

# Watershed Group Monitoring Grant Program



Informational Meeting  
December 6, 2018

Revised from 12-6-18 Meeting

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# Overview

- Why we're here
- Description of MassDEP data needs
- Roll-out of new Grant program
- Application process
- Other Capacity Building Activities
- Opportunity for input

# Increased Funding For Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

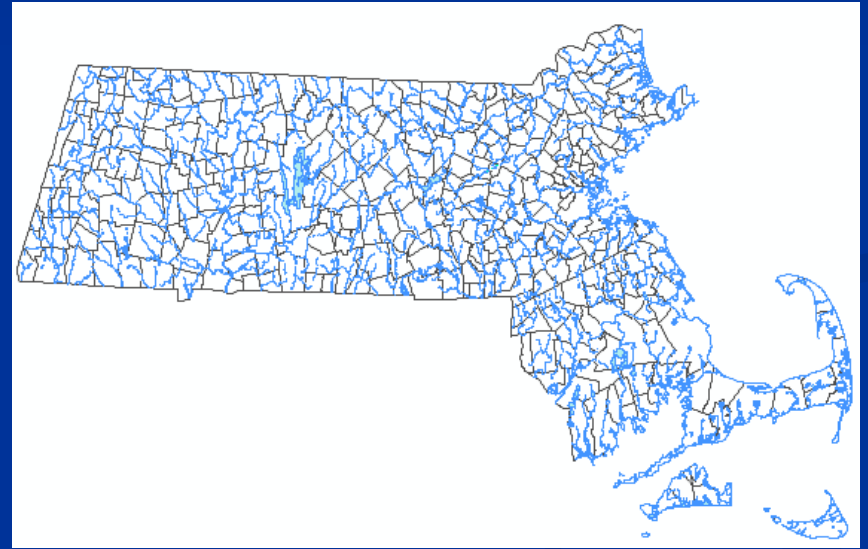
- 11/18/2018 – MassDEP Press Release announcing \$450,000 in funding for:
  - \$200,000 Water Quality Monitoring Grant funding
  - Balance of \$250,000 will support capacity building
- Changes to 314 CMR 4.00 (Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards) are now proposed, including the bacteria criteria, but will not affect this grant.

# MassDEP Data Needs

Massachusetts boasts an abundance of recreational waters, including:

- 12,000+ miles of rivers
- 3,000+ lakes and ponds
- 1,500+ miles of coastline

MassDEP is responsible for determining whether they are safe places to swim and boat, and this is partly based on the presence or absence of bacterial contamination.





# MassDEP Data Needs

MassDEP uses data to determine if a waterbody is meeting water quality standards, thus the data must be scientifically sound and legally defensible. For example, samples must be:

- collected according to standardized methods,
- documented properly, and
- supported by adequate meta data (e.g., duplicate and blank samples).



# MassDEP Data Needs

In terms of making swimming and boating assessment decisions, MassDEP's bacteria data needs fall into one of the following categories:

- Waters that have never been monitored for pathogens,
- Waters monitored in the past for which we need current bacteria data, and
- Waters that we know have been affected by bacterial contamination.





# MassDEP Data Needs

MassDEP uses one of these parameters to determine whether a water body is safe for swimming and boating:

- *Escherichia coli* (freshwater)
- Enterococci (salt water)

