

Questions & Responses

Request for Proposals: FY 2010 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects Maine Department of Environmental Protection

May 27, 2009

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued the RFP on April 17, 2009. DEP accepted questions in writing about the RFP through May 25th. Four questions were received. Questions and responses are listed below.

This document is also available on the DEP Bureau of Land & Water RFP webpage at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/rfp.htm>

1. Question: Our project is, in part, directed at abating bacteria sources to eventually reopen a shellfish harvesting area. Could one use 319 funds within a NPS Watershed Implementation Project to conduct or help with sanitary survey in consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)? It would mean getting training on how to do surveys from the DMR, but hopefully we could get that accommodated.

Response: DMR is the state agency in charge of performing sanitary surveys in accordance with protocols to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The proposal would need to exhibit: DMR would accept sanitary survey observations provided by your project staff or volunteers; and that sanitary survey observation or information is acquired according to any applicable DMR environmental data quality assurance plan or a site specific quality assurance project plan developed for this NPS project. For information about the DMR shellfish program go to: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public_health/

2. Question: Please comment on how DEP would evaluate a proposal submitted by a grantee that exhibited relatively low past performance on NPS 319 projects several years ago.

Response: To address this past performance issue, the grantee could adjust the proposal to demonstrate that the grantee has increased capacity, effective informed management oversight, and qualified staff resources, etc. to conduct project work successfully and complete project work on-schedule. The grantee should also exhibit there is solid local support and/or services to help the grantee be successful doing the project. Under the evaluation criteria 1.10 C, the proposals review committee does consider known past performance exhibited by a grantee on relevant projects.

3. Question. What number / scale of projects would be adequate to be attractive and suitable for the NPS-319 funding.

Response: The desired scope or scale of work within a "NPS Watershed Implementation Project" is discussed in the RFP at Section 2.1A Project Design Objective & Approach. There are many examples of projects that have been funded and completed in recent years. DEP recommends reviewing DEP's "NPS Management Program 2008 Annual Report" at http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319_files/reports/index.htm This report provides brief 2 page summaries of 16 "NPS Watershed (implementation) Projects" projects completed in 2008. One may get an overview of the size and scale of projects by reviewing these summaries.

4. Question: "Instructions for Work Plan Content and Format" (page 17 of the RFP) directs respondents to use size #11 font and one inch margins for the "Work Plan". Does the size #11 font and one inch margins also apply to "Attachments" to the Work Plan"?

Response: No. Attachments such as the candidate NPS sites list or letters of support, etc. are not confined to #11 font and one inch margins. Note the RFP states attachments may not exceed six pages in total.

End.