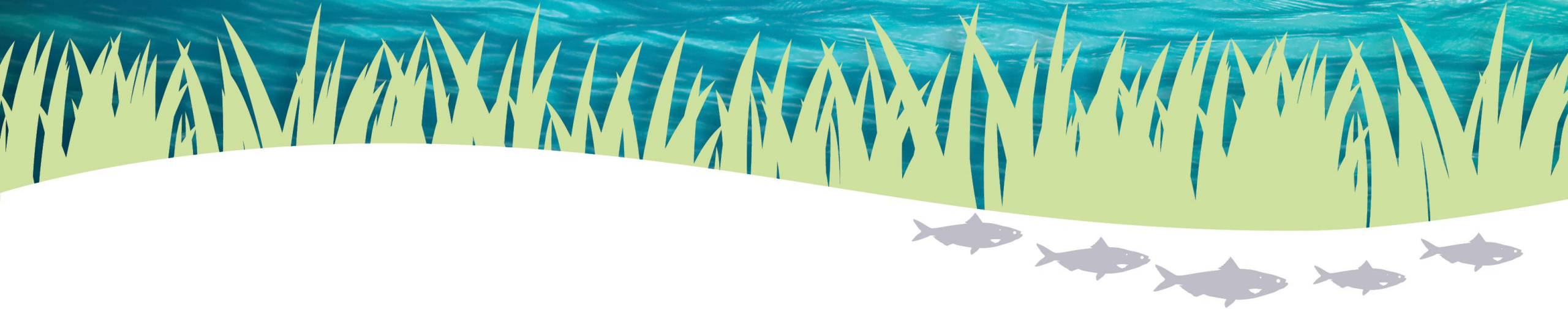


Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting 12/6/2021 1:00-4:00PM

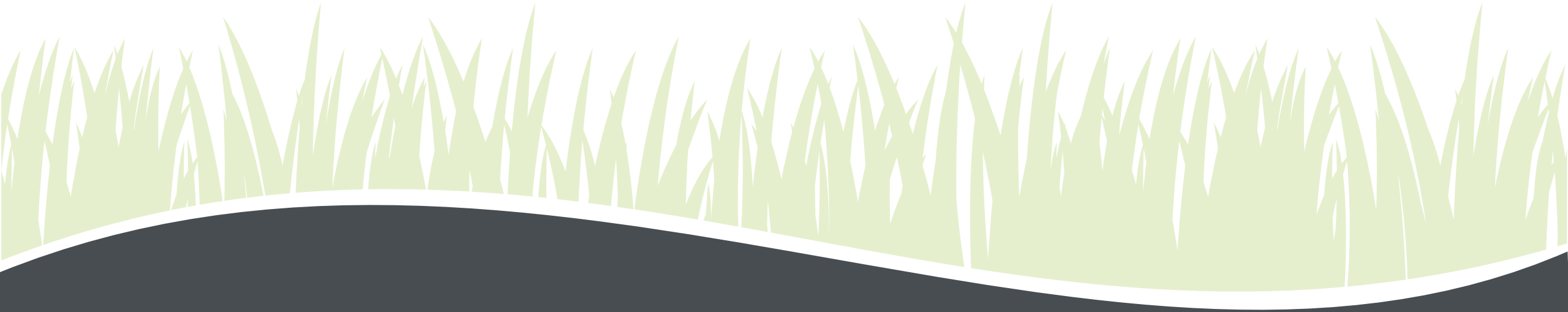


Meeting Held Virtually





Roll Call



Today's Agenda



1:00

Welcome & Roll Call

1:15

Innovative/Alternative Septic System Discussion

1:45

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Funding Ideas

2:15

SWIG FY22

3:00

Network FY22

3:15

SNEP FY22 Budget & Project Ideas

3:30

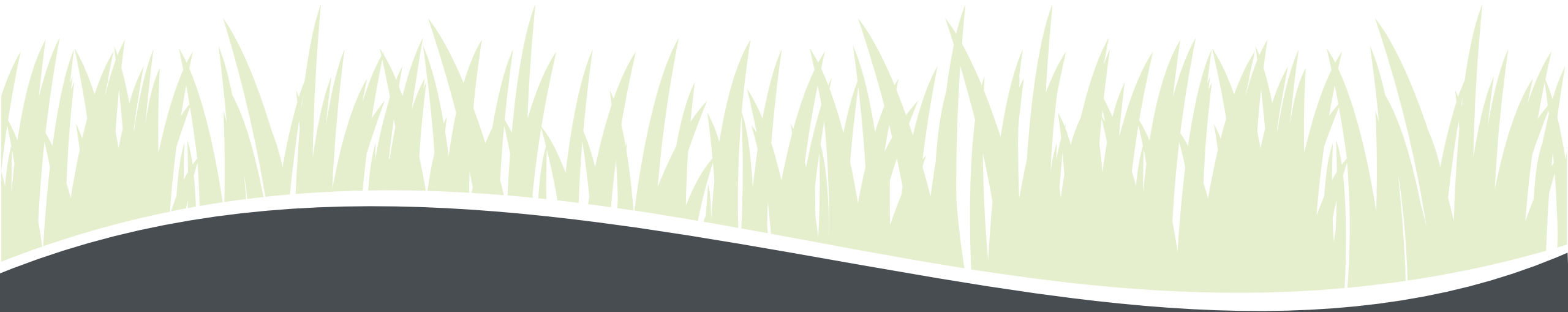
