
2017 BAY AND WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANTS



Announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP)

April 2017

- **Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund (BWRF)**
 - **Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Pollution Control Grants**
 - **Flood Prevention and Mitigation Grants**

- **Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Abatement Implementation Grants (Clean Water Act - Section 319) – Targeted Watersheds**

All proposals due June 30, 2017

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is pleased to announce the availability of grants to assist in the implementation of projects that abate water pollution, restore water quality and mitigate flooding in Rhode Island. Specifically, through this Request for Proposals (RFP), RIDEM is seeking grant proposals for projects that will 1) improve stormwater management, 2) reduce nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution; and 3) prevent or mitigate the impacts of flooding in Rhode Island. Unlike point source pollution that comes from specific, identifiable discharges, NPS pollution is diffuse and generated from many diverse sources including stormwater runoff, failing septic systems and erosion from disturbed sites. State funding to support this RFP is anticipated to be available from proceeds of state environmental bond referendums approved by voters in 2014 and 2016 (Green Economy Bond). Additionally, this RFP includes announcement of the availability of limited federal funding provided to RIDEM via Section 319 of the Clean Water Act for FY16 and FY17. These funds are being targeted to specific watersheds. Grants from both funding programs will be awarded on a competitive basis pursuant to this Request for Proposals (RFP). Projects that involve activities eligible for funding under more than one grant category may apply for funding using a single consolidated application.

1. Purpose of Available Grants & Grant Categories

Proposals for three categories of grants are being sought:

- (1) State grants for projects to abate stormwater pollution awarded via the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund - Water Pollution Control Sub-funds; an estimated \$3.0 million is expected to be available.
- (2) State grants for projects that both reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flooding **and** enhance the ecological functioning of natural ecosystems awarded via the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund – Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund; an estimated \$3.0 million is available.
- (3) Federally funded Section 319 nonpoint source pollution abatement grants; an estimated \$400,000 currently expected to be available.

The purposes of the grants are to protect and restore conditions in Rhode Island waters to enhance their beneficial uses which include but are not limited to water supply, swimming, fishing, shellfishing,

recreation and healthy aquatic ecosystems; and to mitigate flooding in a manner that provides ecological benefits. More specifically, these grants are targeted to water quality protection and restoration actions that abate **nonpoint sources** of pollution and to certain types of projects that will improve stormwater management or prevent or mitigate the impacts of flooding in an ecologically holistic manner. Nonpoint source pollution and the discharge of stormwater runoff is a significant cause of water quality impairments across Rhode Island. The management strategies employed to control and reduce such pollution, as well as the prevention/mitigation of flooding, typically involve local actions to implement various site-specific best management practices (BMPs) or restoration actions within a targeted area or watershed.

Overviews of the categories of available grants are provided below:

Narragansett Bay and Watersheds Restoration Fund (BWRF) – Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Pollution Control Sub-funds

In anticipation of state funding, RIDEM is soliciting for proposals for stormwater pollution abatement projects consistent with the Governmental and Non-governmental Non-point Source & Stormwater Pollution Control Sub-funds of the BWRF Program. Regulations governing these funds are available at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/nbwsrbf17.pdf>. These state grants are intended to provide financial assistance to a range of projects that will improve stormwater management and abate stormwater pollution. Please note that water quality restoration actions addressing other sources of pollution or degradation (e.g., mitigating the impacts of on-site wastewater treatment systems, invasive plant management) are not eligible for this RFP.

RIDEM is encouraging collaborative projects that incorporate green infrastructure to address stormwater pollution abatement - preferably on a sub-watershed or watershed basis. For example, municipalities and partners might work together to implement restoration actions; e.g., pavement removal and planting projects or stormwater retrofitting projects at several locations in a prioritized manner within a shared watershed. DEM is also seeking capital projects that strengthen local stormwater management programs (including projects that enhance local capacity for stormwater management through acquisition of vehicles and equipment), and projects that implement a BMP identified through a RIDEM-approved stormwater management plan or water quality restoration plan (e.g., TMDL). RIDEM prefers to fund stormwater management projects that significantly reduce the discharge of untreated stormwater to surface waters by retaining stormwater through upland attenuation, infiltration or other green infrastructure practices. Projects that support development of a dedicated sustainable funding mechanism for stormwater management are also eligible. (Refer to BWRF regulations.) DEM will award grants of up to fifty percent (50%) of eligible costs and, at its discretion, will consider funding up to seventy-five percent (75%) of project costs.

Narragansett Bay and Watersheds Restoration Fund (BWRF) – Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund

Under the new Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund of the BWRF, RIDEM is seeking proposals for projects that will address the flooding of coastal or inland areas in a manner that incorporates and enhances natural ecosystem functions including the maintenance of natural hydrologic regimes. These projects would be expected to mitigate a known flooding problem while also delivering ecological co-benefits. See BWRF regulations for details: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/nbwsrbf17.pdf> Examples of projects eligible for the Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund include: restoration of floodplains; restoration/re-vegetation of stream banks that reduce peak flows and/or velocities; removal of impervious surfaces and associated re-vegetation to increase the on-site retention of stormwater in flood-prone areas; the replacement of culverts that prevent flooding through improved management of

peak flows and enhanced stream continuity; creation of floodplain storage capacity; aquifer recharge that reduces flooding while maintaining a natural hydrologic regime; repairs/enhancements to dams that result in increased capacity for upstream flood storage; the removal of dams to reduce the risk of flooding in flood-prone areas; projects that enhance the resiliency of vulnerable coastal and inland habitats in specific locations that mitigate flooding risks to building, structures or other infrastructure.