*MassDEP's proposed changes to 314 CMR 4.00 will not effect these grants.*

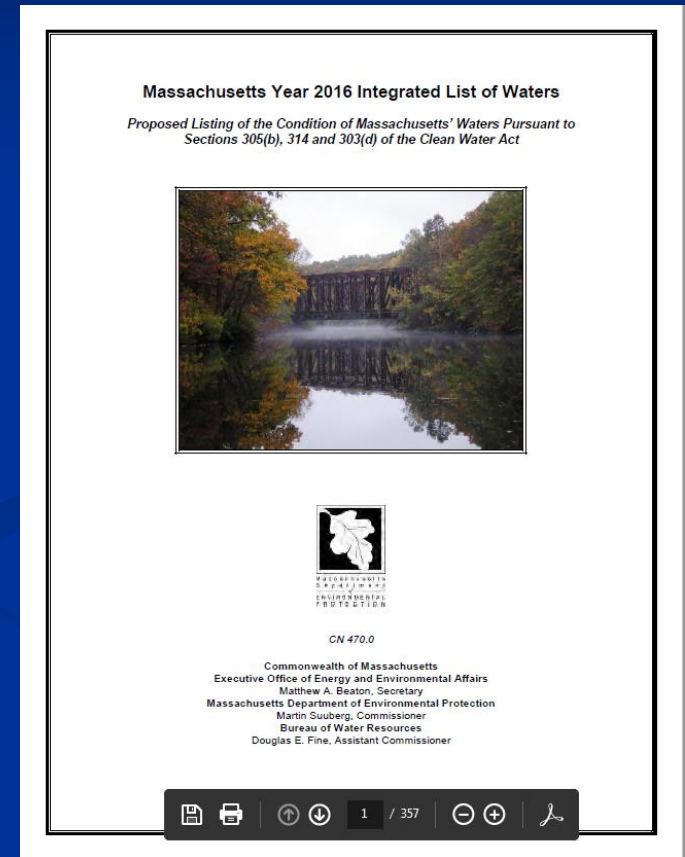


Source of photo: <http://bryanmbrandenburg.com/escherichia-coli/>

# MassDEP Data Needs

MassDEP informs the US Congress of the status of our waters in biennial Integrated List of Waters.

The Integrated List includes recommendations for future monitoring to meet data needs.

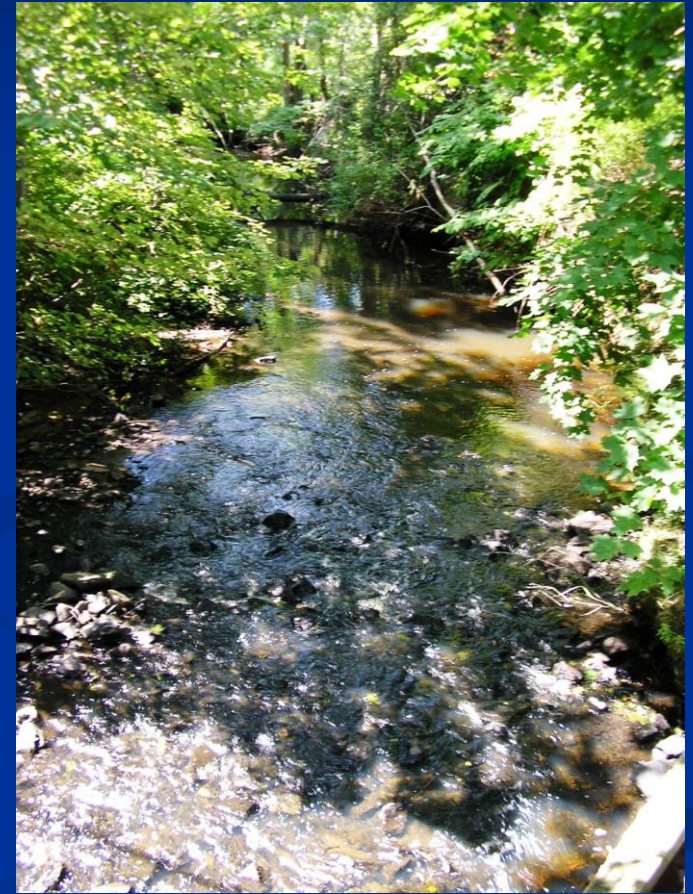




# MassDEP Data Needs

Volunteer monitoring groups are uniquely positioned at the local time and space scales, where 75% of our stream miles lie.

This is particularly important when monitoring bacteria, which may come from an intermittent source, and, as they don't live long in the environment, they must be analyzed within 8 hours of sample collection.



