

Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting

03/10/21 9:30-12:00



Held Virtually



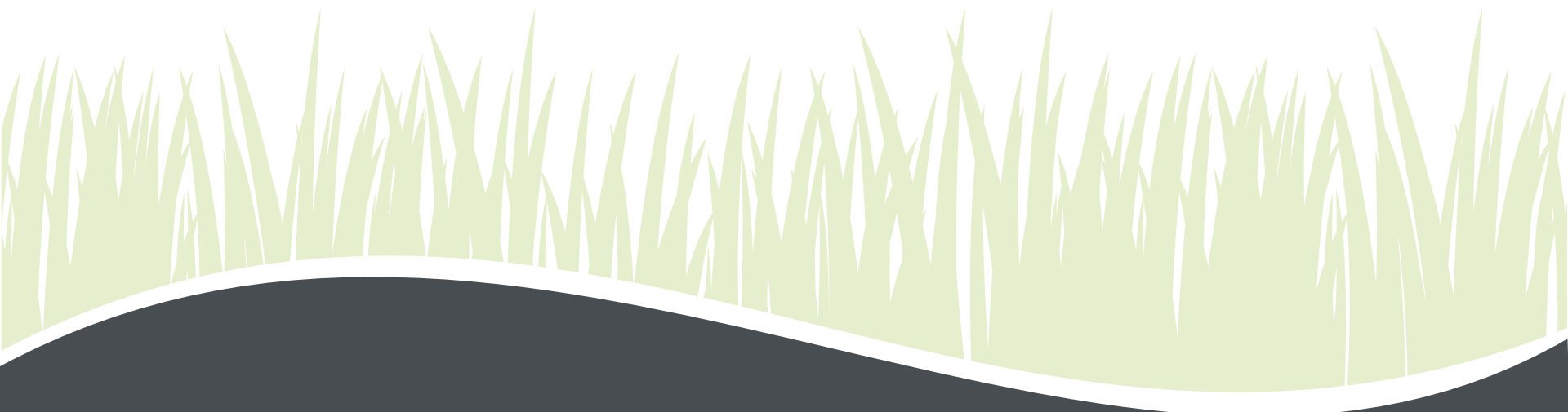
#SNEPitUp





Welcome/Roll Call

Mel Coté, Chief, Surface Water Branch EPA Region 1



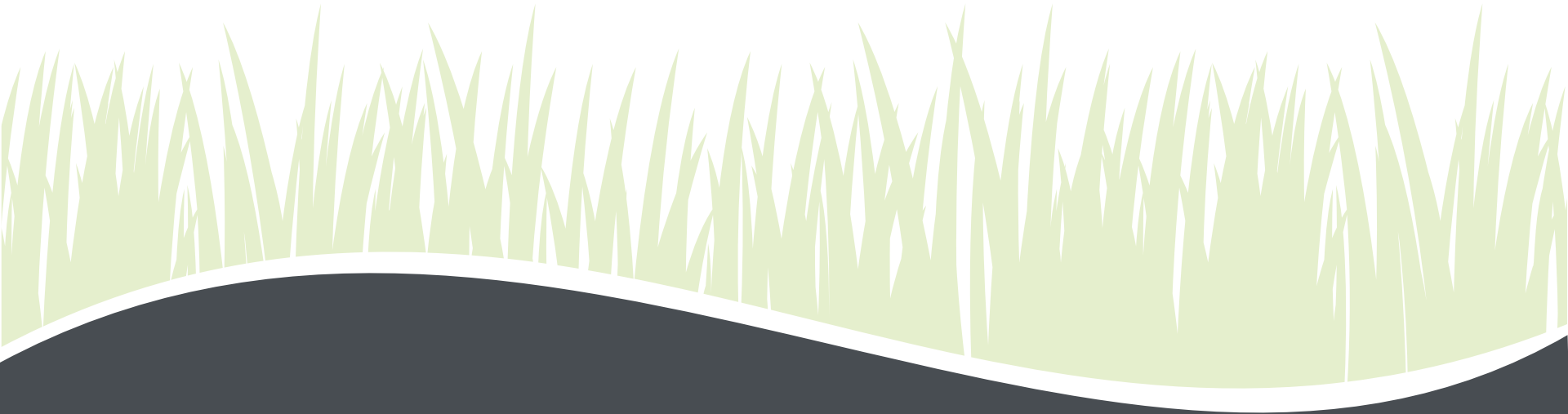
Today's Agenda



- 9:30 • Welcome/Roll Call
- 9:40 • New Member Introductions
- 9:55 • Congressional Update
- 10:15 • ORISE Research: Harmful Algal Blooms
- 11:00 • EPA Updates Q&A
- 11:20 • I/A Septic System Workshop Series
- 11:30 • SNEP Watershed Grants Program Update
- 11:45 • SNEP Network Update
- 12:00 • Wrap-Up



Congressional Update





ORISE Research Project Update: Harmful Algal Blooms

Shasten Sherwell, ORISE Fellow





Cyanobacteria Blooms in SNEP

Shasten Sherwell

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Programs

Yes

No

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Brewster Pond Coalition

Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe Env. Lab

Friends of the Chatham Waterways

Buzzards Bay Coalition

Town of Barnstable

Cape Cod Commission

The Stormwater Innovation Center

Town of Nantucket

Nantucket Land Council

URI Watershed Watch

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative (CMC)

Cell counts

Toxin Analysis

Citizen Scientist Program

BloomWatch

CyanoScope & CyanoMonitoring

Conc.

