major changes in policy and management, including stricter regulation of wastewater treatment plant discharges and reclassification of more Bay waters as impaired for DO under state water quality standards. NBEP is continuing its monthly boat surveys of Upper Narragansett Bay and one of its most sensitive embayments, Greenwich Bay, with assistance from the R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and Brown University. New high-tech monitoring technology has improved upon the methods of the overnight, large team surveys that the NBEP organized from 1999-2003, providing better data using fewer resources (for survey information, maps and photos, see <http://www.geo.brown.edu/georesearch/insomniacs/>). 2009 data suggested that water quality conditions were relatively good that year. Average temperature during the spring and early summer was below normal, suggesting that temperature may have a significant influence on incidence of hypoxia on Narragansett Bay. Summer water temperatures for 2010 are on track to be higher than 2009.

Macroalgae Surveys: NBEP continued its seasonal effort to test new technologies for monitoring the extent and coverage of macroalgae in Narragansett Bay and assesses macroalgae concentrations as an indicator of system health. NBEP secured funding for the project this year from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The work will quantify and identify locations of high macroalgae concentrations in anticipation of decreased nitrogen loads expected by 2012 due to new strict nutrient limits on major WWTFs. This data is valuable in assessing the present response to significant nitrogen levels in the upper Bay, and will allow for comparison with response to reductions that are occurring at major



wastewater treatment plants along the Bay, with a 50% drop in point source loads by 2012-2013. The Rhode Island Airport Corporation, a state entity, provided a Bell helicopter and pilot to the NBEP and USEPA Atlantic Ecology Lab provided loan of a state of the art digital camera to acquire digital images of bay areas showing significant macroalgae growth. More information on the project is at <http://www.nbep.org/bay-science-macro.html>

Narragansett Bay and Watershed Ecological Indicators Initiative: Building on the NBEP report on status and trends of watershed environmental conditions produced in 2009, the NBEP is working with the URI Coastal Institute and the R.I. Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team to lead a series of technical workshops over 2010-2011 to identify and refine key bay and watershed indicators and to develop a framework for an indicator report card. The first indicators to be examined, selected by a technical stakeholder process, are impervious cover, saltwater beach closures, and freshwater flows. This work is intended to improve and institutionalize indicators that will allow agencies and organizations to better report on condition and identify trends. Four workshops were held in 2010.

2010 Invasive Species Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS): The NBEP has participated in the previous surveys in the Bay and provided funding and technical support to this survey. The RAS assesses the presence of non-native species in coastal waters. This effort is coordinated with other New England organizations and creates a New England coastal waters record of the extent and nature of non-native species. In 2010, an international team of 24 coastal and marine scientists sampled organisms from Freeport, Maine to Newport, Rhode Island. The Narragansett Bay segment of the survey is collaboration between the NBEP, the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordinating Team, and the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council. More information at http://seagrant.mit.edu/news/press_releases.php?ID=140



Continued participation on Bay Window Monitoring Project: The NBEP has been a significant voice in guiding this NOAA-funded project since its inception. Over the last 5 years, this project has received an annual average of \$700,000 in NOAA funds but funding was discontinued in 2009. The NBEP is expending the balance of Bay Window funds to support 2009 and 2010 dissolved oxygen and macroalgae surveys and analysis.

NOAA Coastal Hypoxia Project: NBEP worked with researchers from the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, University of Connecticut and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to develop a model to predict hypoxia in coastal estuaries. The project relies on the NBEP dissolved oxygen survey data for model verification for salinity, temperature, and oxygen. The five-year project was completed this year, and will produce GIS maps, a physical hydrodynamics model for the upper half of Narragansett Bay, and a simplified ecological model that can project oxygen daily averages based on physical parameters and nutrient loading levels. Information on the hypoxia project is available at <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/pollution/current/chrp/default.aspx>

Technical Assistance to R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management: NBEP organized a scientific panel to review biological issues associated with the permit renewal of National Grid's Manchester St. power plant in Providence, R.I. In addition, NBEP has been a technical resource to RIDEM's Office of Waste

Management in reviewing sampling plans for use at a number of Navy Superfund sites located on the Bay.

