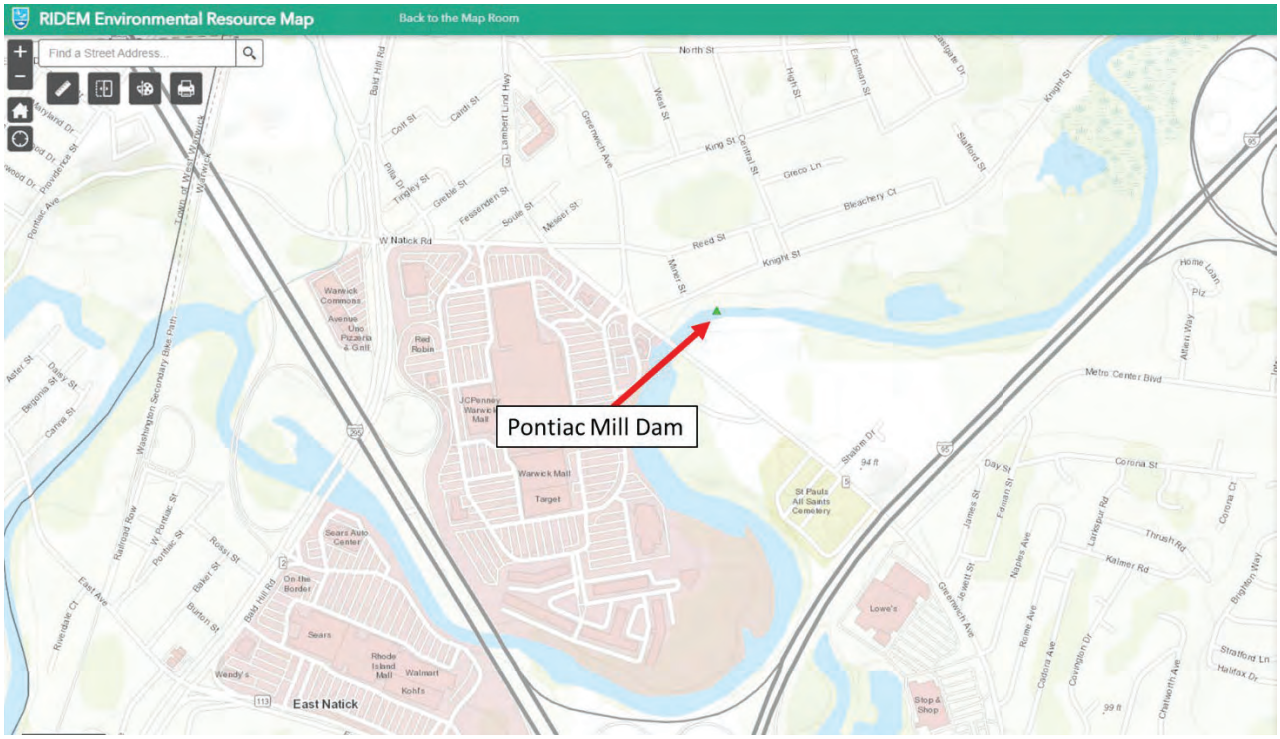
Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund
Full Proposal Form for Planning Projects 2023/2024

****for design or construction projects please use Full Proposal Form**

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **Project Title:** Data Collection and Analysis to Support Fish Passage at the Pontiac Dam on the Pawtuxet River

2. **Project Location and coordinates** *(include map)*: Pontiac Dam is the lowest downstream barrier to anadromous fish and aquatic organisms on the Pawtuxet River in Warwick, Rhode Island. (41°43'34.7"N 71°28'16.9"W) Proposed data collection for fisheries information will include areas downstream of Pontiac Dam, and data collection for the sediment and bathymetric survey will be conducted upstream of Pontiac Dam.



3. **Habitat type** *(River System, Salt Marsh, Seagrass, Shellfish Bed, other)*: River System (Riparian Migratory Corridor for Anadromous Species)

4. **If other, please specify**: N/A

5. **Targeted restoration technique** *(e.g. re-vegetation, tidal restoration, etc.)***:** Fish Passage

6. **Potential future benefits resulting from proposed planning project:** Increased river connectivity for fish (especially anadromous species) and other aquatic organisms, and water quality improvements.

7. **Project partners** *(organizations providing financial or other support to the project)***:** Pawtuxet River Authority, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Picerne Real Estate Group (dam owner), Union Mill LLC (dam owner). Letters of support for this project have been provided by each dam owner and are attached.

8. **Is this is an ongoing project that has previously received funds from the CRMC Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Fund?** Yes **If yes, year(s) funding was awarded:** This has been a long-term project undertaken by several organizations. The PRA believes CRMC funding may have been used by the Center for Ecological Restoration (CER) but not by the PRA, and it is the PRA's understanding that CER is no longer actively working on moving the project forward.

