



Department of Environmental Protection

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Water Management Act Grant

Agency Document #: BRP 2016-06

Question and Answer Document

October 5, 2015

A public information session was held at the MassDEP Boston Office, One Winter St., Boston, MA on September 24, 2015. The purpose of that meeting was to publicly respond to any questions related to the Water Management Act Grant Request for Responses (RFR). Answers to both the questions posed at the meeting and to questions emailed to MassDEP are below.

Q1. Is there a listing of past recipients of the WMA grant program (project type, award amount?) Have there been any past awards made for Cape Cod or Buzzards Bay basins?

A1. *Yes, summary documents listing recipients for previous years are located at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/grants/water-management-act-grant-program.html>.*

Q2. Would it be acceptable to submit a 'tiered' application – that is, a PWS submits a request for Task A – top priority or Phase I activity as well as Task B – second priority or 'Phase II activity such that DEP could choose to award either A and B or just A. Has anything similar been submitted and accepted for funding or if not, does the approach make sense?

A2. *Please submit one application for both tasks. During the review process, the Department will consider removing any tasks that may not fit in with the scope of the grant program, are duplicative, or are deemed unnecessary.*

Q3. The estimated schedule calls for January 2016 Contract Start date and Completion Date of June 30, 2016. Is the Completion Date fixed?

A3. *Yes, it is.*

Q4. Can the grant be used for a project that is on-going and will extend beyond the Completion Date but funds will be used for work completed during the contract period? Example; I/I contract under construction.

A4. *Yes, the grant funds can be used for an on-going project, provided the project meets the criteria outlined in the RFR, and can stand alone as a project. Each project is evaluated separately on the material that is submitted in the application.*

Q5. Is the Supplier Diversity Program a goal? RFR references 10% for contracts greater than \$150,000. Awards in this RFR will be \$100,000 max? Are there SDP waiver provisions for work in progress.

A5. *10% is the goal for Large Procurements. Please note that Large Procurements are those that are \$150,000 or more; if your grant request is under \$150,000, the Supplier Diversity Plan Forms 1, 2, and 3 do not need to be submitted; however, we do encourage you to do so. Previous awards for this grant have ranged from \$35,000 to \$150,000. There are no waiver provisions for work in progress.*

Q6. How would you like the interim reporting and the invoices submitted?

A6. *The Department will send you reporting forms to fill out for these deliverables.*

Q7. Who owns equipment bought to conduct tasks listed under the grant Scope of Work?

A7. *It would depend on the specific language in the project proposal and budget, as well as in the final Scope of Work. However, projects are evaluated on cost effectiveness. Purchasing large cost items may not be as cost effective as leasing or renting equipment.*

Q8. Can multi-year projects be awarded under this grant?

A8. *No, they cannot. However, applicants can submit proposals for separate segments of a larger project over the course of several grant years.*

Q9. Are projects with a cost greater than \$200,000 evaluated less favorably than those under \$150,000?

A9. *Projects are evaluated on cost effectiveness, not total cost. Please see Question 2 for input on “tiering” an application.*

Q10. What final reports would you suggest reviewing if submitting an application involving water audits? Bathometry? Have any project applications evaluated climate change impacts in their proposed tasks?

A10. *Summary documents listing recipients for previous years are located at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/grants/water-management-act-grant-program.html>. For water audits, please review Acton’s 2014 report, and for bathometry, please review Norwell’s 2015 report. No applications have been submitted that focus on climate change impacts.*