

## **2018 SNEP WATERSHED GRANTS**

**Contract #SNEPWG18-14-SRPEDD**

### **“Catalyzing Transformative Change Planning Together for Resilient Communities through Nature-based Solutions”**

**Applicant:** Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)  
88 Broadway  
Taunton, MA 02780

**Applicant Point of Contact:** Bill Napolitano, 508 824-1367, [bnap@srpedd.org](mailto:bnap@srpedd.org)

**Project Leader:** Bill Napolitano

**Nature of Organization:** Regional Planning Agency (public non-profit)

**List of Partner Organizations:** Mass Audubon, Manomet, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

**Location of Project:** The Taunton River Watershed, and RI

*RTWN’s “Catalyzing Transformative Change” is supported by the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants. SNEP Watershed Grants are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a collaboration with Restore*

# “Catalyzing Transformative Change Planning Together for Resilient Communities through Nature-based Solutions”

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### What were we looking to do?

“*Catalyzing Transformative Change*” . . . meaning in the context of the RTWN’s SNEP related work: “to cause an action or process to accelerate in order to create a marked change.”

The “tasks” associated with this project were tailored to meet the staff capacity and technical needs to address environmental restoration and conservation goals identified through previous planning efforts (including local, regional, and the most recent work completed by current project partners – SRPEDD, TNC, Mass Audubon, Manomet – under the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network/RTWN collaborative). Through our collective, and extensive, histories in the project’s target region, project partners are able to engage other municipal, regional, state, federal, and non-profit partners in order to focus on the needs of the region. The primary goals of five tasks outlined in the Catalyzing Transformative Change project are:

1. Promote the resiliency of the Taunton River Watershed in the face of climate change and development;
2. Advance the ecological, economic, social, and environmental justice goals associated with climate change resiliency;
3. Provide information, education, and resources to municipalities in the Taunton River Watershed and their neighbors in the Narragansett Bay Watershed.



**Celebrating Partnership Accomplishments in the Taunton River Watershed: RTWN and partners at the NEP “State of the Taunton” Conference, Fall River, MA, 10/2018**

## **PROGRAM OF WORK**

The Taunton River watershed is a unique environmental resource in the Southeast New England coastal and watershed region. The river itself is the longest undammed tidal river in New England, is home to the largest herring run in New England, and was designated a National Wild and Scenic River by Congress in 2009. In addition, the Taunton River is one of the largest contributors of freshwater to the Narragansett Bay. Approaching planning in the region at the watershed scale will have a profound impact on the entire Mount Hope and Narragansett Bay region. The Taunton River Watershed is the most rapidly developing watershed in Massachusetts. Based on a 2016 analysis of the natural green infrastructure (GI) of the Taunton River Watershed (including forests, wetlands, and waterbodies) conducted by Manomet, 30% of the entire watershed area is undeveloped, unprotected, and of high value for human and biological resilience (Figure B). Because this critical GI is scattered throughout the watershed, protection and other resilience planning and implementation on a regional scale is essential to effectively address human and infrastructure vulnerability, ecosystem health and water quality, and appropriate and effective adaptation and mitigation strategies throughout this low-lying watershed.

The Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN) was created in 2014 from an EPA Healthy Watersheds Grant and has continued as a partnership of organizations that have the goal of fostering ecological, social, and economic resilience. We have always had the philosophy of "planning with communities, not at them" and our work under this funding opportunity builds from that existing foundation and relationships with the municipalities we engage with. We understand the history of projects done in the area, including a dozen years of work by the federal, state, regional, and local partners.

