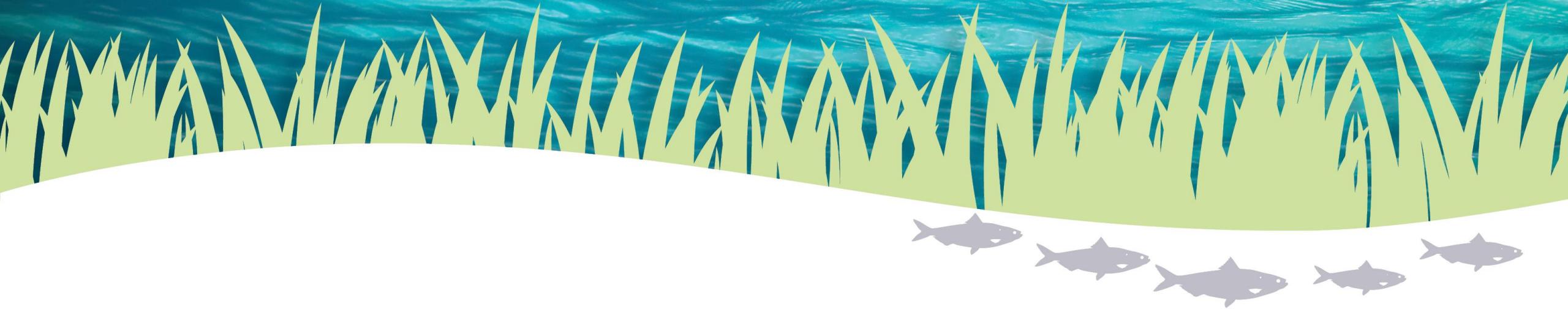


Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting

12-01-2023 (9:30-14:45)

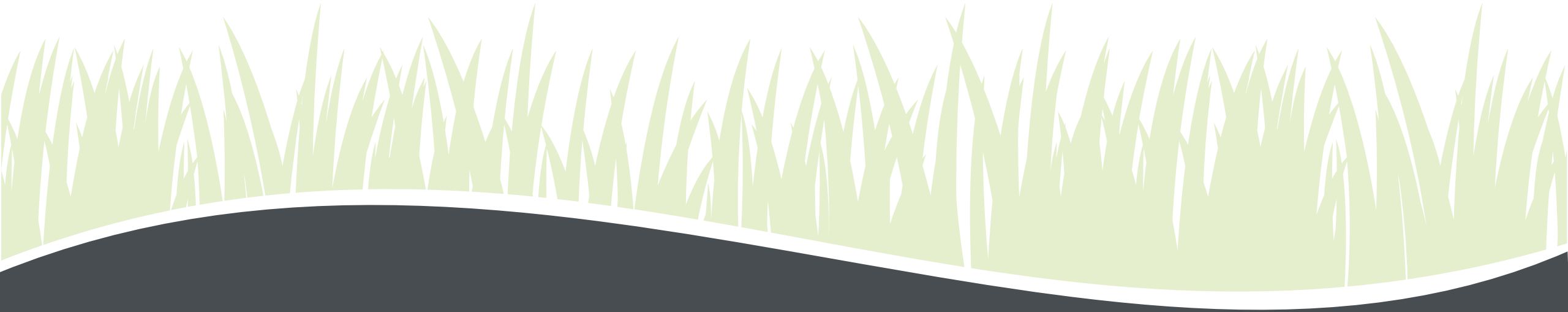


Held at the New Bedford Library





Welcome!



Agenda



9:00-9:25 Check-In and Mingling

9:25-9:30 Welcome

9:30-11:00 Partner Updates (5 minutes per organization)

11:00-12:00 Monitoring Framework/State of the Region Report Updates and Input

12:00-12:15 SNEP Forum Feedback Overview

12:15-12:30 Highlights from the Salt Marsh Workshop

12:30-13:15 Lunch

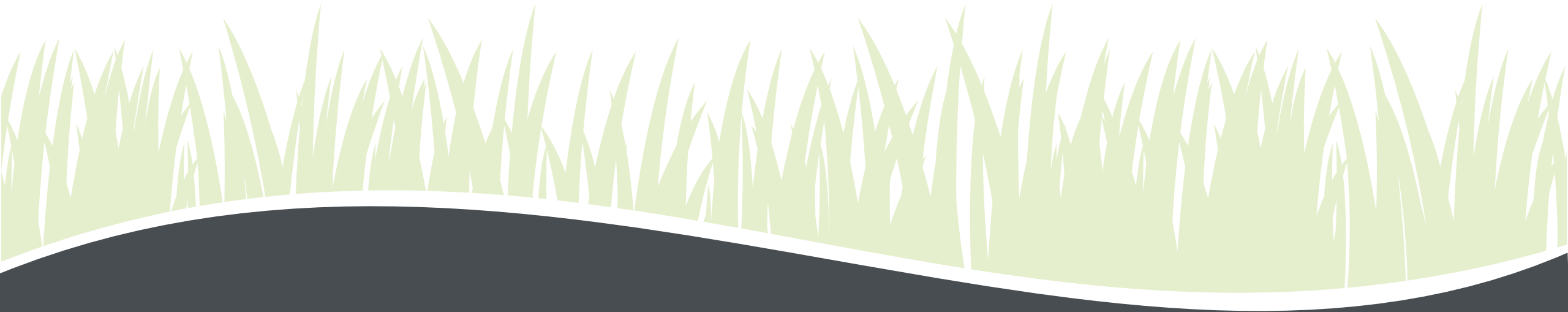
13:15-13:45 FY24 Budget Discussion

13:45-14:45 SNEP Network Renewal Discussion

14:45 Summary and Adjourn

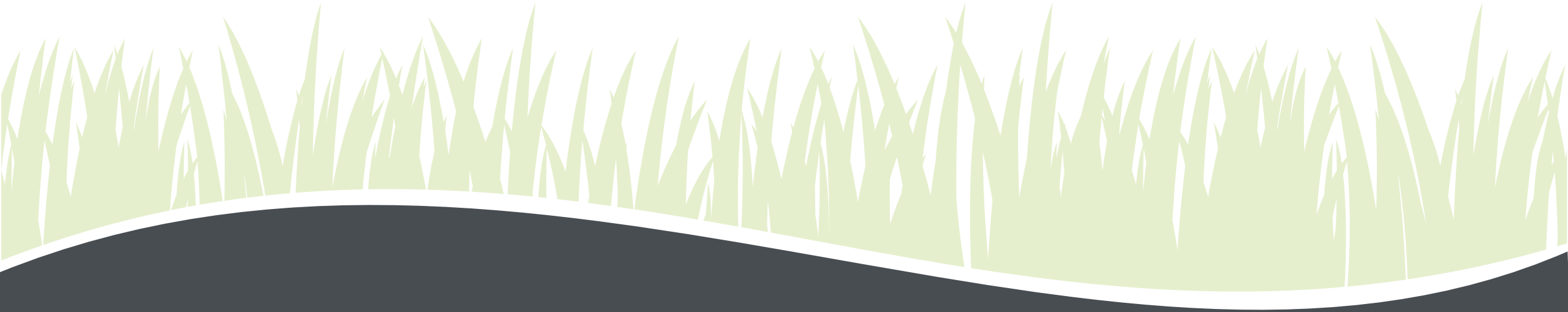


Partner Updates (5 minutes per organization)





Monitoring Framework/State of the Region Report





SNEP Forum Feedback Overview



2023 SNEP Public Forum



- Goal: To engage with our community members and program partners, to share information gained collectively by SNEP and our partners, and to seek input on the work that our Program has completed, the work ongoing, and the work still to be done.
- Purpose: This Forum seeks input on how SNEP and its partners can best help to meet local needs while also building the framework for more effective approaches to address today's environmental, social, and economic challenges. SNEP will incorporate the results of the Forum's discussions into our funding and policy strategies for the next several years.
- Featured keynote presentations from R1 Administrator David Cash and Dr. Christopher Obropta (Rutgers University)
- 93 attendees (80 in-person, 13 virtual)
- 18 poster presentations
- 11 one-hour discussion sessions