Adjourn

4:00

Optional: Open Discussion and Committee updates



Recap of SNEP/ORD Innovative/Alternative Septic System Workshop



Workshop Purpose



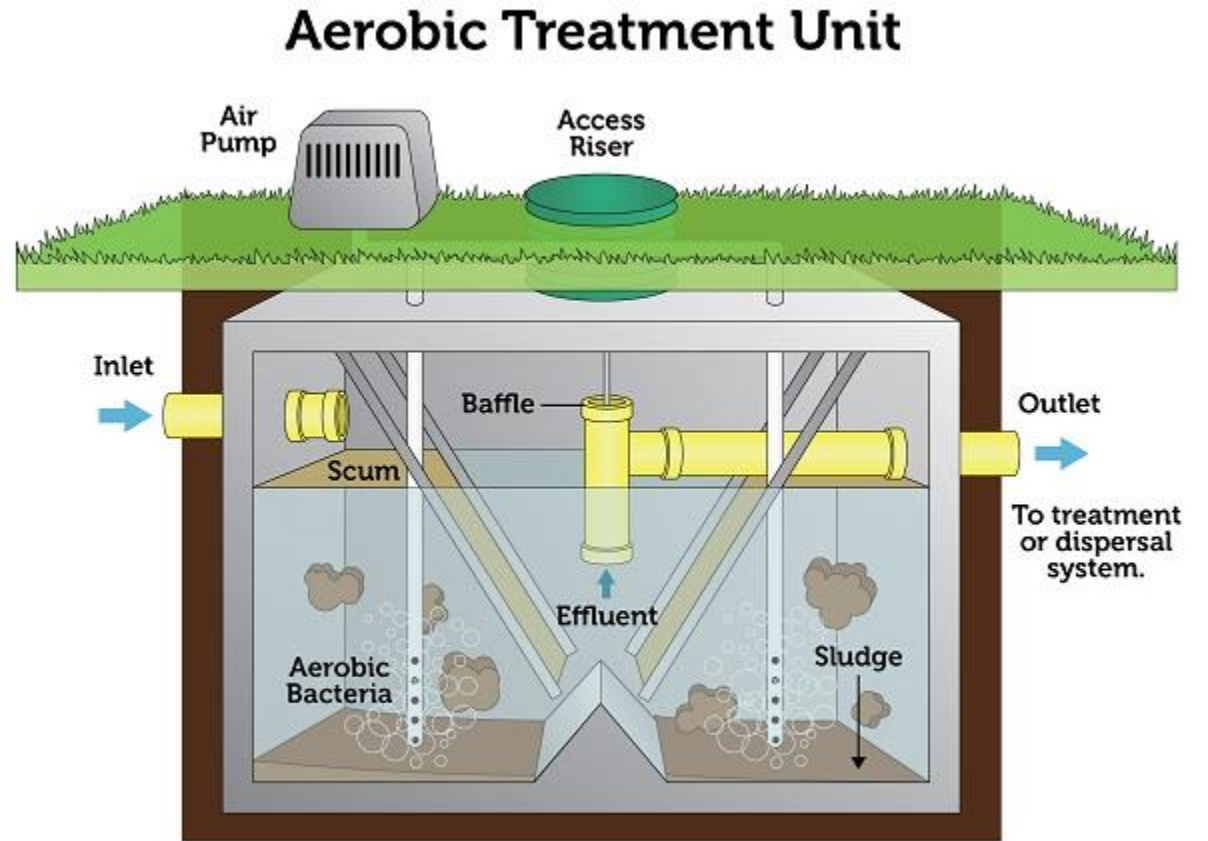
- Our region's waters are impacted by nitrogen from numerous sources, including traditional septic systems
- Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems are designed to stop nitrogen at the source
- I/As are an effective tool but not in widespread use in our region