Presence

25 %

62 %

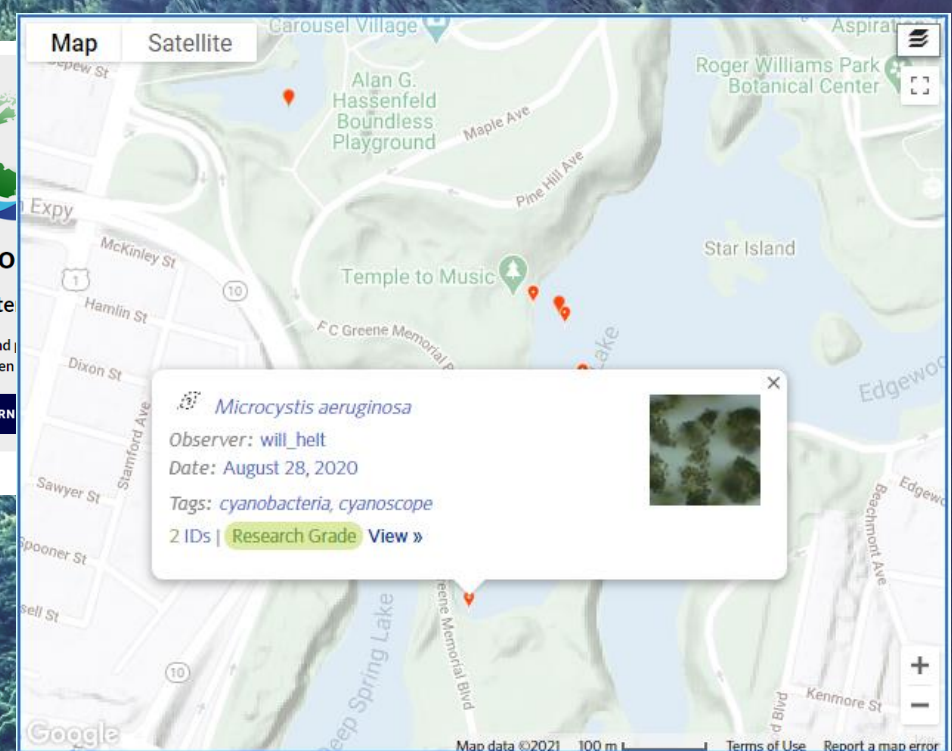
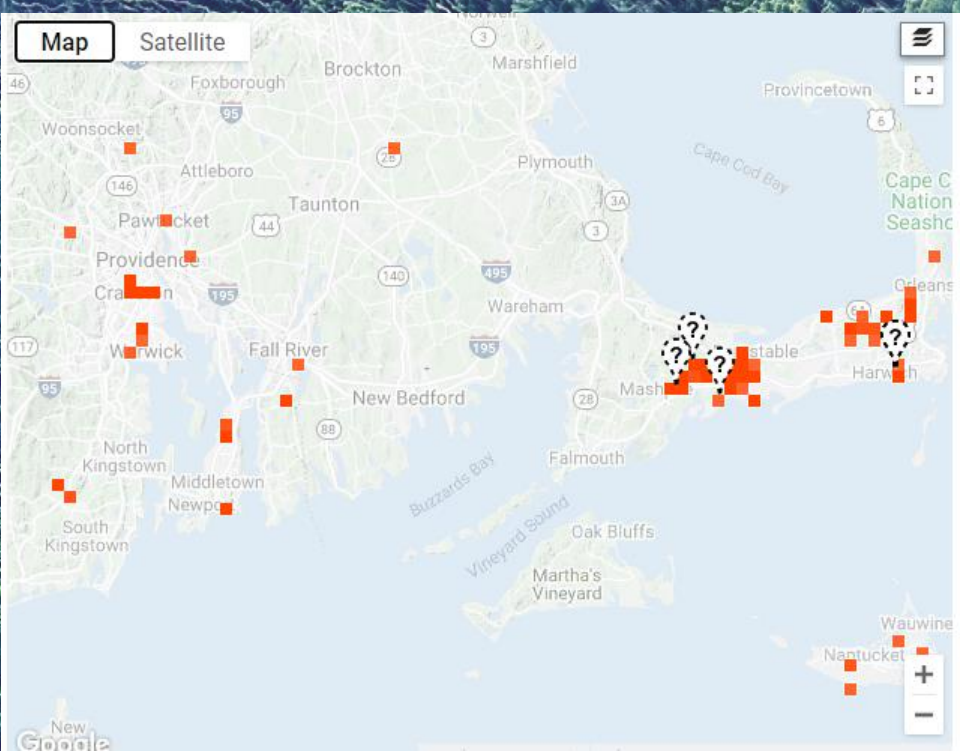