The Taunton Watershed is fortunate to have a number of advocates working on its behalf, but what RTWN provides is a way for interested parties to work together to holistically plan for effective, watershed-wide resilience. Each of the network's organizations brings knowledge, connections, and opportunities for engagement through the watershed. Through this collaborative work, we have identified a number of challenges and opportunities in the region. RTWN's goal is to empower municipalities to understand, plan, support, and implement cost-effective solutions with multiple benefits, including increasing climate resilience, protecting and restoring habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution. This approach of planning with municipalities to enable holistic projects, while strategically bolstering regional resilience networks, has proven successful in a number of previous projects. For example, RTWN has developed and implemented a workshop curriculum to increase awareness of climate change, stormwater, sustainable development, and the services provided by existing green infrastructure. We have also produced outreach materials and offered technical assistance on topics such as climate communication, stream barrier crossings, facilitation, and environmental planning. The partnership's approach and success has drawn recognition from state, federal, and regional groups including 1) Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) in 2016, when RTWN was involved in the new Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program to help municipalities increase climate resilience; 2) EPA, which invited the group to present a "Soak Up the Rain" webinar in 2017 that drew the largest audience ever for that series at the time, and; 3) Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Commission, which gave RTWN a Special Recognition Award in 2018.

The "Catalyzing" proposal was designed using RTWN's understanding of municipal planning, staff capacity, and previous work to meet their tailored needs through a personalized action plan that builds from strengths and addresses challenges. The work plan was designed around regions within the watershed, the watershed as a whole, and the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) region. The project team has also worked together, and individually, in the watershed on a variety of projects. We are connected with

dozens of local leaders who are eager to pursue further progress.

While not all eight elements of our proposed work plan were funded through this SNEP grant, the following tasks were, and they are the focus our efforts from 2018 -2021:

- Task 2, Bylaw Review
- Task 3, Peer-to-Peer Training
- Task 5, Environmental Restoration
- Task 6, RTWN Advancement
- Task 8, Technology Transfer

## **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TAUNTON RIVER WATERSHED**

### **Southern watershed (Lower Taunton, Assonet, Segreganset River Watersheds; Dighton, Berkeley, Freetown):**

- *Challenge:* Limited familiarity with climate resilience planning
- *Opportunity:* Strengthen local ability to plan for resilience through technical planning assistance to encourage nature-based solutions in bylaws and regulations (Task 2 Bylaw Review)

### **Lower Taunton/Mt. Hope Bay watershed (Swansea, Rehoboth, Somerset):**

- *Challenge:* Limited staff capacity
- *Opportunity:* Introduce municipal officials to climate vulnerabilities and nature-based solutions through training and peer-to-peer support (Task 3 Peer-to-Peer Training).

### **Taunton watershed as a whole:**

- *Challenges:*
  - o Fastest developing watershed in Massachusetts
  - o Low-lying and flat topography increase risk of flooding from extreme precipitation, sea level rise, and storm surges
  - o Extensive intact ecosystems -nearly a third of the watershed is undeveloped, unprotected, and of high value for resilience for people and wildlife
  - o Impaired waters from point and non-point source pollution
  - o Environmental justice populations, including English isolation, low income, and minorities
- *Opportunities:*
  - o Support implementation through technical support of environmental restoration projects identified throughout the rest of the work plan (Task 5 Environmental Restoration)
  - o Advancing RTWN by documenting the creation of the partnership and to share the framework to encourage other partnerships throughout the region and country (Task 6 RTWN Advancement)

### **Southeastern SNEP Region**

- *Challenges:* Difficult to plan for regional benefits with existing framework for planning at municipal level.
- *Opportunity:* Engage with partners in RI and adjacent watersheds to share best practices and offer two-way technology transfer (Task 8 Technology Transfer)

## **FINAL REPORTING ON TASKS**

### **Task 2. Bylaw Review**

#### ***Dighton, Berkley, and Freetown***

Mass Audubon conducted comprehensive bylaw reviews for the towns of Dighton, Berkley, and Freetown, using their Low Impact Development (LID) bylaw review tool. The tool evaluates selected land use regulations in relation to models and examples from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit and other sources in relation to the use of LID and Green Infrastructure (GI) techniques in development.

Mass Audubon and RTWN partners, SRPEDD and Manomet, met with officials and staff (only Freetown has a paid professional Planning Technician) from each town to outline the bylaw review process and identify local goals and objectives for bylaw and regulatory updates, which were considered for each town's analysis. Recommendations for where updates could be made to encourage adoption of more LID practices and achieve the goals identified by the town were presented in a report to each town, along with an analysis of their bylaws and regulations.