Workshop Purpose



- Learn from practitioners
- Increase collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Understand current state of the technology; opportunities and limitations of use
- Explore solutions to key challenges to widespread use



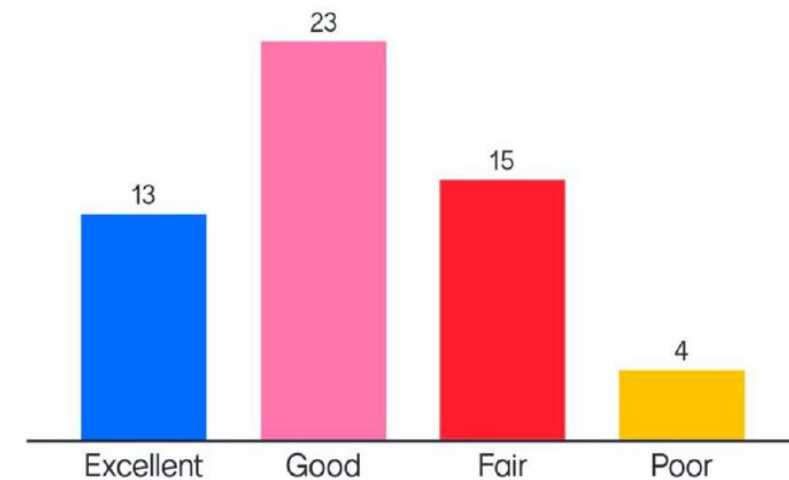
Please note: The Aerobic Treatment Unit can vary in components and design

Day 1: Dipping Our Toes in the Water: Learning From Pilots



- I/A pilot projects have demonstrated significant nitrogen decreases
- Questions remain about long term performance, O&M
- Multi-tiered, monitoring intensive, approval process deters I/A developers
- Monitoring is expensive and time-intensive
- O&M costs are a concern for municipalities and state agencies, as well as homeowners

I would describe my knowledge of I/A systems to be...

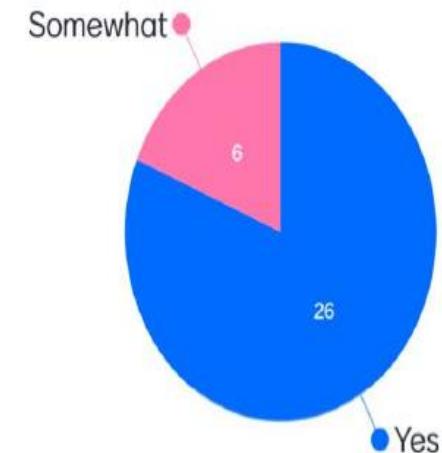


Day 2: Swimming in our Lanes: Current State of I/A System Performance



- Best available technology can achieve <12 mg/L TN
- Installation and O&M costs remain a concern vs. centralized treatment; however, costs may be comparable or better for I/As in some situations.
- Responsible Management Entities will be key to financial and environmental aspect

Do you believe that I/A systems are a promising technology that should be pursued for nutrient attenuation?



Key Take-Away Suggestions



- Support states and municipalities in the creation of Responsible Management Entities, provide guidance
- Assist with incentives and grants for adoption of systems
- Establish and maintain regional data-sharing agreements
- Facilitate stakeholder workshops to identify information gaps
- Elevate the importance of I/A in addressing water quality issues
- Define positive results and benefits of widespread I/A use
- Incentivize I/A technological advancements with technology grants
- Subsidize initial O&M costs until sufficient systems are installed to establish an RME