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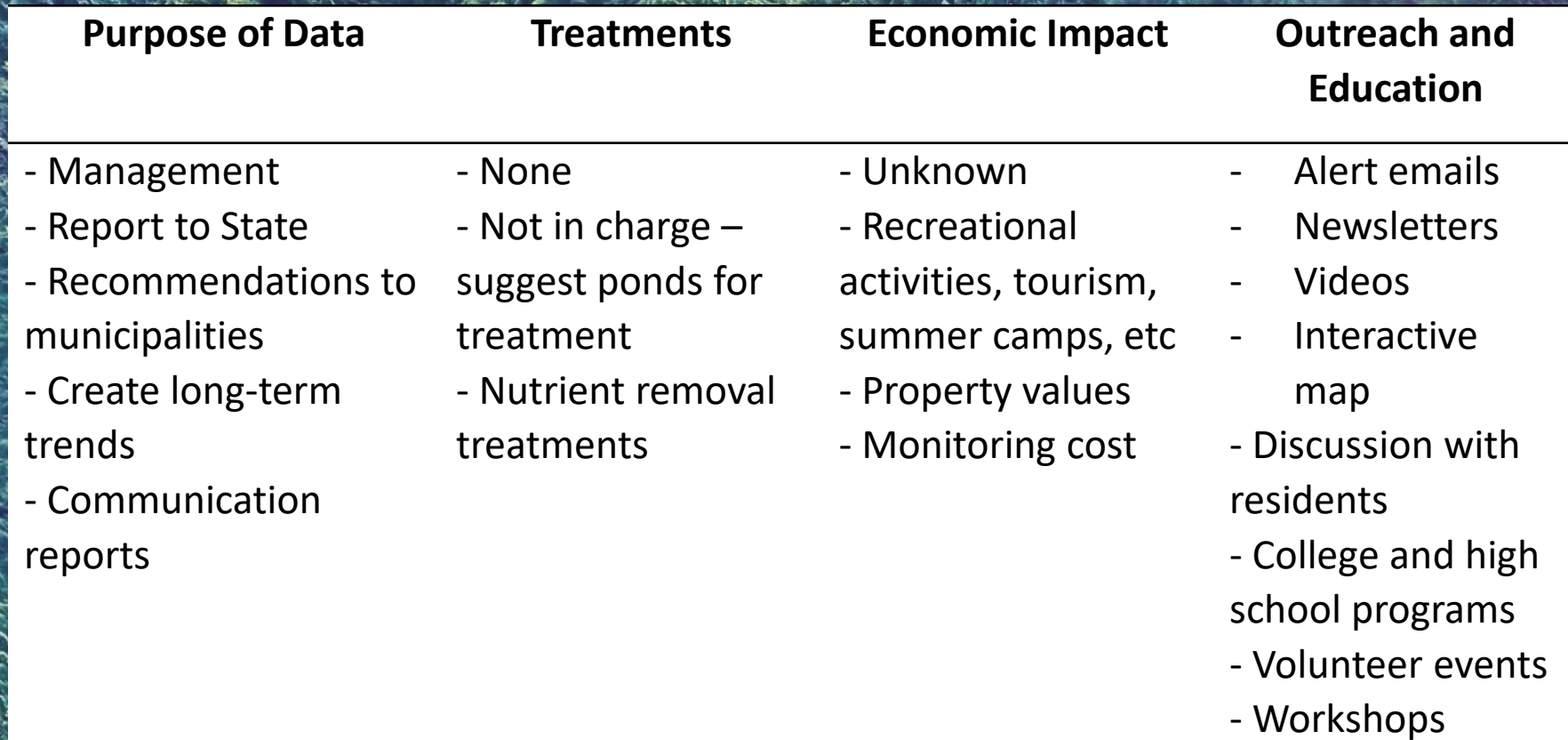
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25 %

