

## Instructions

### QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND GRANT AWARD - FINAL REPORT QUESTIONS

This form is to be completed by all nonprofit organizations that received a grant through the Quinnipiac River Fund.

## Grant Details

### Grant Details

Organization Name

Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA)

Grant Description

to support the initiation of a Quinnipiac River watershed plan.

Total Grant Amount

18,000.00

## Report Questions

1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable).

The following project objectives/outcomes were completed during the grant period. For more information, please see the project report submitted.

- Built partnership by identifying key stakeholders and obtaining support from a majority of QR watershed municipalities in working towards a watershed plan
- Selected key stakeholders to participate actively in the QR Watershed Plan Committee.
- Characterized the watershed by creating a summary of existing watershed opportunities and challenges, including gathering existing reports and data sources.
- Identified issues and setting preliminary goals and indicators for the watershed.
- Created a public engagement plan with specific strategies to include marginalized groups to address environmental justice issues
- Created a regional committee to champion the completion of the QR watershed plan, including finalizing goals, identifying solutions and designing an implementation program.

2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward?

An updated watershed plan for the QR would improve the environmental quality of the Quinnipiac River and New Haven Harbor and their watersheds. Watershed planning is a method for maintaining, protecting, and restoring the natural resources within a watershed while also enhancing the quality of life in

communities. It directly involves community members in developing a vision for the future of the watershed and can provide opportunities to educate citizens on protecting and fixing the environment that do not conflict with current and future development. Local municipal leaders and staff can use the goals set in a regional watershed plan to assist them in local decision-making. Finally, it can provide an opportunity to cooperate with neighboring communities and provide a new organization through which to get local, state and federal grants to improve the environment.

In the fall of 2021, the Land Use Collaborative convened various stakeholders and leaders from the Quinnipiac River Watershed to evaluate the current plan and initiate the update process. The stakeholders consisted of NGOs, municipal government staff, and State agencies. The Land Use Collaborative staff individually called key leaders to discuss essential organizations and municipal staff that should be involved. Staff provided a detailed current assessment and characterization of the watershed efforts since 2013. On December 15, 2021, the Steering Committee reconvened. The Collaborative staff reviewed in detail the various goals and objectives of the 2013 plan to spur discussion on what goals were working and which were in need of revision or simply not being implemented, thereby identifying issues and setting preliminary goals and indicators for the watershed. In addition, staff worked with the Steering Committee and Yale students to create a public engagement plan. Finally, the project successfully created a regional steering committee to champion the completion of the QR watershed plan, including identifying a regional organization to lead the effort going forward.

3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River?

There is a significant need for collaboration in the Quinnipiac Watershed in order to advance planning and implementation. The key tool is the continuation of the Steering Committee. Having a Quinnipiac Watershed Steering Committee that champions the Quinnipiac Watershed Plan is essential to the health and well-being of the watershed. The current Quinnipiac Watershed Plan's goals and objectives serve as a tool to assist the Quinnipiac watershed municipalities, not-for-profits, and government agencies in their continued efforts to protect the watershed. The sharing of information and resources is critical, as well as, the continued review of the current watershed plan to ensure that it is updated and implemented to further conservation, community engagement, and watershed activities. Participation in the Steering Committee includes regularly held meetings and coordinated efforts to advance the update of the Plan. The Southwest Conservation District has applied for funding to facilitate the Committee and lead the plan update effort.

## Attachments

**Financial information (required):** Please provide a detailed accounting of how the specific grant dollars were spent based on the budget submitted in the grant application.

Detailed Accounting

Quinnipiac River Fund L7064 F26205 Invoice ONLY 031821-031722 - signed.pdf

**Pictures (optional):** Please attach 1 to 3 pictures of activities that have occurred throughout the grant period (with a description for each) as a result of grant funding. All pictures should be submitted in JPEG format and may be uploaded to [www.thequinnipiacriver.com](http://www.thequinnipiacriver.com) and used in Foundation publications.

Picture 1

Description

Picture 2

Description

Picture 3

Description