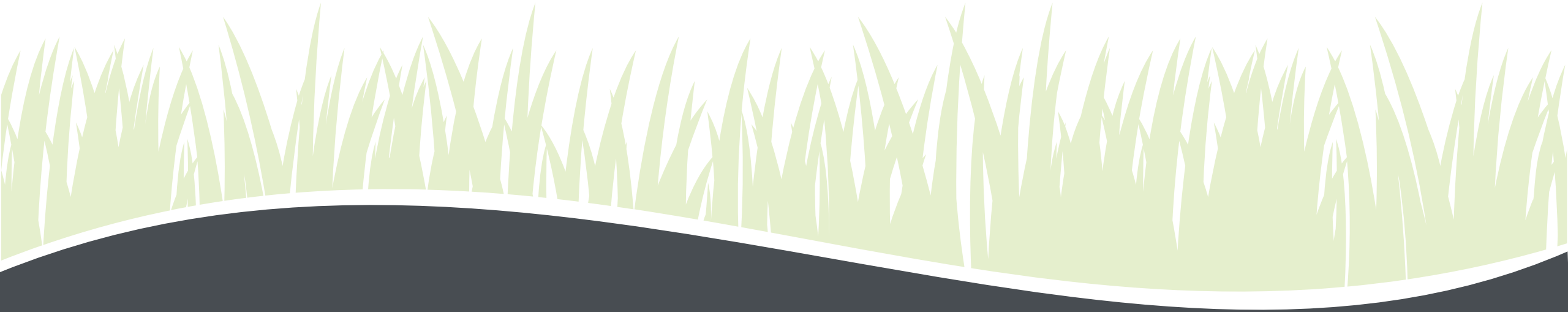


I/A & RME
Questions, Opinions, Suggestions, Discussion





Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Ideas for Funding



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



- \$1.7 Billion for EPA Geographic Programs over Five Years
- SNEP to receive extra \$3 Million/year for five years (\$15M total)
 - Potential to waive/reduce match
 - No fund expiration date
 - EPA HQ may take some for administrative purposes
 - EPA may use some of these funds to increase FTE
- \$132 Million extra to National Estuary Programs
 - Potential to waive/reduce match
- \$11.7 Billion extra to Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



- Large Scale Projects
- Immediate Impacts
- Emphasize Return on Investment
- Synergize Where Possible
- Encourage Innovative Technologies and Approaches
- Incorporate Environmental Justice and Climate Change



- Proposed General Themes
 - Innovative/Alternative Septic Systems
 - Salt Marsh Retention, Migration, Restoration
 - Stormwater Control Measures
 - Increase SNEP FTE

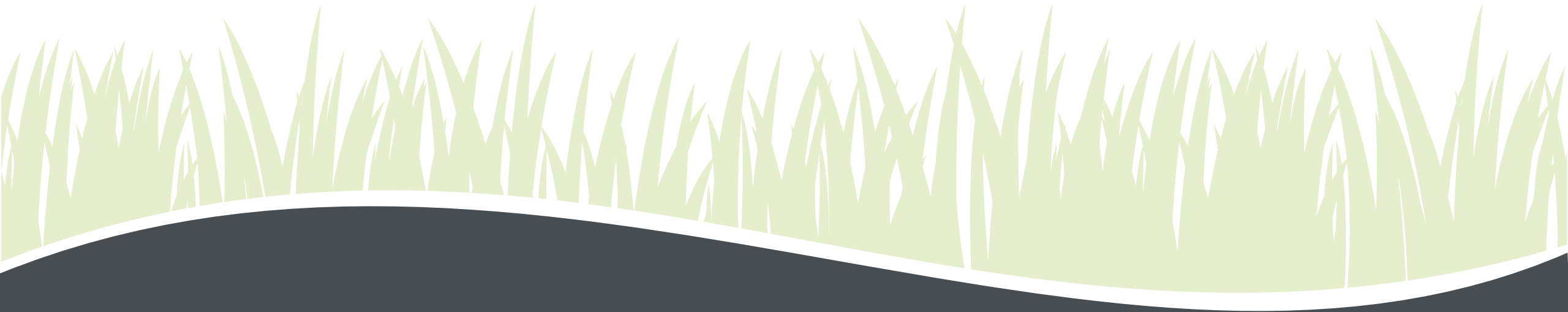
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



- Proposed First Year (2022 Funds)
 - Install numerous enhanced I/A systems to assist in “general use” approval and decrease nitrogen loads (RI+MA)
 - Fund the development of regional Responsible Management Entities (RI+MA)
 - Administrative Support
 - Increase to SNEP FTE
- Proposed Future Years (FY23-26)
 - SNEP is beginning to plan for future years
 - Increase in coordination with other Federal Agencies
 - Focus on salt marsh & stormwater control measures