Proposed projects submitted for funding should be consistent with approved local hazard mitigation plans or updated hazard mitigation plans that have been formally submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. RIDEM will award grants of up to fifty percent (50%) of eligible costs and, at its discretion, will consider funding up to seventy-five percent (75%) of project costs.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement – Federal Section 319 Grants

RIDEM has available a *limited* amount of federal funding awarded pursuant to Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to support implementation of nonpoint source pollution management and abatement.

Specifically, in this grant category, RIDEM is seeking proposals to protect and enhance water quality or support designated uses of Rhode Island's waters by:

- improving or restoring aquatic habitat
- abating nonpoint source pollution from farms;
- removing cesspools or converting to a non-discharging onsite wastewater treatment system; or
- Mitigating stormwater pollution in areas NOT covered by MS4 permits (see page 6).

The grants are made possible by federal funds provided to Rhode Island DEM by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act for federal fiscal years 2016 and 2017. An estimated \$400,000 is currently expected to be available. US EPA Nonpoint Program guidance requires that 319 funds distributed by the state for water quality protection or improvement projects **must** be consistent with approved watershed plans that meet minimum federal watershed plan requirements. DEM is currently engaged in a program to prepare watershed plans in RI over the next few years. For this RFP, DEM will only accept proposals from the specific watersheds listed below in which a watershed-based plan has been prepared or is under development in a manner consistent with the federal guidance. DEM's work to develop similar plans for Rhode Island's remaining watersheds will allow more areas to become eligible for funding in the future. The 319 funds available for distribution as local grants cannot be used to develop watershed-based plans. Therefore, for this RFP, DEM is seeking proposals for projects that **implement** eligible actions described in this RFP from the following plans (only):

Bristol – Kickemuit River Watershed Plan – This planning area covers most of Bristol and the eastern portion of Warren. The plan can be viewed at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/pdf/bkwatplan.pdf>.

Barrington - Palmer – Warren Rivers Watershed Plan – This planning area covers a small portion of Bristol, western Warren, eastern Barrington and southeast East Providence. The plan can be viewed at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/pdf/bpwatplan.pdf>.

Aquidneck Island Watershed- This plan will covers Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth. DEM is working with stakeholders on the Island to improve water quality in the sources of supply for the Newport Water System. In addition DEM is initiating preparation of a watershed

plan encompassing the three Aquidneck Island communities and all of its water resources during 2017 and 2018. Projects that implement actions expected to be included in this plan will be considered.

Nonquit Pond Watershed Plan - A draft plan is currently being reviewed by stakeholders in Tiverton and Newport Water Supply. The plan is expected to be finalized in June. Projects that implement actions expected to be included in this plan will be considered.

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed - The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association is developing a flood resiliency plan for communities in the watershed. DEM is collaborating with this effort to include water quality and aquatic habitat protection and restoration actions. This plan is expected to be completed this summer. Projects that implement actions expected to be included in this plan will be considered.

2. Applicant Eligibility – who can apply?

Eligibility of applicants varies with the type of project being proposed. Use the chart below to determine if you are eligible to apply. BWRP sub-funds grants are targeted for local, state and regional governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies including businesses (BWRP Nonpoint & Stormwater Non-governmental Sub-fund only), and non-profit organizations (e.g. watershed associations). The award of 319 nonpoint source funds is restricted to governmental entities, public schools and universities, and certain non-profits (e.g. watershed organizations) that carry out eligible work. Note: non-profit organizations must have status as an IRS 501(c)3 organization. Individuals are not eligible to receive funding from the BWRP program. Individual persons and businesses are not eligible to receive Section 319 funds, except for cases where the project can be considered a demonstration project. To qualify as a demonstration project, the project must be consistent with an applicable watershed plan and provide a demonstration of a nonpoint source pollution abatement technique or strategy that has not yet previously been implemented in Rhode Island. ***Interested persons considering a demonstration project are urged to discuss their idea for such a project with DEM prior to application.*** Third party applicants (e.g., conservation districts, land trusts) can apply for funds and administer a grant that involves construction of BMPs on private property. In such cases, the third party will need to provide documentation of access agreements prior to a grant agreement being issued. In general, project applicants, should be the entity that legally controls the affected land area. Private consultants are not eligible to receive grant awards directly on behalf of other governmental or non-governmental entities.

In general, applicants for projects involving construction, including nonpoint BMPs, should be the entity that legally controls the affected land area. Private consultants are not eligible to receive grant awards directly on behalf of clients.

Applicants must demonstrate administrative capacity to manage their grant funds and comply with applicable state and, if applicable, federal fiscal requirements including accounting, record-keeping, procurement and reporting procedures. All grants are reimbursement based – the grantees must incur the cost and submit documentation to DEM for reimbursement. Applicants must also demonstrate ability to manage their project, document match and report on progress of deliverables specified in a grant agreement. Table 1 identifies who is eligible in relationship to the source of funding.