Green infrastructure integration was conducted by Manomet, with specific application of the general recommendations made to officials in Dighton for integration into their forthcoming Open Space and Recreation Plan (with further technical assistance provided by SRPEDD, including resiliency options and all GIS mapping). All of these recommendations take into consideration the fact that all three towns are located in critical area of the coastal, Lower Taunton River Watershed/Estuary. (Final reports and integration strategies are located in Appendix Task 2).

#### ***Assawompset Pond and Upper Nemasket River Watershed Communities***

SRPEDD is also in the process of completing a Watershed Management and Climate Action Plan for the Assawompset and Nemasket River Watersheds. SNEP funding supplemented research and a preliminary review of how the four towns in the watershed (Lakeville, Middleborough, Rochester, and Freetown) can implement floodwater management measures and protect water quality through local regulatory mechanisms. SRPEDD and project partners identified several key local management and regulatory mechanisms with the most influence on mitigating and improving community resilience to flooding, and protecting local water quality: regulations on new development in the floodplain through Wetland Protection Bylaws and Floodplain Overlay Zoning Districts; tracking repeat flood losses and outlining a plan to address them in Hazard Mitigation Plans; protecting wetland buffers in local wetland bylaws and establishing no-mow buffers on municipal lands; reducing and/or eliminating fertilizer use on municipal lands to prevent nutrient pollution; coordinating with agricultural land owners on following best practices that protect water quality; and encouraging enhanced nitrification in septic systems through local septic bylaws. SRPEDD conducted a preliminary review of whether the towns have implemented any of the identified strategies, and made high level recommendations to the Management Plan's Steering Committee and at public meetings focusing on the two topics on 9/29/2021 and one scheduled for 10/13/2021. Further research will be conducted and more formal recommendations will be presented in the future Management Plan (these materials are included in Appendix Task 2).

### **Task 3. Peer-to-Peer Training**

**A. A Regional MS4 Stormwater Workshop with TNC, Mass Audubon and EPA Region 1, 5/19.**

RTWN partners hosted this workshop for the Southeast Regional Services Group (SERSG), a group of 25 municipalities that share procurement and administrative services through one regional administrator. The workshop was designed to build local capacity and covered goals of MS4 permit, and planning tools to handle stormwater loads. The workshop also explored the municipal cost savings for adjusting thresholds of redevelopment and new development at which stormwater controls are required, and tools for supporting nature-based stormwater management. The combined workshop presentation deck available here:

<https://tnc.box.com/s/zcioc20mm4tsh25ajirun468xxi7wrb>

Presenters: Sara Burns (TNC), Ariel Maiorano (MAS), Newt Tedder (EPA), Mark Voorhees (EPA).

### **B. Title: The Economic Case for Green Infrastructure: Addressing Financial Barriers and Prioritizing Projects**

Two barriers to effectively utilizing green infrastructure in a community are apprehension about the cost as compared to traditional infrastructure and a lack of project prioritization. In this workshop, Mass Audubon and the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN) will address these barriers by:

1. Presenting a case for using green infrastructure focused on the economic value of natural areas. Mass Audubon will share a new project on the Value of Nature, namely a set of five fact sheets on the benefits that Forests, Coastal areas, Wetlands & Waterways, Grasslands & Farmland, and Urban Green Space provide to people. We will describe examples of the use of green infrastructure vs. traditional infrastructure in local communities, focusing on the cost savings opportunities of using nature first.
2. Sharing a way for conservation commissions to prioritize green infrastructure projects based on the value of natural areas, particularly for climate resilience, using available state-wide mapping data. RTWN will also present guidance on how preservation of high priority areas can be formalized into Open Space Plans and local bylaws/ordinances to encourage systematic protection of high value natural areas to improve community resilience.