Biological Condition Gradient Summary Report – October 2009 Workshop: As a partner in the EPA-organized Biological Condition Gradient Project, NBEP helped produce a workshop for scientists and managers to discuss issues regarding biological indicators, monitoring needs, and the use of the BCG framework for assessing estuarine conditions. A report was produced that captured the issues and recommendations of that workshop.

Support for the Ocean SAMP – EPA research vessel OSV BOLD: The NBEP, in a collaboration with URI researchers, secured the services of the EPA research vessel OSV BOLD to come to R.I. to conduct seafloor mapping and water quality sampling to support state energy development needs as part of the development of the state's Ocean Special Area Management Plan; the BOLD spent a week surveying state waters, saving R.I. over \$300,000 in ship, staff and equipment costs.



Community & Watershed Projects

Land & Water Conservation Summit Held March 2010: This summit, which this year attracted over 300 conservation leaders from watershed groups, land trusts and municipal conservation commissions, as well as governmental representatives, is an annual event. The 2010 Summit was organized and hosted by the NBEP and the R.I. Land Trust Council. The NBEP provided staff and financial support and provided training presentations to participants. Information on the Summit is at <http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/summit.php>

Water Management in Rhode Island: NBEP is a member of the Coalition for Water Security, a group of non-profits which has been working since 2005 to improve RI's management of freshwater resources. Activities in 2009 include:

- The CWS worked closely with water suppliers and decision makers on legislation to develop a comprehensive water management policy in RI, the Water Use and Efficiency Act (S. 732 Aaa, H. 5828). The legislation became law in November 2009.
- The CWS organized and hosted a public forum on RI's Water Supply: Conservation and Competitiveness. Approximately 65 people attended the forum representing state and federal agencies, water suppliers, watershed organizations, legislators and concerned citizens.
- The Coalition's updated web site was completed, <http://www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org/>. The web site includes information on the Coalition's three years of research and advocacy for improved water management in RI.
- In November 2009, a stakeholder conference on streamflow issues was held in Providence, RI.
- NBEP staff provided technical assistance to R.I. agencies and the Town of N. Kingstown to estimate the potential impacts of residential landscape best management practices on water quality and quantity in the Hunt-Annaquatucket-Pettasquamscutt areas of the town.

The CWS has been able to secure grant funding from the R.I. Foundation, the Park Foundation, the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, the Prospect Hill Foundation and the Prince Charitable Trust.

Coalition for Transportation Choices (CTC): NBEP participates in the Coalition for Transportation Choices. The group seeks to build a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals to support sustainable transportation policies that protect the environment while supporting community needs. The network has two major goals. 1) To put healthy, sustainable and accessible transportation on the policy agenda and build momentum for implementation. 2) To build the capacity and influence of Rhode Island's grassroots environmental movement. The CTC has been able to secure grant funding from Third Sector New England, the Prospect Hill Foundation and the R.I. Foundation.

In January 2010, the CTC sponsored a conference to promote a vision for sustainable transportation and financing solutions. The CTC has drafted legislation that addresses transportation goals and sustainable transportation funding which have found support in the R.I. Legislature. The coalition is also partnering with the Sierra Club and AARP on a Complete Streets program – an effort to make streets more accessible to people, bikes and those with limited mobility. For more information on the CTC, see <http://www.rictc.org/>

R.I. Blueways Alliance (www.exploreRI.org): NBEP is a founding member of the RI Blueways Alliance (RIBA). The mission of the Rhode Island Blueways Alliance is to develop a water trail network linking Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and ponds to Narragansett Bay and to use the trail to promote safety, conservation, recreation and economic development. Recent accomplishments:

