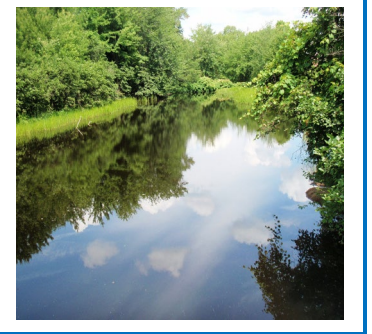


WATERSHED PROTECTION:

**A DISCUSSION TO EXPLORE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
COLLABORATION**



In collaboration with the Rhode Island Rivers Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management – Office of Water Resources will host a discussion among local and state partners and stakeholders on topics of interest related to watershed protection. The discussion is aimed at exchanging information and input on priority watershed concerns and identifying opportunities for enhancing collaboration to advance watershed protection and restoration.

**WHEN: Wednesday September 11, 2024
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

**WHERE: RIDEM Headquarters
235 Promenade Street - Room 300**

Directions: <https://dem.ri.gov/contact-us/directions>

Access the meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89447384993?pwd=cy9FSGI2b05mRkdxZVV0MHZUTnVTZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 4738 4993; Passcode: 333848



As part of the regularly scheduled Rhode Island Rivers Council meeting, the RIDEM discussion will follow a short business meeting. The discussion is open to the public and all interested persons are welcome to attend.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. WATER RESOURCE CONCERNS

RIDEM will provide a brief overview of the overall status of water quality highlighting the following topics:

- **Water Quality Impairments:**
 - **Nutrients, bacteria**
 - **Cyanobacteria**
- **Aquatic invasive Species**
- **Plastics/Litter**
- **PFAS**

For the topics above, group discussion will follow targeting planned activities, potential opportunities for collaboration and related ideas. RIDEM will highlight and share information on pertinent state management activities. Summary information will be included in a discussion guide that will be shared at the meeting. The discussion may touch on topics including but not limited to:

- Stormwater management and retrofitting & Green Infrastructure
- Culverts & stream connectivity & Riparian buffers
- Lake management planning
- Management of Hydrilla & Water Chestnut
- Actions to prevent spread of Aquatic Invasive Species
- Source reduction of plastics, litter cleanups
- Public outreach

2. COMMUNICATON

Discussion questions:

- Are watershed stakeholders satisfied with the information available for their watershed?
- What are the key information gaps?
- Is there information likely to be available but difficult to access?
- How can communication between interested stakeholders (state & local) be improved?
- Thoughts on preferred communication channels or approaches?

3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: Training and Outreach

Are there local needs, besides funding, that might be met through collaboration efforts?

Training:

What are the priority training needs among watershed/local stakeholder organizations? (*Fundraising ideas? Grant writing? Managing volunteers? Using Information technology? Understanding data? Organizing projects?*)

Outreach:

What watershed concerns would benefit most from enhanced outreach? Are there opportunities to collaborate on outreach materials?

4. WRAP UP

Last chance to raise topics of priority concern not previously discussed.

Follow-up steps –RIDEM will compile summary of potential opportunities and identify potential actions in response to stakeholder input.