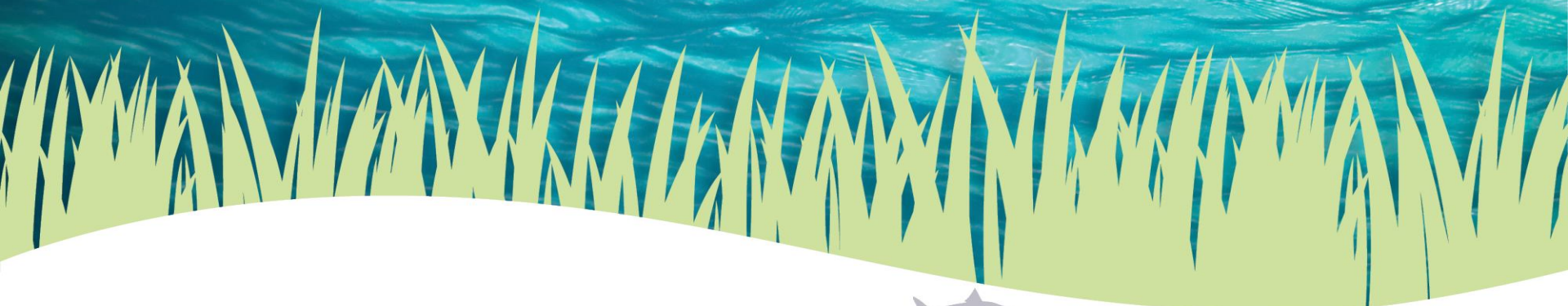


The Southeast New England  
Program (SNEP) Presents:  
SNEP Watershed Implementation  
Grant (SWIG) Pass-Through Entity  
Informational Webinar



05/12/2021 1:00-2:30PM



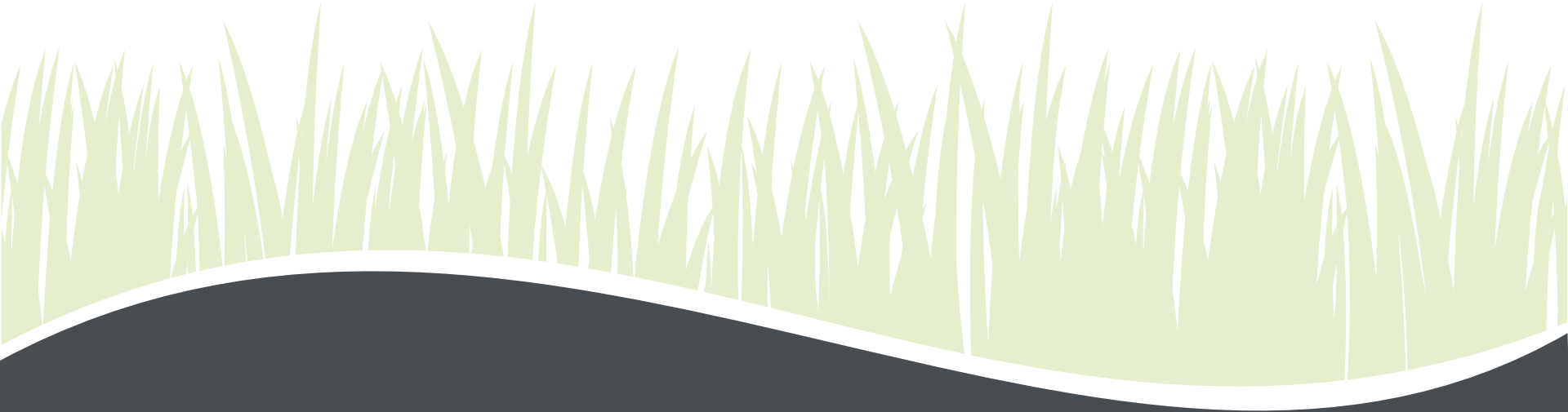
#SNEPitUp





# Introduction

Ian Dombroski, SNEP Coordinator, EPA Region 1





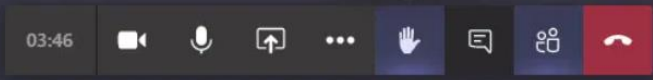
**MUTE**



Your hand is raised.



