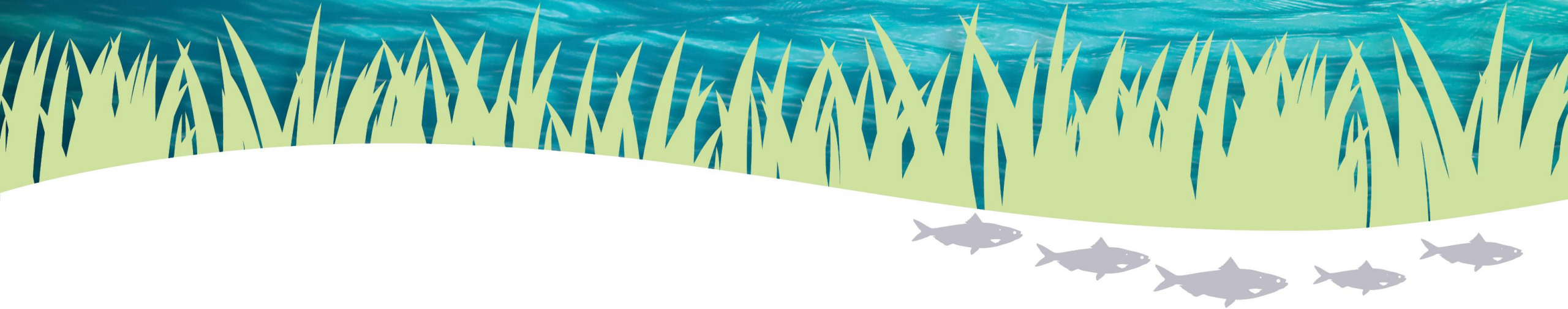


# Southeast New England Program Steering Committee Meeting 2/6/2023 10:30-12:30



Meeting Held Virtually



# Today's Agenda



**10:30**

Introductions and Welcome

**10:40**

SNEP Network Update

**11:10**

SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants Update

**12:10**

Close Out and Next Steps

**12:30**

Adjourn



# SNEP Network Updates

SNEP Steering Committee

February 6, 2023



# Overview

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- Network Highlights & Challenges
- Updates
  - Regional Initiatives
  - Stormwater Retrofit Manual Roll-out & STEWMAP
  - SNEP Network Pilot Projects
  - Network Tools and Resources



# SNEP Network Highlights

- **48** technical assistance requests in FY3, increase from 8 in FY1
- **16 completed community assistance projects** to date; 12 active projects either ongoing or awarded in FY4
- 34 Trainings/Webinars offered to date
- Continued support for EJ communities and meeting them where they're at
- Partners value the **collaboration** of Network



# SNEP Network Challenges

- Community capacity to engage in projects
- Planning for the future—reduced funding in FY5
  - How can we maintain Network (both internal and external) relationships after FY5?
  - How can we leverage Network initiatives and projects with other funding sources to ensure the work continues?



# SNEP Network Regional Initiatives

| Network Initiative  | Milestones  | Next Steps  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><a href="#"><u>Nature Based Solutions Mapping Spatial Tool (TNC)</u></a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network Partner, TNC-Mass completed tool in 2020</li> <li>• Determined transferability to RI</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI NBS Maps to be adapted with RI data</li> <li>• Working closely with RIIB to incorporate into the MRP process—streamline projects</li> </ul>   |
| <p><a href="#"><u>Leadership Exchange with Aquidneck Island Communities</u></a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed prioritization process with Newport, Portsmouth</li> <li>• Currently working with Middletown</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with RIIB to facilitate leadership exchange with Aquidneck Island Communities to align resilience priorities for Aquidneck Island</li> <li>• Start leadership exchange late spring, early summer</li> </ul> |
| <p><a href="#"><u>Bylaw Review Tool and Curriculum</u></a></p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructions on how to use tool</li> <li>• Curriculum completed in 2022</li> <li>• Delivered 2 in-person workshops</li> <li>• Strategy team continues to meet</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with MassRivers to transfer curriculum for wide use</li> </ul>  |



# StewMAP Dashboard is now LIVE!

- Completed July/August 2022
- Helps answer questions like...
  - Who are the active environmental stewardship groups in the Southern New England region?
  - Where do they work, how do they collaborate and what type of work do they do?
  - Where are there gaps and where are there concentrations of care?

