

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019_1st 2019__2nd 2019__3rd 2019_4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN 2017-03 GSA 00029

Contractor: Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Project Leader: Karen Terwilliger

Abstract: The objective of this five-year RCN project is to continue to identify and update shared priority regional conservation implementation of NEAFWA's Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need, while simultaneously influencing regional and national conservation by developing technical tools and communication products that clearly define conservation needs and priorities and that move us towards conservation success. Specifically:

1. Provide technical support to facilitate appropriate data use by members and partners
2. Continue to track database use
3. Annually solicit information from users regarding specific applications of the regional WAP database in addressing other program priorities and actions
4. Perform database maintenance to ensure consistency with database platforms and servers.
5. Develop queries and reports that best serve users and that facilitate periodic SWAP revisions
6. Expand RSGCN review and analyses to facilitate the inclusion of additional invertebrate taxa
7. Engage and coordinate vertebrate and invertebrate taxa teams and to respond to data requests for at-risk and endangered species
8. Compile, analyze, update, and interpret the RSGCN status, updates and priority actions for RSGCN
9. Provide draft and final technical reports / communication products for the tech committee and NEAFWA

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes- additional tasks were added and completed

Progress Achieved:

Objective 1: identify and review and update RSGCN information.

In September 2019 we began developing the most effective way to update habitat and threat information with the engagement of NEFWDTC and taxa teams to prepare for the 2021-2022 RSGCN list update. At that time, the NEFWDTC tasked us with additional work to prepopulate all the 350 RSGCN with a turnaround time needed of January 1 to engage taxa teams in January and February. We took on this additional work and significant match was generated by the amount of time required to complete this task during this quarter.

This quarter we coordinated with NEFWDTC and SWAP coordinators on the October, November, and December webinars/conference calls to create and confirm updated staff directories in order to update taxa team contacts and expertise. We followed up to confirm all responses from all states and DC to

update staff turn-over and changes since the annual meeting in September. These have been compiled and sent for confirmation. We updated our approach as a result of the annual meeting request and we contacted experts in December to re-engage taxonomic teams in a consistent review process. We are following up on the feedback provided by the NEFWDC at their annual meeting. We have populated the new data fields over this quarter and sent to the taxa teams 2/13-31/19 so they can be engaged over the winter (non-field work season). Taxa Team Webinars were scheduled for January, with doodle polls sent to set up follow up February meetings.

Significant prep work has begun to develop the documents and spreadsheets to most efficiently update the RSGCN information. We presented our design of the new data to be updated at the annual meeting and we received feedback to prepopulated the forms to then provide to the taxa teams. A database entry form was developed to collect information to capture and compile any changes in state status of RSGCN and identify unique habitats and threat vulnerabilities. The four vertebrate taxa teams include bird, mammal, herpetofauna, and fish biologists from each state. The 8+ individual invertebrate taxa teams (freshwater mussel, terrestrial snails, crayfish, moths, dragonflies and damselflies, butterflies and skippers, tiger beetles, bumble bees, and species reviewed in 2021-2022) are being updated. Mussel, crayfish, odonate, stonefly and tiger beetle experts have been contacted to help populate the data entry forms. Additional previous TCI associates we reengaged to meet this accelerated deadline and perform these additional services. This required emails to 97 experts in the NE, by taxa, with individual instructions and webinars and data files to be sent several intervals in November and December.

Work with state fish and wildlife biologists and SWAP coordinators to improve the classification and description of habitat requirements for RSGCN continued. Consistent classification and coding were developed to capture habitats and threats to improve our understanding of habitat vulnerabilities and requirements for RSGCN (all taxa) that allow the Committee to focus conservation to benefit the most species and improve certainty in conservation outcomes. Data sources have been compiled and used to prepopulate the worksheets for each vertebrate taxa and 2 invertebrate taxa.

We planned an additional 2020 symposium to highlight the RSGCN/RCN projects similar to the April 2019 NEAFWA annual meeting to provide updates and communication on the broad array of effective regional projects. We worked with key RCN PIs to highlight key taxa and geographic priority projects and organized the NEAFWA Symposium to focus on RSGCN efforts regionwide. Stonefly, turtle, xerics and others were included with a panel discussion could be facilitated to solicit attendees' input and feedback on these programs. However, it was not accepted as other later submitted symposia (the AT Risk and another Aquatic Connectivity symposium) overlapped the topic content.

Objective 2: provide on-going technical support, and evaluation of use of regional Wildlife Action Plan database; We continue to track users regarding the regional SWAP database in addressing other program priorities and actions. At least 72 additional users downloaded the database for use. Most users indicate that they are using it for grant applications and proposals in order to include the SGSN, key threats and actions from the NESWAPs. We briefed several new partners on the database and it was sent to additional state and federal partners.

We implemented suggestions from two surveys, one for states and one for partners. The surveys asked users to explain what kind of information they were seeking, whether they were able to find it, how it could be made easier to use, and what additional information it should contain. The responses to the survey have been summarized in a draft report and incorporated in the updated database provided and

posted on the NEAFWA website. We continued to monitor the use of the database from the NEAFWA website.

Data queries and reports of information designating species as Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need has been updated and added. Species menus have been improved to allow more flexibility in searching the database for particular species. The launch page of the database was updated to provide additional access to the database from the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' website. States were asked to link it to their SWAP sites as well. Contact information and website links were also updated on the launch page. The database associate was engaged fully in the RSGCN update and created data forms and updates for us.

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: none

Expected End Date: February 29, 2023

Costs: federal expense to date: \$79,846.51

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$137,665.32

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$80,000

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Amendment being proposed

The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.

TERWILLIGER CONSULTING, INC.

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Title: President, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Date: 1-18-20