

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:		DEP Water Bureau/DEA/Invasive Aquatic Species Unit	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		John McPhedran and Denise Blanchette	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$80,000 (amendment)	Advantage CT / RQS #:	06A 20190405*2866
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:		Proposed End Date:
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	4/22/2019	Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:	2/28/2021	New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Lake Stewards of Maine	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Citizen scientist aquatic plant identification and survey training, lake surveillance for invasive aquatic plants, invasive aquatic plant site assessment & tracking, outreach.	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Please respond to ALL of the following:

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The Maine DEP is charged by the Legislature with conducting programs designed to reduce the spread of invasive aquatic plants (38 MRSA §1862 and §1872). These statutes require a variety of functions as part of program operations. Among these functions is a visible and measurable public education program and long-term monitoring of invasive species in Maine's fresh waters. Both the training and deployment of volunteers to survey waters for invasive plants create the Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) program. The statute recognizes the value of public/private partnerships in accomplishing these goals.

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The Department determined that coordinating a system of lake monitors, technical assistance, and public education are best done through a contract with an organization that has experience in recruiting and sustaining the use of volunteers managed by a professional staff to achieve field work and facilitate communications. The Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) formerly, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), has a laudable history of contracting with the Department for volunteer coordination and fieldwork and the production and distribution of educational materials. Early in the fight against invasive aquatic plants, the LSM included in its 2001 monitoring program efforts to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive aquatic species in Maine lakes. Since then, the LSM has continued to conduct workshops and fieldwork in support of citizen invasive plant monitoring statewide under contract with DEP. Statutory reference for a lake monitoring program for invasive aquatic plant detection is in 38 MRSA §1872.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

Within Maine, no group other than Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) has the staff availability, program mandate, and track record of training and coordinating reliable volunteers to meet the DEP's program needs efficiently and in a timely manner. LSM, formerly Maine Volunteer Monitoring Program, has been monitoring lake conditions for 50 years including 20 years of statewide work directly on training volunteers for invasive aquatic plant identification, surveying and detection. LSM-trained volunteers have discovered incipient infestations, e.g., the invasive plant hydrilla in Damariscotta Lake which led to successful rapid response by DEP, and have participated in surveys statewide to determine the extent of invasive aquatic plant infestations.


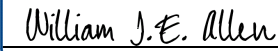
3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The DEP has extensive experience contracting with the Provider. Work done under past contracts was timely, comprehensive and met objectives of contracts. The cost basis in this amendment is on par with previous costs charged by the Provider in the past, which were reasonable. If DEP had staff time to run this program with internal staff, costs would be at least double what we're paying with this contract, say nothing of the fact that other program demands would not be accomplished.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

Based on our experience with grant and contract administration, competition by other potential contractors will not lead to a better product either economically or with respect to quality of work without significant upfront costs by the contractor and DEP. Considering the public mission of the Provider, its track record of working with agencies and all other entities in state who are currently involved with the invasive plant species programs, there is no real incentive, or need, for others to develop competing programs. The DEP's exchange and dialogue with all involved entities suggests that there is no interest to compete for these services. The open process of annual program scrutiny by the Governor-appointed Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species, DEP, and all cooperators means that DEP is constantly looking for program efficiencies.

PART IV: APPROVALS

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
			
Printed Name:	Melanie Loyzim	Date:	Mar 16, 2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: 		
Printed Name:	william J.E. Allen	Date:	3/18/2021