Table 1. Eligibility to Apply for Grants

Funding Source	Governmental	Non-governmental		
	Municipal/State/regional government; quasi-state agencies; public schools and universities	Non-profit watershed organizations, environmental organizations, conservation districts, lake associations, land trusts	Other non-governmental entities: for profit business, private schools, non-profit organizations,	Private citizens
State BWRP – NPS & Stormwater Pollution Abatement Governmental Sub-fund	Yes/ Eligible	No	No	No
State BWRP – NPS & Stormwater Pollution Abatement Non – Governmental Sub-fund	No	Yes/ Eligible	Yes/ Eligible	No
State BWRP – Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund	Yes/Eligible	Yes/Eligible	No	No
Federal 319 NPS funds –	Yes/ Eligible	Yes/ Eligible	No	No, except for demonstration projects

Compliance Actions Pertaining to Grant Applicants

It is DEM’s policy that financial assistance shall neither directly or indirectly benefit parties whose willful action or inaction has resulted in damage to the environment. At the Director’s discretion, DEM may restrict, delay or limit funding due to the occurrence of criminal, civil enforcement actions or compliance matters. To be eligible for grants, applicants must disclose any existing violations and compliance actions related to their proposal. This includes issuance of any notice of intent to enforce.

3. Project Eligibility - What types of projects are eligible?

DEM is seeking proposals from applicants that are ready to commit to initiating and managing their projects in a timely manner. The category of grant being sought will determine what types of activities or projects that are eligible. See Table 2. Guidance regarding specific project types is outlined below:

Construction of Stormwater Abatement BMPs (BWRP NPS & Stormwater Governmental Entities Sub-fund, BWRP NPS & Stormwater Non-Governmental Entities Sub-fund; Federal NPS grants (with restrictions): Implementation of water quality restoration actions, including installation of best management practices (BMPs), that mitigate, control or eliminate the effects of stormwater pollution to the waters of the state. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to construction of BMPs to address urban runoff using green infrastructure techniques, streambank stabilization and other erosion and sedimentation control projects and agricultural stormwater BMPs. For a specific project, DEM will support certain costs associated with final design of the project provided it leads to construction of the project. A specific project means that the site location(s) and design concept of what will be constructed have been identified. DEM will give priority to the construction of BMPs recommended by TMDLs and to those projects that align and leverage resources resulting in more significant environmental improvement. Proposals for construction should be based on prior evaluations of site-specific field conditions that are sufficiently thorough and identify any constraints or potential significant

permitting issues that might affect the project. The proposal should describe or reference prior planning and design work as well as an approach to dealing with any site constraints that arose during planning and design. For major BMPs, DEM prefers that prior planning or design work will have identified in advance conditions such as high groundwater tables, constraints to soil infiltration, likely presence of ledge, potential significant soil contamination, general locations of existing utilities and constraints to access or land availability. As noted above, DEM will consider support for expenses related to final design for a site-specific project, provided it leads to the construction of the project. Projects involving stormwater BMPs associated with new development are not eligible.

All stormwater projects supported by DEM grants will be expected to be planned, designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual. In the design of retrofit projects, emphasis will be placed on treatment of stormwater to achieve water quality goals encouraging infiltration and sustainable green infrastructure practices.

Note: There are restrictions on the use of 319 funds with respect to stormwater infrastructure. Proposals for projects that involve retrofitting regulated MS4 stormwater infrastructure are **ineligible** for Section 319 funds and should be directed instead to the BWRF. Stormwater abatement projects located outside of MS4 areas within eligible watersheds **will** be considered for Section 319 NPS grants. The map of the RI MS4 areas and a description of the basis for the map is found on the DEM website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/permits/ripdes/stormwater/ms4s-program.php>.

Stormwater Phase II Implementation (BWRF NPS & Stormwater Governmental Entities Sub-fund only): DEM will consider capital projects that assist municipalities in the implementation of their Phase II stormwater management program. This includes assistance for the construction of BMPs, such as salt storage facilities and the purchase of equipment, and street sweepers that will enhance and augment a community's local stormwater management program. DEM is encouraging communities to consider equipment-sharing arrangements in order to improve equipment utilization rates.

Sustainable Funding Mechanism for Stormwater Management (BWRF NPS & Stormwater Governmental Entities Sub-fund only): DEM will consider proposals by individual municipalities or groups of municipalities to develop and implement a sustainable funding mechanism for stormwater management. The project approach would be expected to potentially include planning level assessments exploring the viability of a stormwater utility or enterprise fund to the more detailed planning and policy analysis and stakeholder engagement entailed in the development and implementation of a stormwater utility or enterprise fund.

Aquatic Habitat Restoration Projects (Federal NPS Grants only):

DEM is seeking projects for buffer restoration along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and other wetlands. Buffers improve water quality in adjacent waters and wetlands by removing sediment and other pollutants and by minimizing temperature increases. These buffers also provide critical wildlife habitat and provide corridors for wildlife dispersal. In expanded areas for buffers, green infrastructure could be installed to further improve water quality by treating stormwater.

Potential projects include:

- Removing pavement along a stream and planting with native species to create a suitable buffer;
- Expanding the area of naturalized existing buffers through planting projects;
- Improving habitat in existing buffers with additional plantings, (e.g., planting shade trees along streams to improve habitat for cold water fisheries);

- Streambank protection and stabilization to minimize streambank erosion that is depositing sediment downstream and burying aquatic habitat and impacting wetlands; and
- Improving stream connectivity caused by sub-standard stream crossings characterized by constricted or inadequate water flow, perched culverts, blocked crossings or crossings that are in disrepair. These barriers to stream connectivity prevent the free movement of aquatic life up and down a river system.

(Note: Construction of fish ladders is ineligible for funding.)