2023 SNEP Public Forum



| | |
|---|--|
| Increasing Public-Private Partnerships | Understanding the SNEP Region Through Existing Data |
| Keeping Track of Funding Opportunities | Better Addressing the Unique Needs of SNEP Communities |
| Improving/Tweaking the Existing Structure of SNEP | Communicating Project Successes in the SNEP Region |
| Scaling Up from Pilot to Progress | Coordinating Among Technical Assistance Entities |
| Increased Engagement with Academic Institutions | Community-led Project Design, Learning, and Engagement |
| How Can SNEP Better Meet its Habitat Goals? | |

All breakout rooms included notetakers

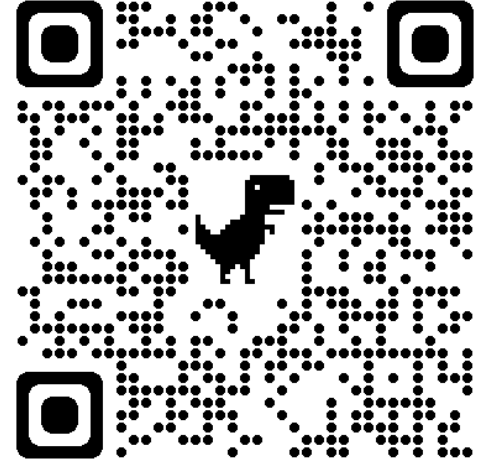
Notes were compiled and used to produce a summary memo

Goal: for the Forum outputs to drive the direction of our Program for the next two years

Key Recommendations

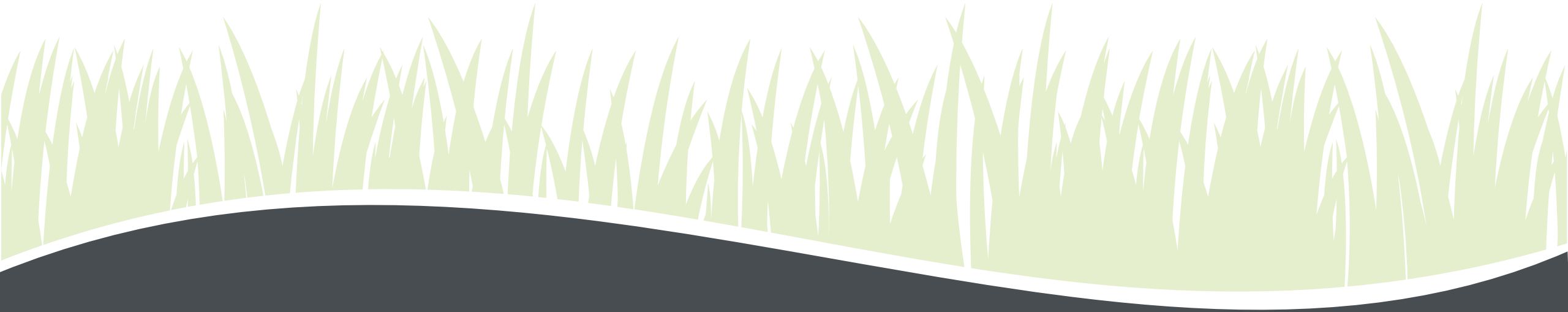


- Simplify the grant application process.
- Develop grant training materials such as template QAPPs or a QAPP wizard, match tracking training support, permitting, etc.
- Develop Technology Transfer materials/events to better “scale up” or geographically expand projects. These materials could be part of the grant deliverables.
- Assist with coordination between municipalities, non-profits, academic institutions, state/federal governments, consultants, and other project partners to ensure grantees have the technical resources they need to complete projects.
- Provide regional data collection maps/tools/database.





Highlights from the Salt Marsh Workshop



Navigating Salt Marsh Restoration in MA: Challenges, Strategies, Opportunities



Date: September 19th, 2023

Time: 9:30 - 3:30

Goals and Objectives:

1. To identify gaps in information to develop a shared understanding between restoration practitioners and regulators of the multiple permit pathways for restoration and existing permitting rules.
2. To identify the types of information required and recommended for inclusion in permit applications.
3. To discuss the concept of risk and uncertainty when designing adaptive management strategies and/or corrective action.
4. To have a clearer idea of where/how regulators and practitioners can work together on restoration projects.
5. To identify continued gaps in information that still exist after the workshop.

Navigating Salt Marsh Restoration in MA: Challenges, Strategies, Opportunities



Agenda:

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome and Introductions

9:45 - 10:00 Agenda Overview and Rules of the Road

10:00 - 11:15 Session 1: Definition of terms; Identification of Roles and Responsibilities

11:15 - 11:30 Break

11:30-12:45 Session 2: Identifying and Addressing Risk of Adverse Impact in Restoration Projects

12:45 - 1:45 Lunch break

1:45 - 3:00 Session 3: Working Together: Identifying Gaps and Opportunities for the Planning and Implementation of Salt Marsh Restoration Projects

3:00 - 3:30 Closing and Next Steps

Navigating Salt Marsh Restoration in MA: Challenges, Strategies, Opportunities



Meeting Highlights

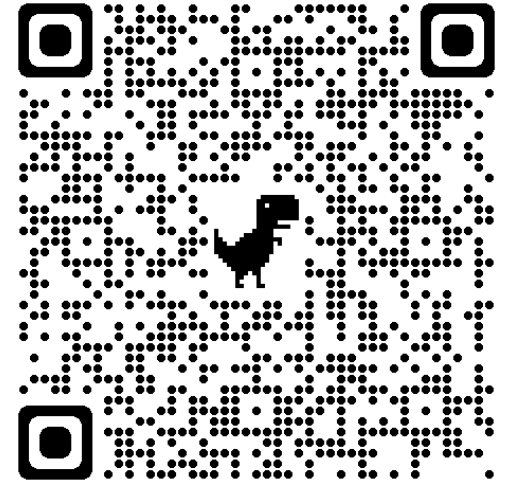
- ~60 attendees representing federal, state, and local regulators and restoration practitioners.
- Highly engaged audience with positive takeaways:
 - “The flowchart is an awesome first step to summarize a complex process.”
 - “We need more of these conversations.”
 - “A feeling that MassDEP and EPA regulators are aware of the hardships of the permitting process and that they want to work with scientists/ academics to make it easier.”
 - “Space can exist for these conversations to happen productively between regulatory bodies and practitioners. Perspectives of each side of the conversation.”

Navigating Salt Marsh Restoration in MA: Challenges, Strategies, Opportunities



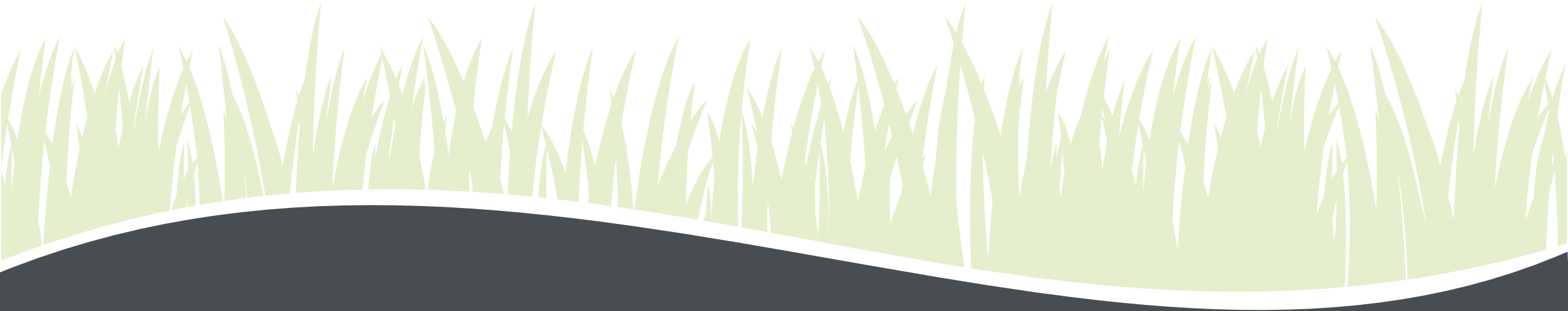
Next Steps

- Workshop summary is now available
- New working group to absorb workshop feedback and develop a more accurate permitting flow chart.
- Partnering with the Salt Marsh Working Group to build a coalition of practitioners, regulators, and *academics*.