Screenshot of the StewMAP Dashboard interface. The top navigation bar includes the title "Southeast New England STEW-MAP 2021-2022" and filter options for "Group Focus" and "Things Steward". The left sidebar contains a list of estuary basins and a "List of Organizations" section with 111 total organizations. The main content area displays a welcome message and instructions on how to use the dashboard, including navigation and interaction with the map.

STEW-MAP Dashboard:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/2fe9393c3fe343ab80cdcaf6c1a2cb33>







# New England Stormwater Retrofit Roll-out

| Target Audience  | Objectives  | Methods/Approach  |
|--|---|---|
| Municipal staff and practitioners<br><i>(Including municipalities, planners, stormwater coalitions/groups)</i> | Understand how to use the manual and incorporate practices/approach into their retrofit designs                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In-depth trainings               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SNEP Network Stormwater Training Series</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Webinars <i>(audience specific)</i></li> <li>- <b>Direct Technical Assistance</b></li> </ul> |
| Regulators and Adaptors <i>(State and Federal)</i>   | Regulators and Adaptors endorse the of Stormwater Retrofit Manual<br><br>Incorporate/reference in state stormwater guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>In-depth training for State Regulators</b></li> <li>- <b>Individual ‘hand-holding’ with decision makers; one-on-one meetings</b></li> <li>- Webinars <i>(audience specific)</i></li> </ul>  |
| Consultants/engineers  | Understand how to use the manual and incorporate practices/approach into their retrofit designs                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In-depth trainings <i>(audience specific)</i></li> <li>- Webinars <i>(audience specific)</i></li> <li>- Conferences, presentations, etc.</li> </ul>  |

# Approach to Retrofit Implementation

Capacity building based on facilitative planning and stakeholder engagement

## Assess Needs

Meet with communities to assess stormwater needs and identify appropriate partners, stakeholders, and muni. Departments to participate in the planning process

## Convene Stakeholders and Facilitate Planning Process

- NEEFC/SNEP Network convene partners to take communities through a facilitative planning process
- Stormwater Planning Series
- *Training for State Regulators: Engages regional stakeholders*

### Key Tools/Resources:

- [Stormwater Retrofit Manual](#)
- [Stormwater Planning Series](#)