- RIBA prepared comments on Ocean State Outdoors, Rhode Island's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- RIBA's web site, ExploreRI, was expanded to include 267 published sites. An additional 15 sites are inactive.
- Organized a suite of paddle trips for the summer of 2009, Paddle 09.
- Developed the Roger Williams Paddle Trail with a trail map and grand opening (July 10/11)
- Land and Water Convergence at Governor's Bay Day (July 26)

Donor/Member Retention & Best Practices Workshop: This workshop, held in mid-2009, explored best practices for retaining and growing revenues through annual giving and membership. Participants learned how to reach new donors/members and how to keep and build support from your current donors/members. The workshop provided information on how to use donor/member databases, using the Land & Water Partnership's "Salesforce" database as an example. Five NGOs are currently trained and using the software and have documented increased fundraising success.



Communications

Bay & Watershed Status & Trends Report: Last year, NBEP produced a report on the environmental status and trends of the Bay watershed, *Currents of Change*. Using a broad-based stakeholder development process the report documents conditions and trends over the Narragansett Bay Region. The NBEP also developed a user-friendly online version of the report, which is being actively used by stakeholders. It is available at www.nbep.org.

Narragansett Bay Journal: *Narragansett Bay Journal* is entering its 8th year of publication by NBEP. We have shifted to an on-line format and electronically distribute most issues. Design, layout and produc-

tion of *NBJ* are now done entirely in-house, using desktop publishing software and new email management software.

Continuous Improvement of NBEP Website: NBEP has continued to improve its program website, adding new content, making all NBEP reports available online, posting NBEP Quarterly Reports and using it to make the NBEP Status & Trends Report available. We created and used wikis for the status and trends report development, linked to the main website. We are working to develop a new web platform for the completed S&T report and ongoing indicators work, and are exploring further improvements in content management. Our goal is to develop a system for web page management which will allow NBEP to manage its web presence entirely in-house, without need of contract web developers, improving program efficiency and reducing costs.

Collaboration with EcoRI.org: NBEP developed a partnership with EcoRI.org, Rhode Island's leading online environmental publication, to share content and resources. Since that time, we have worked together on articles, including one on the causes and impacts of major flooding on the Pawtuxet River in March 2010. EcoRI.org is online at <http://www.ecori.org/>

Op-Eds in *Providence Journal*: NBEP continues to raise issues of importance to the Bay ecosystem on the Op-Ed page of the *Providence Journal*, often in collaboration with partners. In 2010, the NBEP authored op-eds on the March floods in Rhode Island and on restoration of the Blackstone River.

Public Event with the EPA Research Vessel OSV BOLD: In August 2009, the NBEP organized a successful outreach event featuring the OSV Bold. Held at the URI GSO dock, the event drew over 450 visitors to the Bold to learn of its work in studying coastal and ocean systems. This event was held in conjunction with the OSV BOLD's seafloor mapping work to support state energy development needs; the BOLD spent a week surveying and sampling state waters.

Habitat Restoration/Technical Assistance

Pawtuxet River Ecosystem Restoration: NBEP continues to lead a community based process to restore the lower Pawtuxet River in order to provide spawning habitat for anadromous shad and herring; restore wetlands and water quality; and reduce property flooding. A permit to remove the first dam on the river has been submitted and is under review by state authorities. This project required significant NBEP resources for project management, funds development, and outreach to stakeholders as well as elected officials. In September, NBEP hosted a major public meeting in the community, attended by approximately 100 stakeholders. We secured approximately \$125,000 this year in state and federal funding for engineering and permitting; NBEP has already secured \$600,000 in funds for construction, expected next year. We are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a companion project to restore wetlands just upstream of the dam removal site, and are beginning restora-



tion planning for other dams upstream. We are also supporting PRA on a related project to reconcile hydroelectric development with river ecosystem needs in the upper Pawtuxet River watershed.