Speakers: Paige Dolci, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Mass Audubon; Danica Warns, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Mass Audubon

### **C. Webinar for Regional Conservation Partnership Annual Gathering, 11/5/2020 workshop title: Prioritizing Nature for Climate Resilience and Economic Value through Regional Planning and Collaboration**

Many municipal planners understand the value of nature and green infrastructure for managing stormwater, protecting air and water quality, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. However, getting the rest of your community on board to prioritize nature and green infrastructure, and actually incorporating them into sustainable planning, can sometimes prove challenging, particularly when working at a landscape or watershed scale. Mass Audubon and the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN), presented tools to help build a compelling case for why natural areas are worth protecting, prioritizing which ones to protect, and securing their protection through local land use regulations. Following a series of rapid-fire presentations, audience members engaged in a discussion of the ways that the tools and resources we presented can be implemented in their communities, as well as regionally through inter-municipal collaboration.

Speakers: Paige Dolci, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Mass Audubon; Eric Walberg, Senior Program Leader, Climate Services, Manomet

#### **D. Webinar for Essex County Open Space Conference, 12/5/2020**

##### **Workshop Title: Community Land Use Planning for Sustainable Growth and Development**

How can you reconcile the growing demand for development with the need to protect the character of your community and its open space? The answer lies in your local zoning and land use regulations. Local bylaws and ordinances play a significant role in determining where and how development happens. Using Mass Audubon's Bylaw Review Tool, you can conduct a comprehensive check-up of your community's regulations and identify how updated language may be able to better protect priority natural areas and guide developers towards more sustainable, low impact development practices. This session will walk you through how to use the Bylaw Review Tool and share examples of how local bylaws/ordinances can achieve your community's sustainable growth goals.

Speakers: Danica Warns, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Mass Audubon

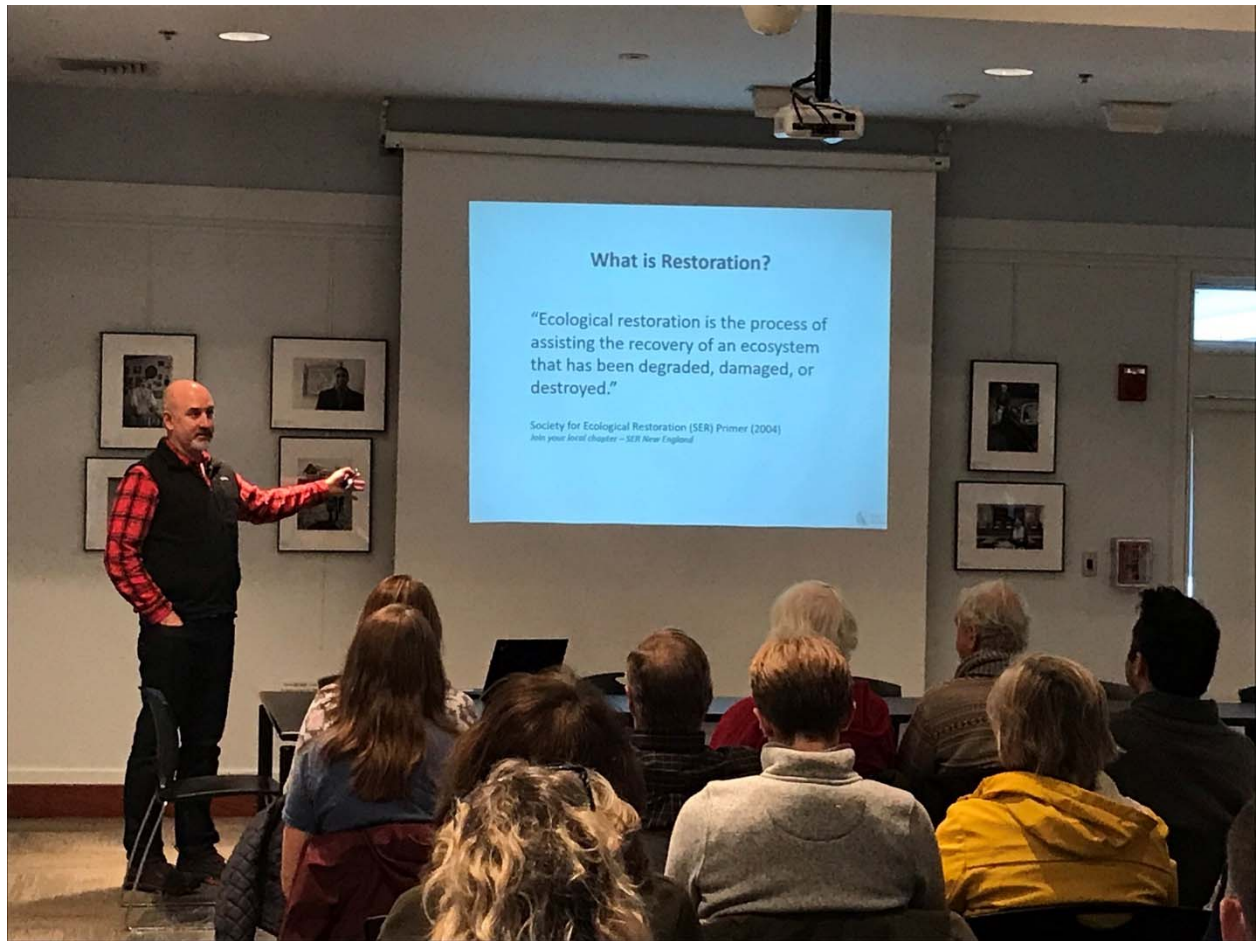
#### **E. Cranberry Bog Restoration Workshop, 12/9/19, Lakeville Public Library Conference Room, 12/13/19, Cape Cod Community College**