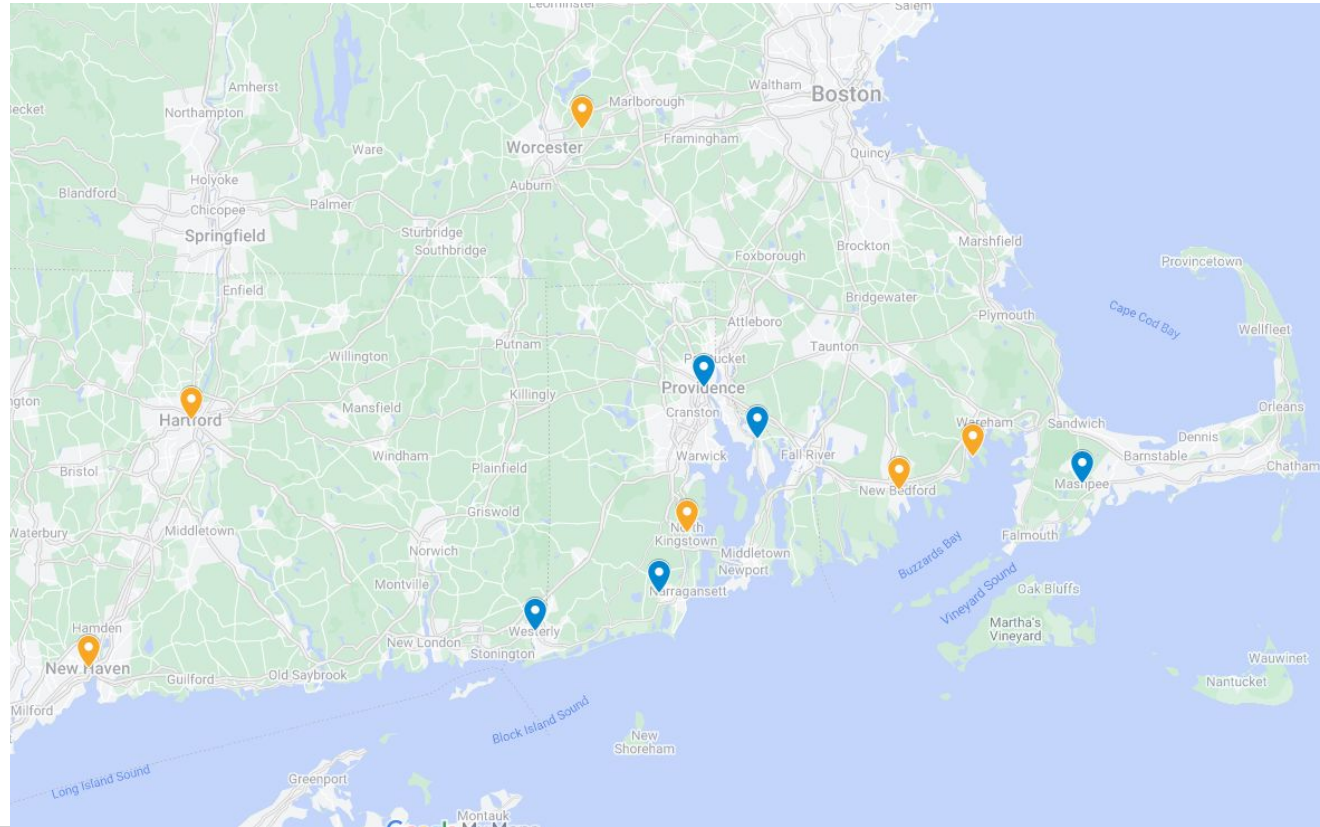
## Advance Project

Identify next steps to advance project toward implementation



## So far....

- Taking approach with **11 New England communities/Tribes** (2 Connecticut communities)
- 5 communities have completed the trainings
- **Development of Trainings for State Regulators** underway

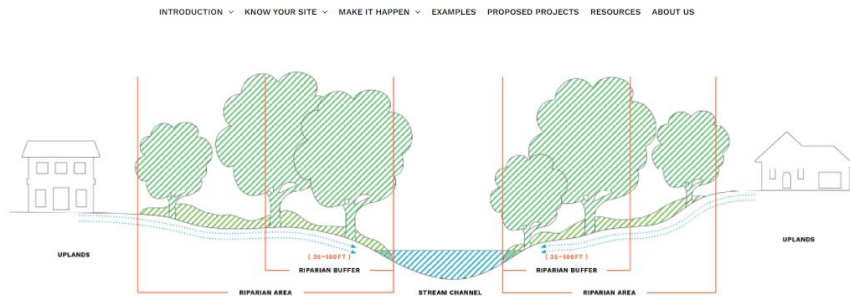


# Maidford River Watershed Pilot Project

- [Buffer Restoration Guide](#)
- Completed 30% Design for restoring the river and its floodplain
- Awarded SWIG to advance to 60% design and prepare permit applications

## Next Steps:

- *Developing Case Study for the Maidford River Pilot Project*



### BUFFER SIZE

Buffers of 35' to 100' width are considered an ideal minimum width to protect water quality, and the State of Rhode Island uses a standard of 200' riparian buffer as protective for drinking water supply tributaries, as well as water quality and some habitat functions. Where lot size prevents buffers of these widths, restoring the area immediately next to the water body to stabilize the shoreline can reduce bank erosion and provide some water quality and habitat benefits.

IDEAL WIDTH  
**35-100 FT**  
MINIMUM

The wider the buffer,  
the greater the benefits

### BENEFITS OF BUFFERS

The environmental and economic benefits of buffers are well documented, and will help:



Improve  
Water Quality



Provide  
Habitat



Reduce  
Flooding



Reduce  
Erosion



Improve  
Aesthetics



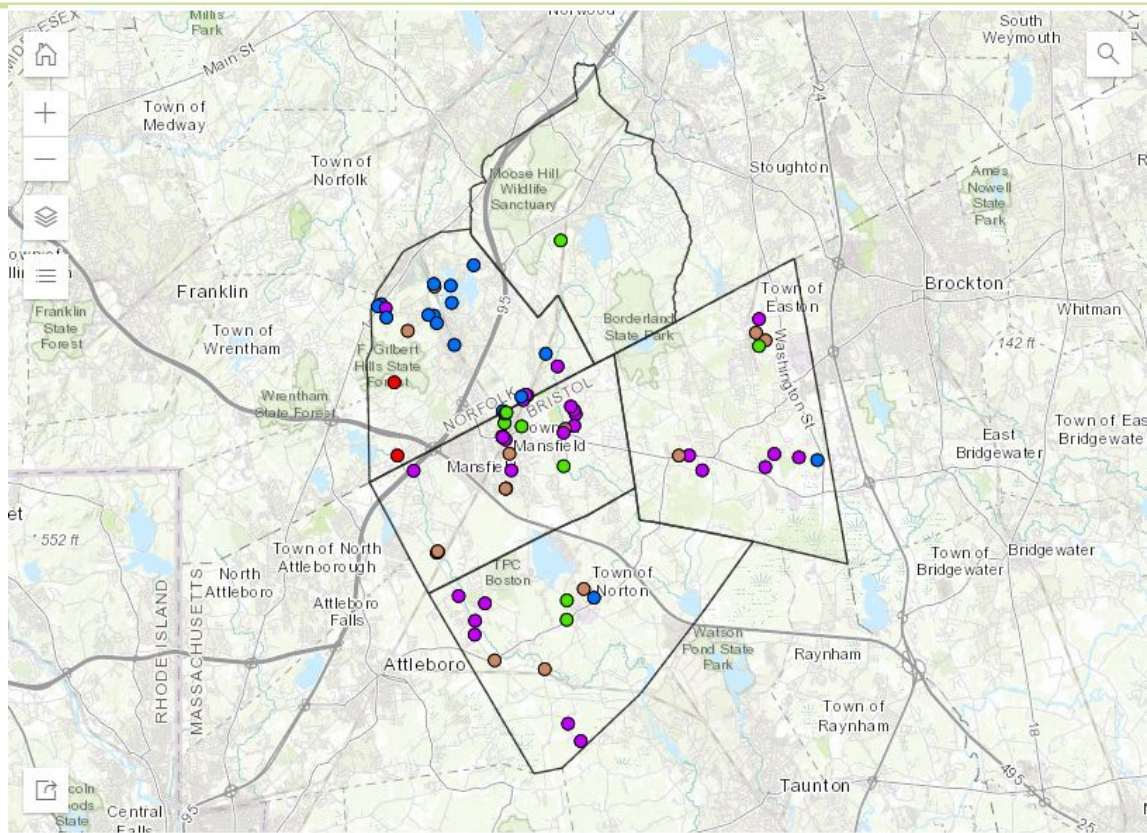
Meet Regulatory  
Requirements

# Taunton River Watershed Pilot Project

- Worked with 4 communities to [prioritize 16 cluster sites](#)
  - **Norton:** Working on MVP grant application for culverts
  - **Sharon:** Partner with DER to move toward design on Cedar Swamp
  - **Easton:** Received 100K earmark in Economic Development Bill
  - **Mansfield:** Awarded MVP grant

## Next Steps:

- [MA Funding Webinar and Workshop](#)



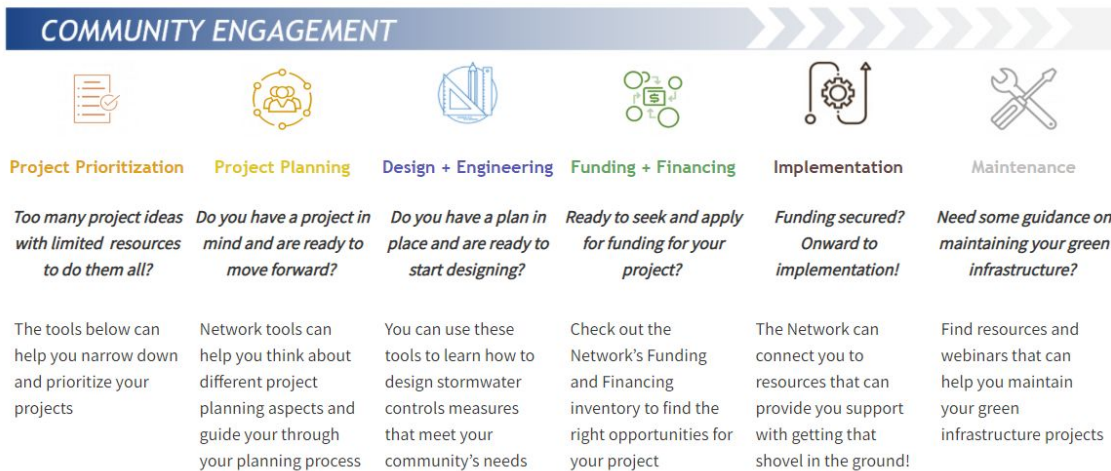
- Move from tool/resource development to application & implementation
- Network tools and resources all on one page—in progress
- Complete [Community Assistance Projects](#)