Roger Williams Park Ponds Restoration: NBEP is providing technical assistance to City of Providence on a project to begin restoring water quality and freshwater habitat, while improving urban environmental quality in and around a 100-acre ponds complex which is the centerpiece of Roger Williams Park, the City's largest and most important area of green space. NBEP worked with the City to develop a successful \$424,000 application under EPA's STAG grants program to fund construction of several large storm-water BMPs at the Park. The City has committed more than \$300,000 in match toward the project, in cash and in-kind. NBEP organized a stakeholder-based steering committee to guide the project and is undertaking extensive community outreach, working with stakeholders and local organizations to raise awareness of the urban watershed and engage volunteers and students in watershed restoration. NBEP also developed an agreement with EPA's Atlantic Ecology Lab to provide extensive technical support to the project.



Somerset Marsh Restoration: The NBEP, with partners, has completed the restoration of full tidal flow to 11 acres of degraded salt marsh on Labor-in-Vain Brook – a tributary of the Taunton River in Somerset, Mass. The project brought together partners and funding from a variety of sources to restore this vital marsh. NBEP secured \$25,000 for the project through a partnership between the Association of National Estuary Programs and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Oyster Bed Restoration at Town Pond: The NBEP played a significant role in developing and securing funding for the Town Pond coastal wetland/salt pond restoration project for over six years; construction was completed in 2007, restoring more than 20 acres of intertidal habitat—the largest wetland restoration project completed to date on Narragansett Bay. As a follow-up project, NBEP worked Roger Williams University over 2008/2009 to restore oyster beds to the restored Town Pond salt pond and to eight other sites through an extensive seeding program using second year oysters; the seeded beds are now successfully producing new oysters. NBEP secured \$29,153 for the project from an Association of National Estuary Programs/NOAA Community-Based Restoration Partnership grant program.



Fish Passage Technical Support: NBEP was closely involved in planning, development and funding of several significant projects to restore anadromous fish passage and spawning habitat to the major rivers of the Narragansett Bay Region. Today, several of these projects are under construction; NBEP continues to track progress and provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis, specifically:

- Ten Mile River, East Providence, R.I.: Construction on three large fish ladders is scheduled for 2010 and 2011, led by U.S. ACOE and R.I. DEM, with funding by USDA NRCS, ACOE, RIDEM and NOAA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Once completed, the project will open up over 700 acres of fisheries habitat.
- Blackstone River Fish Passage Project: This project focuses on constructing fish passage struc-

tures over the first four dams on the River – three of which hold FERC permits for hydropower generation. The USDA NRCS is providing funding for the first, second and fourth dam while the R.I. Department of Environmental Management will cover costs for the third dam. At the three NRCS-led projects, engineering and permitting are underway, and construction is scheduled for 2010-2011.

- **Upper Pawcatuck River Fish Passage and Dam Removal:** This project entails one dam removal and two engineered fish passages at 3 dams on the upper Pawcatuck River. The project will provide spawning habitat for river herring, American shad and American eel along the river and in Rhode Island's largest natural body of fresh water, Worden Pond, 1,043 acres in size. In early 2009 NBEP supported development of an application to NOAA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which resulted in an award of \$3 million in economic stimulus funding for the upper Pawcatuck and Ten Mile River restoration projects. The first of the three projects, Lower Shannock Dam Removal, was completed in 2010; the others are slated for 2011. NBEP also provided technical support to WPWA related to a proposed hydro development at a downstream dam on the Pawcatuck River, Potter Hill Dam. NBEP provided comments to the municipality and to FERC on a draft license application.



Habitat Restoration Planning and Policy: NBEP is working with R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council and Save The Bay to reconvene the R.I. Habitat Restoration Team, an interdisciplinary forum which we initiated in 2000. The group will examine needs for habitat planning and policy. We are also participating in a group organized by RIDEM Office of Water Resources, with funding from EPA, to develop a freshwater wetlands restoration strategy for Rhode Island.