Agricultural BMP Projects (Federal NPS grants only): In addition to the stormwater BMPs identified above, RIDEM will consider applications for other types of BMPs on agricultural lands that target NPS pollution sources. Examples of projects to abate NPS pollution associated with agricultural operations include:

- Construction of BMPs in fields to retain stormwater (and its sediment load) in place in order to prevent erosion and downslope sedimentation, (e.g., flow diversions, terracing, etc.);
- Installation of erosion and sedimentation controls;
- Fencing to restrict animal access to streams and wetlands; and
- Construction of other agricultural BMPs to abate potential sources of water pollution; e.g., manure management.

As applicable, agricultural BMP projects must be consistent with state-required farm conservation plans and federal Natural Resource Conservation Service standards.

Onsite Wastewater Projects (Federal NPS Grants only): Governmental and non-profit environmental entities may apply for assistance in resolving documented onsite wastewater problems. Projects should result in the replacement of a failing or substandard system, including a cesspool, which contributes to quality impairment or in improved treatment to meet water quality goals as recommended by a TMDL. A system that requires frequent pumping is considered a failed system. Funds cannot be used to support new development or an expansion of use. (Financial assistance for individual homeowners is not eligible under this program. Assistance for individuals is made available via other programs administered by the RI Infrastructure Bank. Contact Jay Manning of DEM for further guidance.)

Other NPS Water Quality Restoration Actions (Federal NPS Grants only): In addition to projects described above, DEM will consider other projects that implement actions to prevent or abate nonpoint source pollution as identified in approved watershed plans. This may include but is not limited to erosion and sedimentation control projects and in-lake treatments for nutrient management, among others.

Table 2. Eligible Projects related to Grant Funding Source

Grant Type	Primary Project Objective	Example Projects	Restrictions
<p>BWRF– NPS Abatement Governmental Entities Sub-Fund</p> <p>50% required match; with DEM discretion to lower match to 25%</p> <p>Target Grant Amounts: No limit</p>	<p>Reduce pollutant loadings entering Narragansett Bay and RI watersheds by abating nonpoint source pollution and enhancing stormwater management.</p>	<p><i>Water Quality Restoration Actions:</i> Construction or implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater BMPs that mitigate, control, or eliminate the effects of nonpoint source pollution to the waters of the state; • Erosion and sedimentation projects that abate existing sources of NPS pollution; <p><i>Improved Stormwater Management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for stormwater management; • Capital expenditures for additional or upgraded equipment to enhance implementation of best management practices identified in RIDEM- approved local stormwater management program plans: purchase of additional street sweeping equipment, catch basin cleaning equipment. • Identification, mitigation, control or elimination of illicit point source connections to stormwater collection systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition is ineligible as a grant expense but may be allowed as a matching contribution. • Projects designed to address solely drainage or flooding problems which do not improve water quality are not eligible in this category. Stormwater management projects must provide for water pollution abatement. See Flood Prevention and Mitigation below. .
<p>BWRF –NPS Abatement Non-Governmental Entities Sub-Fund</p> <p>50% required match; with DEM discretion to lower match to 25%</p> <p>Target Grant Amounts: No limit</p>	<p>Reduce pollutant loadings entering Narragansett Bay and RI watersheds by abating nonpoint source pollution and enhancing stormwater management.</p>	<p><i>Water Quality Restoration Actions:</i> Construction or implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater BMPs that mitigate, control, or eliminate the effects of nonpoint source pollution to the waters of the state; • Erosion and sedimentation projects that abate existing sources of NPS pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition is ineligible as a grant expense but may be allowed as a matching expense. • Projects designed to address solely drainage or flooding problems which do not improve water quality are not eligible in this category. Stormwater management projects must provide for water pollution abatement. See Flood Prevention and Mitigation below.

Table 2. Eligible Projects related to Grant Funding Source Cont'd

<p>BWRF –Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-Fund</p> <p>50% required match; with DEM discretion to lower match to 25%</p> <p>Target Grant Amounts: No limit</p>	<p>Reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flooding and enhance the hydrological and ecological functioning of natural ecosystems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of physical structures and the revegetation of floodplains; • Removal of impervious surfaces and revegetation in coastal and riparian areas prone to flooding to increase retention of stormwater runoff; • Creation of increased vegetated storage capacity in floodplains to mitigate downstream flooding; • Removal/replacement of culverts that prevents flooding through improved management of peak flows and improves watercourse continuity; • Repairs to dams that result in increased capacity for flood mitigation including flood storage; • Dam removal where it can be demonstrated that the risk of flooding will be reduced in flood-prone areas; • Enhancement of the resiliency of vulnerable coastal and inland habitats in specific locations that mitigate flooding risks to infrastructure, buildings or other structures; • Aquifer recharge in locations where the diversion of surface water results in reduced flooding while maintaining a more natural hydrologic regime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardening of existing structures for flood protection is ineligible. • Land acquisition is ineligible as a grant expense but may be allowed as a matching expense. • The construction of any physical structure(s) without a direct, measurable ecological improvement(s) is ineligible.
<p>Federal NPS (319)</p> <p>40% required match; 25% for TMDL implementation projects*</p> <p>Target Grant Amount: \$25,000 - \$200,000</p>	<p>Reduce NPS pollutant loadings entering water resources so that beneficial uses of the water resources are maintained or restored. Support implementation of actions specified in watershed-based plans.</p> <p>Note: Restricted to a limited number of watersheds in 2017.</p>	<p><i>Water Quality Restoration Actions: Feasibility and Design Phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility studies to assess upland attenuation and design of green infrastructure in a priority catchment area outside of MS4 areas;** • Development of a buffer restoration plan for a waterbody impaired by NPS sources;** <p><i>Implementation Phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of green infrastructure practices to capture and treat stormwater runoff in locations outside of MS4 regulated areas. • Agricultural BMPs to control erosion and sedimentation or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects limited to watersheds with approved or pending watershed plans: i.e., Bristol-Kickemuit River watershed planning area; Barrington- Palmer-Warren Rivers watershed planning areas; Aquidneck Island watersheds, Nonquit Pond watershed, Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed. • Funds cannot be used to retrofit existing stormwater infrastructure with discharges regulated under MS4 program.