II. PROJECT MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION

1. **Name:** Robert Nero

2. **Organization**: Pawtuxet River Authority (PRA)

3. **Address:** 8 Hope Furnace Road

4. **City:** Hope **5. State:** RI **6. Zip:** 02908

7. **Phone:** 401-615-7039 **8. Email:** pra@pawtuxet.org

Property Owner(s): The dam used to be a component of a large mill complex that spanned both sides of the river. However, the dam is now partially owned by parties on both sides of the river. Union Mill LLC owns the property along the north side of the river and the northern half of the dam. The southern portion of the dam and the south side of the river that borders the dam is owned by Picerne Real Estate Group who owns and manages the Greenwich Village Apartments. Both dam owners have renewed interest in discussing the future of the dam especially considering recent frequent flooding and impacts to their properties and tenants. Both dam owners were contacted prior to this application being submitted and have agreed to participate in the project.

III. BUDGET SUMMARY

(List individuals or organizations providing financial or in-kind support to the project under Project Partners)

Amount Requested from Trust Fund		**$50,000**
Matching Funds	**Project Partner(s)**	**Amount of Match**
In-Kind	Pawtuxet River Authority	$3,000
In-Kind	RIDEM (Fisheries)	$2,000
	TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$55,000**

IV. PROPOSAL NARRATIVE (five pages maximum)

1. Justification and Purpose

Following the removal of the Pawtuxet Falls Dam in 2011, the Pontiac Dam now remains the first obstruction to anadromous and migratory fish from the tidal waters on Narragansett Bay. Removal of the dam or restoring fish passage at this site will provide access to an additional 2.5 river miles and approximately 35 acres of habitat area upstream of the Pontiac Dam. Since the Pawtuxet Falls Dam removal, there have been two primary studies conducted assessing dam removal and fish passage alternatives at Pontiac Dam. However, these studies identified several data gaps and additional data needs required to refine the alternatives analysis and move the project forward. The PRA is seeking funding to begin to eliminate the remaining data gaps and keep this complex project moving forward. The project purpose is threefold:

1) Confirm presence of anadromous fish downstream and at the base, or closely downstream, of Pontiac Dam with fisheries surveys and eDNA sampling and prove presence of anadromous fish and their utilization of the Pawtuxet River beyond lower portions near the former Pawtuxet Falls Dam site.
2) Investigation of the current bathymetry of the Pontiac Dam Pond, including the depths, quality, and physical characteristics of impounded sediment.
3) Continue coordination with landowners and project partners.

Additional sediment data collection was identified by both PRA's 2020 *Restoration of Anadromous Fish Passage at the Pontiac Mill Dam* Report and Center for Ecological Restoration's (CER) 2020 *Pontiac Dam Pawtuxet River, RI Restoration Needs & Recommendations Report.*

The sediment and bathymetric information will be sufficient for future sediment transport analysis for a selected fish passage alternative at the Pontiac Dam Site. It will also aid in answering several outstanding questions post removal/passage including: 1) visual aesthetics/viewshed, 2) water level changes, 3) what type of aquatic habitat would remain (for resident and anadromous fish), and 4) explore recreational impacts. Most importantly though, this will help provide supporting data for future sediment transport analysis. The fisheries data proposed to be collected is important to document anadromous fish utilization of the Pawtuxet River, establish baseline fisheries population composition, and support future funding applications and project prioritization.

Short-Term Goal: To fill outstanding data gaps identified by previous studies and reports to progress the Pontiac Dam fish passage project. Long-term Goal: Support dam owners and stakeholders in making an informed decision on a balanced approach which satisfies the dam owners' needs and provides fish passage and resiliency benefits for the community. Collect information and maintain open lines of communication, which is critical for a complex long-term project like this. The PRA needs the proposed information to support future grant applications and engineering work to facilitate fish passage and resilience improvements at the site.

2. Project Activities, Schedule and Work Plan

The PRA will develop a scope of work for a sediment survey, bathymetric survey, sediment classification, eDNA sampling, and assistance with property owner coordination meetings. An engineering firm will be hired by the PRA to conduct the analysis, which will include the following tasks:

eDNA Fisheries Surveys (Consultant)

The PRA is proposing to conduct fisheries surveys in the spring to confirm the presence of anadromous fish at the base of Pontiac Dam. The PRA will utilize eDNA sampling to identify if anadromous fish species are present downstream of the dam. This eDNA sampling will be completed by the hired consultant. Four eDNA samples will be taken in the spring, and will be done in coordination with RIDEM surveys. Two eDNA surveys will be conducted in the summer downstream of the dam to establish baseline data to compare to the spring results. This information will be used to confirm RIDEM information, and also to collect information where RIDEM electroshocking boats cannot access due to river conditions or depth. RIDEM will provide coordination and support by identifying and selecting eDNA and electroshocking locations, technical assistance, and executing the electroshocking field work.

Electroshocking Fisheries Surveys (RIDEM)

The PRA is partnering with RIDEM, who will conduct fisheries surveys in the spring to confirm the presence of anadromous fish at the base of Pontiac Dam. This will include electroshocking surveys downstream of the dam utilizing either RIDEM's electroshocking boat or the smaller modular electroshocking "barge," depending on river condition and access. This data will be combined with the eDNA sampling data to identify if anadromous fish species are present downstream of the dam. The Pawtuxet River is shallow and can be challenging to access for electroshocking so the confirmatory eDNA samples could be critical if RIDEM is not able to fully access the river closest to the dam during their electroshocking field efforts.