Lunch!





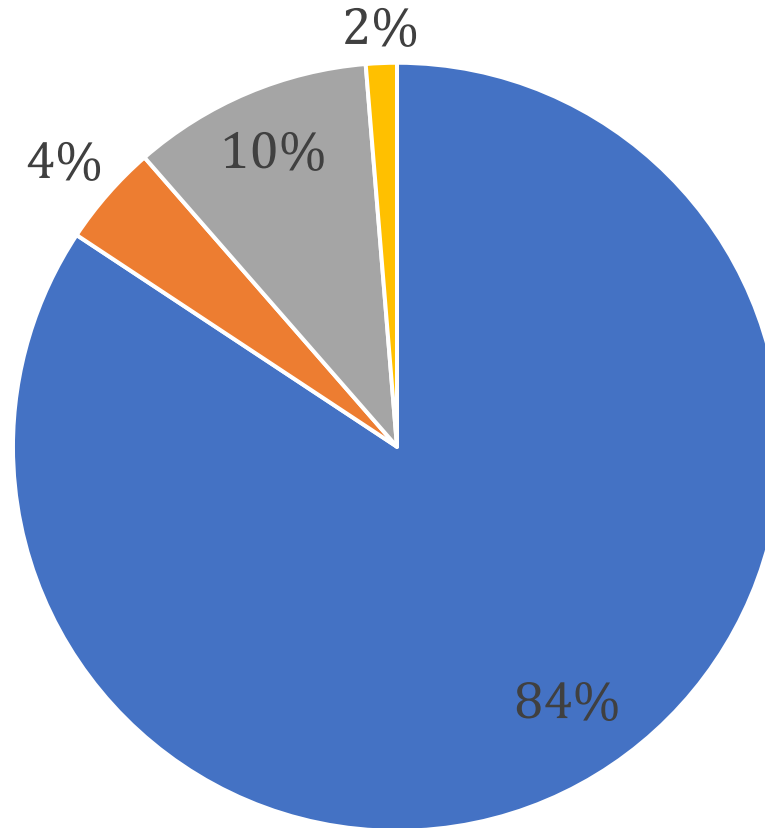
SNEP FY24 Budget Discussion



FY23 Highlights Base



FY23 Base Funding



■ Grants ■ Interagency Agreements ■ Contracts ■ EPA Misc.

FY23 Highlights Base



Grants:

- 5 Pilot Watershed Grants (Continuation)
- SNEP Network Year 5 (Continuation)
- SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (Continuation)
- 2 NEP Awards
- Priority Research
 - Cape Cod Commission Lakes and Ponds Satellite Imagery
 - RIDEM Eelgrass Research

Contracts:

- Administrative Support/ EcoHealth Tracking Tool
- Pilot Watershed Monitoring
- Hydrologic Response Units
- Proprietary Stormwater Monitoring (FY24 \$)

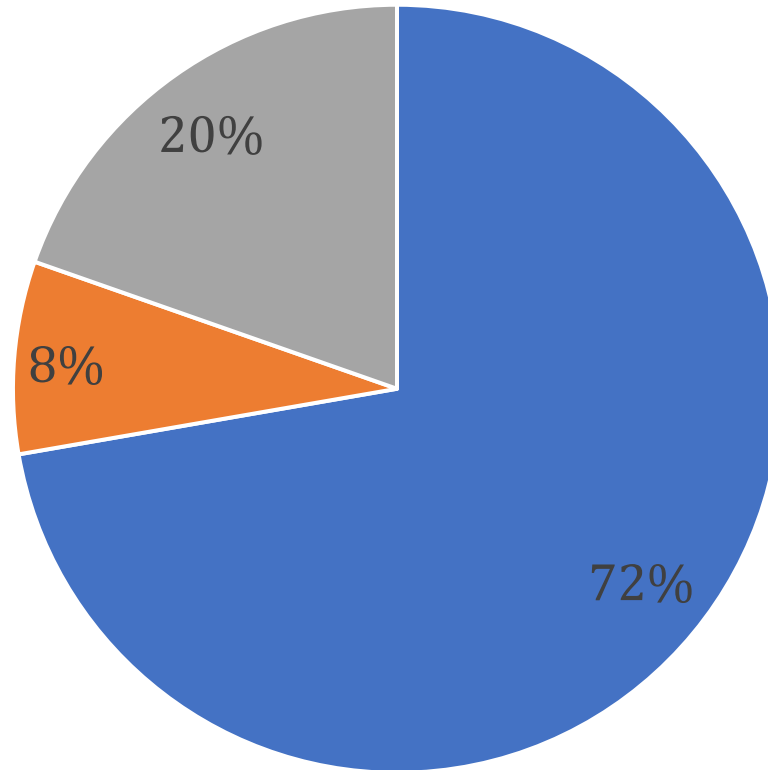
Interagency Agreements:

- USGS Groundwater Research

FY23 Highlights BIL



FY23 BIL Funding



■ SNIG Grants ■ SOAR Grants ■ EPA Misc.

FY23 Highlights BIL



Grants:

- SNEP Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure
 - Nantucket Island Land Bank
 - Bristol Co. Water Authority
 - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
 - Mass Audubon
- RI Decentralized Wastewater Enhancement (FY22 \$)
 - North Kingstown
 - Gloucester
- SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience
 - Grants will be announced soon

Interagency Agreements:

- USGS RI Septic Study (FY22 \$)

FY24 Funding Plans (Proposed)



Base FY24 Funding (Amount TBD)