# MassDEP Strategic Goals

- Expand partnerships
- Support monitoring groups
- Increase data available for assessing water quality

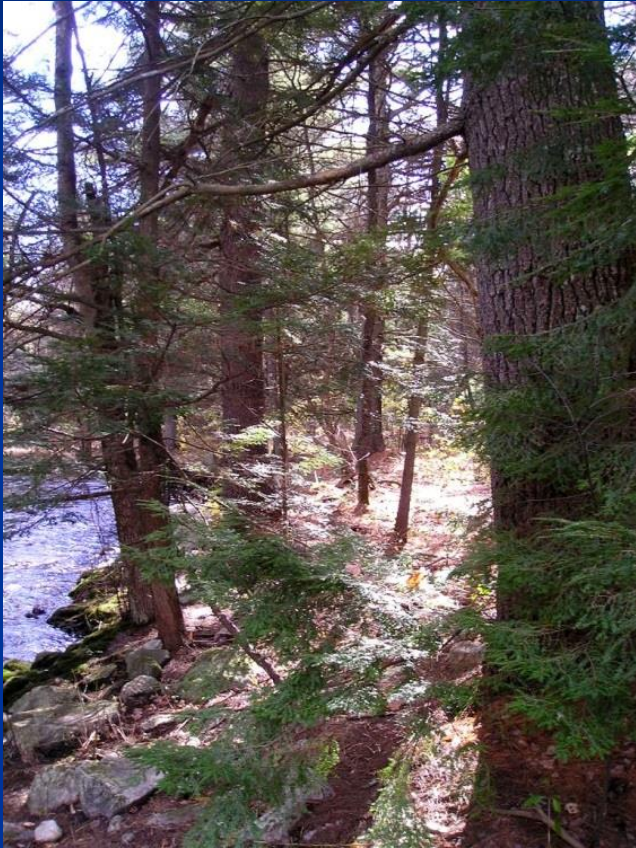


# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant

MassDEP is excited to offer a new grant program, to support volunteer monitoring groups in partnering with us to collect much-needed surface water quality data!

- The grants will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, for a total of \$200,000 in available funds.
- The amount of high level data submitted to MassDEP for water quality assessment will increase.
- This is the first year of this grant program; we expect to expand it in the future.

# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Proponents that will be eligible to receive these grants include only non-profit organizations (e.g., lake and pond associations, watershed groups, academic institutions).

**\*Proof of current non-profit status must be included in each application package.**



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



In grants awarded in March 2019, the program will focus on supporting bacteria data collection projects, with clear commitments to provide MassDEP with the results in the future, using one of the following bacterial indicators:

- Freshwater: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) or Enterococci (*E. coli* preferred)
- Saltwater: Enterococci



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Update in Grant Duration:  
Grant monies will fund activities conducted through June 30, 2019.

In monitoring-focused proposals, funding of sampling beyond June 30, 2019 is contingent upon FY20 funding availability.



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Proponents will fall into one of two categories:

- Those who have existing bacteria monitoring programs (robust)
- Those who wish to develop monitoring programs (developing)

# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Groups with robust bacteria monitoring programs must meet the following requirements:

- Ongoing monitoring for 3+ years
- MassDEP or EPA-approved QAPP
- Record of data submitted to MassDEP through the External Data portal
- Clear commitment to provide MassDEP with bacteria data after the conclusion of the monitoring season



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Groups with limited or no bacteria monitoring experience must meet the following requirements:

- Interest in building capacity
- Commitment to data submission to MassDEP in subsequent years.

# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant

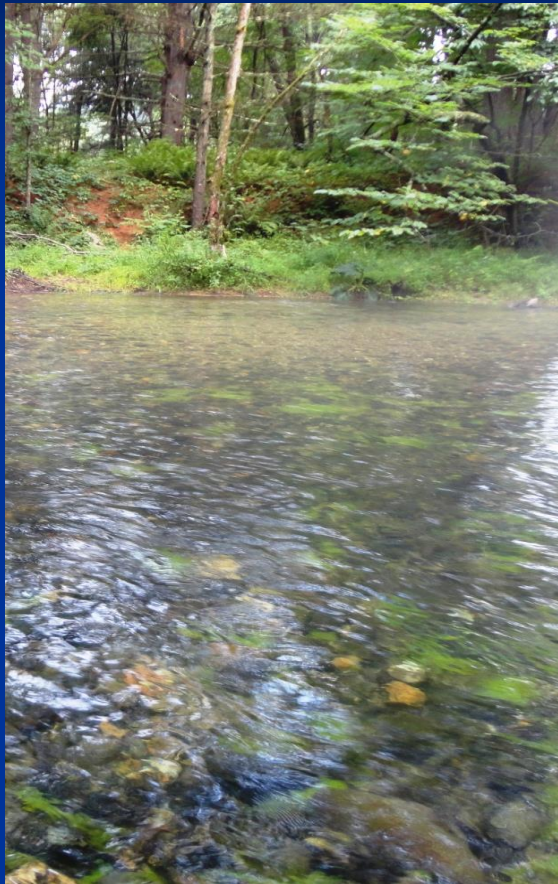


Examples of grant-eligible activities may include (but are not limited to):