54 %

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative





Purpose of Data	Treatments	Economic Impact	Outreach and Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Management- Report to State- Recommendations to municipalities- Create long-term trends- Communication reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- None- Not in charge – suggest ponds for treatment- Nutrient removal treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unknown- Recreational activities, tourism, summer camps, etc- Property values- Monitoring cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alert emails- Newsletters- Videos- Interactive map- Discussion with residents- College and high school programs- Volunteer events- Workshops

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a river winding through it. The forest is a mix of green and blue-green, and the river is a dark blue line. The overall scene is a natural, scenic view.

Highlights

- Monitoring program conducted by the local department of health – authority to post signs and close ponds
- Monitoring program being part of a university – less pressure to secure funding, analytical work done by undergrads, access to research and equipment, access to university’s media relations office
- Cape Cod collaboration among various entities – share responsibility of monitoring, outreach and education, reports, strong volunteer programs

Common Problems

lack of expertise
protocol
toxin analyses
funding and resources
communication with the state
signs and advisories
lack of data
citizen scientist

An aerial photograph of a river system, likely the Colorado River, showing extensive green algal blooms. The water is a vibrant green, and the surrounding landscape is a mix of green and brown, indicating a semi-arid environment. The river flows through a valley, with the blooms appearing as thick, textured mats of algae.

Common Needs

regional efforts

collaboration

funding

streamline process

treatments

validation of fluorometry data

outreach and education

Current and Future Work

- Work with the Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative
 - Connecting more entities
 - Help with mini-conference
 - Training videos
 - Connect CMC protocols with other research/monitoring efforts in the region
- Work with ORD Narragansett Lab
 - CHEAP project → low-cost sensors to predict algal blooms
 - Using pH and DO data
 - Continuous data
- Research on Economic Impact in SNEP

CMC Mini-Conference

March 23rd and 24th

cyanos.org

- Cyanobacteria Monitoring Programs
- Cyanobacteria Management and New Tools/Technology
- Cyanobacteria and Human Health
 - New WHO Cyanotoxin Guidelines
 - EPA Guidelines
- Perspectives of Cyanobacteria Risk
 - Panel Discussion
- Cyanobacteria Toxicity