SRPEDD and TNC (RTWN partners) worked with DER to facilitate a "Cranberry Bog Restoration Workshop" for municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts and the Cape, to explain the relationship between land protection, wetland restoration, and regional water quality with respect to retiring cranberry bogs. SRPEDD and TNC worked with DER and its on-the-ground restoration partners to: share lessons learned through the lens of the co-benefits from wetland restoration; to incentivize landowners in the process of retirement, municipalities, and other important stakeholders to consider the economic and ecological alternatives for land protection and habitat restoration; to increase community awareness of the improvements in water quality and landscape amenities critical to public health, as more acres of cranberry bogs are returned to natural setting; and to build strong partnerships that can support this type of projects as they are identified as potential areas for restoration.

Bill Napolitano, SRPEDD, Sara Burns, TNC, Alex Hackman DER, Brian Wick, CCCGA, Helen Castles, USDA, Kim Towers, Town of Plymouth, Gloria Davenport, speakers; Helen Zincavage, SRPEDD, workshop coordinator (workshop publicity sheets in Appendix Task 3)



**Collaboration, hard work, and patience . . . Alex Hackman's advice on successful bog restoration to the Lakeville workshop participants (bog restoration photos courtesy of Alex Hackman, MA DER)**



**Alex Hackman of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration at the regional Cranberry Bog Restoration Workshop**

#### **F. Planning for Healthy Soils Workshop, Bristol County Agricultural High School, 1/16/2020**

The goal of the meeting was to introduce the State Healthy Soils Plan and objectives, and then to hear from land owners and users in the region about their interests, needs, and obstacles in maintaining and enhancing soil health and soil carbon in the region. Following presentations by SRPEDD and State Healthy Soils Plan consultants from the Regenerative Design Group and Linnean Solutions, facilitators and participants broke down into smaller groups to discuss previously identified regional priority issues, including:

- How can cranberry bog restoration, wetlands preservation, and development work together to protect important wetlands?
- Conservation Planners: How might we increase the level and amount of protection for lands with high carbon levels?
- Developers: How could we change soil management practices during development to maintain and enhance soil health and soil carbon?
- How can we use water quality regulations to enhance soil health and carbon storage which, in turn, enhance water quality?
- What are the best ways to encourage towns to use practices with open space to enhance soil health and carbon storage?