- Monitoring project design and planning (QAPP, SAP)
- Purchase of equipment, supplies (e.g., Colilert© system, reagents, bottles)
- Monitoring program coordinator salary
- Training in monitoring support
- Assistance in data analysis/reporting
- Guidance in formatting data submissions to DEP's external data portal



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



Examples of ineligible proponents and activities may include (but are not limited to):

- Applicants who cannot provide proof of non-profit status.
- Applicants cannot propose projects that would be undertaken to comply with local or governmental enforcement actions such as State or Federal Administrative Orders or Consent Orders.
- Applicants cannot propose projects to implement specific requirements of NPDES stormwater permits.

# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals:

Evaluation criteria: Explain how this grant will support your efforts to collect high quality bacteria data.

- Description of organization
- Year founded
- Mission statement
- Watershed scope (number of towns, waterbodies)
- Key staff resumes



# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals:

Evaluation criteria: If you have an active monitoring program~

- Describe your bacteria monitoring efforts of the last 3 years
  - Number of locations
  - Time period covered
  - Bacterial indicators
  - Monitoring frequency
- Identify any stations that overlap with locations where MassDEP has recommended bacteria data (will be listed in Appendix B in the Application Form); also see Priority Data Needs slide





# Application Process

MassDEP has identified a need for current bacteria data at many locations, which will be included in the Request for Responses.

WATERSHED	WATERBODY	AU_ID	LOCATION1	WATERTYPE	AU_SIZE	SIZE_UNITS	CLASS	USE	ATTAINMENT	CAUSE	SOURCE	INFO_NAME	CATEGORY
Blackstone	Arnolds Brook	MA51-32	Headwaters, perennial portion, from outlet of unnamed pond at Whitehall Way, Bellingham to mouth at confluence with Peters River, Bellingham.	RIVER	1.7	MILES	B	Primary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to Storm Sewers	Primary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to	5
Blackstone	Arnolds Brook	MA51-32	Headwaters, perennial portion, from outlet of unnamed pond at Whitehall Way, Bellingham to mouth at confluence with Peters River, Bellingham.	RIVER	1.7	MILES	B	Primary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Livestock (Grazing or Feeding Operations)	Primary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Livestock (Grazing or Feeding)	5
Blackstone	Beaver Brook	MA51-07	Outlet of small unnamed impoundment north of Beth Israel School and Flag Street School, Worcester to mouth at confluence with Middle River, Worcester (includes underground portion).	RIVER	2.9	MILES	B	Primary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)	Primary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) /	5
Blackstone	Beaver Brook	MA51-07	Outlet of small unnamed impoundment north of Beth Israel School and Flag Street School, Worcester to mouth at confluence with Middle River, Worcester (includes underground portion).	RIVER	2.9	MILES	B	Primary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to Storm Sewers	Primary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to	5
Blackstone	Beaver Brook	MA51-07	Outlet of small unnamed impoundment north of Beth Israel School and Flag Street School, Worcester to mouth at confluence with Middle River, Worcester (includes underground portion).	RIVER	2.9	MILES	B	Primary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Unspecified Urban Stormwater	Primary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Unspecified Urban Stormwater /	5
Blackstone	Beaver Brook	MA51-07	Outlet of small unnamed impoundment north of Beth Israel School and Flag Street School, Worcester to mouth at confluence with Middle River, Worcester (includes underground portion).	RIVER	2.9	MILES	B	Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)	Secondary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) /	5
Blackstone	Beaver Brook	MA51-07	Outlet of small unnamed impoundment north of Beth Israel School and Flag Street School, Worcester to mouth at confluence with Middle River, Worcester (includes underground portion).	RIVER	2.9	MILES	B	Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting	Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to Storm Sewers	Secondary Contact Recreation / Not Supporting / Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) / Illicit Connections/Hook-ups to Storm Sewers /	5

# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals:

Evaluation criteria: If you don't have an active monitoring program but wish to build that capacity:

- Describe how this grant will allow you to meet the goal of monitoring for bacteria
  - Planning support (QAPP, SAP)
  - Monitoring program coordinator salary
  - Training in data management, probe calibration, QA, data review
  - Purchasing of equipment
  - Assistance in data analysis/reporting
  - Guidance in submitting data to DEP through the external data portal

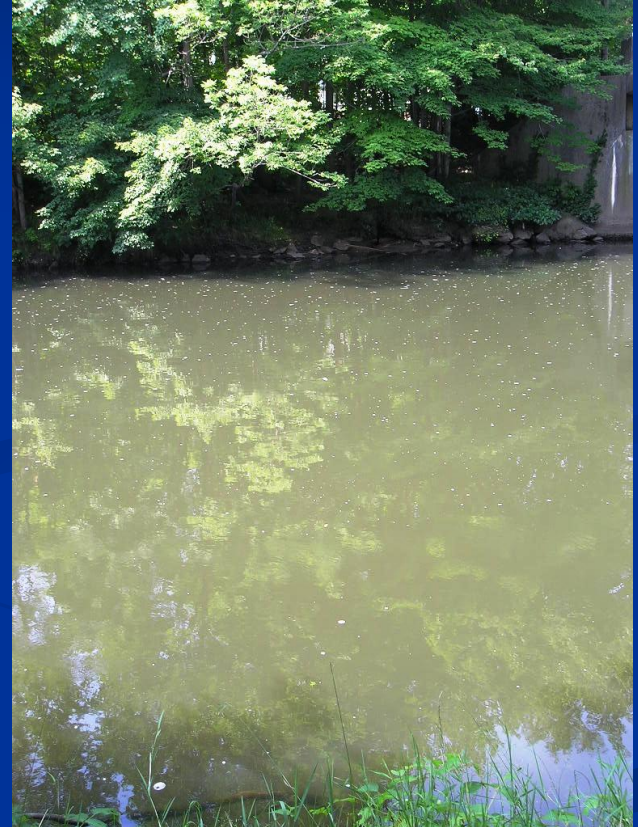


# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

### Description of Funding Utilization

- How well does the proposed project describe how the grant will be utilized?
  - Project tasks
  - Personnel
  - Desired outcomes





# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

### Priority Data Needs

- Does the proposed project target monitoring to meeting DEP's priority data needs (location)?
  - Waters specifically recommended for new bacteria data (Appendix B in the Application Form)
  - Waters known to be impaired by pathogens (Category 5 in the 2016 Draft Integrated List of Waters)
  - Unassessed waters, including those:
    - Never monitored
    - Not sampled recently