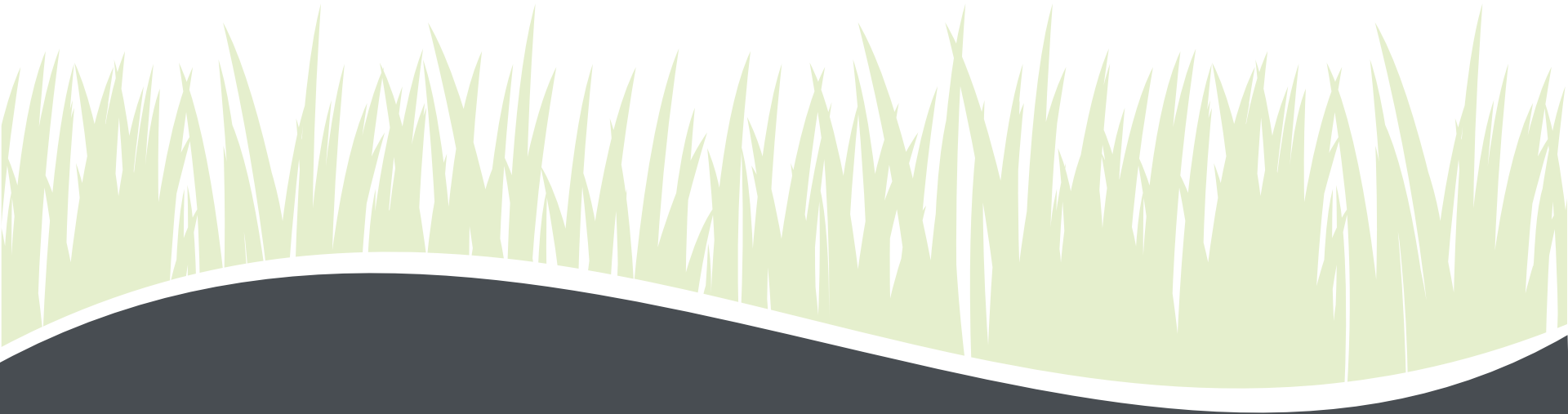
HABs Q&A

What Role Should SNEP Have in Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms?



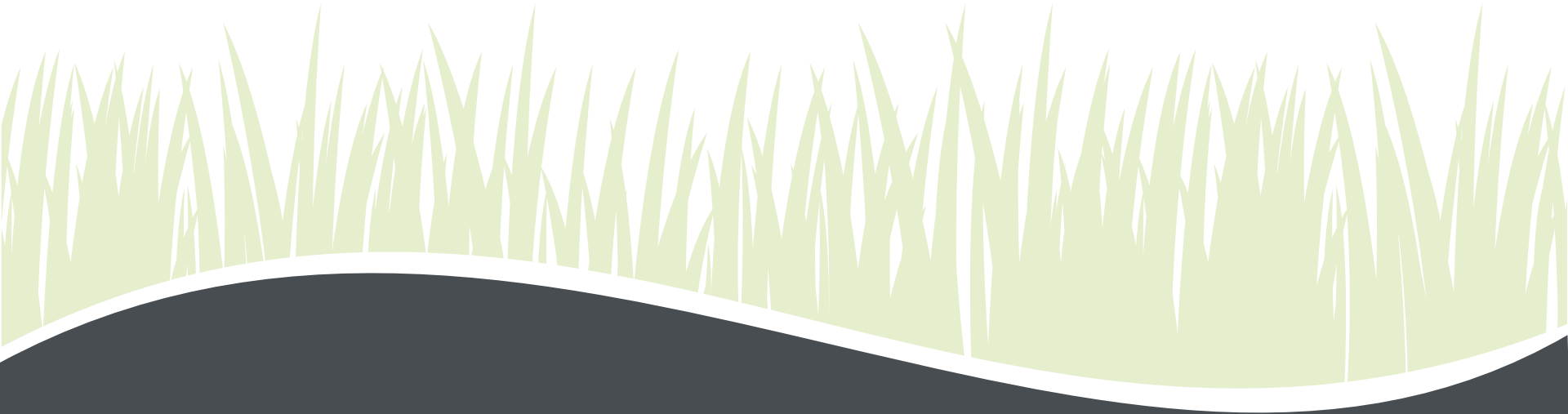
EPA Updates Q&A

Please refer to written update material





Innovative/Alternative Septic System Workshop Series



Planning an I/A Workshop



- SNEP and ORD-ACESD are planning an I/A workshop
- Tentative Date: TBD - May/June timeframe
- **Goals:**
 - To encourage I/A implementation in the region and promote more pilots
 - To inform key stakeholders on current state of I/A systems
 - To identify real and perceived barriers to I/A implementation
 - To set definitive action steps toward addressing some of those barriers
 - To create technical support groups where participants can continue to support/work with one another.
- **Invitees:**
 - MA, RI, CT municipal representatives (DPH, DEP), State and County reps.