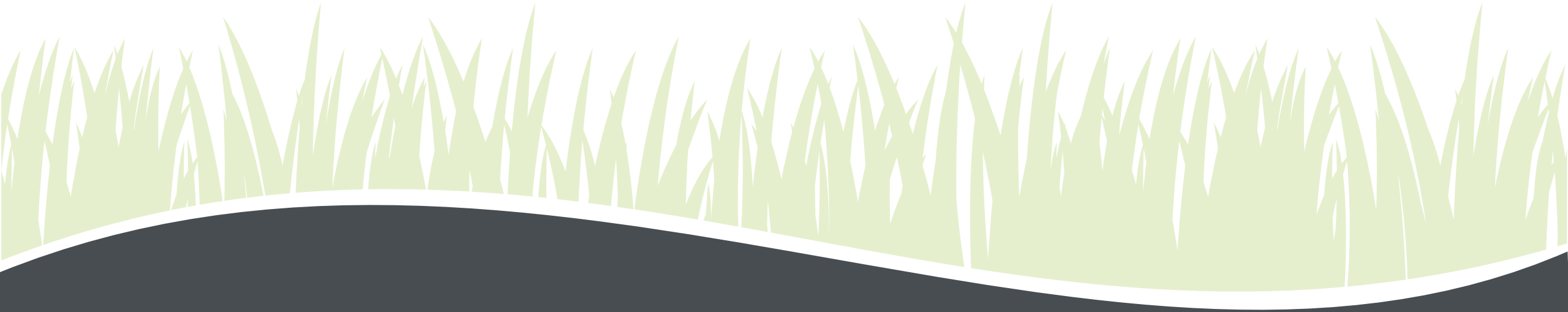


Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Questions, Suggestions, Discussion





SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants



SNEP WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS (SWIG) *LOOKING AHEAD* *2022 – 2025*

TOM ARDITO

RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Southeast New England Watershed Grant Program Director

tardito@estuaries.org



SWIG1: 2018-21

- 50 Awards
- \$10+M total
- Average Award: \$200k+
- Range: \$25k - \$500k
- Accomplishments:
 - Developed innovative practices (PRBs, cranberry bog restoration, etc.)
 - Established or supported sustainable, effective regional partnerships
 - Supported collaborative, science-based watershed and estuarine management
 - Demonstrated best practices (stormwater management, hydrologic restoration)
 - Fostered information-sharing and capacity-building – a “community of practice” throughout the SNEP region.



2021 Grants

- 14 Awards
- \$1.75 M SNEP Funds
- \$3.6 M total with non-federal match
- Continued emphasis on partnerships, innovation & capacity-building
- Expanded review committee
- Implemented on-line applications
- Increased project type diversity:
 - 6 environmental justice communities
 - Coastal resilience
 - Dam removal
 - Green roadways
 - Commercial fishing impacts
- Increased integration of economic & environmental goals
- Greater geographic distribution: Worcester, New Bedford, Woonsocket, Tiverton



2021 Grants

Grantee	Project	Award
Bristol County Water Authority	Kickemuit River Restoration	\$80,000
City of Woonsocket, RI	Green Infrastructure Parkway	\$187,500
Town of Middletown, RI	Maidford River and Floodplain Restoration	\$121,800
Groundwork Rhode Island	Green Infrastructure Maintenance	\$238,274
Commercial Fisheries Research Found	Fishing "Ghost Gear" Removal Plan	\$17,385
City of Cranston, RI	Urban Green Infrastructure Construction	\$150,000
Clean Ocean Access	Land to Sea Speaker Series	\$15,000
Town of Tiverton, RI	Fogland Beach Coastal Resiliency	\$34,700
City of Pawtucket, RI	Green Infra at Tidewater Landing Development	\$300,000
Groundwork Southcoast	New Bedford Resilience District	\$100,000
Mass Audubon	Broad Meadow Brook Wetland and Stream Restoration	\$74,800
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation (MV)	Roth Woodlands stream restoration	\$138,842
Harwich (MA) Conservation Trust	Hinckleys Pond - Herring River Restoration	\$146,700
Association to Preserve Cape Cod	Stormwater Management at Public Boat Ramps	\$148,871
Total		\$1,753,872

SWIG2: 2022 - 2026

- Avg. approx. \$2.6 M / year in grants
- Program implementation plan under development
- Increased collab with Network – Martha to discuss
- Maintain diversity of awards
- Develop meaningful metrics
 - SNEP monitoring committee
 - SNEP State of the Region report
- Annual Program Review
- Annual Program Report
- Increase outreach & information sharing
- Increase QAPP support
- Incorporate input from this group into implementation plan & individual RFPs



2022 Request for Proposals

- Similar process to 2021: LOI & Full Proposal
- Approx. \$1.8 M
- Maintain overall priorities
 - SNEP strategic plan implementation
 - Partnerships & capacity-building
 - Environmental justice with Network
 - Geographic diversity
 - Project type diversity
 - Monitoring & research limited to project-specific needs
- Highlight new or additional focus areas



Steering Committee Feedback

New / Additional Highlights in 2022 RFP?