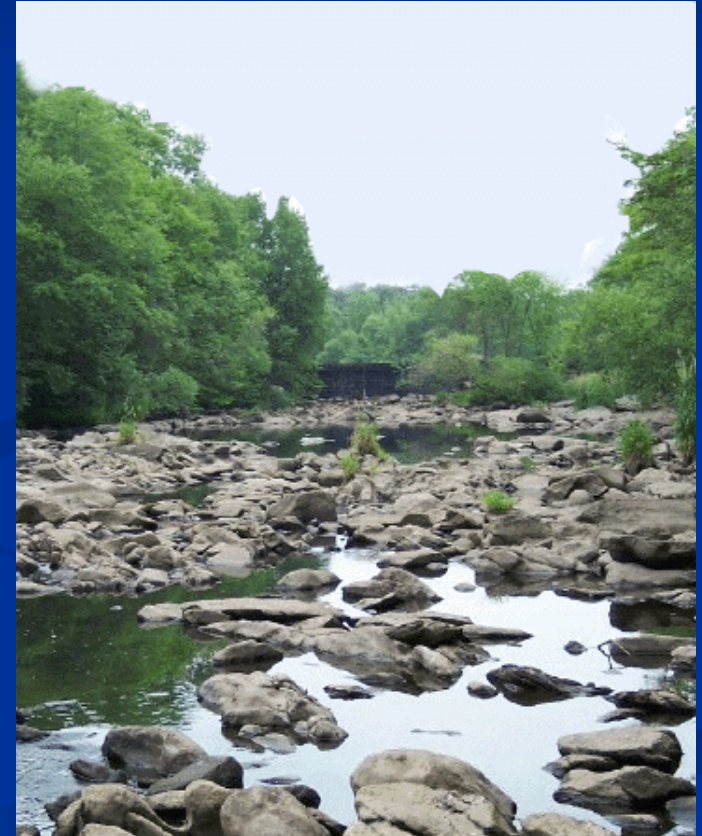


# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

### Financial Need

- Does the applicant fully demonstrate the need for grant funds to implement the proposed project?
- Does the applicant identify other potential/secured sources of funding to support the project?



# Application Process

**Matching:** Eligible entities are not required to provide matching funds.

However, a match is preferred, and projects with a matching source of funding, including in-kind services, will be weighed more heavily in the project selection process.

And, although proponents must be registered non-profit entities, any partner can provide matching funds/services, regardless of non-profit status.



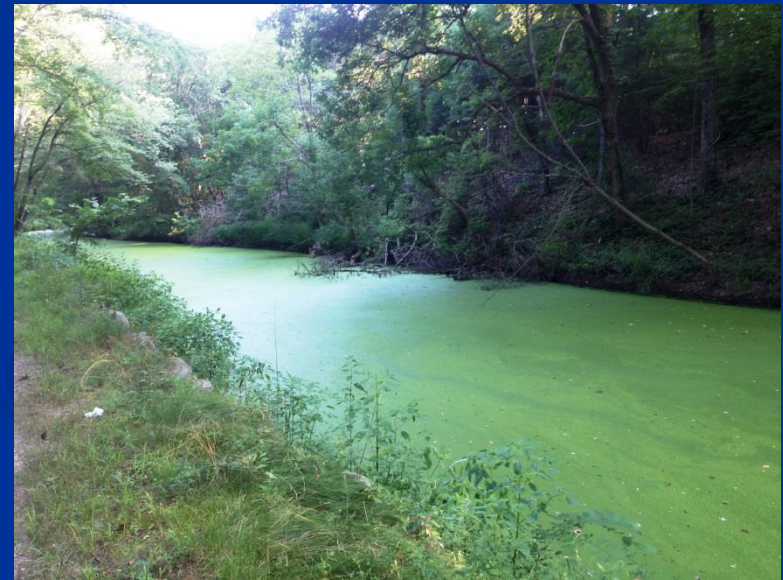


# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

### Project Budget

- How well are the project costs estimated and described? Are the estimated costs realistic?
- Detailed budget with credible cost estimates?
- In-kind services or financial match included?
- Demonstrated commitment to submitting bacteria data to MassDEP through the External Data Portal?



# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

### Project Timeline

- How well is the project's proposed timeline described?
- What tasks will be completed by the grant deadline of June 30, 2019? by end of sampling season, October 2019?

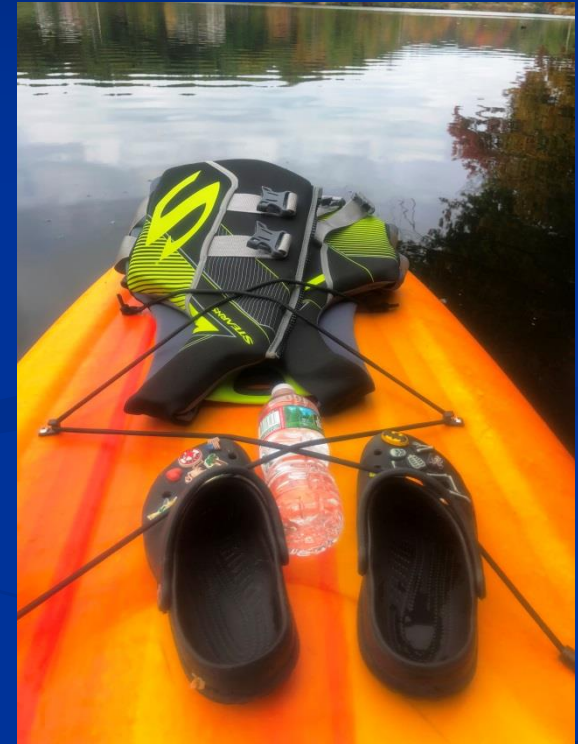


# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

Project Benefit: MassDEP will weigh the proposals in terms of how well each will help DEP meet our need for high quality bacteria data in:

- Waters that have never been monitored for pathogens,
- Waters that haven't been monitored recently,
- Waters monitored in the past for which we need current bacteria data, and
- Waters that we know have been affected by bacterial contamination.





