



Paulins Kill, Lafayette Township, Sussex County April 2013/October 2020 Water Quality Restoration Grant (RP13-029) Photo: Nathaniel Sajdak, Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority

NJDEP DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION 2020-2022 WATER QUALITY RESTORATION GRANTS PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Cathryn Schaffer



Housekeeping

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- This meeting will be available on our website and YouTube channel
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- Please identify yourself in the chat with your name, title, and email address
- Please raise your hand if you have a question, questions and comments will be taken after the presenter is done.

AGENDA

Introduce our team

Purpose of funding

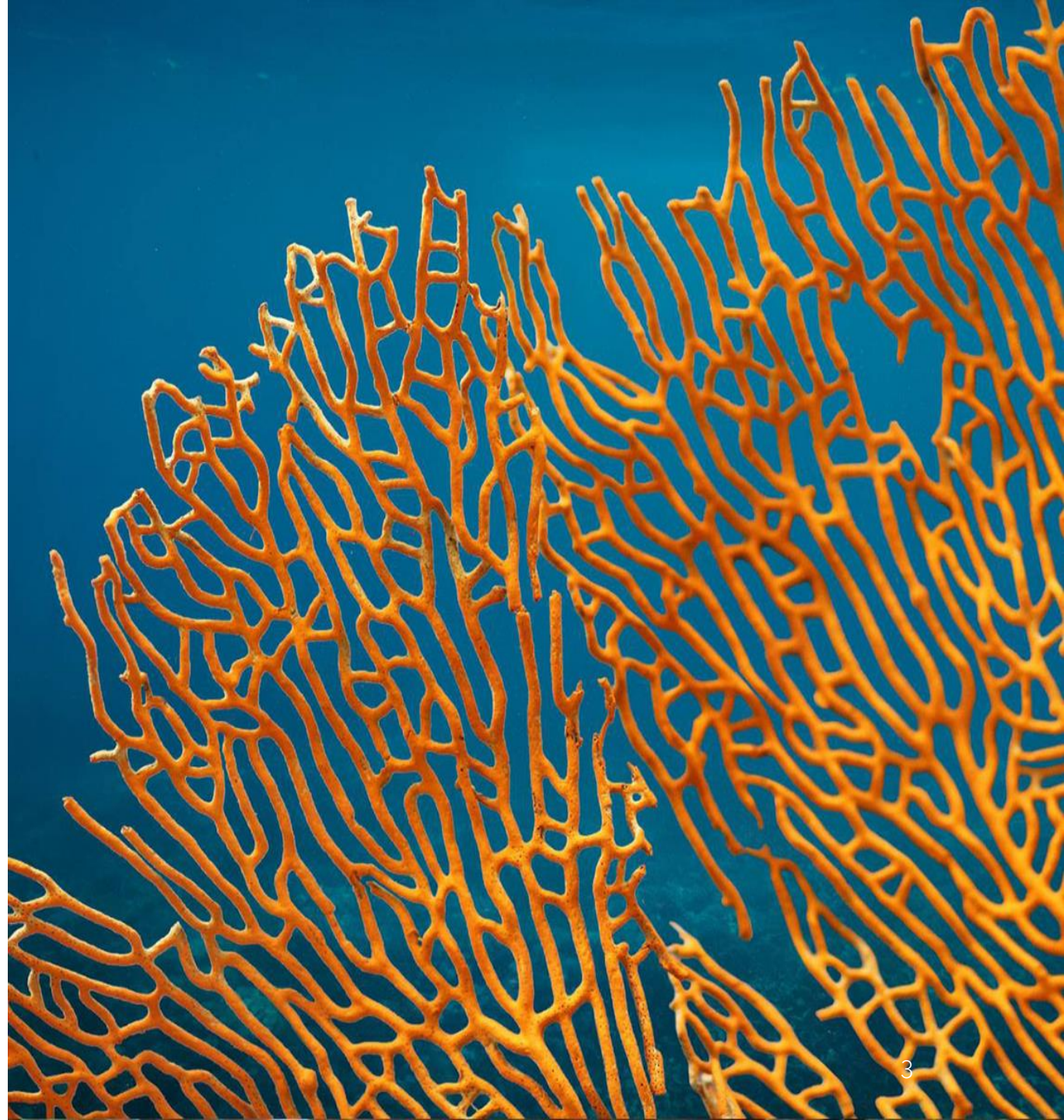
Funding priorities

Applying to the RFP

Grantee responsibilities

Project Evaluation Criteria

Q & A



OUR TEAM

Anika Andrews
Director

Cathryn Schaffer
Bureau Chief

Contract Administration

Russ Rader
Roxann Frederick

Grant Management

Harold Nebling
Jennifer Noblejas
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Lynette Lurig
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PURPOSE OF FUNDING