- Areas of practice
- Emerging technologies
- Geographic areas
- Other factors?

Thoughts on further collaboration with Network?

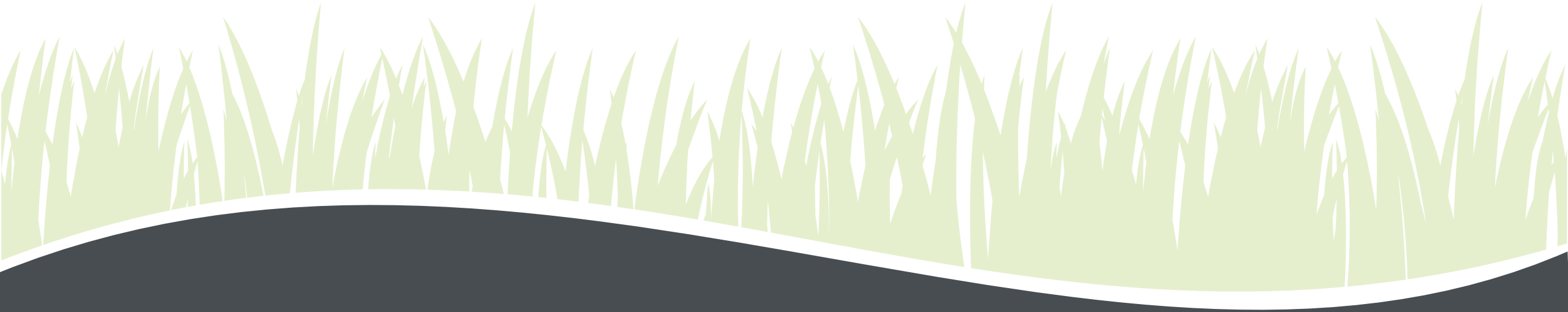
What stories should we be telling in our reporting? Narratives, impacts, lessons learned...



THANKS!



SNEP Network



SNEP Network Capacity Building

Organizational Capacity Building

Network **shares resources and lessons learned** to better support the needs of SNEP communities



Community Capacity Building

Network Partners **work with SNEP communities to increase their capacity to move their Stormwater and climate problems to solutions** through a facilitated planning process

Regional Capacity Building

Network Partners **collaborate with community stakeholders and government entities to identify common roadblocks** and work together to overcome these challenges

Capacity Building Needs	Network Approach	Network Project Initiatives/Outcomes
Project Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting communities to grant opportunities Setting communities up to receive funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maidford River Project: SWIG Mendon: MVP Action Grant
Tools and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool Adaptation Access and Connect to Resources Promote Transferability of Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Prioritization Toolkit Mass Audubon's Bylaw Review Tool PSIC Tree Trench Guide Stormwater Retrofit Manual Riparian Buffer Restoration Toolkit NBS Mapping & Case Studies
Regional Approach to Stormwater Management Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene stakeholders and communities to facilitate conversations and address common needs Regional collaboration across stakeholders Community training and peer to peer exchanges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMP Tracking and Accounting HRU Mapping Stormwater Retrofit Manual Next-Generation Watershed Management practices for Conservation Development Riparian Buffer Restoration Toolkit Stormwater Planning Series
Baseline Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of monitoring QAPP's Data Collection and Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maidford River Project Canoe River Aquifer Projects
Prioritization of Climate Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitative Planning Process Lit. review and inventory of existing materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canoe River Aquifer Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah
Sustainable Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster cross-collaboration with stakeholders and decision makers Prioritization of climate actions based on community risk perceptions Establish dedicated climate funding and financing Foster leadership development and climate capacities to support long term financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bourne, MA Portsmouth, RI Wampanoag Tribe Gay Head Aquinnah Newport