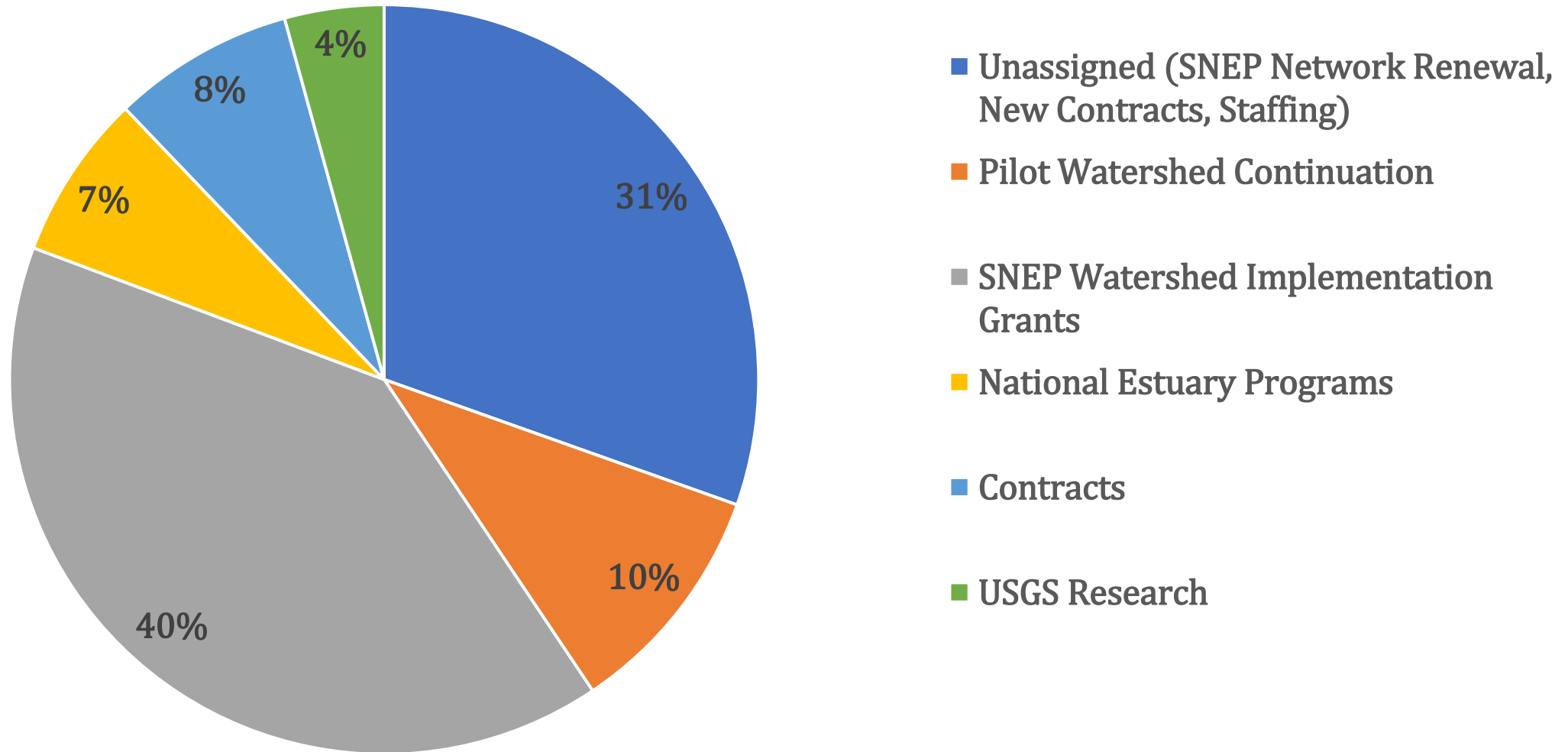


Chart Based on Level Funding at \$7M

FY24 Funding Plans (Proposed)



Grants:

- 5 Pilot Watershed Grants (Continuation)
- **SNEP Network Renewal (New)**
- SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (Continuation)
- National Estuary Program Grants

Contracts:

- **RI Stormwater Retrofit Manual Adoption (New)**
- **Opti-Tool Enhancement (New)**
- Proprietary Stormwater Monitoring (FY23 Identified Project)
- State of the Region Report (Continuation)
- Ecosystem Services Contract (FY23 Identified Project)

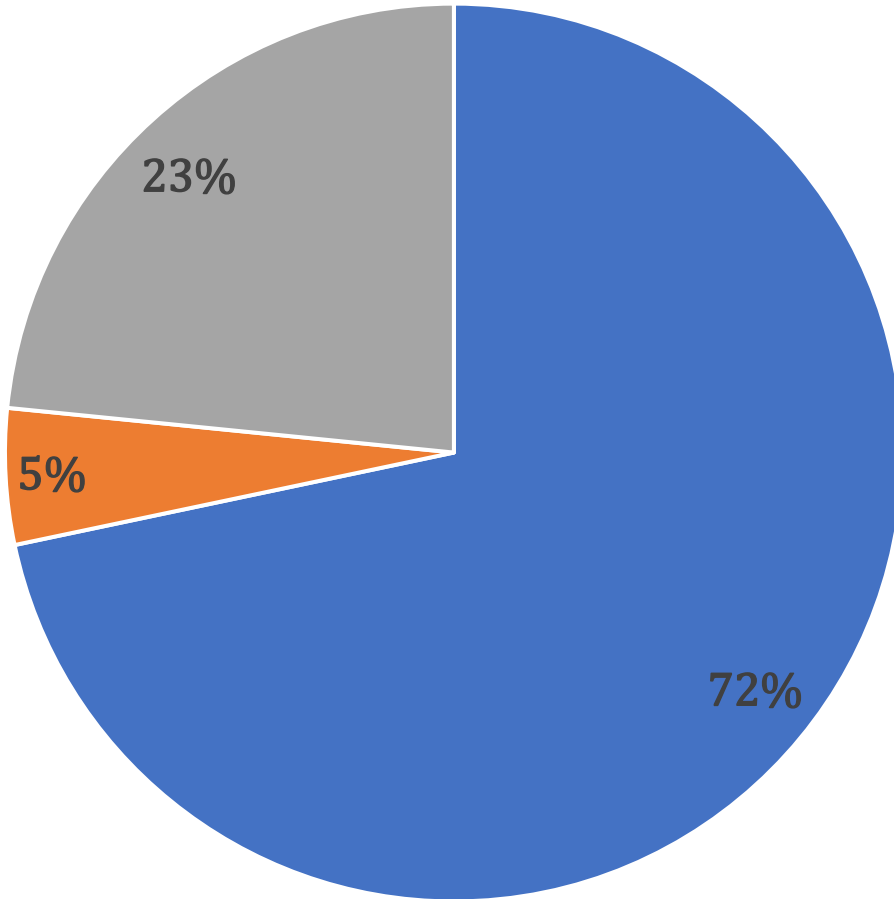
Interagency Agreements:

- USGS Groundwater Research

FY24 Funding Plans (Proposed)



BIL FY24 Funding (\$3M)



- SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience
 - Opportunity to Advance Resilience will have 2 funding rounds with FY24 \$.
- SNEP Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant
 - Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure will combine FY24 & FY25 funds for funding round in late FY24
- EPA Misc.



Thoughts from the Steering Committee on Regional Needs?

Potential/Previously Identified Projects

Wastewater

- Permeable Reactive Barriers Study
- Expansion of WWTP permit climate resilience tools
- Addition of septic project theme to Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grants (FY25)

Stormwater

- RI Stormwater Retrofit Manual Adoption
- Opti-Tool Enhancement

Habitat

Land Use Planning

Multi-Category

- SNEP Network Renewal
- Project Cost/Effect Estimator for priority project types (Similar to NRCS Field Operation Technical Guide)