Structure of I/A Workshop



1

Reflective (2-3 hrs):

- GOAL: To instruct on/discuss lessons learned from past I/A projects. To give the audience the opportunity to learn about the work already done in this space; and ask questions.
- Evaluation of their past performance
- Problems encountered and Lessons Learned
- Overview of funded pilots
 - Panel discussion of pilots
 - Breakouts with pilot reps.

2

Prospective (2-3 hrs):

- GOAL: To identify currently abilities of I/A systems and discuss opportunities of I/A implementation throughout the region.
- “Not your Father’s Septic systems”
- Current performance standards of I/A systems
- Future I/A implementation needs for the region
- Discussion of where I/A implementation is most appropriate

1-2 Week Break

3

Barriers, Concerns; Benefits and Opportunities (3-5 hrs):

- GOAL: To address key concerns and barriers preventing more widespread implementation. To create an implementation action plan. To inform a future role for EPA support.
- Breakout groups – Concerns and Barriers
- Breakout Groups – Action Planning
- Debrief and Next Steps
 - How EPA can best support these efforts going forward

Where we are now



- Currently in the planning phase
 - We are aiming for June
 - We are working with regional facilitators to finalize the outline
 - We will be drafting a list of speakers and a more complete list of attendees
 - We will be working with our contractor to help with the technical aspects of the event.
 - We will be using in-house facilitation

Feedback from the Steering Committee

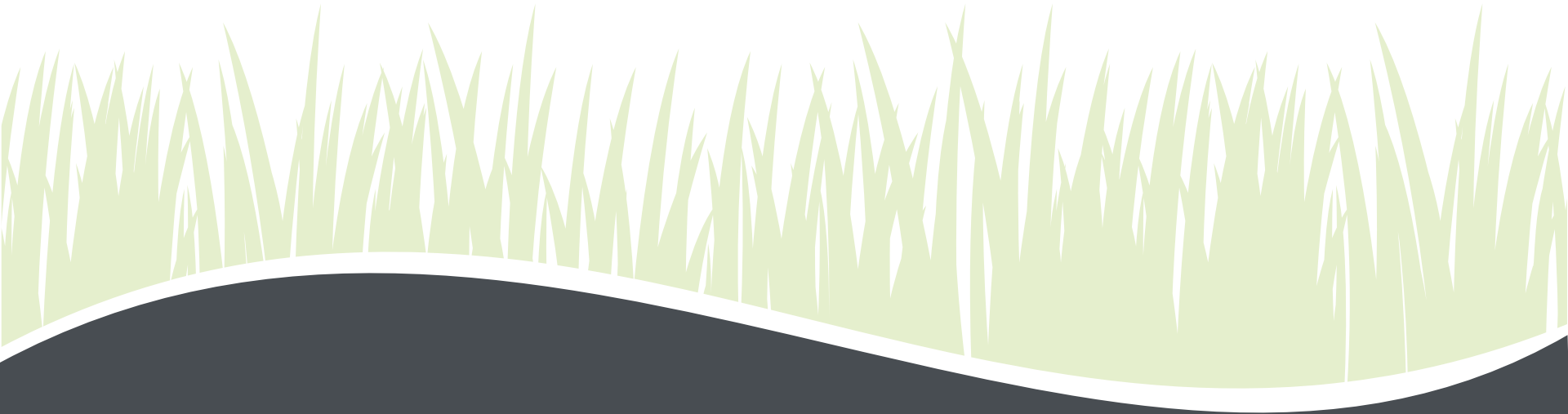


- Are there any known scheduling conflicts in the May/June timeframe?
- Thoughts on shorter but more frequent meetings as opposed to an all-day event?
- Thoughts on overall design?
- Thoughts on break?
- Thoughts on potential speakers?
- Anything we're missing?



