



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Melanie Loyzim
Commissioner

January 29, 2025

Sarah Fagg
Worromontogus Lake Association
PO Box 2582
Augusta, ME 04338

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Grant Award under **RFA# 202409172, Grants for Lake Restoration using an In-lake Aluminum Treatment**

Dear Sarah Fagg:

This letter is in regard to the subject *Request for Applications (RFA)*, issued by the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection for **Grants for Lake Restoration using an In-lake Aluminum Treatment**. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional grant contract award to the following bidder:

- Worromontogus Lake Association

The sole bidder listed above received the evaluation team's consensus-based approval for receipt of the grant for \$200,000. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to the execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful applicant. The applicant (vendor) shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following the announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Bacon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Bacon" clearly distinguishable.

Linda Bacon
Limnologist/Lake Assessment Section Leader
17 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333
Linda.C.Bacon@Maine.gov
207-441-0462

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202409172

RFA TITLE: Grants for Lake Restoration using an In-lake Aluminum Treatment

BIDDER: Worromontogus Lake Association

DATE: January 14, 2025

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record all evaluation notes and scoring that is obtained through consensus discussions among the full evaluation team for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator should complete this form and maintain the only copy. This form should reflect the full team's consensus evaluations, and this form is **not** meant to take the place of individual evaluation notes, which are still required from each member of the evaluation team. A separate form is available for individual evaluation notes. Please submit a copy of this document to the Office of State Procurement Services as part of your contract award selection documents.

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Department of Environmental Protection

Name of RFP Coordinator: Linda Bacon

Names of Evaluators: Linda Bacon, Jeremy Deeds, Patrick Lind, Alex Wong

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
A. Eligibility	X	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	10	N/A
II. Relative Value of the Waterbody	10	N/A
III. Water Quality Problem	25	N/A
IV. Feasibility of Success	25	N/A
V. Cost Effectiveness	25	N/A
VI. Disadvantaged Communities	5	N/A
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	N/A

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**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I
Preliminary Information**

Note: One proposal was submitted.

Evaluation Team Comments:

A. Eligibility.

- The applicant is a [501(c)(3)] organization.
- An approved 10-year Watershed-based Management Plan (July 2021) is on file at DEP.
- The MEPDES permit and MWD license have been issued by DEP, as indicated by the permit and license numbers entered in their proposal.
- Letters of Commitment were submitted from the applicator (SOLitude) and the staging area landowner (Doyan).
- The applicant has indicated no involvement in litigation over the last 5 years in the Litigation attachment.

Thus, the Evaluation Team agrees that the applicant has adequately addressed all eligibility requirements.

I. Qualifications and Experience.

- Worromontogus Lake Association members involved with this project have demonstrated adequate experience to implement the project given the success of their 2024 first phase of the project.
- The Consultants working with the Association have excellent qualifications to provide guidance.
- The contractor for the treatment has many decades of experience doing alum treatments.

Thus, the Evaluation Team agrees that those involved in implementing this project have excellent qualifications and experience to successfully implement this project.

II. Relative Value of the Waterbody.

- Worromontogus Lake (AKA Togus Pond) supports fishing, boating, skiing, and swimming.
- The lake has a state-owned hand-carry boat launch area as well as a trailerable launch area, making it accessible to people that do not live on the lake.

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- The lake is located in a region where it is accessible to disadvantaged communities.
- 73% of the residences around the lake are occupied year-round and provide tax base for the city of Augusta.
- The pond provides habitat for fish and other aquatic species, loons, ducks and birds of prey.

Thus, the Evaluation Team agrees that the lake is locally of high value.

III. Water Quality Problem.

- Summertime anoxia in deeper waters has been promoting release of the nutrient phosphorus from the sediments.
- Phosphorus (the nutrient responsible for most algal blooms in Maine lakes) from the sediments (46%) and the watershed have supported algal blooms in recent years.
- Details are included in their Watershed-based Management Plan.
- The 2024 alum treatment did improve the water quality significantly.

The Evaluation Team agrees that because the internal source of phosphorus from the sediments is a significant portion of that nutrient load and that an in-lake aluminum treatment is indicated.

IV. Feasibility of Success.

- The WMP includes sites in the watershed that need to be remediated, which the Association is working on.
- The WMP also indicates that an in-lake aluminum treatment is needed to control phosphorus release from the sediments.
- The application includes details of how much alum must be applied for each depth range.
- Half the recommended dosage was applied in 2024, which resulted in a reduction in phosphorus and improvement of water quality.
- The proposal states that they will be using the same contract applicator and staging area.

The Evaluation Team has concluded that because all the treatment details have been determined, and because the 2024 application went well, that the feasibility of success is high for this project and that Togus Pond will achieve water quality standards as a result. The sources listed for match indicate a high degree of local support.

V. Cost Effectiveness.

- The application includes a breakdown of costs for the 2024 treatment, the funds for which were raised locally.

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- The estimate for the second phase of the project is similar to the 2024 costs, and more than half of the costs will be raised locally.

The Evaluation Team concludes that the approximate 3:1 Local match:State funding is impressive. In addition, the work being done in the watershed will help increase the longevity of the treatment.

VI. Disadvantaged Communities.

- Togus Pond is located immediately adjacent to the Augusta area disadvantaged community block.
- Lower Togus Pond is immediately downstream from Togus Pond and receives much of its water from Togus Pond; Lower Togus is entirely in the disadvantaged community block.

Thus, the Evaluation Team agrees that being the closest large pond to Augusta, Togus Pond serves many disadvantaged communities.

Summary. The Evaluation Team came to consensus that the applicant has done an excellent job addressing all the elements that would have been scored had there been multiple applications. The Proposal was well organized and well done. Because the Applicant had a successful phase 1 of the treatment in 2024, all locally funded, their chances for success given that the same individuals are involved, is good. The Team concluded that this will be a good and intended use for these funds and a good investment.



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AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA# 202409172

RFA TITLE: Grants for Lake Restoration using an In-lake Aluminum Treatment

I, Linda Bacon, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

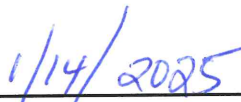
I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.



Signature



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I, Jeremy Deeds, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

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I, Alex Wong, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

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RFA TITLE: Grants for Lake Restoration using an In-lake Aluminum Treatment

I, Patrick Lind, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

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