SNEP Network Accomplishments

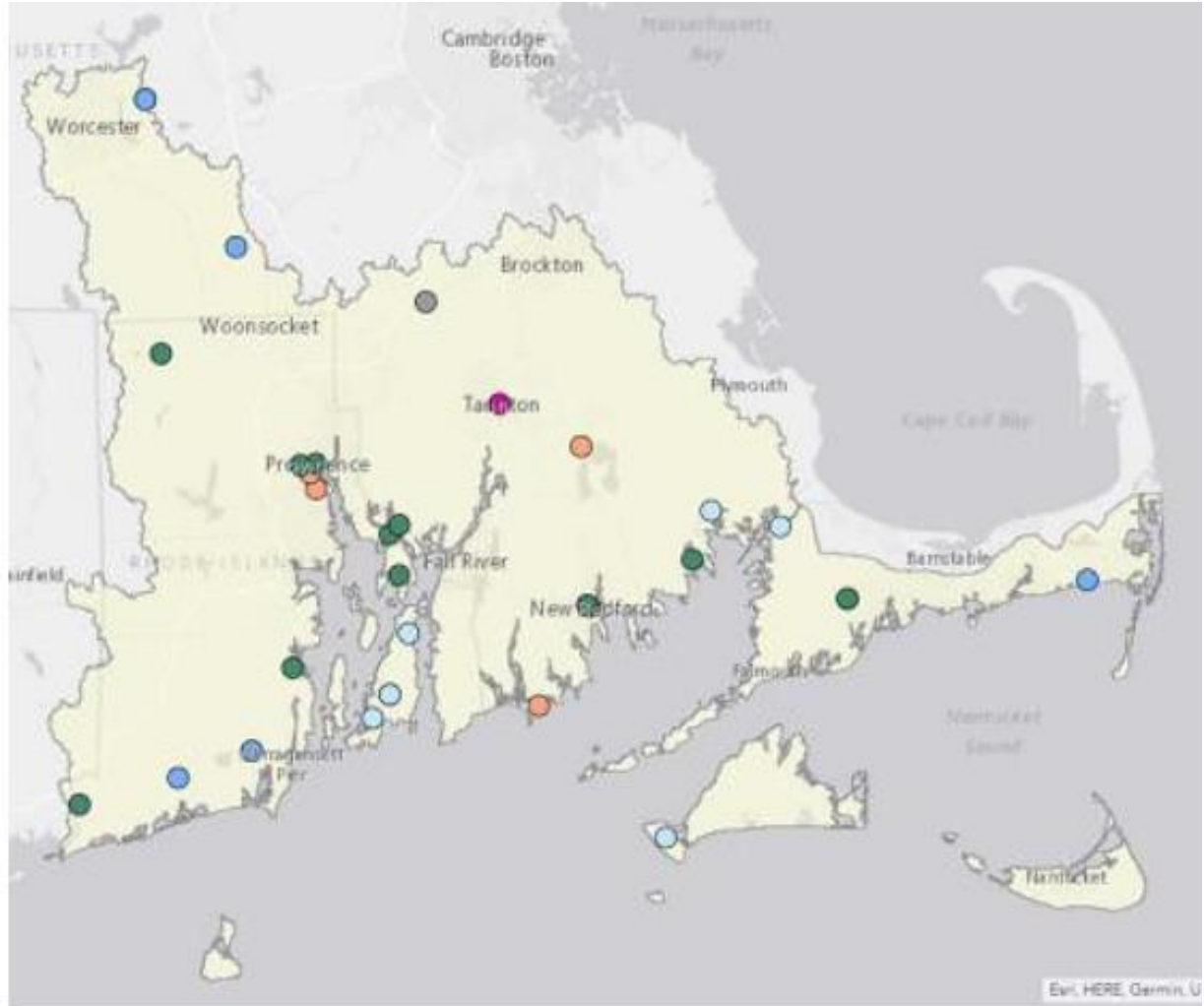


SNEP Network Accomplishments + Highlights

SNEP Steering Committee
December 1, 2023

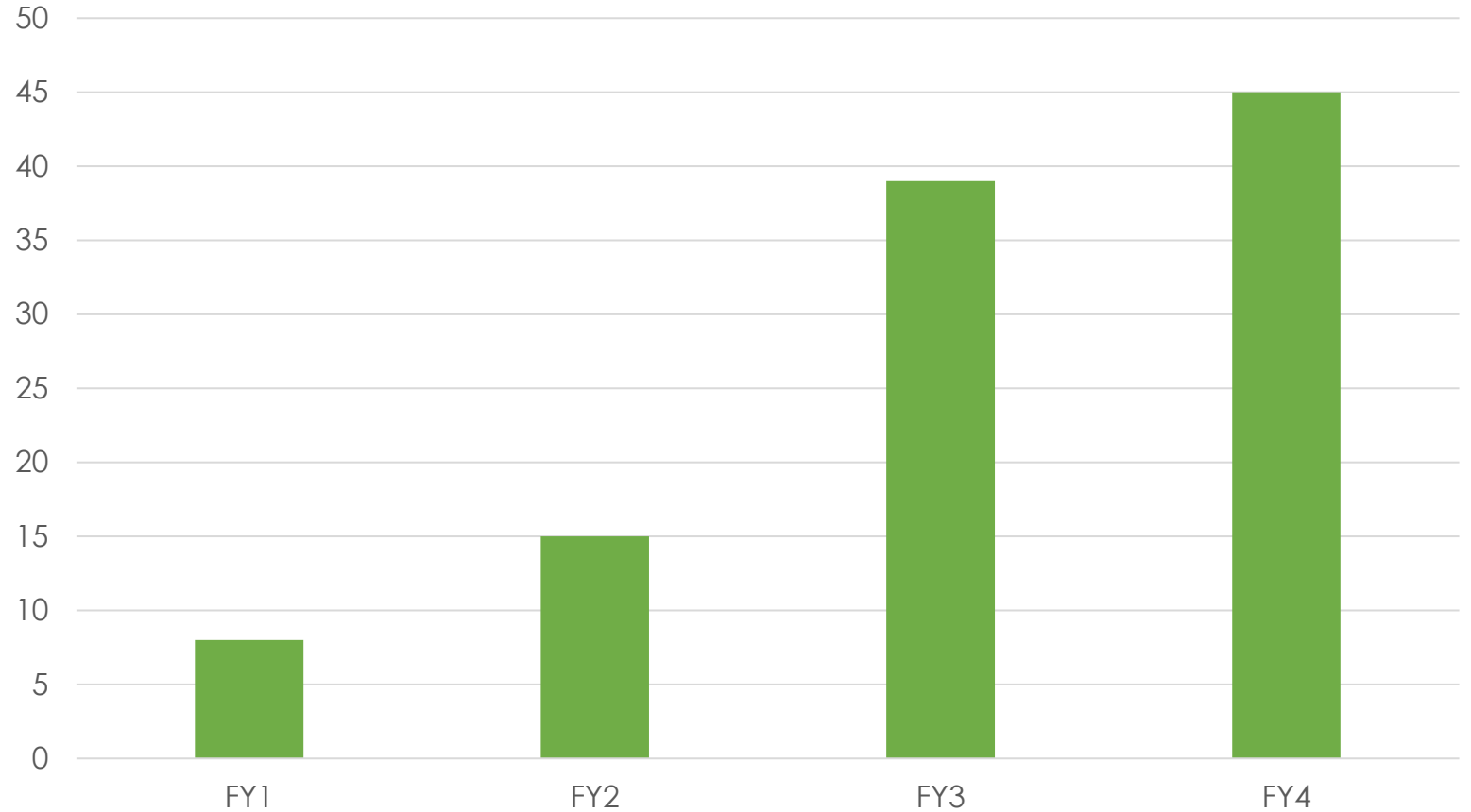
A community resource

- 30+ Community Assistance Projects; 27 completed projects
- **100+ TA requests** to date
- Engaged **15 Federal/State Entities**, and **14 consultants** to support **77+ municipalities, Tribes, and community organizations**
- Provide tools for comprehensive stormwater management support
- Convene Stakeholders to advance regional initiatives



Increase in TA requests

| Fiscal Year | # of Tech Requests |
|-------------|--------------------|
| FY 1 | 8 |
| FY 2 | 15 |
| FY 3 | 39 |
| FY 4 | 45 |

