### 2025 Water Quality Restoration Grants Public Information Session Part 1



April 15, 2025



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- The recording will be made available on our website and YouTube channel.
- Please introduce yourself in the chat with your name, title, and email address.
- Questions and comments will be addressed after the presentations during Q&A.

#### Kindly mute your microphone to minimize background noise.

#### Introduction

**Overview of Funding Purpose** 

**Funding Priorities** 

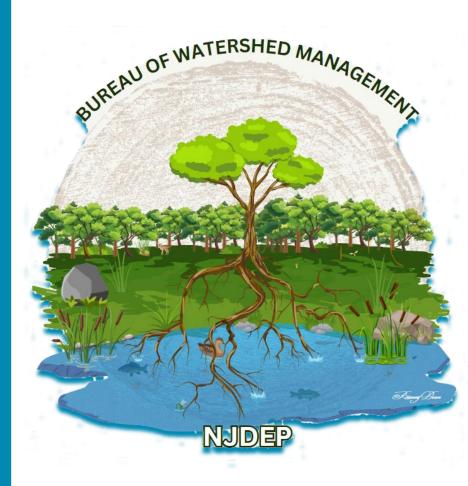
Agenda

**Grantee Responsibilities** 

**Project Evaluation Criteria** 

SAGE

**Q&A** Session





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### **Purpose of Funding**

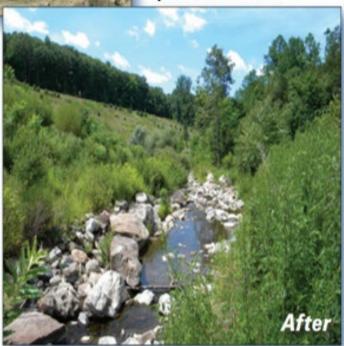
The Department has \$13.4 million to award for this grant funding cycle through the 2025 RFP for eligible projects and plans.

Grants proposals should target NPS pollution through watershed restoration, enhancement, and protection strategies.

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) | US EPA



Restoration of 5,700 miles of Sparta Glen Brook in Sparta Glen Park.



## **Funding Priorities**

Atlantic Coastal 2024 2034 Northeast Raritan 2032 2026 Upper Lower Delaware Delaware 2028 2030

### This RFP is for qualified projects in the Atlantic Coastal and the Northeast Water Regions.

The Department utilizes a rotating basin approach across New Jersey's five water regions. This approach:

- Facilitates the development of strategies to restore, maintain, and enhance water quality, ensuring effectiveness and efficiency while addressing the unique needs of each region.
- Funding will be awarded to eligible applicants to implement targeted water quality restoration and protection projects as outlined in this RFP.

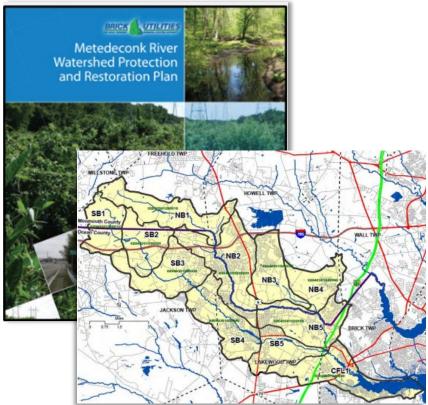
Project Type	Source	Amount	
Planning proposals only	604(b) Base	\$1,709,625.74	
	604(b) BIL General Supplementa	\$2,534,000	
	BIL Emerging Contaminants*	\$215,000	
<b>Total</b> : \$4,458,625.74			
Planning and/or Implementation proposals	319(h)	\$8,968,002.24	
<b>Total</b> : \$8,968,002.2			
	Grand Total: \$13,426,62		

# **Funding Amounts**

## **Funding Priorities continued**

#### **Development of Watershed Based Plans**

- Development of Watershed-Based Plans (Appendix J) OR updates to existing plans
- Saddle River Watershed: Development of a plan for the Saddle River and its subwatersheds, including areas in New York, supporting TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) initiatives in the Northeast water region
- Lake Watershed-Based Plans:
  - Creating or updating plans to address nutrient inputs contributing to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).
  - Focus on lakes with shallow, poorly maintained residential wells at risk from HAB toxins and surface contaminants.
  - Public engagement and Education
- Extreme Weather Resilience: development of extreme weather resilience and assessment plan that integrate communities faced with adverse environmental and public health stressors which assess the effects and ways to mitigate potential impacts from extreme weather and improve resilience.
- Emerging Contaminants Plan: Development of a plan to reduce or eliminate emerging contaminants as defined by the USEPA. Priority given to Cozy Lake.