Sediment Survey

The PRA is proposing to conduct a bathymetric survey of the river above Pontiac Dam, including the depths, quality, and physical characteristics of impounded sediment to create the basis of future analysis of sediment mobilization under various alternatives already proposed at the site. This information will be sufficient to be used for future sediment transport analysis for a selected fish passage alternative at the Pontiac Dam site in the future. This information will also be needed for future scour analysis at the dam site and upstream bridges. The survey is anticipated to extend approximately 1,000 meters at a minimum, based on the funding request and consultant quotations.

Coordination Meetings

The PRA will host three coordination meetings with dam owners to discuss their concerns, goals, commitment, and future path forward for the project. The PRA has been in contact with both dam owners prior to submitting the letter of interest to this grant, and confirmed both landowners' interest in discussions to move the stalled project forward. Flooding of the Pontiac Mill Complex and the adjacent apartment complex in recent months has renewed interest in the project, however meetings with project partners to keep them continually apprised of the project are critical to the project's future overall success.

Local, state, and federal agencies as well as local conservation groups have all been participants in the previous outreach components for studies conducted by the PRA and Center for Ecosystem Restoration regarding fish passage at the site, and their opinions and preferences have been well documented. Once the dam owners have been brought up to date, through this process, local agencies and organizations and federal agencies will be reengaged. RIDEM, however, will be invited to participate at the meetings as a vested project partner.

Project Timeline:

Spring 2024	Anticipated grant award notification:
Summer: 2024	➢ Develop scope of services, hire consultant ➢ Conduct sediment survey ➢ Collect two baseline eDNA samples to establish semi-quantitative river resident fish assemblages ➢ Hold partner/landowner coordination meeting
Fall 2024	➢ Conduct sediment survey ➢ Hold partner/landowner coordination meeting
Winter 2024	➢ Initiate planning and coordination with RIDEM for spring fisheries surveys and eDNA sampling site locations ➢ Complete Sediment Survey Report
Spring 2025	➢ Work with RIDEM to complete electroshocking surveys below Pontiac Dam ➢ Collect 4 eDNA samples to identify anadromous fish present downstream of Pontiac Dam ➢ CERHTF final report submitted ➢ Identify grant funding to progress project to the next phases based on partner and landowner meetings ➢ Decide next steps to advance long term goals of restoring fish passage at the site

3. Coordination and Public Support

The PRA contacted and met with the dam owners prior to this grant submittal and both fully support moving the project forward. Both owners are eager to re-engage the project and their letters of support are provided.

At this stage, the PRA will bring the property owners back up to date on the project and use the time to renew and reignite the collaborative partnerships with them, which is necessary for the project to move forward. The PRA, in parallel, will be submitting a SNEP SIG grant which will contain more extensive project outreach to municipalities, federal, and state agencies and the public. Data collected during this funding request will be incorporated into those discussions. Various federal and state agencies and outreach events were included in previous studies: the PRA's *Restoration of Anadromous Fish Passage at the Pontiac Mill Dam 2020*) and Center for Ecosystem Restoration (CER) *Pontiac Dam, Pawtuxet River, RI: Restoration Needs & Recommendations 2020.*

The project team has also discussed the project with RIDEM. RIDEM has agreed to support the project through leading fisheries surveys downstream of the dam. The exact location of these fisheries surveys will be refined closer to the survey date and will be completed using the RIDEM staff, electroshocking boat, or the smaller modular "barge" depending on river condition and launching/site access.

4. Planning Consistency and Restoration Priority

The Pawtuxet River has been the focus of previous anadromous fish restoration projects by RIDEM, NOAA, USFWS, and other local non-profits since the removal of Pawtuxet Falls Dam in 2011. The Pontiac Dam is now the first obstruction to fish passage from tidal waters, and restoring fish passage at the dam site would restore river connectivity and provide access to approximately 2.5 river miles of spawning habitat upstream in the Pawtuxet River.

In the 2019 *Coastal Resilience Assessment of the Narragansett Bay and Coastal Rhode Island Watersheds* published by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the removal of Pontiac Dam was ranked as the top priority project on the community exposure index for resilience projects in Narragansett Bay.

The *Strategic Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fishes to Rhode Island Coastal Streams* published by RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife also lists Pontiac Dam as a primary obstruction within the Pawtuxet River, specifically for anadromous fish species including alewife, blueback herring, and American shad. The PRA is aware that it is one of CRMC's policies to maintain and enhance anadromous fish runs.