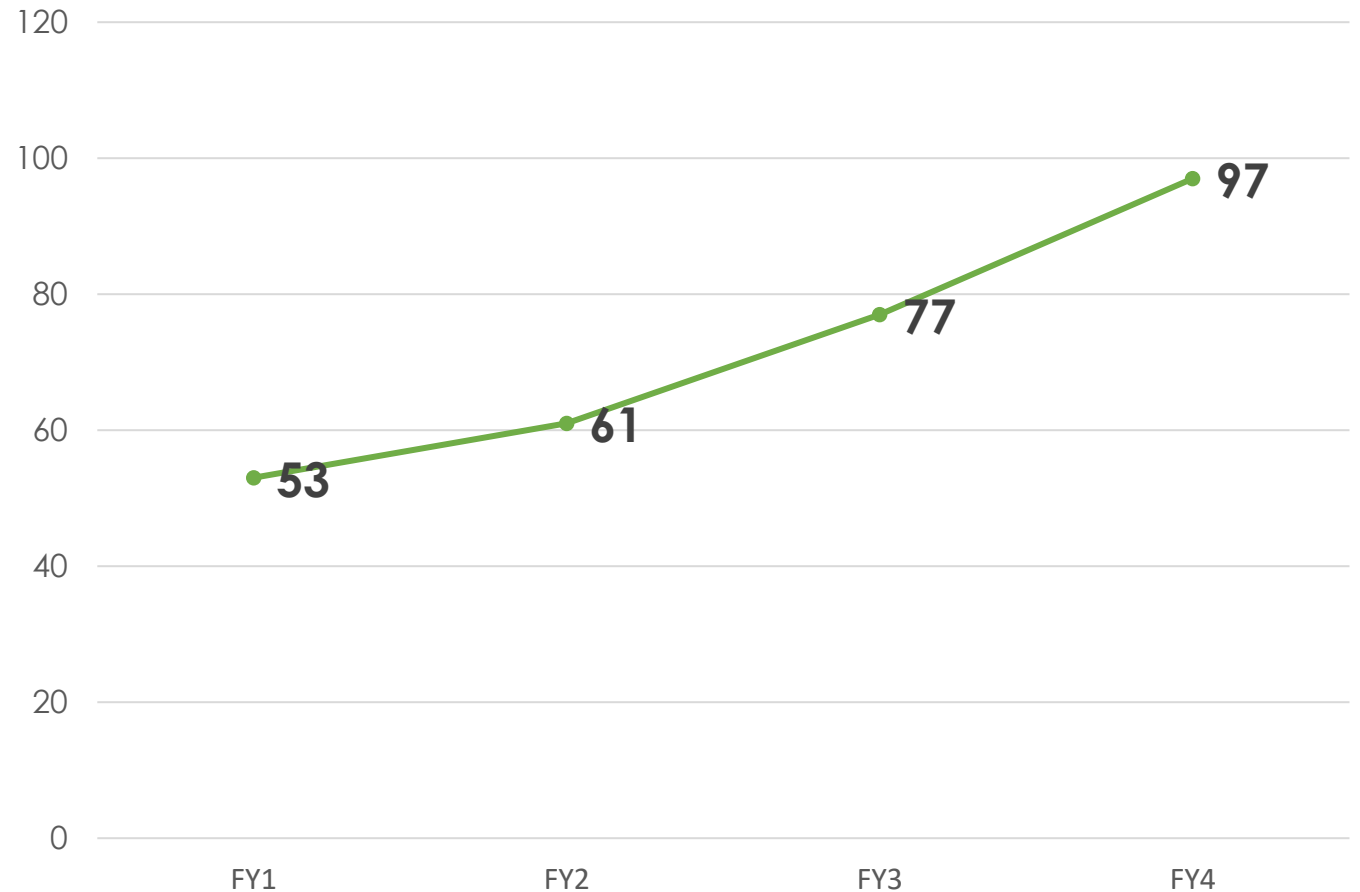


Increase in avg. webinar attendance

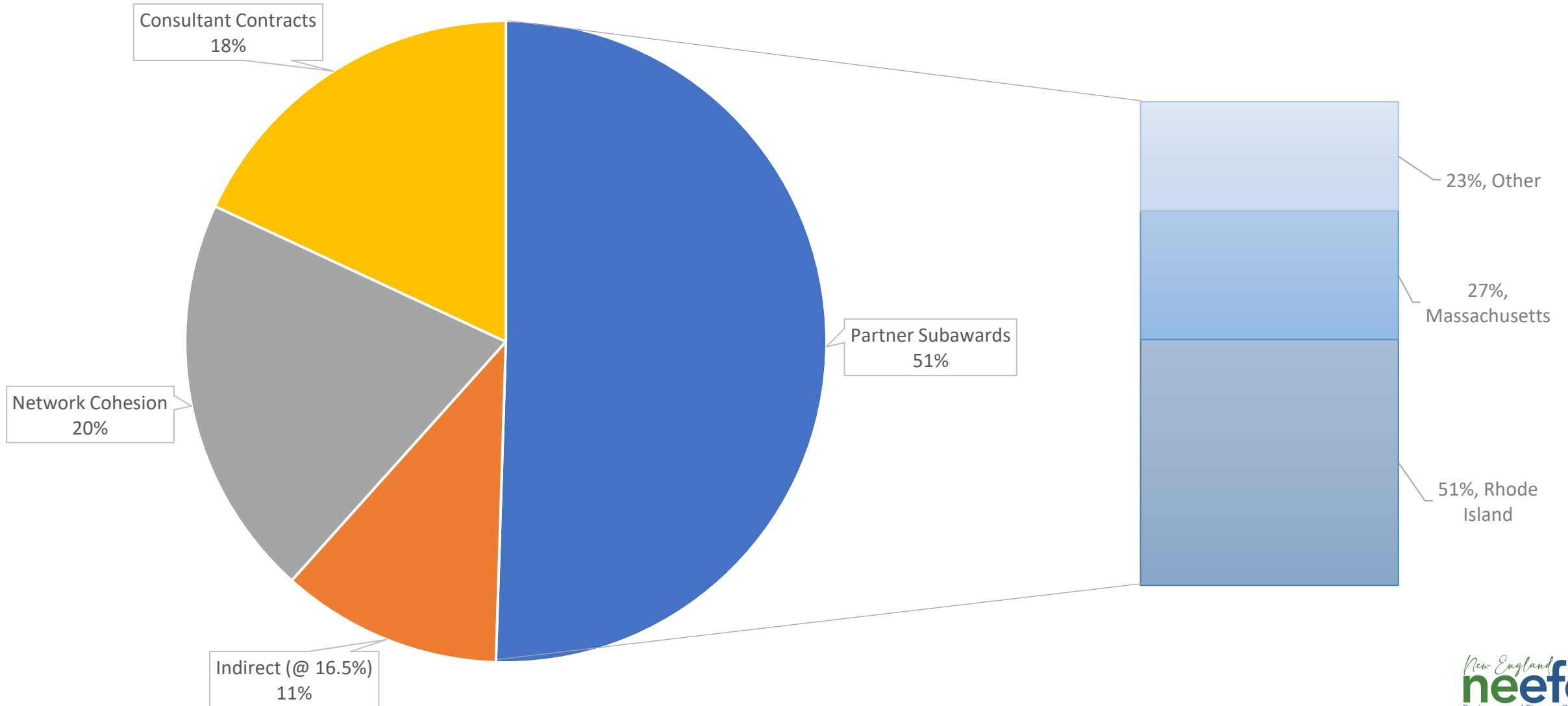


| Fiscal Year | # of Webinars | Total # Attendees | Avg. |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|------|
| FY1 | 10 | 532 | 53 |
| FY2 | 10 | 610 | 61 |
| FY3 | 9 | 654 | 77 |
| FY4 | 6 | 584 | 97 |

*does not include in person trainings/workshops
FY3-Bylaw Review training 27 attendees
FY4- Bylaw Review training 30 attendees
FY4- Part 2 Grant Funding Workshop 35 attendees



Support to local/regional partner orgs.