- For watershed restoration, enhancement, and protection strategies that address Non-Point Source pollution.
- The Department is issuing this [\\$9.4 million](#) RFP to solicit applications for eligible projects for the 2020-2022 grant funding cycle utilizing funds from:
 - Federal Clean Water Act section 319(h)
 - Corporate Business Tax (CBT) funds
 - Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funds.



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

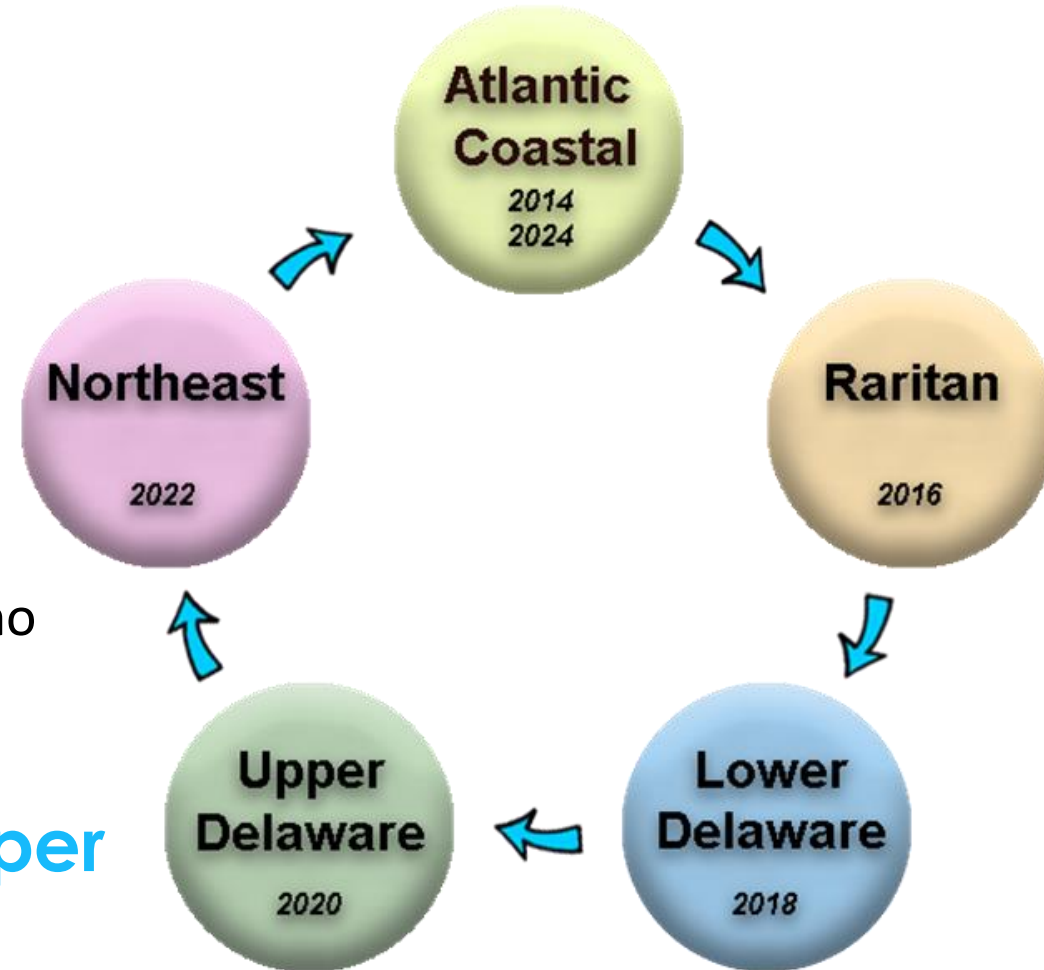


FUNDING PRIORITIES

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

- Produces a comprehensive assessment of the entire state every 10 years.
- Supports the development of measures to restore, maintain, and enhance water quality uses that maximize effectiveness and efficiency in achieving positive environmental outcomes that are tailored to the unique circumstances of each Region.
- Funding will be awarded as grants to eligible applicants who will carry out targeted water quality restoration and protection initiatives as outlined in this RFP.