5. Species of Concern

The Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan (RIWAP) (2015) lists several Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), several of which are known to inhabit the Pawtuxet River. These include anadromous SGCN: alewives, blue back herring, and American shad, and well as catadromous species American eel. The Pawtuxet River also contains several other SGCN including freshwater fish (e.g. brook trout) and turtles (e.g. spotted turtle). The RIWAP notes that the presence of dams on rivers and streams is the primary threat to these fish species because the obstructions have reduced their historic spawning range. Removing the dam or installing appropriate fish passage would allow these species to freely migrate through the river. Additionally, the eDNA samples proposed to be collected during this project will include analysis for fish, mussels, and turtles. As such, through this reconnaissance, numerous other SGCN, as well as state and federally listed protected species may be identified, and thus benefits or impacts to those species could be included to support future funding requests and decisions on the best course of action for the dam.

6. Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency

The proposed project will address resilience to climate change by removing a deteriorating dam structure and improving water quality. As documented in the Resilient Rhody Plan, it is anticipated that the State will experience more intense storms and higher rainfall events due to climate change. This will increase the risk of failure of aging infrastructure like the Pontiac Dam. The project will also improve the resiliency of river habitat by eventually reestablishing the historic natural river system through the removal of a barrier to aquatic organisms. The dam at the Pontic Mill site was originally a cribwork dam, built in 1863, and RIDEM records indicate the dam was modified to its current configuration in 1918. As such, the dam is not up to date with current design standards. Climate change has increased the intensity and recurrence of significant storm events (20-yr, 50-yr, 100-yr storms), which increases river flows and places stressors on the dam. The storm events, which used to be determined by their probable frequency, are now occurring more regularly due to climate change (e.g. a 20-yr storm is now becoming a 10-yr storm). These events have resulted in severe flooding upstream, downstream, and adjacent to Pontiac Dam in recent years, and more recently in the past few months where the dam and adjacent apartment complex have experienced severe flooding.

7. Environmental Justice

The EPA's Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Priority Areas identifies the Pontiac Dam as being located within a disadvantaged priority area. However, the dam is not in an environmental justice priority area designated by the *Environmental Justice in the Narragansett Bay Region*, but several EJ communities exist throughout downstream portions of the river until its confluence with Narragansett Bay. As with many dam structures, the benefits and impacts of the structure are not restricted to the dam site itself but extend downstream, often for miles. As such, the environmental and community benefits should also

extend beyond the dam to downstream area. So although the dam itself is not identified as being within a EJ by the *Environmental Justice in the Narragansett Bay Region*, its benefits to habitat and communities does/will directly benefit those communities. Those communities include Block Groups as mapped on the NBEP Environmental Justice Reference & Planning Tool: Block Group 440070142002, Block Group 440070138001, Block Group 440070136002, Block Group 440030210011.

8. Permitting

At this stage of the project no federal, state, or local permits are required to complete the fisheries surveys and bathymetric survey. However, once a project has been selected, the PRA anticipates the following permit applications:

State: RIDEM Wetlands Application to Alter Freshwater Wetlands
Federal: Army Corps of Engineers General Permit

9. Capacity of Lead Organization

The Pawtuxet River Authority is a 501(c)(3) organization and has been designated the official watershed council of the Pawtuxet River in Rhode Island by the RI Rivers Council and does business as the "Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council." The PRA is authorized to improve, preserve, and protect the Pawtuxet River. The PRA provides recreational facilities along the river and is expressly authorized "to provide for land and water conservation, construct and maintain hiking and biking trails, flood control and water pollution control facilities, preserve wetlands, construct dams, stream diversion, dikes, walls and pumping stations."

The PRA has a long history of implementing successful restoration projects, specifically related to fish passage. Most notable was the removal of the Pawtuxet Falls Dam in 2011 which paved the way for the PRA to champion the fish passage at the Pontiac Dam. In addition to the Pawtuxet Falls dam, the PRA has led diverse teams of consultants and contractors on several planning, design, and construction projects throughout the watershed focused on public recreational access. The PRA also actively maintains their sites through a dedicated team of volunteers. The PRA is completely volunteer based, and as such, all work by volunteers and board members overseeing and managing this project is being purposed as match and will be at the current standard volunteer rate (currently at $31.80).

10. External Factors and Climate Change

The lower portion of the Pawtuxet River watershed where the dam is located is highly urbanized and has experienced wetland and floodplain encroachment, which reduce natural ecosystem services and flood attenuation and water quality (nutrient and sediment) filtration. These external site impacts in turn can reduce a river's ability to provide viable habitat even if structures like the Pontiac Dam are removed. As mentioned above, more extreme and severe precipitation events are only anticipated to increase with greater frequency due to climate change. With fish passage restored at the site, additional funding will be available to address upstream improvements and restoration.

V. EVALUATING PROJECT SUCCESS (one page maximum)

1. Performance Measures and Deliverables

This stage of the project will be evaluated as a success when the fish survey, bathymetric survey, and sediment survey have been completed, the data synthesized, and the final consultant report is finalized. We will share this with project stakeholders and solicit feedback. Funding will be sought for future phases of the project which might include alternatives analysis, engineering designs, etc., which will utilize the critical data gathered from this project.

