

Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting

December 13, 2017 10:00

Court of Appeals (15th Floor), EPA Region 1 (Boston, MA)

Meeting Summary

On December 13, 2017 EPA hosted a Steering Committee Meeting at their office in Boston. The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Summarize and receive input on the program's current framework including vision, mission, goals, and priority actions,
2. hear from Restore America's Estuaries about SNEP's organizational priorities as described in the vision and mission and
3. to discuss how they might fold these priorities into the FY2018 SNEP RFP.

SNEP Program Framework

MaryJo Feuerbach (EPA) presented the draft SNEP Program Framework including the vision, mission, goals, program priorities, committee roles. A brief discussion followed and committee members recommended we include and/or consider the following key points:

- Clarify that SNEP is an EPA-run program
- Assume 2-3 Steering Committee meetings/year, with provision for remote participation
- Use Policy Committee to engage with subcommittee findings, recommend action to full Steering Committee
- Describe how SNEP will communicate with committee members and public

RAE and SNEP Grant Program

Tom Ardito and Jeff Benoit presented a background about Restore America's Estuaries and key areas for discussion with regards to the SNEP RFP. The group identified the following discussion points:

Initial Priority Areas

- Nutrients, addressing climate change impacts, monitoring, capacity-building
- Provide opportunity shortly to finalize priority discussion

RFP Process

- RAE Conflict of Interest should be flexible and simple enough to allow interested committee members to participate
- Steering Committee wants opportunity to consider draft RFP and make suggestions on applicant eligibility, priority areas, criteria for selection
- Proposed schedule should be revisited to account for hurdles faced by applicants, need to build partners into proposals
- Structure RFP to enable flexibility to choose best projects, not compartmentalize areas too much
- They also

Themes from Lightning Round

- Definitions needed: innovation, capacity-building needs, monitoring
- Nutrients and climate change impacts
- Gap analysis, especially for monitoring

Other Points from Discussion

- Big, potentially risky but also potentially big payoff projects vs smaller projects that can show how they fit into watershed issues or larger planning scheme
- Analyze state of monitoring infrastructure throughout region before asking for proposals
- How to encourage private sector investment in new solutions

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- Need to identify the scope of ecological stressors and related restoration actions that should be considered priorities for the grant program and next RFP (using a holistic/ecosystem-based approach)

Next Steps

- EPA will: share a draft SNEP Conflict of Interest policy with Steering Committee; finalize communication pipeline for future meetings (Karen Simpson is point of contact for participants who want to be notified); revamp SNEP website to include updates, meeting schedules, etc
- 2 conference calls in works to finalize RAE's FY18 RFP: EPA will summarize and share key points from day's discussion to inform continued discussion; RAE will provide conceptual draft of RFP for Steering Committee to review via second conference call
- Steering Committee members need to continue engagement with SNEP, share comments on framework, expedite priorities discussion by providing their own criteria/category ideas to RAE for consideration

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Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Beckie Finn	Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe
Andrew Gottlieb	APCC
Becky Weidman	MADEP
Hunt Durey	MA DER
Susan Sullivan	NEIWPC
Alison Bowden	TNC
Paul Niedzwiecki	Cape Cod Commission
Heather Radcliffe	NBEP
Joe Costa	BBNEP
Suzanne Paton	US FWS
Sue Kiernan	RIDEM
Jonathan Stone	Save the Bay
Caitlin Chaffee	RI CRMC
Eric Boettger	RI NRCS
Tim Gleason	ORD
Tom Ardito	RAE
Jeff Benoit	RAE
Javier Lloret	Marine Biological Lab
Richard Friesner	NEIWPC
Courtney Schmidt	NBEP
George Heufelder	MSSTC
Walter Berry	ORD
Heidi Ricci	Mass Audubon
Kristy Senatori	Cape Cod Commission
Erin Peterson	Cape Cod Commission
MaryJo Feuerbach	EPA
Karen Simpson	
Ellie Tonkin	
Ian Dombroski	
Bryan Dore	
Ann Rodney	
Margherita Pryor	