Update on SNEP Watershed Grants Program

Tom Ardito, Restore America's Estuaries



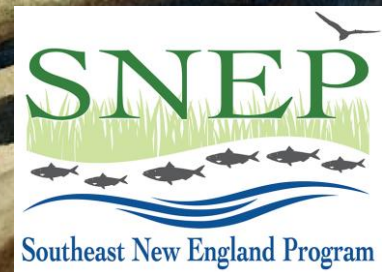
SNEP WATERSHED GRANTS 2021 Program

TOM ARDITO

RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Southeast New England Watershed Grant Program Director

tardito@estuaries.org



Observations on SNEP: 2017 - 2021

- Nationally recognized program and model
- Funding Impact: \$40 M region-wide
- \$18 M in competitive grants
- Regional Coordination & Leadership
- Grants combined with Technical Assistance
- Shared Vision, Goals and Priorities for Region
- Strategic Plan

RAE Approach to SNEPWG

- Purpose: Implement SNEP Vision, Goals & Priorities
- RAE provides programmatic continuity
- SNEPWG has grown & evolved with SNEP
- Listen to leadership committees, stakeholders & EPA
- Provide support to applicants & grantees
- Learn from experience – continuous improvement
- Capacity-building – knowledge, innovation, sustainable partnerships
- Grants generate significant additional resources
- Outreach & coordination across local, state and federal officials

SNEP Watershed Grants: 2018 - 2020

- RAE/EPA Cooperative Agreement since 2017
- Awards 2018 -- 2020
 - 38 Grants
 - 100+ Grantees
 - \$ 8.6M awards
 - \$ 3.9M match
 - \$ 12.5M total
 - Grants \$10k - \$500k, most in the \$100k - \$400k range
- Built on Foundation of EPA Grantmaking 2014 – 2016