- Planners: How can you see using the Land Action Directions (Protect, Regenerate, Manage, Sacrifice) to enhance soil carbon stores?
- What can be done to ensure that the farming community is supported to enhance soil health and carbon storage?
- Farmers: What would help farmers adopt soil health and soil carbon enhancing practices?

Bill Napolitano, SRPEDD, Jim Newman, Linnean Solutions, Keith Zaltzberg, Regenerative Design, speakers; Danica Warns, Mass Audubon, support; Helen Zincavage and Bill Napolitano SRPEDD, workshop coordinators (Workshop publicity sheet in Appendix Task 3).

## **Task 5. Environmental Restoration**

TNC led development of a pipeline of potential nature-based solutions, including environmental restoration. TNC and SRPEDD advanced discreet projects towards funding and completion, with two associated case studies developed as deliverables under the SNEP agreement, and created a foundation of potential projects to share with municipal decision makers as they work to advance climate resilience and ecological priorities. The database and associated map viewer outline status of the project, and other key details for municipalities to explore local priorities, and apply for funding. This deliverable has been shared with Massachusetts’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to support municipalities in the watershed.

### ***1a. West Britannia Parking Lot Restoration – Project Development and Stewardship***

The Mill River in Taunton, MA was restored through three dam removals, and one dam repair and fish ladder replacement. The final dam was removed in 2018, and beginning that year anadromous fish returned to Lake Sabbatia for the first time in 200 years. At one of the dam removal sites, known as West Britannia, over an acre of parking lot was designed to drain directly into the Mill River. This portion of the river had very few trees, and some invasive plant populations. The project team, led by TNC worked with the site owners, and Massachusetts’s Division of Ecological restoration, and National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) funding to scope out riparian restoration of the dam removal site. The project was designed to disconnect and remove impervious cover, plant native vegetation, and manage invasive species. The project successfully received funding for implementation through DER and NFWF and was completed in 2019. Case Study Link here:

<https://tnc.box.com/s/7glneom0ys6snythrpu3rkpfkvji5ai>



**Panoramic view of the West Britannia dam removal, riverbank and parking lot restoration project in Taunton**



**Final site restoration/reclamation work at the former Reed & Barton parking lot on the Mill River in Taunton**

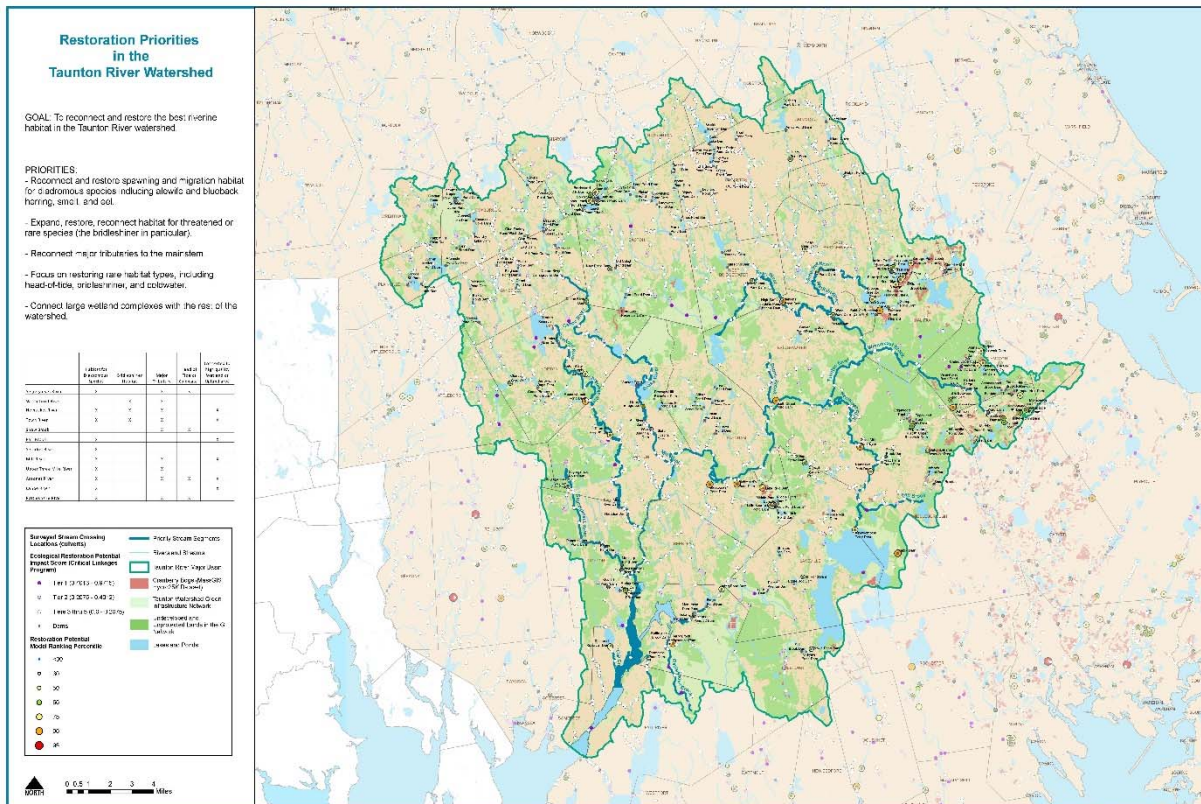
### ***1b. Easton wetland restoration – Project Development and Stewardship***