R.I. Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund: The state estuarine habitat trust fund again provided \$250,000 from state oil spill and response funds for coastal habitat restoration projects. NBEP staff served on the project proposal review and selection committee and is involved in several of the projects that received trust fund moneys.

Bay & Watershed Planning & Priority Setting

Development of Integrated Plan for Bay & Watershed: The NBEP organized a collaborative effort to develop an integrated watershed plan that meets the needs of a number of key institutions while providing an effective update to the existing CCMP.

In Winter 2009, a writing group was formed to develop a framework for an integrated plan. In 2010, NBEP secured the services of a facilitator (Lighthouse Consulting Group), which allowed the workgroup to develop a plan outline and create an initial review draft of the plan. With an agreement on clear targeted actions and directions the plan process will take as well as an emphasis on stronger bi-state involvement, the workgroup proceeded to develop review drafts of the plan.

In June 2010, a 25-person stakeholder advisory panel was convened to review the draft and comment on needed changes or omissions. After incorporating the panel's comments, NBEP hosted three workshops in Pawtucket, R.I., for technical stakeholders, which yielded a diversity of ideas and comments on

the plan. NBEP is now working with the writing group to revise the plan based on the workshop results. Following review by NBEP's management committee, the plan will be vetted through a broad public process, with the goal of finalizing the plan for inclusion as an element of R.I.'s State Guide Plan in 2011. Information on products and status of the plan development are available at the plan wiki, <http://integratedplanreview.wikispaces.com/>

Improved Program Management: In 2010, NBEP developed a new Executive Committee and expanded its Management Committee in order to better represent a full range of watershed stakeholders in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. These changes have led to operational improvements for the program— including a new format for budgeting, a more detailed workplan, and a new staff evaluation process. The Management Committee has been increasingly involved in NBEP workplan development and has helped the program improve its workplan process and hone its focus on needed actions.



NBEP's new staff evaluation process is directed at the goal of continual program improvement and staff development. In cooperation with the Management and Executive Committees, new and more detailed workplans and budget formats have been designed to create more transparency and provide key information on program operations. The program is working to secure have dedicated fiscal staff support from the University of Rhode Island; this will facilitate grant management and application processes as well as provide better ongoing information on budget status and expenditures.

NBEP Oversight Committees

NBEP Management Committee

The NBEP Management Committee is a stakeholder-based panel that is engaged in the program’s work and provides feedback and direction to NBEP implementation actions. The group oversees current workplan development, approves workplans, advocates for the NBEP and provides guidance and suggestions for improving the workplan.

Susan Kiernan, RIDEM	Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute
James Boyd, RI CRMC	Rachel Calabro, STB Watershed Coordinator
Donna Williams, Blackstone River Coalition	Eric Scherer, RI NRCS
Jane Austin, Save The Bay (Chair)	Mel Cote, USEPA Region 1
David Gregg, R.I. Natural History Survey	Bob Stankelis, Narragansett Bay NERR
Ames Colt, RI Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team	Carolyn LaMarre, Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Jan Reitsma, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission	Bryant Firmin, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jared Rhodes, R.I. Statewide Planning Program	

NBEP Executive Committee

The NBEP Executive Committee was formed in June 2010 to supersede the NBEP Finance Committee to provide more frequent and in-depth program oversight, allowing the Management Committee to focus on workplan development and strategic directions for the program.

Sue Kiernan, RIDEM	Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute
Mel Cote, USEPA Region 1	David Gregg, R.I. Natural History Survey
Donna Williams, Blackstone River Coalition	Margherita Pryor, USEP Region 1
Jane Austin, Save The Bay (Chair)	

NBEP FY2009 Budget

FY2009 (CWA Section 320 funds only)	
Personnel	\$336,342
Fringe	\$158,108
Indirect	\$ 99,481
Operating/other	\$ 6,069
TOTAL	\$600,000