# Application Process

## Weighing the Proposals

Project Benefit: We will also consider how well the proposed project:

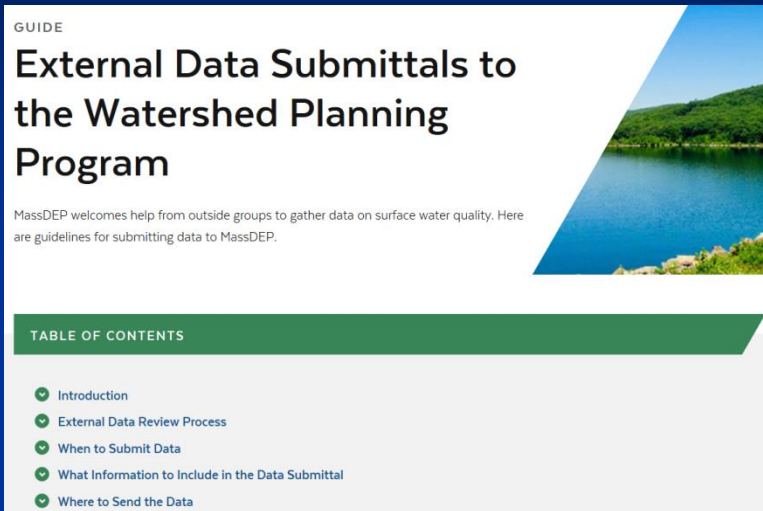
- Will enhance the availability of credible bacteria data that can be used to support DEP's assessment data needs
- Improve planning for capacity building (QAPP, SAP, data submitted via the MassDEP external data portal, purchase of supplies, equipment)



# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant

- Monitoring guidance will be provided in the application form, including:
  - Preferred surface waters
  - Sampling period
  - Sampling frequency
  - Sampling duration
  - Minimum sample number
  - Number of sampling sites
  - Freshwater indicator
  - Marine indicator
  - Sampling methodology
  - Container type
  - Analytical methods
  - Holding Times
  - QC requirements
  - Data review and validation

# Watershed Groups Monitoring Grant



A key part of all applications will be the demonstration of having or developing the ability to provide data to MassDEP through the External Data Portal or to the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's data submittal page:

- This page includes descriptions of the QAPP submittal and approval process, guidelines for submitting data, and details of the MassDEP External Data Review process:  
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/external-data-submittals-to-the-watershed-planning-program>
- <https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>





# Application Process

## Application Deadline:

Submit the completed application form and supplemental documentation via email to the Grant Manager by 5:00 pm EST on February 27, 2019.