Lower your hand



**RAISE HAND**



# Introduction



## Logistics

- Please Mute During the Presentation
- This Meeting is Being Recorded
- Slides and Recording Will be Posted to SNEP Website
- Questions Will be Addressed at the End of the Presentation
- Questions and Answers Will Be Posted to SNEP Website
- <https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-watershed-implementation-grant-administrative-entity-2021>

# Today's Agenda



**13:00**

Introduction/ SNEP Overview

**13:05**

SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant(SWIG)  
Pass-Through Entity  
Request for Applications (RFA) Overview

**13:15**

Scoring Criteria Overview

**13:30**

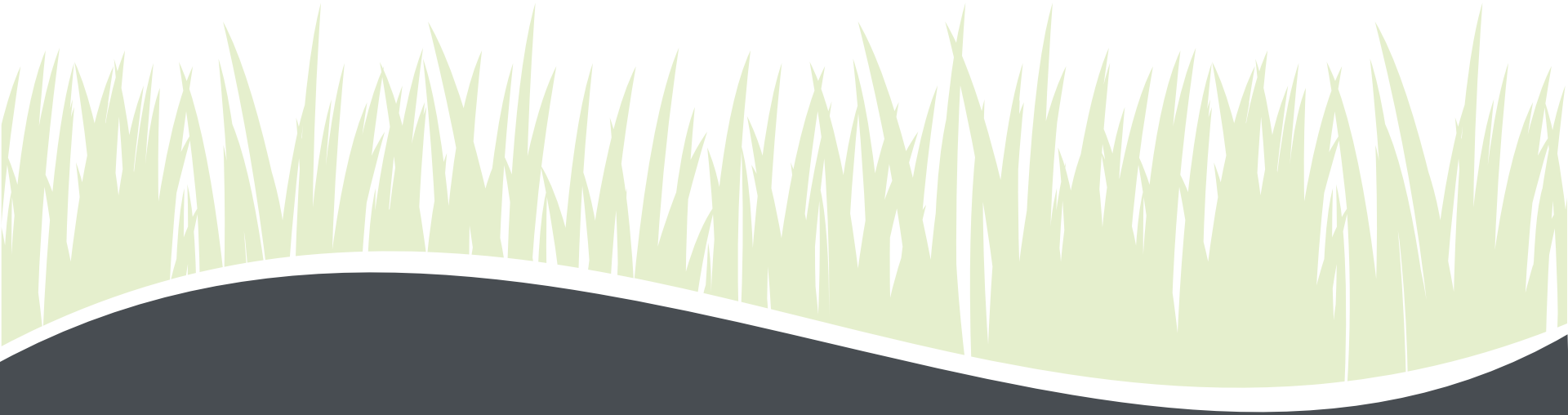
Audience Questions

**14:30**

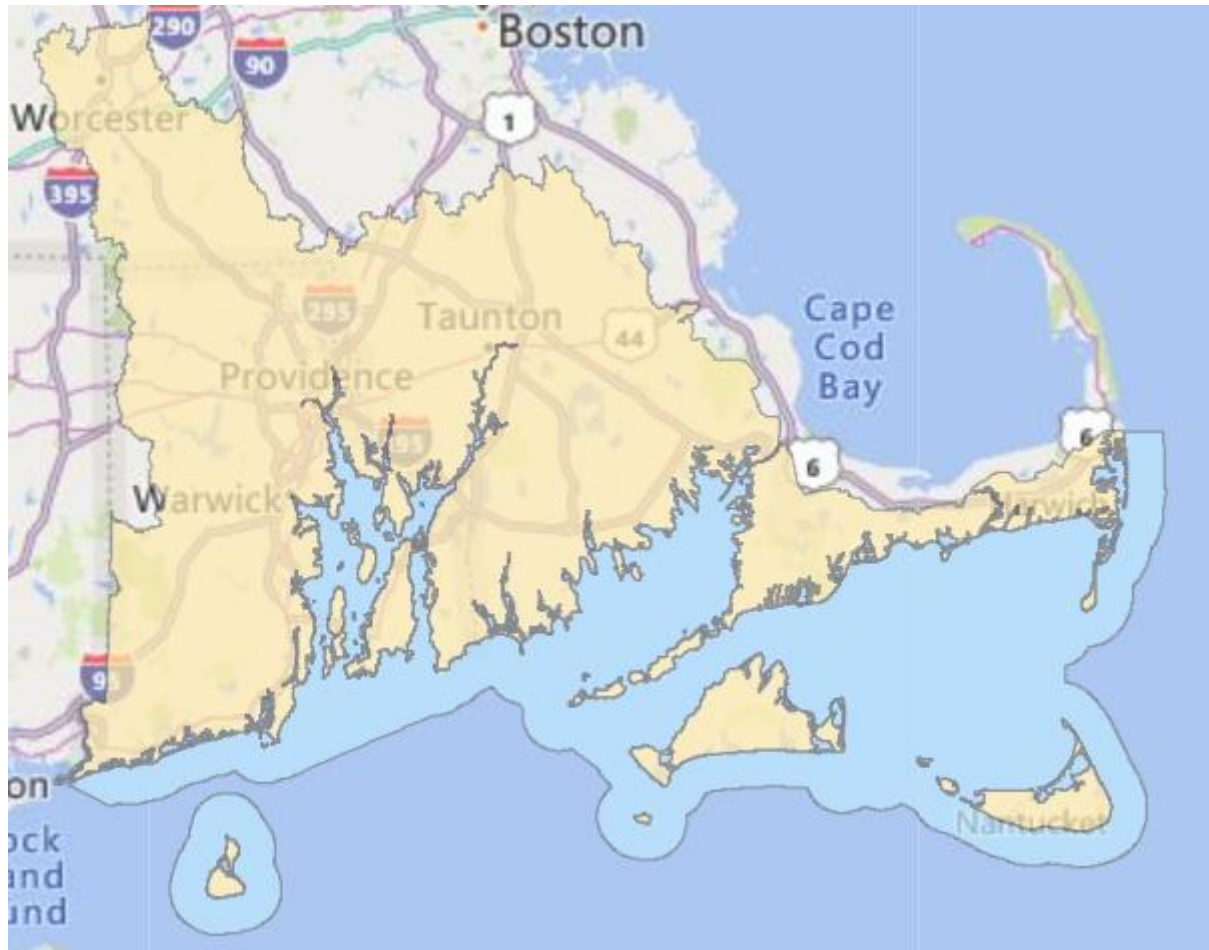
Adjourn



# SNEP Overview



# SNEP Region





# Southeast New England Program (SNEP)



- Facilitate partnerships among government and non-government organizations
- Serve as collaborative framework for:
  - Advancing ecosystem resiliency