Crosswalk of **Network Training Activities** with SNEP Strategic Plan

	Increase local capacity/ Adopt New Policies	Increase Available Solutions	Ensure Diverse Representation in Decision Making	Demonstrate ways to address common challenges	Increase Community Leaders' Understanding of the Benefits of Restoration
Leadership Exchange	X	X	X	X	X
Technical Webinars	X	X		X	X
Funding and Finance Trainings	X	X	X	X	X
Climate Training for Municipal Officials				X	X
Stormwater Planning Series	X	X	X	X	X

Crosswalk of **Network Community Projects** with SNEP Strategic Plan

	Increase local capacity/Adopt New Policies	Increase Available Solutions	Ensure Diverse Representation in Decision Making	Demonstrate ways to address common challenges	Increase Community Leaders' Understanding of the Benefits of Restoration
Community Assistance projects in FY3	X	X	X	X	X
Maidford Pilot Project		X		X	X
Canoe River Aquifer Pilot Project		X	X	X	X
Pilot Baseline Measures	X			X	X

Crosswalk of Network **Regional Initiatives** with SNEP Strategic Plan

	Increase local capacity/Adopt New Policies	Increase Available Solutions	Ensure Diverse Representation in Decision Making	Demonstrate ways to address common challenges	Increase Community Leaders' Understanding of the Benefits of Restoration
Stormwater Retrofit	X	X		X	
StewMap	X	X			
BMP Tracking and Accounting/HRU Mapping	X	X		X	X
Sustainable Financing	X	X	X	X	X
LID/Bylaw Review & Next-Generation Watershed Management Practices Tool	X	X			
Riparian Buffer Restoration Toolkit	X	X		X	X

FY22 Opportunities

Organizational Capacity Building

- Collaborate with SWIG
- Network Advisory Committee
- Partner and regional org collabor



- Funding/financing
- Expand engagement with environmental Justice Communities
- Ongoing capacity Building

Community Capacity Building

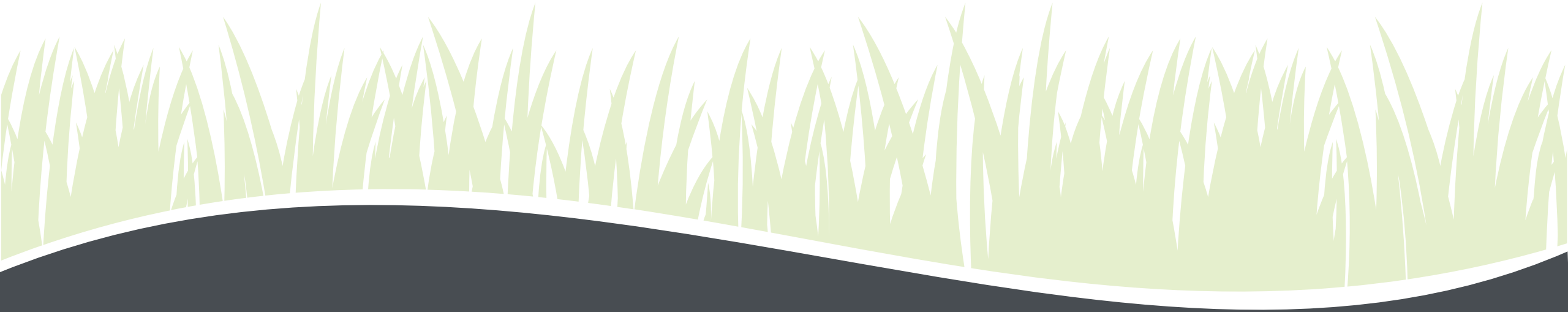
- Meet them where they are
- Providing tools and resources
- Technical Assistance and hand holding

Regional Capacity Building

- Addressing common barriers
- Cross collaboration with community organizations



SWIG & Network Questions, Suggestions, Discussion





SNEP FY22 Budget and New Project ideas



FY22 Look Ahead (Base Budget)



- SNEP Symposium (~May 2022)
- SNEP Workshops (~Feb & July 2022)
- Webinars (Quarterly)
- Newsletters
- Subcommittee Reinvigoration
- Federal Agency Coordination
- Incorporation of EJ into SNEP activities

FY22 Look Ahead (Base Budget)



- Continued Work on Monitoring Synthesis Framework
- USGS Research Continuation
- ORISE Research Continuation
- Flow Duration Curve Phase II
- Pilot Watershed Monitoring Strategy
- Continued Partnerships with:
 - RAE (SWIG)
 - NE-EFC (Network)
 - Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program
 - Narragansett Bay National Estuary Program

