

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Steering Committee Meeting
March 17, 2022

What's been going on....

- New Host!
 - On September 27, 2021, NBEP officially transitioned to new host, RWU
 - Still located at Foundry for the time-being
- People – new hires!
 - Geospatial Analysis & Design Manager (Replaces JT)
 - Watershed Outreach Manager (Replaces JB with a higher level for writing and community engagement)
- Vision 2032
 - Objectives/"Action Buckets" in place
 - Staff is working through all the comments, previous CCMP and strategic plans for the region, and creating draft "action plans" to bring to the committee
 - Keep your eyes out for an email invitation for the spring
- DEIJ Assessment
 - NBEP has been working with a consultant since 2020
 - EJ is baked into everything we do – we cannot fulfill our mission without addressing
 - Completed Assessment roadmap, interview/survey questions, and survey results
 - Next steps – interviews with SC/SAC; Workshop in April/May to discuss results, affirm commitment, and explore actions; Final assessment



What's been going on....

- NBEP Green Infrastructure Planning RFP
 - Awarded \$649,000 to 11 projects; 2 capacity building to develop projects and 9 project planning (from 10% design through 70% design and permitting)
- Blackstone Initiative
 - Blackstone Needs Assessment—Done; Supported the hire of a Watershed Manager to create the Blackstone Collaborative.
 - Blackstone Fish Passage—progress towards fish passage through/across the 4 lower dams on the Blackstone
- Bi-partisan Infrastructure money
 - NBEP set to receive ~\$900,000 and plans to re-grant all the money



Science Updates

- Science Updates
 - <https://www.nbep.org/nbep-science>
 - Since last SAC meeting, published 6 updates
 - nuisance flooding,
 - hypoxia & chlorophyll blooms (2),
 - atmospheric N deposition, and
 - solar development
- Fishers Ecological Knowledge Project
 - Final report complete
 - Outline for next steps complete
 - Next meeting with advisory panel and fishermen coming in May
- Science Working Groups
 - Water Clarity – finalized 2-pp summary document on next steps
 - Social Science – finalized 2-pp summary documents on chosen indicators to be explored next year (next meeting April 25)
 - Salt Marsh – meeting to discuss new funding through infrastructure and figure out next steps



Plastics Science Event

- Research/reports is showing plastics are big problem in Bay
- Planning September event at RWU
- Topic is still broad—from micro to macro pollution, from cradle to grave, from private to public actors.
- Forming committee to design event