Metedeconk River Watershed Study Area

Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters | US EPA

## **Funding Priorities continued**

#### **Implementation Projects**

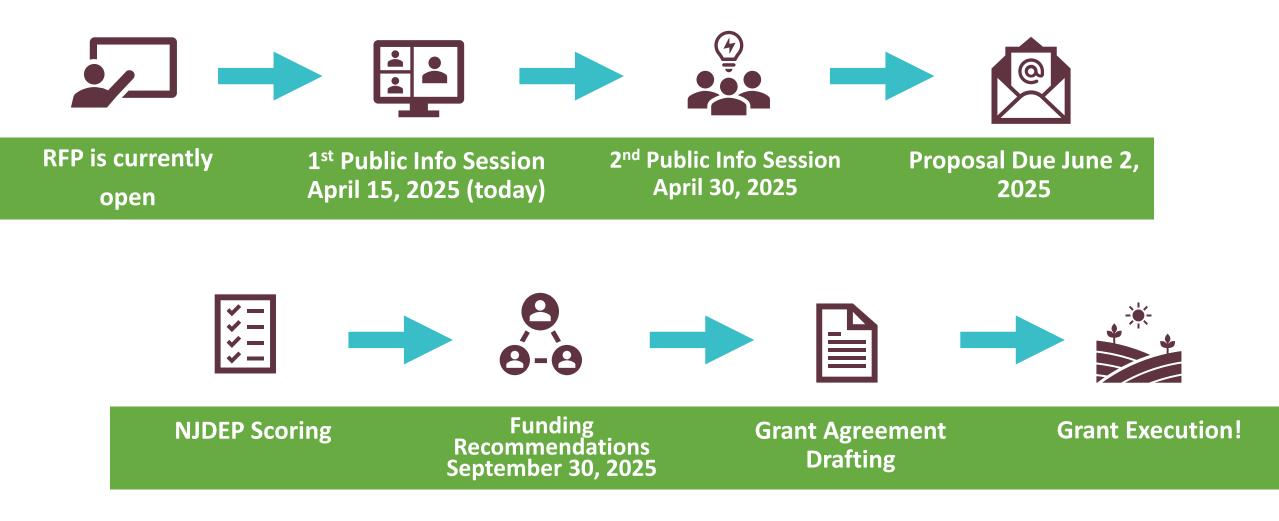
- Extreme Weather Resilience: Projects using Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to reduce the impacts of Extreme Weather. NBS utilize natural features to address erosion, reduce flooding, and improve or maintain water quality.
- Construction of Green Infrastructure (GI) projects, including green roofs, rain gardens, and pervious paving systems, to manage stormwater at its source. GI treats stormwater runoff by:
  - Infiltrating into the subsoil
  - Filtering through vegetation or soil
  - Storing runoff for reuse Priority will be given to areas connected to combined sewer systems (CSOs) and projects in communities faced with adverse public health and safety stressors. All projects must follow New Jersey's <u>Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual</u>.
- Projects that were identified in approved Watershed-Based Plans or projects that address water quality impairments and TMDL allocations. Priority is given to projects located in the Northeast or Atlantic Coast Water Regions or those targeting impairments in watersheds listed in Appendix K, identified using EPA's Recovery Potential Screening Tool.





WM15-016; Implementation of green infrastructure projects to reduce Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in the Royce Brook watershed

### **Timeline Overview**



### **Proposal Submission**

- SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 2, 2025
- FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS: September 30, 2025
- Expenditures by the grantee outside the grant period are not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Applicants eligible to apply for funding under this RFP include:
  - State, regional, and local government units within New Jersey
  - Designated water quality management planning agencies
  - State universities, and colleges
  - Interstate agencies of which New Jersey is a member
  - Section 501(c)(3) watershed and water resource associations and other local nonprofit organizations authorized to operate in the State of New Jersey

## **Proposal Submission continued**

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Sufficient staffing and other resources with the capability, expertise, and environmental experience to perform the proposed project.
- The ability to establish and maintain partnerships to ensure project implementation as well as long-term operation and maintenance/management.
- Authority to implement the proposed project(s) and property or other access rights to construct the project.
- In addition to meeting the specifics of the grant opportunities described, eligible projects must be:
  - Well-designed to achieve the project goal of NPS pollution reduction and presented in the proper sequence of events (goal/objective/task).
  - Consistent with existing local, state, and federal requirements and can obtain permits needed to implement the project.
- Viable and readily implementable (shovel-ready).
- For proposals that do not include construction (e.g. planning, outreach and education), the proposal must include deliverables such as schedules, reports, training/outreach products, and inventories.
- Able to be completed within the agreed upon timeframe identified in the grant agreement.
- Located on public property or on private property with an executed agreement with the property owner sufficient to allow for the project to be completed as proposed, including the required monitoring and evaluation element.