		<p>improve animal waste handling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of natural buffers to improve water quality. <p><i>Onsite Wastewater Management:</i> Repair or replacement of systems identified as a source of water quality impairment.</p> <p><i>Aquatic Habitat Restoration</i> - limited to locations where degraded conditions contribute to water quality or designated use impairments:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be used to comply with Phase I/Phase II stormwater management requirements; i.e. six minimum measures. • Land acquisition is ineligible as a grant expense but may be allowed as a matching expense • May not be used for onsite sewage disposal systems serving single-family residences.
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* Reductions of match from 40 % or 50% to no less than 25% are discretionary and subject to the approval of the DEM Director.

** Projects need to demonstrate commitment that leads to implementation or construction.

RIDEM welcomes the opportunity to help applicants determine whether a project would be eligible for a grant, and to provide guidance in preparing a project proposal. For assistance, contact the individual listed as program contacts on page 14.

4. Eligible Grant Expenses – what costs are allowable?

Eligibility of activities may vary with the type of grant application. Eligible expenses may include the costs of personnel salary and fringe, travel, supplies, construction, and contractual services. With respect to personnel, RIDEM generally will not subsidize salaries of existing governmental staff, but rather encourages such expenses to be allocated as match. Restrictions on the use of funds are noted in Table 2.

Projects *solely* focused on activities such as technical assistance, education, training, technology transfer, community planning and water quality monitoring will *not* be considered eligible. However, such activities *may* be eligible as tasks in projects where they are directly associated with implementing a restoration action that reduces NPS pollution. Research, water quality assessment, and routine maintenance of existing structural BMPs are not eligible activities. The state BWRP may support targeted stormwater mapping projects provided they are linked to an existing water quality impairment and abatement action such as illicit detection. Phase II municipal stormwater programs are ineligible for support under the NPS 319 program.

RIDEM and the State of Rhode Island take no responsibility for project work done outside the term or scope of a valid grant agreement or prior to full approval of an agreement. Applicants should NOT anticipate any funding for work that is done before approval of a grant agreement. Agreements are not valid until the Rhode Island Department of Administration issues the appropriate encumbrance (i.e., purchase order or PO release). All agreements must be signed and dated by an authorized agent of the sponsor and DEM.

5. Project Time Periods

The grant awards will be authorized via grant agreements for a limited period of time. Due to greater emphasis being placed on the timeliness of expenditures by both EPA and the State, projects that will be completed within a **one to two year time period** will be favored. With adequate supporting justification DEM will consider three year project time periods for larger, more complex projects. Projects not promptly initiated or that fall substantially behind schedule once underway may have their grant awards rescinded or reduced. DEM encourages applicants to take into consideration and to plan adequate time for procurement and obtaining permits or other approvals in their project schedule.

6. Match Requirements

“Match” refers to funds or services used to conduct a project that are not borne by grant funds. All project match must: (1) relate directly to the project for which the match is being applied; (2) be reasonably valued; and (3) be supported by documentation. Match is an indicator of local commitment to a project and is considered in proposal eligibility and ranking.

Match may include: (1) cash; (2) the value of noncash, in-kind contributions (e.g., value of equipment donated for use the project); or (3) the value of goods and services directly contributed to the project. Third-party in-kind contributions are allowed with the exception that NPS 319 grants cannot be matched with other federal contributions. Volunteer services provided to the sponsor for project activities and travel costs may be valued as match at rates consistent with rates ordinarily paid by employers for similar work. General volunteer time may be valued in accordance with rates found at: <https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>. The current rate of volunteer time in RI is \$24.34/hour.

Examples of actions that might be used as eligible match include the following:

- Cost or value-per-hour rate multiplied by the number of hours performing work associated with the project proposal tasks, such as labor to install BMPs, bid or subcontract development, development of BMP designs and permit reviews, including attending meetings pertaining to such, conducting public meetings or similar work relating to the project but not directly funded by the grant;
- Cost of materials, supplies or equipment rentals used for the project; and
- Cost of construction of approved BMPs (including labor, equipment and materials).

NPS 319 grants are provided in a 60% to 40% (i.e., 3:2) grant to match ratio. A 40% match means that at least 40% of the *total project budget* comes from a nonfederal source. **To calculate the 40% required minimum match, multiply the grant amount by 0.6667.**

State BWRf grants are provided in 50% to 50% grant to match ratio. The applicant must provide match in an amount equal to or exceeding the requested grant amount.

DEM will, at its sole discretion, consider reducing the match requirement to 25% of total project cost for both 319 and BWRf nonpoint source abatement grants. Applicants should apply using the applicable 40-50% match commitment and indicate on the bottom of Form B that they would like to be considered for reduced match. The proposals should provide sufficient justification for the reduction by adequately describing the expected pollutant reductions and expected improvement in ambient water quality. Projects that comprehensively address the pollutant loadings to a specific waterbody will be favored over those that abate only one or partial sources.