This RFP is for qualified projects in the Upper and Lower Delaware River and the Northeast Water Regions.



FUNDING PRIORITIES CONT.

- A. Development of Watershed Plans in the Northeast, Upper and Lower Delaware River Watershed Management Areas \$1,000,000
- B. Development and implementation of Lake Protection Plans and/or Watershed Plans \$500,000
- C. Development and implementation of a Lake Protection Plan and/or Watershed Plan for Duhernal Lake and subwatersheds that drain to the lake \$300,000
- D. Implementation of approved watershed based plans \$1,000,000

Plan Name	Water Region Approved Watershed Based Plans
Assiscunk Creek	Lower Delaware
Upper Salem River	Lower Delaware
Upper Cohansey River	Lower Delaware
Musconetcong River	Upper Delaware
Alexauken Creek	Upper Delaware
Clove Acres Brook	Upper Delaware
Papakating Creek	Upper Delaware
Musquapsink Brook	Northeast
Tenakill Brook	Northeast

Table 1. Water Regions Approved EPA Nine Element Watershed Based Plans

FUNDING PRIORITIES CONT.

- E. Restoration projects in the Northeast, Upper and Lower Delaware River Water Regions that must be located within targeted watersheds from the list of Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) presented in Appendix H \$1,000,000
- F. Rancocas Creek Stormwater Management Project
Total: \$150,000: FY20/21 - \$20,000 planning; FY21/22 - \$130,000 implementation
- G. Continued implementation and administration of a Statewide Community Water Monitoring Program
\$300,000



Bowers Brook restoration at the M&M Mars Site in Hackettstown

FUNDING PRIORITIES CONT.

H. Green Infrastructure (GI) Projects in Environmental Justice Communities \$3,250,000

Information about GI can be found at:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>.

Information about EJ can be found at:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/>.

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool can be found at:

<https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=34e507ead25b4aa5a5051dbb85e55055>



A farmer uses a Manure storage facility to improve Walkkill River

I. Climate change resilience projects \$1,500,000

J. Animal Waste Management Plans (AWMP) \$400,000

APPLYING TO THE RFP

- **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 28, 2022**
- **FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS: June 30, 2022**
- Project schedules from start to finish should not exceed three (3) years.
- Expenditures by the grantee outside the grant period may 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.

APPLYING TO THE RFP CONT.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- 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 in a 3-year timeframe.
- 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.

APPLYING TO THE RFP CONT.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR A COMPLETE PROPOSAL

1. Project Background Summary Information - A description of the problem as it relates to the priorities in the RFP.
2. 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.
3. Applicant Description
4. Monitoring and Evaluation Information - A description of how attainment of project objectives will be measured or demonstrated.
5. Implementation Schedule and Budget - A description of the implementation schedule and budget by objective and task that includes project deliverables and the responsible party.
6. 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.
7. 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 on a quarterly basis 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.
- Water Quality Data - grantee must get an approved QAAP before any monitoring, measurements, or data generation is initiated. In addition, data must be submitted to the Department and the EPA's Water Quality Exchange Database.
- 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

- Coordination of Project Permitting – the grantee must coordinate all permit activities with the Department’s Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration and list the division as a co-applicant.
- Maintenance Agreement – the grantee must submit a Maintenance Agreement before in-the-ground installation of any BMPs.
- Final Reports – the grantee must submit a final report in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP.
- Success Story -- the grantee is responsible for submitting a one or two pager NPS Success Story in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP.

Problem
Story Brook, in the Piedmont region of New Jersey, is a major tributary of the Milstone River. The SBM watershed encompasses 265 square miles in central New Jersey (Figure 1) and includes portions of 26 municipalities. The 26-mile-long Milstone River begins in Milstone Township as it flows north and it joins the Raritan River. Story Brook has headwaters in East Amwell Township as it flows 21 miles eastward until it joins the Milstone River at Carnegie Lake in Princeton. The SBM watershed has a mix of urban, forest and agricultural land uses.