## **Proposal Submission continued**

### **Required Elements For A Complete Proposal**

Project Background Summary Information	A description of the problem as it relates to the priorities in the RFP.
Project Description	Explain the project and how it will address the problem and priorities in the RFP. Must contain your goals, objectives, and tasks to complete the project.
Applicant Description	Demonstrate that the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 4 are met.
Monitoring and Evaluation Information	A description of how attainment of project objectives will be measured or demonstrated.
Implementation Schedule and Budget	A description of the implementation schedule and budget by objective and task that includes project deliverables and the responsible party.
Budget Details	A description of the budget details as it pertains to the Personnel Costs (Salaries and Benefits), (Sub)Contractors, Supplies, Monitoring, Training, Travel, Audit, Indirect Costs and Matching/Additional Funding.
Supplemental Information	Are letters of resource commitment with the amount of match funds listed, site plans, maps, blueprints, etc.

### **Grantee Responsibilities**

- Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports required to be submitted to the Department every 6months to provide an update and explanation of the project status.
- Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads after the completion of each BMP project, a grantee is responsible for calculating the load reductions and reporting them to the Department.
- Monitoring Data grantee must get an approved QAPP before any monitoring, measurements, or data generation is initiated. In addition, data must be submitted to the Department and to the EPA through the USEPA Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS).
- **Completion of a Project** grantee is responsible for the projecting being completed on time and providing a final report summarizing the project and highlighting the results.
- Ownership/Proprietary Rights; Data and Geographical Information System (GIS) Requirements grantee must provide the Department with all information generated during the grant, return all equipment purchased with grant funds and ensure that GIS data follows the NJ DEP GIS Standards.

## **Grantee Responsibilities**

Problem

compromised floodplain habitats, which, in turn, le to increased TSS concentrations. The TSS impair-

ment was identified when the SBMMA conducted

of all streams and viparias habitans in 1997. The

continuing monitoring under NUDEP's ambient

TSS impairment was confirmed by concurrent and

menitoring network, TSS concentrations exceeded

ligrams per liter (mg/L), with a maximum recorded

Princetor to the 2002 CWA section 305bb list of

impaired waters for 755.

the state's surface water quality standard of 40 mil-

value of 152 mg/L in early 1997 Therefore, in 2002 NUDEP added the stream segment Story Brook at

a watershed-wide characterization and a

- **Coordination of Project Permitting** the grantee must coordinate all permit activities with the Department's Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration and list BWM as a co-applicant.
- **Maintenance Agreement** the grantee must submit a Maintenance Agreement before inthe-ground installation of any BMPs.
- **Final Reports** the grantee must submit a final report in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP.
- **Grant Accomplishment Narrative** the grantee is responsible for submitting a on or two-page NPS Success Story in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP. (Shown on the right)

#### Section 319 ONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM SI

#### Restoring Streambanks and Floodplain Habitats Improves Water Quality

Development in the Stony Brook-Millstone (SBM) watershed Waterbodies Improved led to increases in volume and intensity of stormwater runoff The stormwater eroded streambanks and floodplains, leading to elevated levels of total suspended solids (TSS). Monitoring data indicate that TSS levels exceeded water quality standards, which prompted the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to add a large SBM watershed segment-now composed of three 14-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) assessment units-to the state's 2002 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of impaired waters. In partner ship with the SBM Watershed Association (SBMWAL NUDEP initiated numerous watershed management and educational projects and implemented a series of streambank restoration and erosion control projects within the impaired portion of the SBM watershed. TSS levels dropped, allowing the impaired portion to meet water quality standards. In 2008 NJDEP removed the segment (three assessment units) from the New Jersey CWA section 303(d) list for TSS impairment.

#### Story Brook, in the Piedmont region of New Jerse is a major tributary of the Milistone River. The SBN watershed encompasses 205 square miles in pertral New Jansey Figure 1) and includes pontions of 26 municipalities. The 39 mile-long Militatione River begins in Milistone Township and flows north until it. initial the Backson Bluer, Story & Brook has been duratery itory Brook/ Allistone River in East Amuell Township as & hours 21 miles eastward until it joins the Millstone River at Camedia Lake in Princeson. The SBM watershed has a mis of urban, forest and agricultural land uses. NJ Extensive development over the past two decades converted significant rutal portions of the watershed to commercial and residential land uses. The increases in stormwater runoff volume and intersity resulted in severely eraded streambanks and

Recause NUCEP changed its basis for defining assessment units from stream segments to HUC 1d subwatersheds, this impaired stream sepment translated into the listing of three HUC 14 seesment units as impaired for TSS on the 2006 CWA section 3036d list. The TSS impairment was deemed partially responsible for the assessment units not supporting the aquatic life designated use. Ansenic and total phosphonus were also listed as the basis for nonsupport of designated uses.