## Getting Started with SNEP Network Tools and Resources!

Over the years, the SNEP Network has worked closely with SNEP communities to help build their capacity to move their climate resilient projects to implementation. Based on the communities' needs, **the Network has developed a suite of tools and resources** that help support communities advance their projects toward implementation and maintenance.

### Where is your project on the Project Pipeline?

Depending on where you are on the project pipeline, you can access **FREE** Network tools and resources that will help support your community move toward project implementation.





## What we're thinking about...

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- How can we maintain Network (both internal and external) relationships after FY5?
- How can we leverage Network initiatives and projects with other funding sources to ensure the work continues?



Questions?



# **SNEP WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS**

## **2023**

**TOM ARDITO**

**RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES**

Southeast New England Watershed Grant Program Director  
[tardito@estuaries.org](mailto:tardito@estuaries.org)



# Funding Priorities

- *Restore Ecosystems, Improve Communities*
- Restore Clean Water – Manage Nutrients
- Restore Ecosystem Functions & Values
- Build Capacity – Technical, Institutional & Programmatic
- Foster & Support Partnerships
- Support Innovative Technologies
- Foster Regional Learning
- Develop Synergies with SNEP Network
- Support Diverse Communities, Organizations & Projects
- Holistic Approaches – Water Quality, Habitat & Community

# Examples of Projects Funded

- Watershed-scale Estuarine Restoration
- Green Streets & Neighborhoods – Urban Restoration & Community Engagement
- Stormwater Demonstration & Training
- Innovative Wetland & River Restoration
- Coastal Resilience & Other Habitat Restoration
- Pilot Projects: PRBs, bioreactors, innovative septic
- Applied Ecosystem Research, Monitoring & Data Management
- Watershed & Regional Plans
- Conferences & Tech Transfer (smaller \$\$\$)

# 2022 SWIG Grants

- First grant round under new/current RAE/EPA cooperative agreement
- Awards
  - 11 Grants
  - \$1.9 M awards
  - 62% in environmental justice communities
  - 84% benefits EJ communities
  - 9 of 11 grants fund new project types or geographic locations within the SNEP region

# New Areas of Investment 2022

- Wastewater planning for urban mill village (\$250k – Chepachet/Gloucester)
- Westerly coastal resilience & stormwater (\$200k SRICD)
- Dam removal planning in Big River Mgmt. Area (\$124k)
- Green building features / EJ in West End (Community Music Works, \$150k)
- Ghost fishing gear on Cuttyhunk (\$55k CCS)
- Flood plain restoration for urban redevelopment (Brockton \$150k)
- Coastal resilience on Nantucket (\$160k)
- Fall River EJ project at Cook Pond (\$216k)

# 2023 Request for Proposals

***\$2.9 million available***

## Funding Themes

- Restore Small Cities & Urban Environments
- Conserve and Restore Rural and Natural Landscapes
- Innovate to Improve Water Quality
- Address Environmental Change
- Build & Sustain Local and Regional Partnerships
- Foster Regional Learning

