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SNEP Watershed Grants Massachusetts Media Advisory

Restore America's Estuaries Announces Grants for Coastal Conservation and Restoration

Events in East Falmouth, MA on Friday, October 11 at 10 a.m. will highlight local organizations working to restore clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems.

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Background: In 2012, Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island led Congress in securing new funding to conserve and restore Southeast New England's coastal waters, watersheds, and communities. Sen. Reed's vision led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop the Southeast New England Program (SNEP). Now, Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is working with EPA to provide SNEP Watershed Grants, funding local organizations that are restoring clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems. In 2019, this program will award \$2.3 million throughout Southeast New England, including \$1.2 million to municipalities and non-profit organizations on Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay.

Who:

- Tonna-Marie Surgeon Rogers, Manager, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- U.S. Congressman Bill Keating
- U.S. Senator Edward Markey (Invited)
- Jessica Wong, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
- Dennis Deziel, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Gary Moran, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Beth Lambert, Director, Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration
- Dr. Joe Costa, Exec. Director, Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program
- Kristy Senatori, Exec. Director, Cape Cod Commission
- Thomas Ardito, Director, Southeast New England Program Watershed Grants

What: A public event to announce the Massachusetts organizations receiving SNEP Watershed Grants in 2019 and to highlight their work.

Where: Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Visitors' Center, 131 Waquoit Hwy, East Falmouth, MA 02536

Why: Because clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems are essential to Southeast New England's environment, economy, and quality of life. For more about SNEP Watershed Grants, see www.snepgrants.org.

Schedule of Events:

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| 10 – 10:30 a.m. | Meet the grantees over coffee in the WBNERR Visitors' Center |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Speaking program |
| 11:30 a.m. – Noon | Introduce Massachusetts grantees |
| Noon – 1 p.m. | Grantees will be available to discuss their work at the Visitor's Center |

The event is free, open to the public, and universally accessible. Please post & forward!