Success Stories about Restoring Water Bodies Impaired by Nonpoint Source Pollution | US EPA

#### **Example of an EPA Success Story**

The HLIC 14 subwatersheds of Story Brook include Province Line Road to 74469m dani, Route 209 to Province Line Road, and Harrison Street to Route 309, in Princeton and Hopewell Townships

stations in 2006 and 2006 show TSS concentration consistently attaining the TSS surface water quality star dards (Figure 2). On the basis of these data, NUDEP removed TSS from the 2009 CWA section 303(d) Ket as a cause of impairment in the three HUC 1d appleanment units.

Story Brasic SEAMS Sile Children

August 2008-Chaumber 2006

#### **Project Highlights**

SEMINA worked with the U.S. Department of Apriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS) and towish ip engineers to identify sites. throughout the watershed in need of restoration erosion control and reforestation. SEMMA trained columners with assistance from NRCS. New Januar Greatry Service and the Delaware Ricer Network, CINA section 319 funds were used for sit rtreambark restoration/stabilization and floodplain reformation projects. Four relatoration projects vere implemented in Mountain Brook and two in the upper Story Brook parties of the watershed.

NUDEP and SBMMAR used biger pineering tech pies to stabilize streambanks, minimize erosion : provide a substate for native species plantings. max-erosion an Those technologies include biologs and erosio (cold mats made from boconut fiber at diwattle our tings. The coir mats provide temporary stability to s give species seedlings and wetland herbaceous plants on the streambark to help purtail erosio and to respone the rigarian econetters. At Great load Easement, Mountain Erpok, and Princetor

In 1998 SEMMA received \$152,000 in CWA sec tion 319 grant funds to implement six streambank ration and Boodplaix reforestatio

es. Such plans and ordinances ensure that any new development is designed to preserve or restore th

Continuing efforts are planned in the SBM water shed under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agenci targeted watershed grant for the Railtan Basin. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority, SBMWA and NUDEP were awarded \$1 million in CWA section 219 funding for restoration, pollution prevention and elorestation projects in the lower Raritan Basin That federal grant was matched by an additional \$1 million from other funding sources

#### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wate FRA 941-F-08-001MP

For additional information contact Barbara Hirs Chief, Bureau of Enviro New Jerkey Depart



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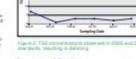
The six streambark projects addressed several problem locations and newlited in measurable water ublity improvement. After project implementa tion, data poliected from down stream monitoring

requiry of the watershed

Results

a stural hydrology of the site and protect the overall





- 1. Grant funds CANNOT be used to purchase meals or food
- 2. New SAGE Application Pages
  - Implementation Details
  - Impervious Surface Details
  - Co-Benefits
  - QAPP

- Permit Readiness Checklist
- Property Owner Certification Form

- 3. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) are required for **any type of monitoring** conducted under the grant, not just water quality monitoring. This includes monitoring related to other environmental parameters, such as habitat assessments, pollutant load reductions, or any other data collection activities, etc.
- 5. Progress Reports will be required to be submitted every 6-months rather than every 3-months.
- 6. A valid UEI Number is required at time of proposal submission.
- 7. There will be a second pre-award info session on **April 30, 2025.**

# **RFP Key Changes**

Guidance for Quality Assurance

Project Plans

## **Project Evaluation Criteria**

Category	Max Points	
Project Applicability	30	One or m
MATTER LAN		Leveragi
Project Readiness	25	Shovel-re
	TEK MALIN	Strong p
Likelihood of Success	35	Letters o
Monitoring and Evaluation	10	Long-ter
	The second	Impleme

**Key Points** more watersheds addressed ing additional environmental outcomes ready projects past performance of the applicant of support and commitment of resources rm sustainable benefits

**Implementation of a Watershed Based Plan** 

Volunteers plant Riparian buffer along Pequest River

There will be a mandatory follow up session for Grantees whose projects are funded.

## **Next Steps**

#### **RFP** Proposals





Attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> public information session to be held on April 30, 2025.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Use available guidance to prepare your proposal.



Submit your application!