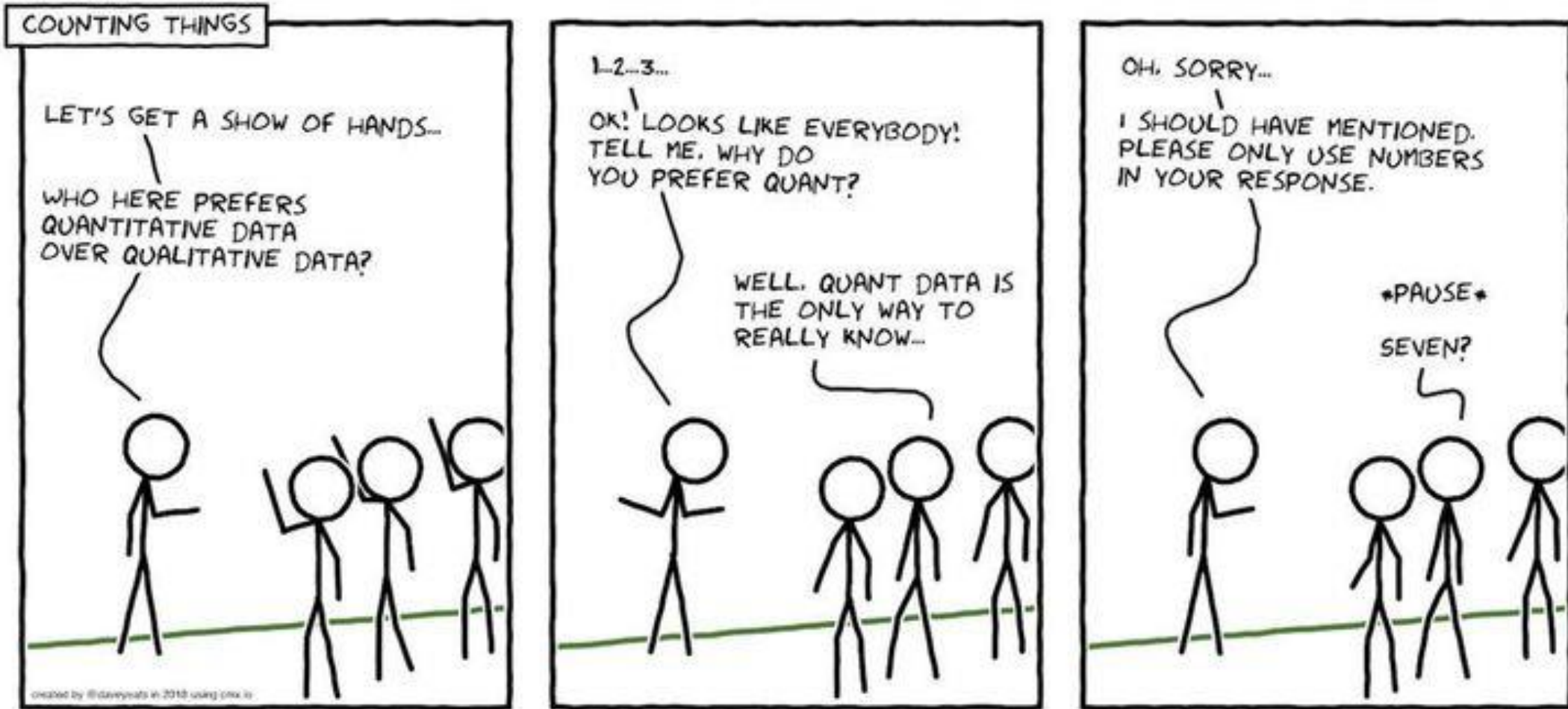


\$2+ Million leveraged to advance projects



| Network Project | Funding Source | Funding Received |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mendon-GSI Project Town Hall | MVP Action Grant | \$170,000 |
| Bristol Town Commons | Section 319 Grant | \$84,650 |
| Mashpee/MWT-MVP | MVP Action Grants | \$469,037 FY23 MVP Grant \$131,691 FY22 MVP Grant |
| Wetland Restoration at Sam Wright Field-Budget earmark | Budget Earmark | \$100,000 |
| Bourne, MA | Climate Resilience Fund set aside | \$150,000 |
| Upper Nemasket H&H Study- | Department of Ecological Restoration | \$249,967 (Phase 2) |
| Cedar Swamp | Department of Ecological Restoration | \$42,000 |
| Westerly GI Demonstration Project | ARPA, RIDOT, NBEP, RIIB MRP | ARPA \$250,000 RIDOT \$25,000 NBEP \$75,000 RIIB MRP \$500,000 |

Accomplishments beyond the numbers



Cartoon created by Indeed UX Research Manager Dave Yeats using cmx.io

The SNEP Network—A collaborative Effort



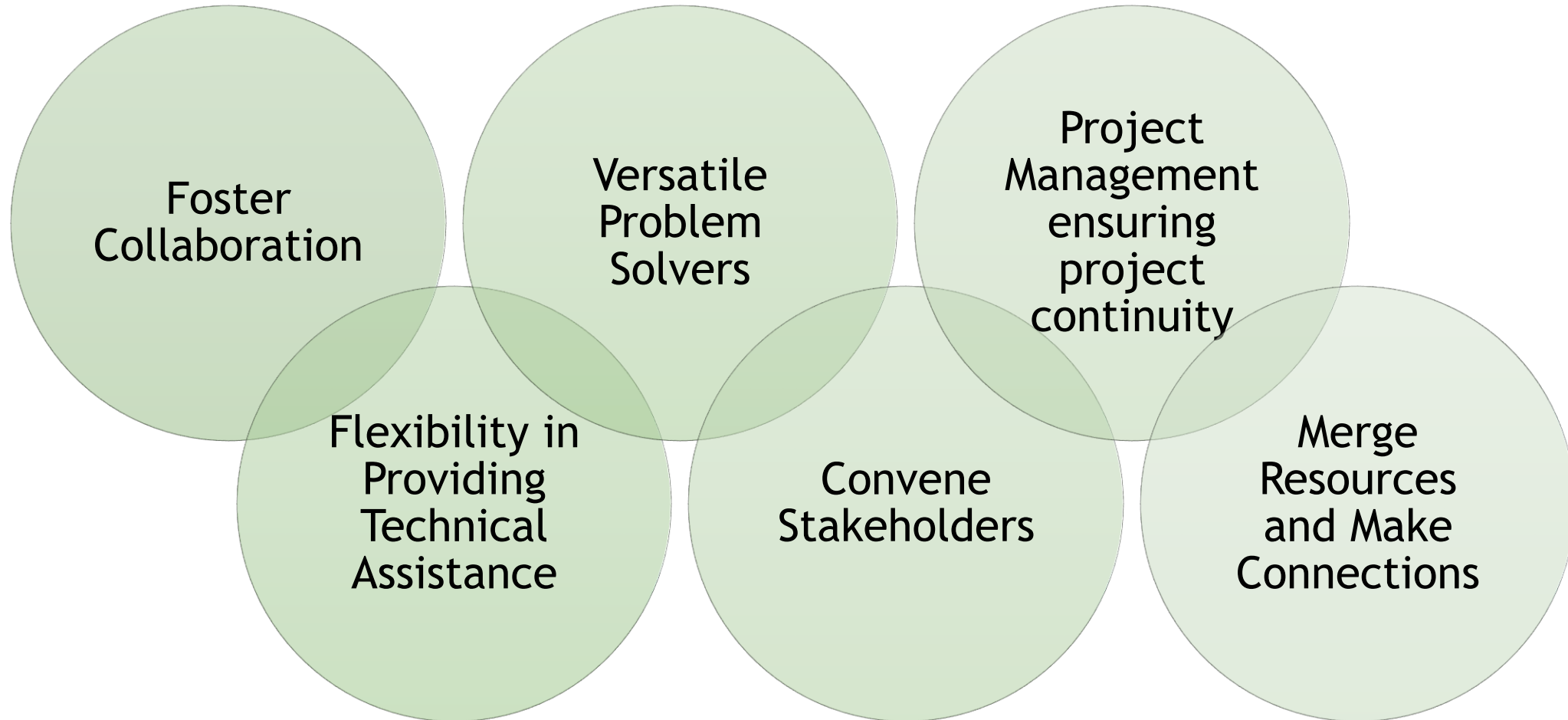
KIMBERLY GROFF CONSULTING



CAPE COD COMMISSION



From the words of our partners...