2. Monitoring Plan

Since this project is still in the initial development stage, a monitoring plan is not appropriate at this time. If the project is carried forward into future design and construction phases, then the PRA will implement monitoring pre and post construction for fluvial morphology, fisheries, habitat, and benefits to SGCN. The PRA will use eDNA data collected during this project as baseline data for future project monitoring and determining the eventual project's success.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET TEMPLATE

BUDGET CATEGORY	CRMC REQUEST	MATCH	MATCH PENDING OR SECURED? (select one)	SOURCE OF MATCH	TOTAL
Consultant Services (Bathymetric and sediment survey, eDNA sampling and analysis, coordination meetings)	$50,000	$2,000	Secured	In-Kind	$52,000
Electroshocking Fisheries Services	$0	$2,000	Secured (per email)	RIDEM Fish and Wildlife (In-Kind)	$2,000
Project Management and Grant Management, Wetlands Delineation	$0	$1,000	Secured	In-Kind	$1,000
TOTAL	**$50,000**	**$5,000**		**TOTAL PROJECT COST**	**$55,000**

VII. BUDGET NARRATIVE (one page maximum)

The PRA will develop a scope of work for fisheries, bathymetric, and sediment surveys that it is sufficient for the incorporation and development of future designs and permitting for fish passage at the Pontiac Dam Site.

Consultant Services Preliminary Restoration Engineering Assessment and Data Collection
$50,000 CRMC Ask | $2,000 Match | $52,000 Total Cost
The PRA will hire a qualified consultant who provides the best value to the PRA. Consultant tasks will include the following:

- The consultant will conduct a sediment survey using sub bottom profiling instruments, and/or probes in shallow areas where the sub bottom profiler or boat access is limited. This data will provide information on water depth and sediment thickness. This will also include sediment characterization and composition information. This work is anticipated to take a 2-person crew approximately 3 working field days to complete. Additional time will be needed for field preparation, mobilization, and demobilization. The survey will start at the Pontiac Dam and extend upstream a distance of approximately 1,000 meters. This information will then be synthesized and analyzed into a report, including tables, figures, and maps.
- The consultant will conduct eDNA sampling and analysis. The consultant will work with RIDEM fisheries to coordinate the proper locations and time of year to collect the eDNA samples. These samples will be sent to a laboratory for eDNA sequencing and analysis and a detailed report will be provided outlining the data results. These eDNA analyses will include fish, turtles, and mussel species identification and will be provide semi-quantitative species assemblage information.
- The consultant will be responsible for coordinating and providing technical support to the PRA for meetings with the dam owners to update them on the status of the project and the findings of the sediment survey, eDNA data collection, and fisheries surveys.
- The PRA's Project Manager, Bob Nero, will provide contractor oversight, attend meetings, and review consultant deliverables. This will include approximately 62 hours of his time at a rate of $31.80/hr.

Electroshocking Fisheries Services
$0 CRMC Ask | $2,000 Match | $2,000 Total
RIDEM will conduct fisheries surveys in the spring to confirm the presence of anadromous fish at the base or immediately downstream of Pontiac Dam. This will include electroshocking surveys utilizing either RIDEM's larger electroshocking boat or the smaller modular electroshocking "barge" depending on river condition and access. This data will be combined with the eDNA sampling data to identify if anadromous fish species are present downstream of the dam. This work will include field preparation, site mobilization, demobilization over 1-2 days with multiple DEM fisheries staff to execute the work depending on the vessel and collection method. This is anticipated to include three seasonal fisheries staff at $261 and three fisheries biologists at $720 for each field event, with additional office preparation time making up the remainder of the match.

Project Management and Grant Management
$0 CRMC Ask | $1,000 Match | $1,000 Total
Robert (Bob) Nero, Chairman and Project Manager for the PRA will be supported by Katie DeGoosh (vice chairman) and other board members as appropriate. Bob will be the primary point of contact and oversee the entire project from start to finish, including grant management, and contractor solicitation. Bob and supporting PRA volunteers will provide in-kind time at the current standard volunteer rate of $31.80/hr for a minimum of 100 hours, or more as necessary to fully execute the project and grant requirements.

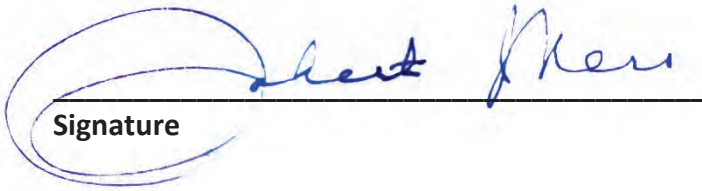
IX. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Please include the following with your application:

- ✓ Site and Locus Maps
- ✓ Ground-level photographs of existing site conditions
- ✓ Aerial photographs, if available
- ✓ Preliminary design drawings, maps or engineering plans, if available
- ✓ Pertinent physical, ecological, biological, and cultural / historical survey data
- ✓ Letters of support

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

AUTHORIZED AGENT OF LEAD ORGANIZATION



_____ _____04/01/24_____

Signature **Date**

Return your completed proposal by 4:00 p.m. on **April 1, 2024** to:

Caitlin Chaffee
NBNERR
RI Dept. of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

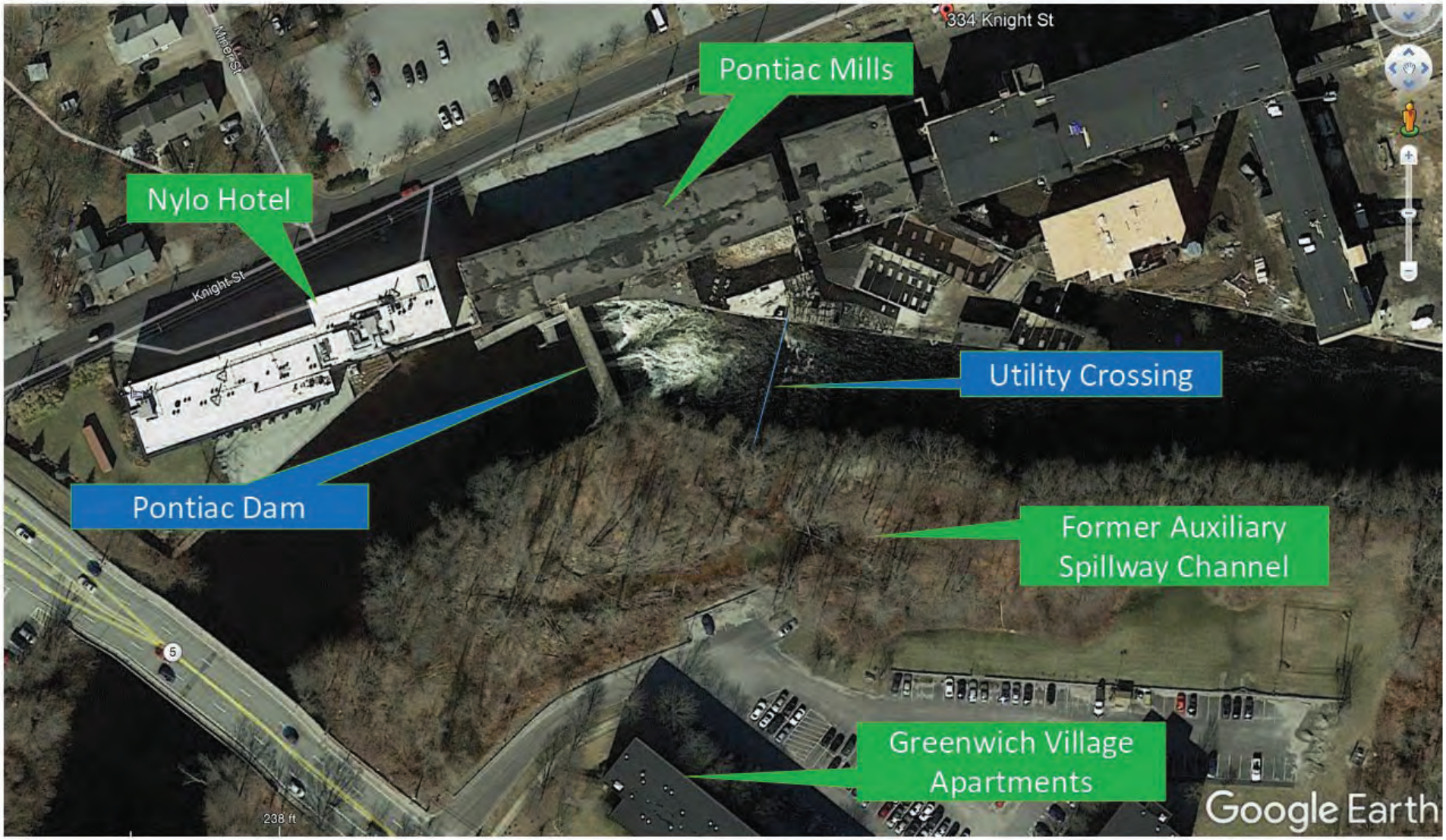
caitlin.chaffee@dem.ri.gov

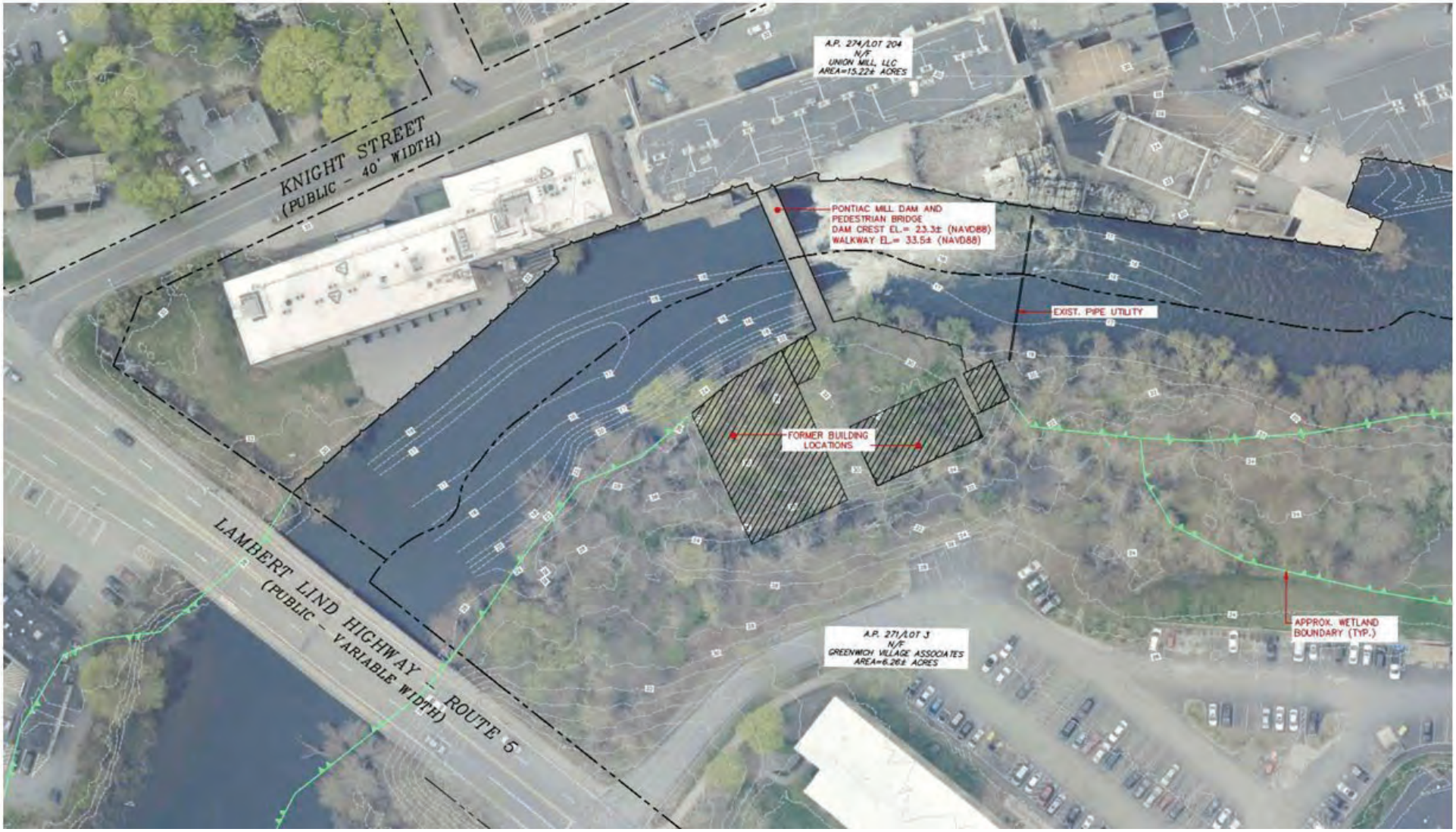
Applicants are required to submit one (1) signed hard copy of the proposal form and one (1) electronic copy in Adobe PDF format. **Please submit electronic copy as a **SINGLE PDF FILE** containing all application materials.**

Contact Caitlin Chaffee at **401-222-4700 xt. 277-4417** with any questions.

CRMC
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Additional Application Materials


334 Knight St
Miner St
Pontiac Mills
Nylo Hotel
Knight St
Utility Crossing
Pontiac Dam
Former Auxiliary
Spillway Channel
Greenwich Village
Apartments
5
238 ft
Google Earth


A.P. 274/LOT 204
N/F
UNION MILL, LLC
AREA=15.22± ACRES
KNIGHT STREET
(PUBLIC - 40' WIDTH)
PONTIAC MILL DAM AND
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
DAM CREST EL.= 23.3± (NAVD88)
WALKWAY EL.= 33.5± (NAVD88)
EXIST. PIPE UTILITY
FORMER BUILDING
LOCATIONS
APPROX. WETLAND
BOUNDARY (TYP.)
A.P. 271/LOT 3
N/F
GREENWICH VILLAGE ASSOCIATES
AREA=6.26± ACRES
LAMBERT LIND HIGHWAY - ROUTE 5