# 2023 Request for Proposals

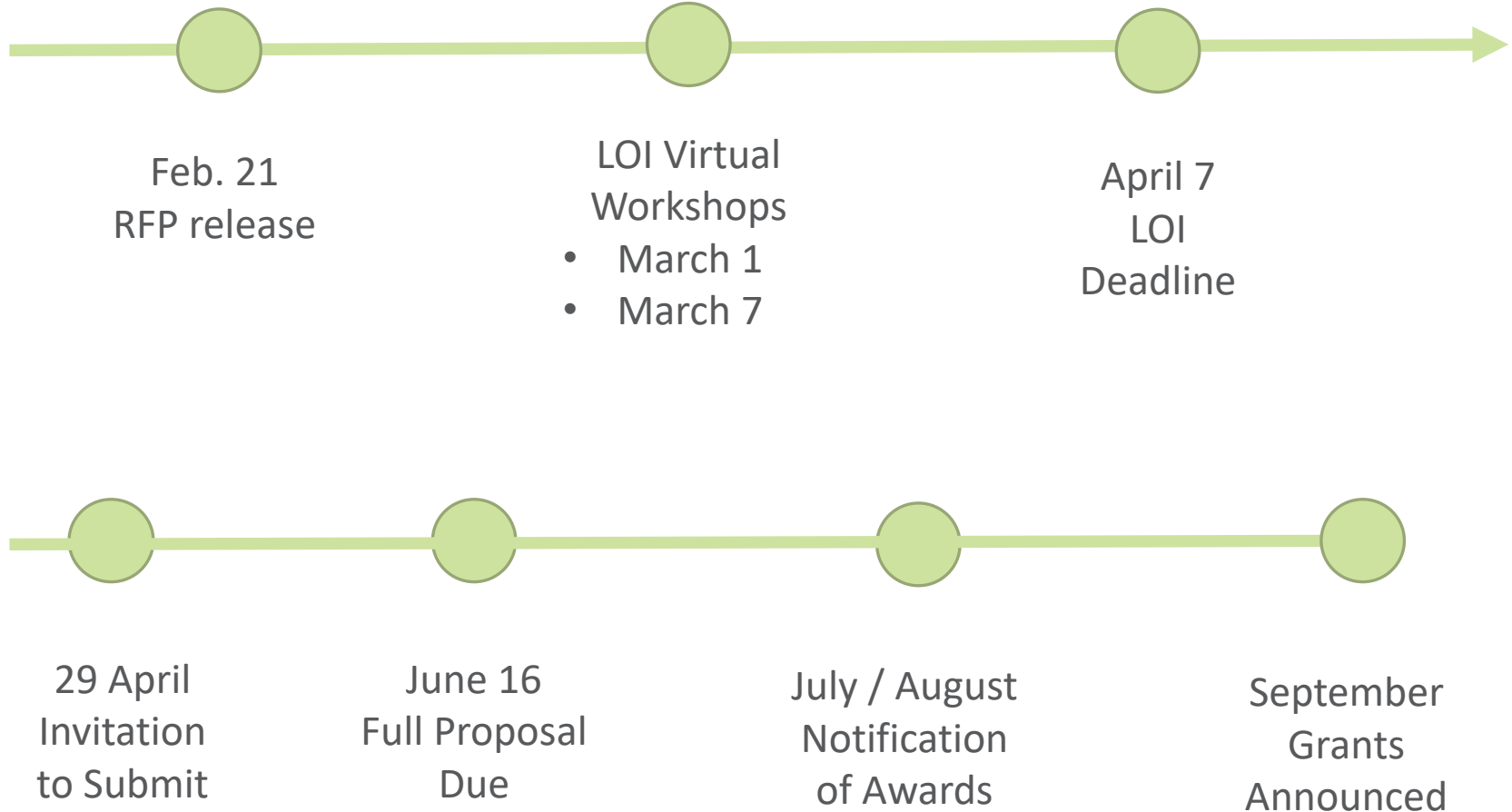
## *Continuities with 2022*

- Maintain 2-step application process for accessibility
- Close coordination with SNEP Network
- Continued emphasis on underrepresented communities
- Maintain \$500k maximum award

## *Suggested Changes*

- Increase emphasis on context of climate change
- Increase emphasis on peer-to-peer learning initiatives
- Increase emphasis on drinking watershed protection to meet broader habitat and water quality goals
- Expand Application Review Committee (ARC)

# 2023 Award Calendar





# 2023 SWIG Grants

*Discussion...*