



PARTNERSHIP FOR NARRAGANSETT BAY *Bay Watershed Action Grants*



The Partnership for Narragansett Bay (PNB) is announcing a new grant program targeted to the Narragansett Bay watershed (R.I. and Mass.) and Rhode Island's coastal ponds watersheds. In 2002, approximately \$120,000 will be available to eligible Rhode Island and Massachusetts communities and organizations to undertake habitat and resource restoration; improve Bay-wide and watershed management and planning; and enhance public involvement in decision-making. Funding for this grant program is jointly provided through the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Watershed Initiative. Grant proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by a grant workgroup drawn from PNB members, with assistance from the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). NEIWPCC is the fiscal agent for the grant program.

Grant amounts will range from \$3,000 to a maximum of \$20,000. The funded proposals will represent a variety of requested grant amounts, priority issues, targeted geographic locations and applicant types (e.g., municipalities, nonprofits, universities, agencies, etc). The deadline for grant applications is May 24, 2002. Selected proposals will be announced June 14, 2002. Projects are expected to be substantially complete within a year of award of the grant.

Background

In April 2000, several hundred scientists, managers, elected officials, and interested citizens from across the watershed gathered in Providence R.I. for an innovative conference on Narragansett Bay. The Narragansett Bay Summit 2000 was a collaborative effort to examine the principal uses of the Bay, exploring their relationship to our regional economy and the Bay's ecosystem. Discussions at the Summit yielded a number of recommendations for improving the environment and the economy of the states and communities that share the Narragansett Bay watershed. For more information on the Bay Summit, see www.nbep.org.

The Partnership for Narragansett Bay (PNB) is a broad-based, bi-state stakeholder group created after the Bay Summit under the auspices of the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute to work together on actions related to the priorities identified at the Summit (for more information on the PNB, see www.ci.uri.edu/projects/pnb). The goals of the PNB are to:

- *Promote integrated environmental and economic planning for the future of Narragansett Bay;*
- *Protect, restore and improve the Narragansett Bay ecosystem;*
- *Foster informed, science-based decision-making, and;*
- *Pursue sustainable economic development for Narragansett Bay.*

The Partnership Action Grants are intended to encourage implementation projects related to these goals by a range of stakeholders, communities, and interested partners. The Bay Summit 2000 highlighted the fact that the Bay's health is affected not only by watersheds in Rhode Island, but also by five watersheds in Massachusetts: Blackstone, Ten-Mile, Mount Hope, Narragansett, and Taunton. In recognition of this relationship among watersheds, watershed communities, and the Bay, the PNB includes members from both Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Grant Program Information

Purpose: The purposes of this grant program are:

- To directly address environmental impacts in Narragansett Bay, its watersheds in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and the Rhode Island coastal ponds;
- To build capacity in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to manage and eliminate the causes of such impacts; and
- To support implementation projects related to the PNB goals.

PNB Priorities (see goals in Background Section): The PNB especially seeks projects that carry out actions to:

- Assess or restore habitat and important community environmental resources;
- Integrate economic and environmental planning and data;
- Collect, analyze, and share environmental data, including providing training to collect or analyze data;
- Improve, enhance or restore environmental resources;
- Increase public understanding and participation in solving environmental problems; and
- Improve watershed management and planning.

Grant Amounts: Approximately \$120,000 is currently available. The PNB will award grants ranging from \$3,000 up to a maximum of \$20,000 per project.

Match: Applicants must provide at least 10 percent matching funds for each project (10% of requested funds). Depending on the quality of the proposal, the PNB will give preference to projects providing matching funds greater than 10 percent. Match can take the form of cash or in-kind services.

Who May Apply: Any nongovernmental organization (e.g., environmental or community group), state or local government agency, municipality, professional or trade association, school, college, or university within the Narragansett Bay watershed (Massachusetts and Rhode Island) and Rhode Island coastal pond watersheds may apply (see attached map). PNB member organizations may apply for grants; in such cases, however, they may not serve on the grant review team.

Funding Sources: Funding for the PNB watershed grants is provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs – Massachusetts Watershed Initiative and by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, one of the 28 EPA-funded National Estuary Programs (for information on the National Estuary Program, see www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries).