TNC worked with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection section 319 funding to develop a prioritization of potential restorable wetland areas likely to succeed as restoration sites, and prioritized them for their potential flood abatement and water quality services. These sites are included in the project database and online map viewer, and through RTWN's working with the Town of Easton on the Town's MVP planning report development, the Town included these potential sites as climate resilience priorities for water quality. The project team assisted with this planning report development. TNC supported the Town in applying for MVP funds, and construction is scheduled with state funds in 2021. Case Study Link here:

<https://tnc.box.com/s/zdcf4101m71olk6h57z7a5xqa4q5jvo>

### ***2. Spreadsheet database of all identified projects throughout the watershed, and an associated online map viewer***

- Spreadsheet Link here: <https://tnc.box.com/s/7ehp3w87twa9jr5ul2ut88rzmfpgu07v>
- Online Map Viewer here:  
<https://srpedd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=ea073145f25e42e4a3ae5114b63e48a2&extent=-71.8378,41.6399,-70.0800,42.2630>



### 3. Assistance to the Town of Somerset on an evaluation and grant proposal for Site Remediation at 3280 County Street, in Somerset, MA

The former A & R Auto/Advanced Auto Body site, at 3280 County Street (hereinafter referred to as the “Site”), is situated at the intersection of Palmer Street and County Street (Route 138). In an area zoned for and consisting of mixed-use development. Residential properties lie to the north/northeast, and to the east of A & R. An electrical substation and Somerset Water Department facility are located directly to the west, on the opposite side of County Street. The Somerset Reservoir, which serves as one of the Town's two drinking water supplies, is located approximately 750 feet to the northwest of the Site. An active commercial plant nursery (owned by the Town) is located to the south of the Site, beyond Palmer Street.

The Site is currently developed, and contains an approximately 1,440 square foot concrete block structure (the Site building), formerly utilized as a gasoline service station and automotive service facility, including an auto body shop. Three abandoned tractor trailers (contents unknown) are located on the southern portion of the Site property. Two soil stockpiles (each measuring approximately 20 cubic yards) were observed at the northeastern and eastern portions of the Site and appear to be associated with former underground storage tank (UST) removal activities. There is evidence of containerized waste, tires, car parts, trash, construction and miscellaneous debris in areas north of the Site building and abandoned cars at the southwestern portion of the Site. There is evidence of abandoned cars and suspect interior hydraulic lifts inside of the building. The Site has not been in active use for several years (Full summary in Appendix Task 5).