  - Protecting and restoring water quality, habitat, and ecosystem function
  - Developing and applying innovative policy, science, and technology to environmental management
- Encourage an ecosystem-based approach to increase effectiveness of long-term regional restoration efforts



# Five Year Strategic Plan Goals



## Program Vision 2050

A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters, thriving watersheds and natural lands, and sustainable communities in the Southeast New England Program coastal watershed region.

### SNEP Goal: Resilient Ecosystem of Safe and Healthy Waters

- Waters support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities

### SNEP Goal: Thriving Watersheds and Natural Lands

- Watersheds provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities.

### SNEP Goal: Sustainable Communities

- Communities share robust water-based economies, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change.

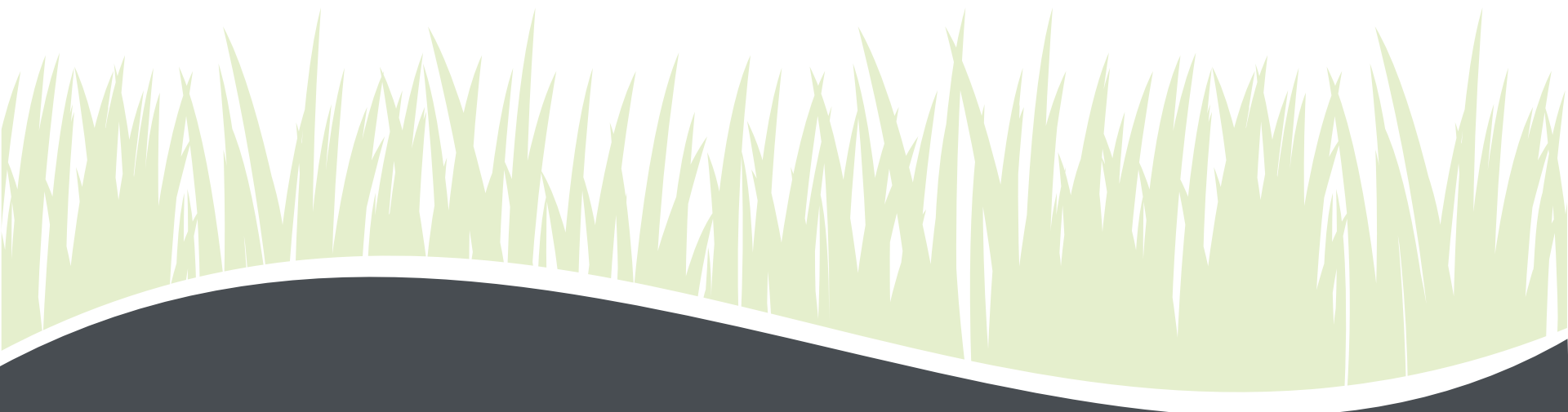
# Five Year Strategic Plan Priority Actions