Extensive development over the past two decades converted significant rural portions of the watershed to commercial and residential land uses. The increases in stormwater runoff volume and intensity resulted in severely eroded streambanks and compromised floodplain habitats, yet led, in turn, to increased TSS concentrations. The TSS impairment was identified when the SBMWA commissioned a watershed-wide characterization and assessment of all streams and riparian habitats in 1997. The TSS impairment was confirmed by continuous and continuing monitoring under NJDEP's ambient monitoring network. TSS concentrations exceeded the state's surface water quality standard of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/L), with a maximum recorded value of 522 mg/L in early 1997. Therefore, in 2002 NJDEP added the stream segment Story Brook at Princeton to the 2002 CWA section 303(d) list of impaired waters for TSS.

Figure 1: The Story Brook-Milstone River watershed in central New Jersey.

Because NJDEP changed its basis for defining assessment units from stream segments to HUC 14 subwatersheds, this impaired stream segment transferred into the listing of three HUC 14 assessment units as impaired for TSS on the 2006 CWA section 303(d) list. The TSS impairment was deemed partially responsible for the assessment units it supports in the aquatic life designated use. Arsenic as a total phosphorus were also listed as the basis for nonattainment of designated uses.

Example of NPS Success Story

The HUC 14 subwatershed of Story Brook includes Princeton Line Road, Millstone Lane, Route 206 to Princeton Line Road, and Mountain Street to Route 206, in Princeton and Hopewell Townships.

Project Highlights

SBMWA worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local engineering to identify sites throughout the watershed in need of streambank erosion control and restoration. SBMWA trained volunteers with assistance from NRCS, New Jersey Forestry Services and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. CWA section 319 funds were used for six streambank restoration/stabilization as a floodplain restoration project. Four restoration projects were implemented in Mountain Brook and two in the upper Story Brook portion of the watershed.

NJDEP and SBMWA used bioengineering technologies to stabilize streambanks, increase erosion and provide a substrate for native species plantings. These technologies include biodegradable erosion control mats made from coconut fiber and water cuttings. The cuttings provide temporary stability for native species seedlings and reduced sedimentation on the streambank to help curtail erosion and to restore the riparian ecosystem. An Great Road Erosion, Millstone Brook, and Princeton Community Park, acres of tree, shrub and herbaceous species were planted to provide a diverse, site-appropriate plant community.

Having addressed localized bank instability, partners implemented proactive strategies to control potential TSS input resulting from future development. Many of the municipalities in this watershed have adopted municipal stormwater management plans and established stormwater control ordinances. Such plans and ordinances ensure that any new development is designed to preserve or restore the natural hydrology of the site and protect the overall integrity of the watershed.

Results

The six streambank projects addressed several problem locations and resulted in measurable water quality improvement. After project implementation, data collected from above stream monitoring

stations in 2005 and 2006 show TSS concentrations consistently staying at the TSS surface water quality state date (Figure 2). On the basis of these data, NJDEP removed TSS from the 2008 CWA section 303(d) list as a result of impairment in these HUC 14 assessment units.

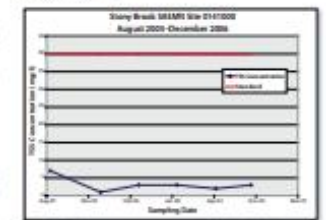


Figure 2. TSS concentrations above and below the dam in 2005 and 2006 over four dates, resulting in delisting.

Partners and Funding

In 1998 SBMWA received \$102,000 in CWA section 319 grant funds to implement six streambank restoration/stabilization and floodplain restoration projects. The NRCS and Townships of Hopewell and Princeton provided in-kind labor valued at \$54,000.

Funding for the earlier characterization and preliminary study was obtained from the Mercer County Green Links Program, the Fund for New Jersey, Princeton Township, the Schuylkill Fund for New Jersey and the William Penn Foundation.

Continuing efforts are planned in the SBM watershed under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency targeted watershed grant for the Raritan Basin. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority, SBMWA and NJDEP were awarded \$1 million in CWA section 319 funding for restoration, pollution prevention and floodplain projects in the lower Raritan Basin. This federal grant was matched by an additional \$1 million from other funding sources.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
Washington, DC

CWA 303(d)-08-01019
December 2008

For additional information contact:
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PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Category	Max Points	Helpful Hints
Project Applicability	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more watershed • Leverage other environmental outcomes • Integration of EO #23
Project Readiness	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shovel ready
Likelihood of Success	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good past performance of applicant • Letters of resources • Long-term sustainable benefits
Cost share/Matching/Other Funding	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of match
Monitoring and Evaluation	10	

Volunteers plant Riparian buffer along Pequest River

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



THANK YOU

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Bureau of Watershed Management

Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration

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