Projects that are eligible and wish to apply to both funding sources may do so provided that the total of the combined grants does not exceed 75% of the total project costs. At least 25% of the project costs must be derived from non-grant (e.g. local) sources.

Applicants that are seeking to leverage the state BWRP funds with those applied for through the Southern New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program – RFP for Nutrient Management Grants for the Greater Narragansett Bay Watershed should indicate that that is their intention.

7. Preparing the Proposal for Final Approval

For projects that are selected, DEM may request the applicant to modify project proposals based on comments received during project evaluations and the selection process. The applicant must submit the revised project proposal/scope of work to the DEM prior to final approval. DEM will conduct a final review of the proposal in coordination with appropriate agencies and, if satisfied that all review comments have been adequately addressed, the final proposal or scope of work will become the basis for the grant agreement that will be executed to formalize the grant award.

8. Public Workshops

	May 10, 2017	10:00 – Noon
	May 11, 2017	2:00 – 4:00 pm

Two public workshops to review the RFP process and clarify guidance for potential grant applicants have been scheduled as follows:

Public workshops	Date:	May 10, 2017
	Time:	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
	Location:	Middletown Public Library 700 West Main Road, Middletown, RI
	Date:	May 11, 2017
	Time:	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Location:	RIDEM Headquarters, Room 300 235 Promenade Street, Providence

9. Updated RFP Information

During the application period, as the need arises, DEM may post additional information concerning this RFP and funding opportunity on its website. This may include clarification of commonly asked questions. Potential applicants are advised to periodically check the DEM website on the financial assistance page of the DEM Office of Water Resources located at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/finance/index.htm>

10. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will receive an initial screening by representatives of the RIDEM Office of Water Resources for basic eligibility criteria. To be awarded a grant, applicants must possess adequate fiscal and project management capabilities. Past performance on prior DEM grants will be taken into account when assessing organizational capacity to effectively manage a project. Eligible proposals will be referred to an interagency review committee(s). The interagency review committee will evaluate the eligible proposals consistent with ranking criteria developed in conjunction with rules governing the

BWRF and applicable federal requirements in order to make recommendations subject to final decision by the RIDEM Director.

Ranking criteria address:

- Severity and magnitude of the problem;
- Value of resource to be protected and public benefits derived;
- Beneficial impact to waters of the state;
- Beneficial impact to aquatic or riparian habitat;
- Technical merit and likelihood of success;
- Consistency with approved plans; e.g. TMDL, watershed plans, stormwater plan, hazard mitigation plan.
- Readiness to proceed.
- Quality of proposal (including accuracy of financial information)

11. How to Apply - Final Submittal Deadline – Friday June 30, 2017

Note: If you are unsure about whether the project you are interested in is eligible for funding under this RFP, please contact DEM as indicated below for further guidance. DEM can also address questions concerning your eligibility as a potential applicant, eligibility of certain project costs and issues regarding the technical merit of water pollution abatement strategies. You are encouraged to contact the DEM-OWR as indicated below for feedback in advance of filing a proposal.

Final proposals must be received by RIDEM **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2017**. The proposal must include mandatory application forms (Form A and Form B), a narrative project description and other supporting materials as appropriate; e.g. site map, letters of support, photographs, etc. Refer to Appendix B for details and final application forms.

DEM encourages that proposals be sent electronically (Microsoft WORD format). Hard-copies will also be accepted.

All proposals must be submitted to the following application recipient:

Grant Type	Application Recipient & Program Contact	Additional contact – information only
BWRP – Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Pollution Control Sub-funds Flood Prevention and Mitigation Sub-fund	Jay Manning, P.E., Principal Sanitary Engineer Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Water Resources 235 Promenade St. Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-4700 x 7254 or jay.manning@dem.ri.gov	Sue Kiernan, Deputy Chief DEM Office of Water Resources (401)-222-4700 ext. 7600 or sue.kiernan@dem.ri.gov For questions on TMDL implementation and Stormwater Utility Districts: Elizabeth Scott, Deputy Chief DEM Office of Water Resources 401-222-4700 ext. 7300 elizabeth.scott@dem.ri.gov
NPS (319)	Betsy Dake, Senior Environmental Scientist Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Water Resources 235 Promenade St. Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-4700 x 7230 or betsy.dake@dem.ri.gov	Ernie Panciera, Supervising Environmental Scientist DEM Office of Water Resources 401-222-4700 ext. 7603 or Ernie.panciera@dem.ri.gov Margherita Pryor EPA Region 1, New England (617) 918-1597 or pryor.margherita@epamail.epa.gov

Water Quality Restoration Grant Timelines	
Announcement of RFP	April 2017
Public Workshops	May 10 & 11, 2017
Final Grant Proposals Due to RIDEM – Office of Water Resources	4:00 pm EST June 30, 2017
Review of Proposals/ Announcement of Grant Awards	Late Summer 2017
Projects can be initiated after grant agreements are formally executed. DEM expects projects to be completed within 12-24 months of the project start date specified in the grant agreement.	

12. Project Administration

- 12a. Grant Agreements - It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in the late summer. Development of grant agreements will follow with projects starting at various times. For projects selected to receive grants, DEM may request the applicant to modify the project scope of work based on comments received during project evaluations and the selection process as part of developing and finalizing the grant agreement.