- Increase local capacity to complete projects and adopt new policies
- Increase available solutions
- Ensure diverse representation
- Demonstrate ways to address common challenges
- Increase community leaders' understanding of the benefits of restoration project



# SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant Pass-Through Entity RFA Overview



# Timeline



- Application Deadline: 6/13/2021 by 11:59PM EDT
- Ineligible Applicants Notified: Late June 2021
- Successful Applicants Notified: Late July 2021
- Unsuccessful Applicants Notified: Late July 2021
- Awards Made: Early September 2021
- Funds Available/Project Start: October 1, 2021

# Pilot Watershed RFA Overview



- Grant Program Details are in **Sec. I.B & C** of RFA
- Seeking entity to solicit, support, and manage the SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant (SWIG) Program
- Administer sub-awards for implementation projects in alignment with SNEP goals and priority actions

# Award Information



- One (1) Award
- Selected applicants will administer SNEP's Watershed Implementation Grant Program

# Award Information



## Funding

- \$2,000,000 for year 1
- Up to \$3,250,000 for next 4 years
- Not to exceed \$15,000,000 over project period

## Match

- Minimum of 25% of federal request (Sec. III.B)

## Project Period

- Up to 7 years
- Starts October 1, 2021



# RFA Overview



- Applicants should demonstrate their ability and approach for managing a SWIG subawards program:
  - how they would work within the existing SNEP partnership framework of the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, two National Estuary Programs, the Cape Cod Commission, and multiple municipalities and environmental organizations
  - how their efforts would result in improved water quality and restoration of resilient habitat and ecosystem functions
  - how projects would address the outcomes and priority actions identified in the SNEP Strategic Plan in a cost-effective and inclusive manner

# RFA Overview



- Consult SNEP & Committees to develop funding priorities for the annual RPFs
- Conduct a robust and transparent process for soliciting subaward proposals
- Convene and organize expert panels to review proposals
- Award and manage subawards
- Work with SNEP partners and grantees to provide technical support to subawardees
- Promote and grow SWIG through facilitation, partnerships, and communicating results and lessons learned
- Expand the presence of the SNEP “Brand”
- Report periodically to EPA and/or SNEP Committees
- Report on SNEP Project Metrics (Appendix D)

# Eligibility (Section III)



- All proposals must comply with Section IV
- Submission must be by June 13, 2021, 11:59 EDT via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Eligible applicants (Sec. III.A)
- 25% Match requirement (Sec. III.B)
- Must support EPA's Strategic Plan Goals (Sec I.C)
- Projects funded under this RFA must be carried out within the SNEP geographic region and address common challenges and priorities within the SNEP boundaries
- Applicant organization does not need to be located in the SNEP region

# Eligible Applicants



## Eligible

- State, local, Tribal governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit institutions and organizations
- Interstate Agencies

## Ineligible

- Private businesses, federal agencies, and individuals
- *(these entities can partner with an eligible applicant)*

# Submission Materials (Section IV)



## **Mandatory Documents (Sec. IV.C)**

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
- Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form)- prepared as described in Appendix B of the announcement
- Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form) - See Appendix C for information

# Submission Materials (Section IV)



## Supporting Materials (Sec. IV.C)

- Resumes of curriculum vitae of staff that will be working on the SWIG
- Documentation listing past or ongoing federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements your organization has administered
- Documentation of non-profit status if appropriate