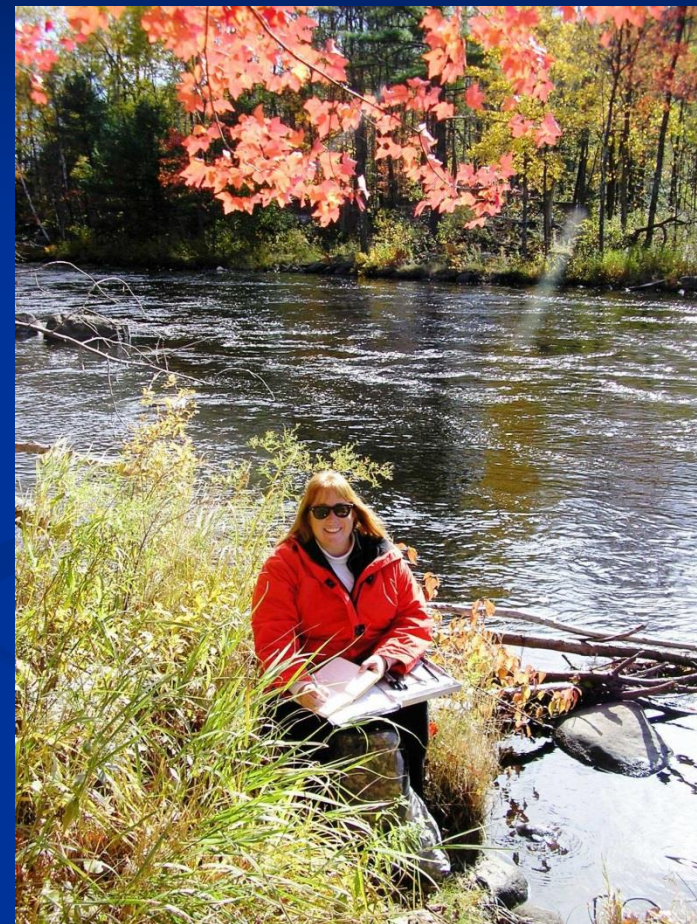
# Application Process

**Grant Contact Person:** All grant applications, questions et cetera must be directed to the grant manager.

Therese Beaudoin  
MassDEP DWM  
8 New Bond Street  
Worcester, MA 01606

(508) 767-2742

[therese.beaudoin@mass.gov](mailto:therese.beaudoin@mass.gov)

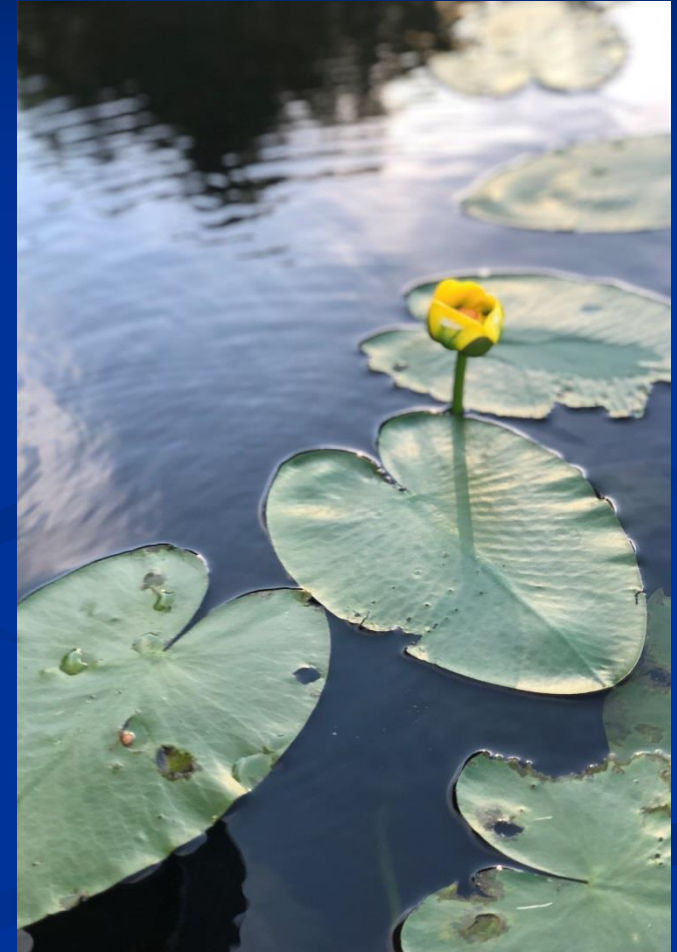




# Application Process

After the RFR release date, MassDEP staff can only respond to administrative questions about the grant process and provide copies of reference documents.

After that date, staff are prohibited from assisting potential applicants in developing specific grant proposals.





# Application Process

**Grant Duration:** From the time of announcement of the grant recipients through June 30, 2019.

\*Note: Grant activities conducted after June 30, 2019 are subject to the appropriation of funds to cover activities from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.



# Reimbursement Note

## Grant Reimbursement Deadlines:

- Grant recipients must submit invoices for reimbursement for all activities conducted through June 30, 2019 by COB on July 15, 2019.

\*Note: Grant activities conducted after June 30, 2019 are subject to the appropriation of funds to cover activities from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