Base Spending FY22



Total: \$5,290,000 - \$5,884,395

Interagency Agreements

USGS Nitrogen Research

ORISE (DOE)

Contracts

Outreach Support

Pilot Watershed Monitoring

Grants Tracking/Admin Support

Monitoring Synthesis Framework

Grants

RAE Watershed Implementation Grants

NE-EFC Network

Pilot Watersheds

NEP Awards

Service Fees

HQ Fees

ORISE Fees

Note: If funding increases EPA will seek additional SNEP staff support

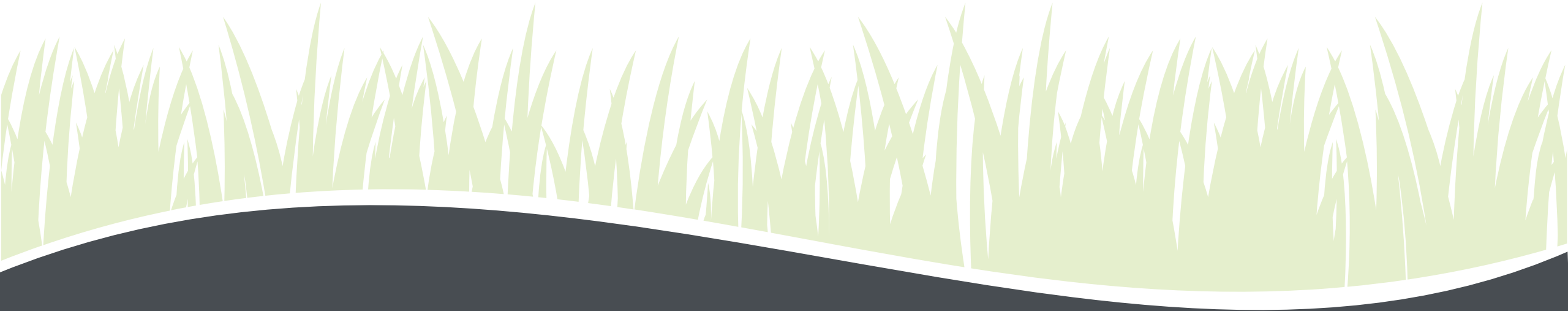
Potential New Projects for Discussion (FY22-23)



- HAB CyanoScope for Community Groups
- Additional Rhode Island Pilot Watershed
- Subcommittee Needs
- I/A Septic CEC Study
- Capacity Building
- AquaQAPP Expansion
- Small Grants Program (EJ)
- SNEP Research Program
- Suggestions from the Steering Committee

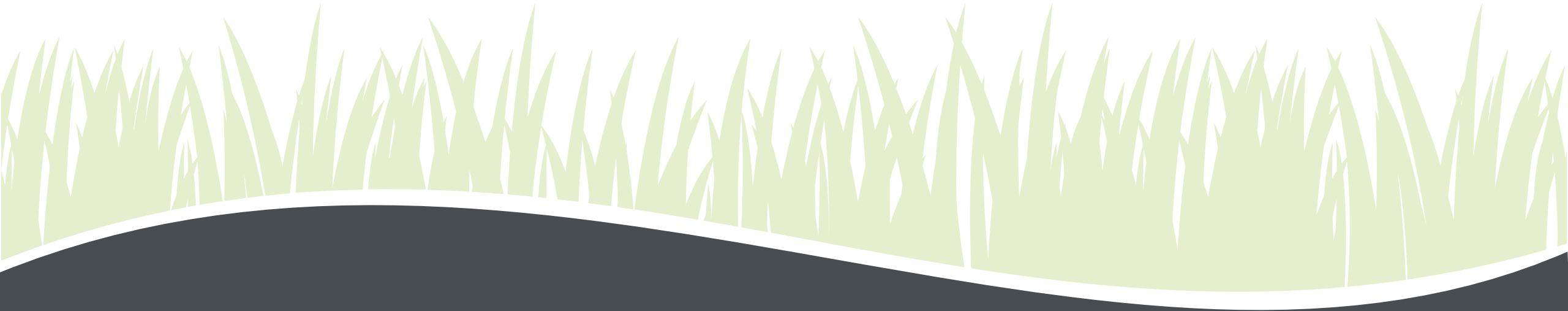


SNEP FY22 Budget Questions, Suggestions, Discussion





OPTIONAL: General Open Discussion and Committee Updates





Adjourn

Thank You All for Your Time and Attention!