## Task 6. Technology Transfer

- Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) – Congressional Briefing on climate in the Northeast. Sara Burns (TNC) presented *Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, MA and Nature Based Solutions*. The congressional briefing focused on the MVP program in MA and coastal hazards, and NBS project examples. Slides available here: <https://tnc.box.com/s/e5eqed7fwk768sg7y0s6jobg60qi6dtr>
- The State of Rhode Island created the Municipal Resilience Program with funding from the state’s infrastructure bank. This program was inspired by the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program in MA. TNC worked in MA and RI to support this program, including with trainings and workshop planning and implementation of the Community Resilience Building workshops created by Connecticut TNC’s Director of Science, Adam Whelchel (this work happened independently of SNEP funding). TNC supported this transfer by working with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and TNC RI and CT to facilitate workshops in 2019 and 2020. This process also helped the Rhode Island Team understand the framework for the CRB workshops, and supported additional workshops in RI. The RI Infrastructure Bank has funded two rounds of implementation through the program as well. As part of an implementation team, Sara Burns of TNC MA worked to help facilitate resilience building workshops for the towns of Warren, Barrington, Warwick, and Woonsocket. These meetings were held and led by the State of Rhode Island with support from TNC and other NGOS in 2019 and 2020.



RTWN’s Sara Burns facilitating at the Barrington, RI CRB/MVP Planning workshop

## Task 8. RTWN Advancement

### A. Case Study on RTWN

See the Visual Case Study for RTWN (attached, Appendix Task 8)

### B. Metrics for the Taunton Watershed

See the Metrics document (attached, Appendix Task 8)

**C. Recommendations on next steps in the watershed** (informed by results of interviews with municipal staff)

Over the course of this project, the RTWN, in various partner configurations, has had the opportunity to provide direct technical assistance to communities in a variety of ways, including: MVP Planning facilitation, MVP Planning and Action Grant preparation assistance (Berkley, Dighton, Somerset, Swansea, Seekonk, Taunton, Easton, Mansfield, Norton, Middleboro, Plainville, Plympton, Lakeville) ; fieldwork, including culvert assessments (Dighton), and restoration site evaluations (Taunton and Easton); potential local and regional projects presentations (Somerset, Somerset-Dighton-Swansea), and; conduct direct interviews with municipal appointed and volunteer board members, administrators, and staff (Bridgewater, Middleboro, Lakeville, New Bedford, Rochester, Easton, Norton, Mansfield, Somerset, Seekonk, Swansea, Freetown, Taunton, Berkley, North Attleboro).



**Wading in: RTWN's Helen Zincavage of SRPEDD conducts a culvert assessment for the Town of Dighton**

Based upon our grant related work, field work, and the conversations/interviews referenced above, some of the most important watershed related work needed in the coming years includes:

- continuing to support the work in the Assawompset Ponds Watershed on the comprehensive management and climate action plan currently underway;
- support for the holistic restoration of the Nemasket River, including sediment removal, infrastructure replacement/upgrades, potential dam removal and riverbank/habitat restoration, to follow-up on the SNEP Network investment there;
- bringing programs like SNEP to our cities (New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton, Attleboro, Brockton), supporting collaborative work in resilience districts and promoting environmental equity in our most vulnerable and under-represented communities

- planning, education, restoration work in the Canoe River Aquifer to follow-up on the SNEP Network investment there;
- continue to address the regional restoration project database and map developed by RTWN;
- work on coastal buffering and marsh restoration/migration possibilities, particularly in the lower Palmer River watershed;
- securing streamside forest/buffers in the Winnetuxet River watershed;
- work with groups to promote responsible management of aquatic invasives throughout the watershed;
- work with communities on flood, flow, and fisheries issues where relevant/requested;
- support/supplement municipal MVP Action Grants where/when compatible with the goals and objectives of our collective watershed planning efforts;
- promote and support more interstate planning/restoration efforts in the Narragansett Bay watershed (opportunity/need exist in the Palmer, Kickemuit, Ten Mile and Mt. Hope Bay watersheds);
- continued public outreach and education, education, education (webinars, workshops, and other means necessary).



**Resilient Taunton Watershed Network**