# Submission Materials (Section VI)



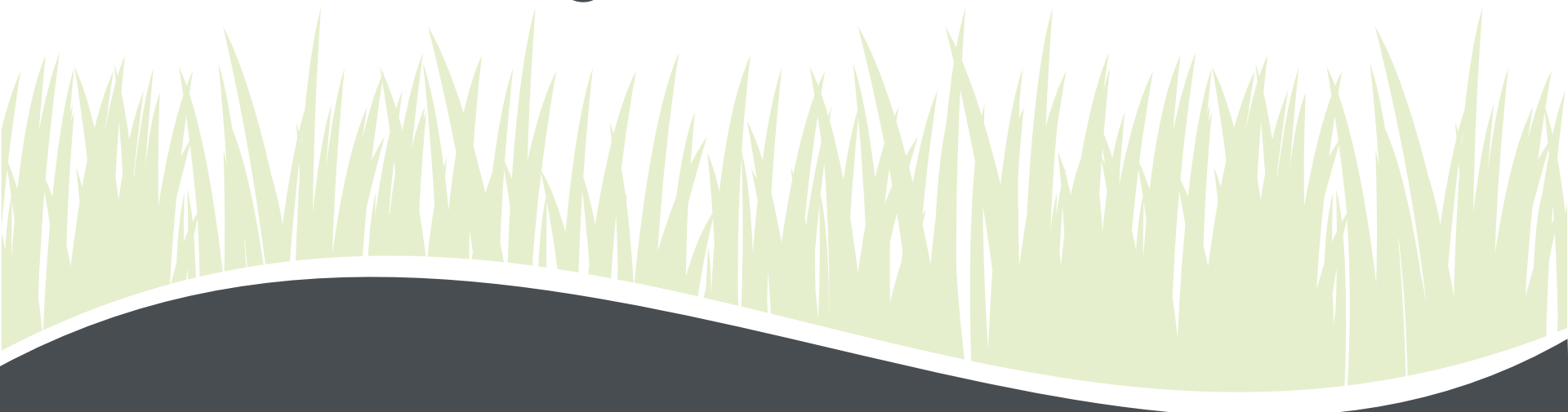
## Administrative and National Policy Requirements (Sec. VI B)

- Applicants should refer to Section VI B of the RFA for general administrative requirements including those **differentiating contracts from subawards**





# Scoring Criteria Overview



# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Sec. V.B)

- Program Approach and Organizational Capability: **36 Points**
- Past Performance in Program Capability and Environmental Results: **12 Points**
- Cost-Effectiveness and Match: **20 Points**
- Tracking and Measuring Environmental and Programmatic Results: **28 Points**
- Transferability of Results: **24 Points**
- Timely Expenditure of Funds: **10 Points**

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Program Approach and Organizational Capability: 36 Points

- The quality and degree to which the applicant demonstrates understanding of challenges and opportunities facing the SNEP region ecosystems and communities, including:
  - how existing efforts are succeeding or need improvement,
  - the specific approaches proposed to address them through the SWIG program,
  - EPA's role in the SNEP management framework and program priorities, and
  - how the applicant's efforts would support SNEP goals as described in **Section I.B.**

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Program Approach and Organizational Capability: 36 Points (continued)

- execute a successful subawards program by managing a competitive process to solicit, evaluate, and select subaward projects that address SNEP vision, goals, and program objectives to foster innovation, and build resilience in SNEP communities and watersheds, including diversity of project types, distribution across the SNEP boundaries within the two states, and representation of the needs of underserved communities;
- manage subaward recipients to achieve the objectives of the SWIG program as described in **Section 1.C**;
- demonstrate expertise and organizational ability to successfully execute needed oversight for administrative, travel, fiscal, and reporting tasks, as well as provide technical and outreach support to subawardees;
- ensure subawardees comply with all quality assurance, financial, and reporting requirements; and
- provide or secure relevant staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and/or other experts experienced and qualified to successfully achieve SNEP goals as described in **Section I.C**.

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Program Approach and Organizational Capability: 36 Points (continued)

- The quality and degree to which the applicant demonstrates familiarity and ability to work with institutional, environmental, and socio-economic conditions of the SNEP region, including knowledge of EJ and underserved communities as well as differing management regimes between Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Past Performance in Program Capability and Environmental Results: **12 Points**

- The applicant's past performance in successfully completing within the last three years federally- and non-federally funded assistance agreements (no more than five, and preferably EPA agreements) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project. Assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts. Successful completion of federally funded assistance agreements also includes your organization's history of meeting reporting requirements and submission of acceptable final technical reports under those agreements.
- The applicant's history of thorough, well-documented reporting on progress or impediments in achieving expected results under federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years.

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Cost-Effectiveness and Match: 20 Points

- The degree to which the application is cost-effective, including consideration of factors such as organizational costs, indirect costs and overhead, prudent cost-allocation over the life of the award, subaward costs versus anticipated results of projects, organizational and partner resources brought to the effort, consistency with proposed budget detail, and ability to perform tasks within the operational range of budgets provided by SNEP.
- The degree to which the applicant confirms sources of match or amount and sources of match to be secured; applications without confirmed match or a plan to secure match will receive a score of zero.



# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Tracking and Measuring Environmental and Programmatic Results: **28 Points**

- Identifies specific environmental results to be achieved by the activities proposed for the program, explains how those results will be tracked and measured, and describes how the activities are expected to achieve the outputs and outcomes described in **Section I.B.**
- The effectiveness of applicant's plan to ensure subawardees comply with rules for reporting environmental and/or programmatic output, outcome, and metrics.
- The effectiveness of the applicant's plan to collect negotiated metrics from subawardees and report to EPA.
- The quality of the applicant's proposed adaptive management approach to create and respond to experience and data, including a process to assess the effectiveness of the proposed approach and tasks through monitoring, measuring, and reporting.

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Transferability of Results: 24 Points

- The quality and adequacy of the applicant's plan to gather and develop information to support and communicate lessons learned from the proposed activities, including:
  - documenting and distributing results, including information materials and recommendations, in a timely manner to EPA and to key partners in the SNEP region and other appropriate audiences;
  - ensuring subawardees are available to present or report on their subaward activities as needed; and
  - being available to present results both during and after the life of the award.

# Scoring Criteria Overview



## Transferability of Results: 24 Points (continued)

- The quality of the applicant’s proposed strategy to promote, grow, and sustain the SWIG program by:
  - facilitating and mentoring participants in sustained partnering and implementation efforts, as well as in innovative solutions and approaches;
  - communicating and transferring the successes and lessons learned of the subaward projects through vigorous outreach via traditional and new channels; and
  - expanding the presence and visibility of SNEP and the SNEP “brand” throughout the SNEP region through clearly

# Scoring Criteria Overview

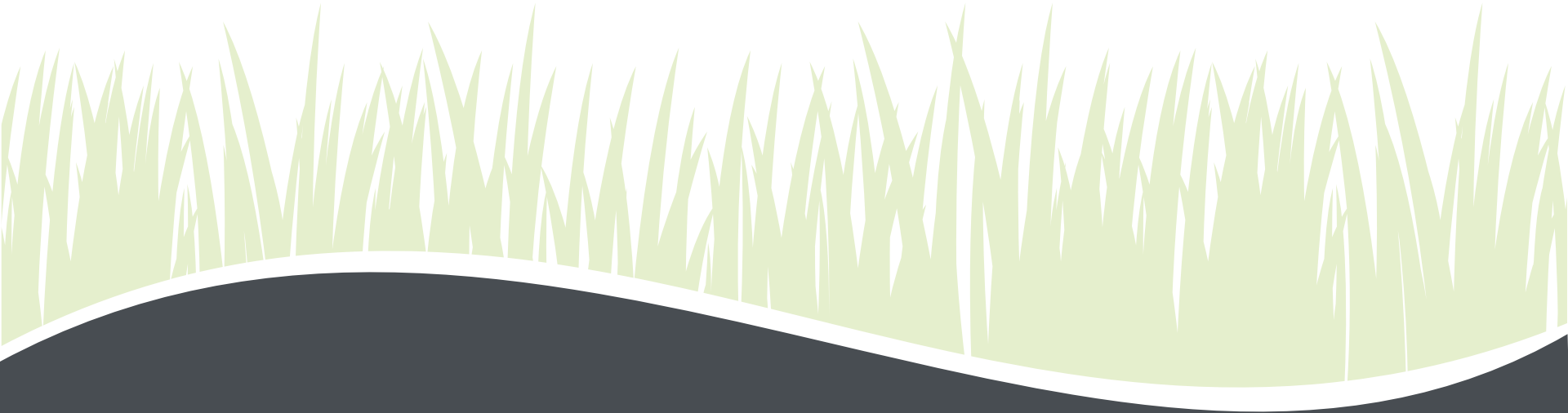


## Timely Expenditure of Funds: 10 Points

- The effectiveness of the applicant's approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that award grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner, and before the end of the project period.



# Audience Questions



# Audience Questions



## Audience Questions

- Please Raise Your “Hand” or Type Questions in the Chat Box
- SNEP Will Attempt to Answer as Many Questions as Possible Before 2:30PM
- If SNEP Does Not Have/Know the Answer to Your Question Now, We Will Post the Answer to our FAQs Page as Soon as Possible
- If We Run Out of Time, Please Type Your Question in the Chat. We Will Post These to our FAQs Page as Soon as Possible



**Adjourn**

**Thank You for Your Time and Attention!**