Review Criteria: The PNB will review and rank proposals based on the following criteria:

- Location within the Bay watersheds or the Rhode Island coastal ponds watersheds; projects outside of these geographic areas will not be considered;
- Clear and realistic project goals and objectives;
- Project feasibility and potential to contribute significant environmental or sustainable economic benefits;
- Ability of the applicant organization to receive, track and administer grant funds;
- Ability to effectively disseminate information about the grant project, including plans for technology transfer and outreach;
- Inclusion of an effective mechanism to evaluate the project results;
- Where appropriate, applicant performance under previous grants and projects;

- Ability to leverage additional funds or support;
- Strong linkage to PNB goals and priorities, an existing watershed workplan, or a priority issue will receive higher consideration;
- Emphasis on stakeholder involvement and community or organizational partnerships; regional, multi-partner, and/or bi-state projects will receive higher consideration;
- Long-term applicability to serve as effective, transferable models for addressing environmental resource issues will receive higher consideration.

Special Conditions

1. PNB grant funds may not be used for lobbying purposes.
2. Grant projects involving environmental monitoring must provide approved quality assurance/ quality control plans. For information on these plans, contact PNB grant contacts listed below.
3. Massachusetts grant funds (55% of total funds available) can only be used to fund projects within Massachusetts or projects that have a direct or indirect benefit to Massachusetts watersheds.
4. Indirect, administrative or overhead charges are limited to a maximum of 10% of the awarded grant funds.

Grant Evaluation and Award Timeline

- Electronic submissions are preferred. Proposals may be e-mailed to mail@neiwpsc.org. If electronic submission is not possible, proposals may be faxed to (978) 323-7919, or mailed to: NEIWPC, Boott Mills South, 100 Foot of John St., Lowell, MA 01852-1102, Attention: Bay Watershed Action Grants. Electronic or faxed submissions are due no later than COB May 24, 2002;
- If mailed, proposals must be postmarked by May 22, 2002;
- A PNB grant committee will review and select winning applications based on the review criteria listed above. Grant recipients will be announced no later than June 14, 2002.

How to Apply

Proposal format: No more than 5 pages in total; maps to show project location, resumes, or letters of support will not count against the page limit.

- 11-point font with one-inch page margins;
- MS Word or rich text format;
- Please keep proposals succinct;
- Application information is on-line at www.ci.uri.edu/projects/pnb, and at www.neiwpsc.org.

Application:

Transmittal page

- Name and title of person submitting proposal;
- Name of organization(s) submitting proposal;
- All appropriate contact information (mailing address, phone, fax, email, website, etc);
- Title and signature of person submitting proposal;
- Fiscal agent and contact information (if different from applicant organization).

Summary Page

- Project title;
- Applicant organization, including type of organization (e.g., NGO, university, etc);
- Geographic focus of project (e.g., town, state, watershed, region);
- Bi-state (yes/no);
- Amount requested;
- Total estimated budget, including match;
- Source of match (e.g., cash, in-kind services, other);
- Succinct project description;
- Project start and end dates.
- List U.S. Congressional Representatives and State Representatives whose districts include the project location.

Detailed Project Description (refer to this list when preparing this section)

- Project title;
- Description of applicant organization: mission; previous work if any; relationship of proposed work to goals of PNB;
- Clearly identified problem or issue that the project is intended to address;
- Description of the project;
- Clear and realistic project objectives, including problem or resource to be addressed, geographic location or Bay-wide significance, target audience, and relationship to PNB priorities, watershed workplans, or other issues as reflected in review criteria;
- Project workplan, including tasks, timeline and key milestones, personnel, deliverables;
- Expected outcomes, including environmental benefits;
- Qualifications of project personnel;
- Involvement of partners and/or stakeholders;
- Process to be used to evaluate effectiveness and success of the project;
- Plans to disseminate results;
- Budget (see example provided) showing proposed spending in budget categories; for personnel include hours and hourly rate; include match amounts in budget.
- Description of matching funds (source, type, etc.);
- Narrative description of how funds will be spent, including match;
- Leveraging or cost-sharing opportunities.

Sample Budget Format

Expense Category	Grant Funds	Match Funds	Total
Personnel	4,000	400	4,400
Equipment	580	0	580
Supplies	400	50	450
Travel	200	50	250
Meals	0	0	0
Outreach	450	50	500
Printing	250	50	300
Copying	20	0	20
Venue	100	0	100
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL	6,000	600	6,600

Contacts for the PNB Watershed Action Grant Program:

Richard Ribb, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, (401) 222-3961 ext. 7271,
rribb@gso.uri.edu, www.nbep.org

Andrea Langhauser, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts
Watershed Initiative, (508) 946-2878, andrea.langhauser@state.ma.us,
www.state.ma.us/envir/mwi/watersheds.htm

Margherita Pryor, U.S. EPA New England, (617) 918-1597, pryor.margherita@epa.gov,
www.epa.gov/region01