(PUBLIC - VARIABLE WIDTH)


Area proposed for sediment and bathymetric survey.
W Natick Rd
Miner St
Knight St
Pawtuxet River
Greenwich Ave
Greenwich Ave
Greenwich Ave
Sheldon Dr
Mapfre Center Blvd
James St
Eldridge St
Corona St
Naples Ave
Naples Ave
Rome Ave
Image © 2024 Airbus
Google Earth

Looking Upstream at the Pontiac Mill Dam

Looking Downstream at the Pontiac Mill Dam

Representative sections of river upstream of the Pontiac Mill Dam

Letters of Support

Union Mill LLC ★
334 Knight Street Suite 11201
Warwick RI 02886

Pawtuxet River Authority
Attn: Robert Nero
8 Hope Furnace Road
Hope, Rhode Island 02908

RE: Rhode Island CRMC Habitat Trust Fund: PRA Pontiac Dam Proposal

Dear Mr. Nero;

Union Mill LLC is providing this letter in support of the Pawtuxet River Authority proposal to the CRMC Habitat Trust Fund, for data collection and analysis to support fish passage at the Pontiac Dam on the Pawtuxet River. Although previous studies have been conducted assessing the impact of fish passage at the site, the existing studies have left several data gaps that we as dam owners need answered before deciding on the future of the dam and fish passage on site.