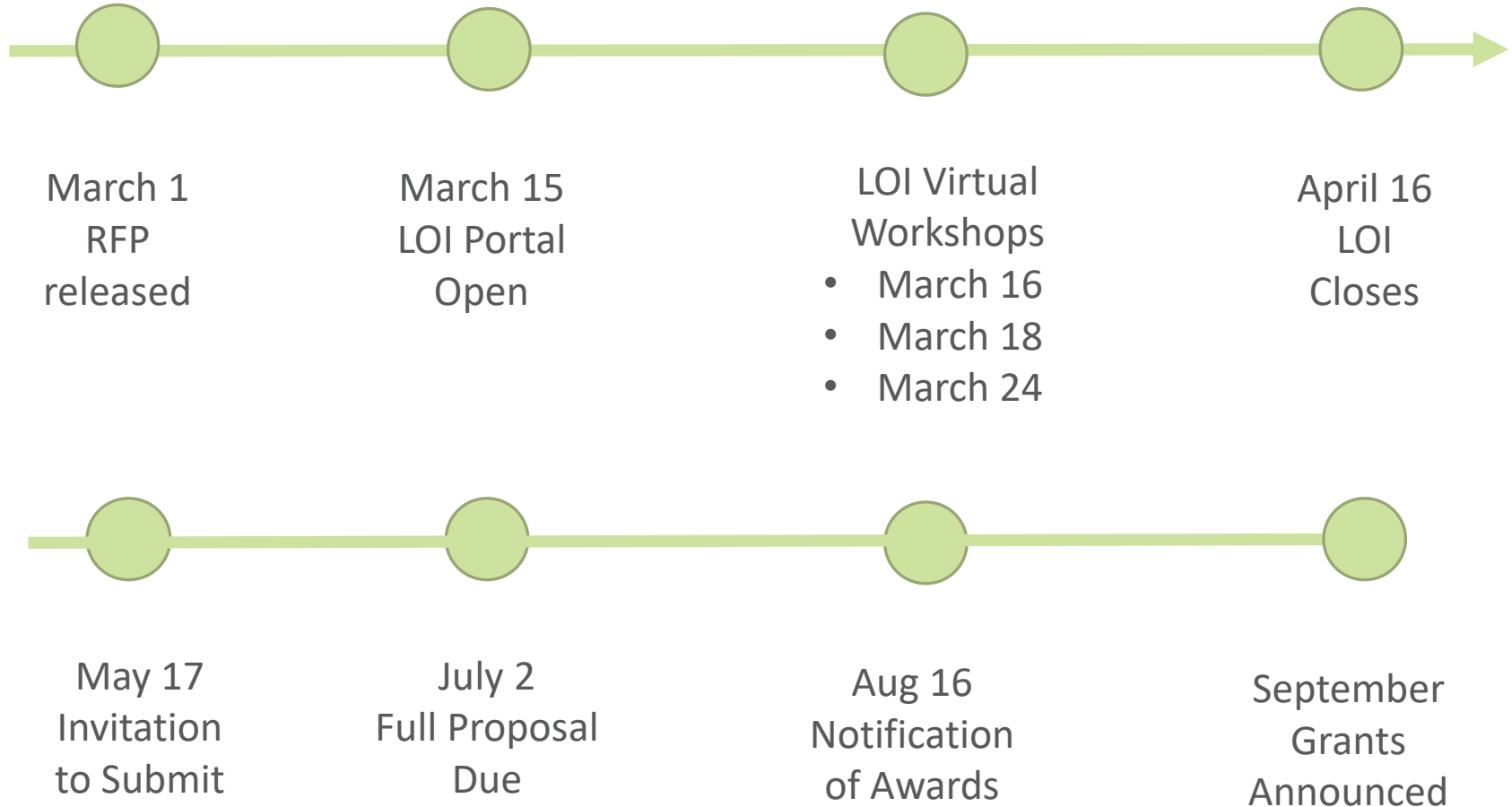
2021 Request for Proposals

\$1.75 million available

New for 2021

- Direct link to SNEP Strategic Plan – Vision, Goals & Priorities
- Letter of Intent as first application step
- On-line portal for applications and administration
- Broadening review committee – increasing transparency
- Coordination with Network
- More emphasis on underrepresented communities
- More emphasis on habitat & resilience
- More support for applicants & grantees

2021 Award Calendar



Discussion

For more information, to download
the RFP, or to apply:

www.snepgrants.org

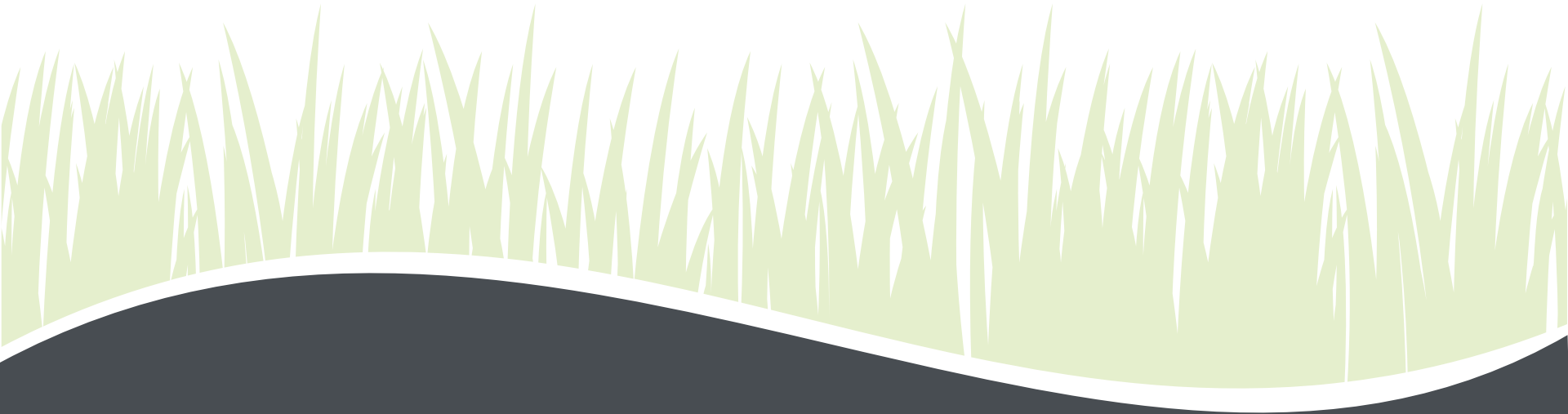
Tom Ardito

tardito@estuaries.org



Update on SNEP Network

Martha Sheils, New England Environmental Finance
Center





Adjourn

Thank You!