Filling in the capacity gaps



Gain support of local government
(Boards, Commissions & Town Council)



Partner with local, regional & state organizations
& local business/property owners



Engage with the public



Pursue grant funding



RIIB MRP - \$500,000

NBEP - \$75,000

RIDOT - \$25,000
(potential \$297,000)

ARPA - \$250,000

SNEP - Technical Assistance

Westerly EDC - \$2,500

- Developed "conceptual design" for the first "demonstration project" to begin Westerly's Resilient Riverfront Renewal Project
- Completed Low Impact Development (LID) Municipal Self-Assessment

SNEP Network Tools and Resources

- Network developed Tools and Resources build on one another
- Designed to have regional applicability
- Tools transferred beyond the region
- Advancing regional consistency



Stormwater Retrofit Manual



New England States Regulatory Agency Summary of Curves Adoption

| | Curves used in New/Redevelopment Water Quality Standard | Curves used in Impaired Waters/TMDL Programs (via NPDES/MS4) |
|--|---|--|
| Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) | Yes - with pollutant reduction target for water quality standard. Although, more stringent recharge and peak rate control standards may govern ultimate SCM sizing. | Yes – MS4 Permit, MassDOT IWP, likely in upcoming EPA RDA |
| Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) | No - working to formally allow for select permitting scenarios | Yes – Upcoming MS4, RIDOT/Municipal Consent Decrees |
| New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) | Yes - to show MEP if water quality volume requirement cannot be met. | Yes – MS4 Permit, likely in upcoming EPA RDA |
| Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) | No – not currently referenced. Manual is currently being updated but reference to curves for dynamic sizing did not come up. | Yes – MS4, TS4, Municipal Roads General Permit |
| Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) | Yes - to show MEP if water quality volume requirement cannot be met. | No |
| Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) | No - updating Chapter 500 requirements now | No |

Bylaw Review Tool

LID/Bylaw Review Strategy Team

Network partners
Mass Audubon,
Cape Cod
Commission,
Blackstone
Watershed Collab.,
SRPEDD, and URI-
NEMO

Bylaw Tool Curriculum Development

Team developed
an 8-module
workshop
curriculum

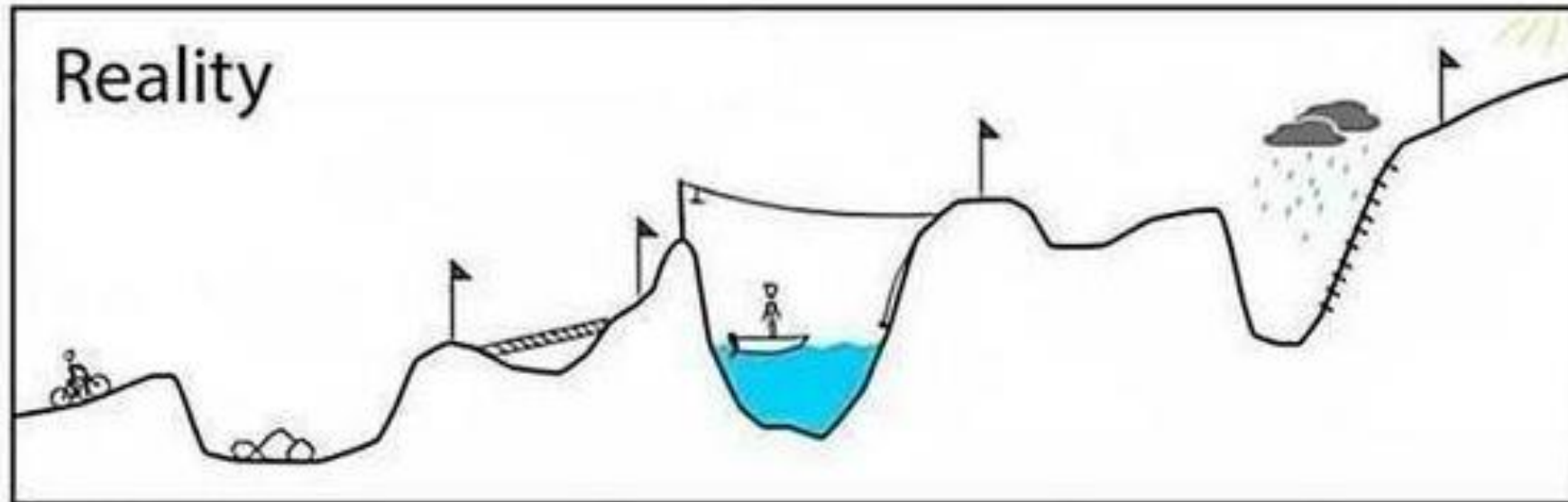
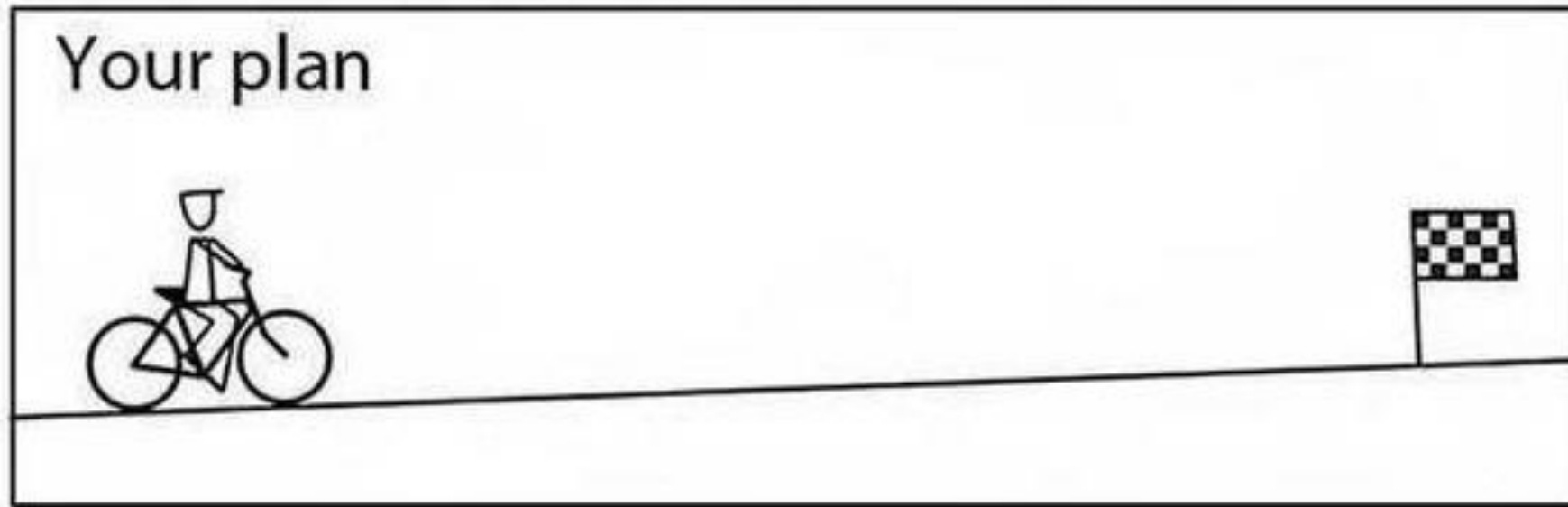
Bylaw Review Workshops/Trainings

Conducted two in-
person trainings in
FY4; both training
registrations
reached capacity

Mass River's Alliance

Team worked with
Mass Rivers
Alliance to train on
delivering
workshop
curriculum to a
greater audience

What we've learned...



What's happening in FY5?



| | |
|--|--|
| Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 new communities; 1 Tribe• RI: Hopkinton, Coventry, and Providence• MA: Westport, Swansea• Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe |
| Stormwater Retrofit Manual | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training for state/federal regulators to be completed end November 2023• TA to communities in New England (NEEFC) |
| Stormwater Planning Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer cohort to 4 new SNEP communities |
| Next Gen Holistic Watershed Initiative (EPA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network will assist with outreach• “Translate” deliverables to make information accessible to communities |
| HRU Mapping | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCC currently working with EPA to draft RFP for consultant• Network will assist with outreach after maps developed |
| Community Impact Survey | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow up with communities to assess Network impact and effectiveness; awaiting approval from EPA |



SNEP Network Renewal Discussion





Summary & Adjourn