Union Mill LLC owns the property along the north side of the Pawtuxet River which includes the Pontiac Mill Complex. Additionally, Union Mill LLC owns half of the Pontiac Mill Dam, and it is our understanding that the other half of the dam is owned by Picerne Real Estate Group.

Several recent flooding at our Pontiac Mill Complex from intense precipitation events have renewed our interest in evaluating dam removal and fish passage at the site. Our understanding is that some of the proposed alternatives previously developed showed various levels of flood reduction benefits, in addition to significant benefits for anadromous species. This proposal is to further refine the alternates previously developed at the site, information like the sediment and bathymetric mapping being proposed under this funding opportunity, is critical to us as landowners making informed decisions for our properties, structures, and residents/lessees.

We look forward to engaging with PRA on this project, and future grant applications that will hopefully lead to an equitable, sustainable, and restorative project for all parties, and the environment.

Let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Larry Pillips

PICERNE
Building on Tradition Since 1925

March 28, 2024

Pawtuxet River Authority
Attn: Robert Nero
8 Hope Furnace Road
Hope, Rhode Island 02908

RE: Rhode Island CRMC Habitat Trust Fund: PRA Pontiac Dam Proposal

Dear Mr. Nero;

Picerne Real Estate Group is providing this letter in support of the Pawtuxet River Authority proposal to the State of RI Coastal Resources Management Council Habitat Trust Fund, for data collection and analysis to support fish passage at the Pontiac Dam on the Pawtuxet River. Although previous studies have been conducted assessing the impact of fish passage at the site, the existing studies have left several data gaps that we as interested parties need answers to, before making recommendations of the future of the dam and fish passage on site.

Picerne Real Estate Group owns the property along the south side of the Pawtuxet River which includes the Greenwich Village Apartments. That said, we are a relevant party, interested in facts and potential outcomes of such studies.

Several recent flooding events at our Greenwich Village Apartments property, has renewed our interest in evaluating dam removal and fish passage at the site. Our understanding is that some of the proposed alternatives previously developed for the dam showed various levels of flood reduction, in addition to significant benefits to anadromous species. In order to further refine the alternates previously developed at the site, information like the sediment and bathymetric mapping being proposed under this funding opportunity, is critical to us in making informed decisions for our properties, structures, and residents/lessees.

We look forward to engaging with PRA on this project, and future grant applications that will hopefully lead to an equitable, sustainable, and restorative project for all parties, and the environment.

Let me know if I can be of additional assistance. I can be reached at 401-732-3700 or via email at rserpa@picernerl.com.

Sincerely,

Ron Serpa
District Manager
Picerne Real Estate Group

SAVE THE BAY
NARRAGANSETT BAY

Save The Bay Center
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905

P: 401-272-3540
F: 401-273-7153
SAVEBAY.ORG

April 1, 2024

Caitlin Chaffee, Manager
Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Caitlin,

Save The Bay supports the Pawtuxet River Authority's application to the Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund entitled "Data Collection and Analysis to Support Fish Passage at the Pontiac Dam on the Pawtuxet River." Save The Bay has partnered with the Pawtuxet River Authority for over 20 years on restoring fish passage and river connectivity on the Pawtuxet River beginning with the planning, design and removal of the Lower Pawtuxet River Dam at the mouth of the Pawtuxet River in 2011. The Pontiac Dam is the next dam on the main stem of the Pawtuxet River and would provide fish passage to over 2.5 river miles and reduce upstream flooding in this highly developed section of the watershed.

The data proposed to be collected and shared with the dam owners and project partners includes bathymetric data, chemical and physical sediment data upstream of the Pontiac Dam and anadromous fish presence downstream of the dam. This data is necessary to assess the restoration options including dam removal.

Save The Bay will continue to work with the Pawtuxet River Authority on this project through serving as a member of the interagency technical review team. We are currently working with the Pawtuxet River Authority and other restoration partners on other fish passage and stream connectivity restoration on the Mashapaug Brook tributary.

The Pawtuxet River Authority has years of experience planning, designing, implementing and stewarding restoration and public access enhancement projects in the watershed. Their proposal to work with the Pontiac Dam's owners and local, state and federal partners on the steps to assess upstream habitat and sediments will support future design and engineering of fish passage and potential dam removal at Pontiac Dam.

Save The Bay is eager to continue to partner with the Pawtuxet River Authority on this phase of this multi-faceted restoration and resilience project.

Sincerely,

Wenley Ferguson
Director of Restoration