Grant recipients must enter into an agreement with DEM to establish mutually agreeable terms for completing the project. Items in the agreement include, *but are not limited to*:

- Scope of work including tasks, schedules and deliverables. (The approved project proposal is usually incorporated as the scope of work.);
- RIDEM and sponsor responsibilities, including interim and final reporting requirements;
- Statement of the project's total budget, matching budget, and grant budget;
- Statutory and regulatory requirements for contracting such as competitive bidding, fair-share allotments, i.e., minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE);
- Requirements for subcontracting;
- Project payment schedule and payment terms; and
- Record-keeping and reporting.

For BMP projects and others as applicable:

- Estimate of pollutant load reductions;
- Operation and Maintenance plan; and
- Coordination of permitting with the DEM Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team.

Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis in accordance with the payment schedule and terms contained in the project agreement. Reimbursement is tied to performance targets and payments are not scheduled more frequently than once a month.

Grant recipients will be required to provide regular progress reports to RIDEM. Grantees will be required to report information to support public reporting of the employment supported by the project. Projects are expected to be completed in the timeframe of the grant agreement. Timeframes will be negotiated in the range of 12-24 months. **Time extensions will not be granted without specific and appropriate justification.**

- 12b. Pre-project and Pre-contract Costs - **RIDEM and the State of Rhode Island take no responsibility for project work done outside the term or scope of the grant agreement or prior to full approval of a grant agreement. Applicants should NOT anticipate any funding for work that is done before approval of a grant agreement.** Agreements are not valid until the Rhode Island Department of Administration issues the appropriate encumbrance (i.e., purchase order). All agreements must be signed and dated by an authorized agent of the sponsor and RIDEM.
- 12c. Procurement - The expenditure of funds pursuant to these grants is subject to state law governing procurement, including requirements for competitive bidding and goals for participation by minority or woman business enterprises (MBE/WBE). NPS 319 grants are also

subject to federal regulations governing procurement. In general, where consultant, engineering or construction services are to be obtained, a competitive process is required. Where a municipality has retained engineering or consultants under a prior competitive solicitation, DEM *may* allow that arrangement to be utilized for a project, provided adequate documentation is provided that the services sought were within the anticipated scope of services under the original solicitation, and that the manner of pricing is consistent with applicable requirements. RIDEM reserves the right to review and approve the award of any contract or subcontract.

- 12d. Indirect (Overhead) Costs - Indirect costs are costs that are not readily attributable with a specific project; e.g. rent, heat, utilities, etc. Indirect costs are subject to the review and approval of the DEM Office of Management Services. Entities proposing to use an indirect rate must have a State- approved current rate. In general, DEM will not authorize indirect rates that exceed 15%. If an agency opts to establish an indirect rate for its NPS 319 grant, the rate is subject to applicable federal OMB guidance regarding cost principles (2 CFR 200).
- 12e. Measurable Results (Federal NPS and BWRP grants as required by RIDEM) - Increasingly, state environmental agencies and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are encouraged to demonstrate project effectiveness by measurable results. The federal Office of Management and Budget has *strongly* indicated that expenditure of Section 319 grant funding should result in measurable reduction of pollutants (e.g., bacteria, nutrients, etc.) as well as a return of water resource values (e.g., reopening shellfishing grounds). Grantees will be required to calculate relevant pollutant load reductions and report them to RIDEM upon completion of construction of any grant-funded BMP.
- 12f. Permitting - Many grant projects will require a permit from RIDEM or CRMC or review by another governmental agency to proceed. For water quality and significant habitat restoration projects, DEM will require via the grant agreement that permitting matters be coordinated via the Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team. Applicants should consider the time needed to acquire permits and other agency reviews and plan projects accordingly. Failure to obtain and comply with permits is generally considered a material breach of a grant agreement and may jeopardize project funding.
- 12g. Fiscal Assurances - Sponsors will be subject to fiscal assurances per terms of the project agreement. Fiscal assurances include, but are not limited to the audit requirements established by the State of Rhode Island and, as applicable, the US Office of Management and Budget in "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (2 CFR 200). The sponsor must have established fiscal procedures that comply with these requirements.
- 12h. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) (NPS 319 only) – The distribution by DEM of Section 319 funds is governed by a programmatic quality assurance project plan (QAPP) developed by DEM. This plan is applicable to most of the types of projects anticipated under this RFP. However, there may be cases in which the applicant proposes activities, including water quality monitoring, which will require development of a project-specific QAPP. Where DEM determines an individual project QAPP is necessary, it will negotiate this task with the grantee during contract development.

Appendix A: Final Application Content & Forms

Your completed application should include the following:



FORM A: Required Applicant and Project Information



FORM B: Budget Detail



Narrative Description



Site/Location Map



Other Supporting Material
(pictures, data, letters of support, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NARRATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A narrative project description is required. In general, the description should require no more than 3-6 pages. The narrative should address the following elements.

Purpose: Provide a brief, clear statement of the project purpose, including as applicable:

- Types of nonpoint pollution sources and water quality impairments or threats addressed by the project;
- Type of stormwater management program enhancement (State BWRP only)
- Flooding problem to be mitigated (State BWRP only)
- If applicable, the TMDL, watershed restoration or hazard mitigation plan that provided basis for proposed project.

For Nonpoint Pollution Abatement Projects:

Pollutant Categories to be addressed: List the primary pollutant type(s) and if appropriate, secondary pollutant type(s).

For Flood Mitigation Projects: Describe the nature of the flooding problem to be mitigated including naming the waterbody or waterbodies involved, the properties affected (e.g. neighborhood or streets) and the ecological benefits that will result from the project.

For All Projects:

Project Approach and Tasks: Provide a concise overview of project approach and identify and describe major tasks. Provide a rationale for the selection of the technical approach to the project; e.g. the selected BMP, flood mitigation strategy, etc. Each task should be associated with an output; e.g., final engineering plans, construction phase, etc. For pollution abatement projects, describe the BMP selected and explain its effectiveness in abating pollution in the targeted waterbody.

Management and Coordination:

- Describe who will manage the project; how contracting and subcontracting will be done;
- Describe if and how other agencies and organizations will participate in the project, including letters of commitment or support if available;
- Characterize current organizational capacity;
- Describe past project management experience.

Note: The narrative should be clear on who is responsible for each major task.

Maintenance (Construction Projects only): If the project involves construction, identify the general requirements and responsibility for long-term maintenance.

Public Outreach /Public Participation: If applicable, describe how the project results will be shared via public outreach and/or if any public participation is anticipated.

Final Products & Measurable Environmental Results:

- Describe expected outputs such as progress and final reports;
- Describe how you will measure the environmental results of your project. Results and/or benefits must be documented in both quantitative and qualitative terms, such as load reductions of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) and/or sediments to receiving waters, other measurable improvements such as reductions in bacteria or other pollutants, or the results

of physical restoration; e.g., linear feet of riparian buffers installed, number of stream miles with improved connectivity, Load reduction estimates can be provided either from appropriate calculations, model estimates or from direct measurement. Available estimation models include STEP-L, and EPA Region 5 Model. RIDEM NPS staff can offer assistance in estimating load reductions. For flooding projects, calculated estimates of reduced peak flows, less frequent flooding events or similar measures may be used.

General Schedule & Milestones

- Estimated schedule (typically 1-2 years from the time the project contract is signed) and key milestones.

Form A: Required Applicant and Project Information

1 Project Title						
Project Title						
2a Applicant Information						
Organization						
Contact Name						
E-mail				Phone		
Street address						
2b Signature of Applicant (REQUIRED)						
Authorized Agent Signature				Date		
Name						
Title						
3. Grant Application Category Amount Requested (fill in all that apply)						
Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund – NPS & SW- Governmental	\$					
Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund – NPS & SW- Nongovernmental	\$					
Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund – Flood Prevention & Mitigation	\$					
Nonpoint Source Pollution-319	\$					
Total Grant Amount Requested	\$					
4. Project Management <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above (2a)						
(List the person(s) responsible for managing this project)						
Full Name						
Title			Organization (if different from 2.a)			
Email			Phone	Fax		
Street Address						
5. Project Location Site specific <input type="checkbox"/> Larger project area <input type="checkbox"/>						
Street address or description of project area						
Name(s) of targeted waterbody/waterbodies						
Targeted –Integrated Report List Status: Category 4A <input type="checkbox"/> Category 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>						
Integrated Report - Listed impairment targeted by project: Pathogen <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient <input type="checkbox"/> Dissolved Oxygen <input type="checkbox"/>						
Impaired Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Other (List Parameter): _____						
6. Source of Match						
Applicant's Funds <input type="checkbox"/>		Third Party Funds <input type="checkbox"/>		In-kind Services <input type="checkbox"/>		

Please Attach Project Location Map

Form B: Budget Detail

Table A: Project Tasks¹, Deliverables, Schedule, and Estimated Costs

Task #	Description and Task	Deliverables	Schedule ²	Requested Amount	Non-federal Match	Total Task Cost
			Totals			

1. Tasks must include progress and final reports.
2. Please express as the month number in which the task is expected to be completed from start of project (i.e., Month 2)

Table B: Project Costs by Budget Category

Budget Category						Requested Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total Cost of Category
1. Salary and Fringe ¹								
Name	Title	Salary	Percent Time Charged to Project	Fringe (as percent of salary)	Total Salary Cost			
2. Indirect Costs ²								
3. Supplies ³								
4. Equipment ⁴								
5. Travel and Training ⁵								
6. Contractual ⁶								
7. Construction ⁷								
8. Other ⁸								
Totals								
To request reduced match, enter the reduced match in the non-federal match column in this row. (no less than 25% of total projects costs required)								

Specify sources of match: Amount from other federal sources: \$ _____
 Amount from non-federal sources: \$ _____

1. Include salaries and fringe benefits paid for work performed on the project. "Salary" should include the rate per hour by position. "Fringe benefits" are employment benefits given in addition to wages or salary, such as health, retirement, etc. Grant funds are typically not used to pay municipal employee's salaries; these expenses should be used as match.
2. Indirect can only be charged by those entities that have negotiated an indirect rate with the State of RI in advance.
3. Includes expendable items, such as office, field and lab supplies, film, postage, equipment costing less than \$1,000, books, etc
4. Includes any items of equipment costing more than \$1,000.
5. Includes transportation costs incurred during work, such as tolls, costs of using vehicle (vehicle costs = number of miles x mileage rate)
6. Includes procured services not provided by grantee, such as consultants, engineering and design services, etc. You must identify tasks and outputs for each contractor. If contractual work has not yet been bid, provide estimated costs.
7. Includes costs associated with construction of BMPs, including permit fees.
8. Includes costs not described by previous categories.

NOTE: Please read section 6 carefully to understand how to calculate the required match for your proposal.