**PRE-REQUEST FOR RESPONSES (RFR)**

Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Department of Fish and Game

Restoration and Revitalization Priority Projects

RFR ID: DER 2020-05

**Dated: May 7, 2020**

**PURCHASING DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Game**

**1. Opportunity Summary**

**1A. Applications Sought**

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is seeking applications for new *Priority Projects*, as defined in this Request for Responses (RFR), specifically cranberry bog wetland restoration, streamflow restoration, and urban stream revitalization projects. Unlike prior Priority Project RFRs, this call is specific to these project types. DER does not intend to accept standalone dam removal or tidal wetland restoration projects as part of this RFR. However, if your project includes dam removal or tidal wetlands restoration and you feel that it fits within one of the project types described herein, DER encourages you to propose your project and/or consult with DER staff during the Pre-RFR period to determine eligibility.

Applications should align with DER’s mission to restore and protect the Commonwealth’s rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. DER is interested in projects that are at all stages of development. Selected projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from DER staff, technical services by qualified contractors, and/or direct funding[[1]](#footnote-2).

**1B. Overview and Goals**

DER’s mission is to restore and project the Commonwealth’s rivers, wetlands and watersheds for the benefit of the people and the environment. Through the Priority Project program, DER selects projects that help advance this work. This RFR allows DER to review and select pro-active and voluntary ecological restoration and urban stream revitalization projects that present significant benefits to the Commonwealth. Selections are based upon consideration of the project’s cost, size, practicality, feasibility, opportunity for public benefits-including ecological services, education and recreation, ecological restoration potential, and/or urban stream revitalization, available DER resources, direct benefits to aquatic resources, and partner support.

Selected *Priority Projects* will be eligible to receive support that may include: (1) technical assistance from DER staff; (2) technical services from consultants under contract to DER; and/or (3) direct grant funding. DER staff will work in partnership with the Lead Project Sponsor and other project partners to advance the project through the various phases of restoration and/or revitalization. Selected projects will remain eligible to receive support until the project is complete, unless new information or circumstances warrants a revision of status.

In cases where potential ecological benefits are high, yet insufficient information exists to inform acceptance of a project as a full Priority Project, DER may award the project *Provisional Project* status. For projects awarded a Provisional Project status, DER will work with the Lead Project Sponsor for one year to collect necessary information to determine whether the project should receive full *Priority Project* status. At the conclusion of the first year, if not before, DER will determine if the requisite project information has been obtained and whether full Priority Project status is granted or not. This timeline may be extended at the discretion of DER.

Priority and Provisional Projects are internally reviewed annually to evaluate progress and viability to determine if a change in status is warranted.

*Please note: A Priority Project designation obtained through this RFR only establishes a project’s eligibility for assistance; it does not guarantee that a project will receive contracted technical services or direct funding.*

**1C. Definitions**

Applicant is the person or entity that submits the *Priority Project* application materials to DER. The applicant may be the landowner, Lead Project Sponsor, or another entity. For-profit firms which are not project site landowners are not eligible as applicants.

Cooperative Agreement is a non-binding agreement between DER and the Lead Project Sponsor that clarifies the terms of the partnership under the Priority or Provisional Project designation.

Landowner is the person or entity that owns the parcel(s) where restoration work will take place.

Lead Project Sponsor is the person or entity that is the main project proponent and will enter into a cooperative agreement with DER if the project is selected for *Priority* or *Provisional* Status. This may or may not be the same person or entity as the landowner or applicant. Designation of a Lead Project Sponsor is subject to approval by DER as part of the application review process. For-profit firms which are not project site landowners are not eligible to serve as Lead Project Sponsors.

Cranberry Bog Wetland Restoration is intended to rejuvenate historical wetlands and streams on abandoned or retired cranberry farmland. To date, these projects have targeted legacy agricultural impacts that limit natural recovery, including fill, ditches, dams/dikes, physical simplification, and more. Specific actions may include, but are not limited to, removing fill, plugging ditches, removing dams, dikes, and other water controls, reconstructing channels and floodplains, adding large wood, roughening simplified bog surfaces, and installing plants. Land protection is often a pre-cursor to ecological restoration for these sites and may be described as part of overall project planning and sequencing.

Streamflow restoration is defined as an action that improves natural streamflow (the amount of water that flows through streams and rivers), including the quantity, timing, and variability of flow. Restoration activities restore more natural streamflow to support aquatic ecosystems, fishing, recreation and/or drinking supplies.

Urban stream revitalization is defined as improving the inter-connection between water quality and quantity, aquatic ecology, physical river structure, and land use, taking into consideration the social, cultural, and economic landscape targeting Environmental Justice communities, densely developed areas (as determined by the latest US census data) especially areas with limited access to green and open spaces and streams which have been significantly impacted by anthropogenic activities (channelization, diversions, culverted/buried stream reaches, hydrologic modification, etc.). Projects will result in habitat and ecosystem improvement and/or restoration of functions such as water quality, flood plain connectivity, habitat enhancements, improved ecological services, improved flow regime, and linkage between the urban corridor and the river, thus improving public access and urban vitality.

**1D. Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include restoration project site landowners, non-profit and/or non-governmental organizations, regional planning organizations, municipalities, and state and federal agencies. Projects may be undertaken by a single applicant but more often are successfully completed in collaboration with state, federal, non-profit, and other organizational partners.

The applicant may, or may not be, the Lead Project Sponsor, which is the entity that will enter into a cooperative agreement with DER if the project is awarded *Priority* or *Provisional* status. For-profit firms which are not project site landowners are not eligible to serve as applicants or Lead Project Sponsors.

**1E. Eligible Projects**

This RFR targets three (3) specific project types: Cranberry bog wetland restoration; stream flow restoration; and, urban stream revitalization. Eligible project sites must be located in Massachusetts.

DER is interested in projects that are at all stages of development. Preference will be given to projects that utilize proven approaches, are part of a larger restoration / revitalization plan, address root causes of impairment over symptoms, result in implementation of actions that deliver significant restoration benefits, and achieve a self-sustaining long-term restoration trajectory with minimal ongoing maintenance. Projects that include innovative restoration methods should include associated monitoring to help evaluate new practices and document outcomes. DER is also interested in supporting restoration projects that have complementary economic, public health and safety, and climate change adaptation benefits.

Low Impact Development (LID) and stand-alone stormwater management projects are not eligible. Communities seeking support for municipally owned and maintained freshwater culverts should apply to DER’s Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistant Grant program. Please talk to DER’s continuity program staff for more information DERCulverts@mass.gov.

For each targeted project type for this RFR, specific examples of restoration actions include (but are not limited to):

* Cranberry bog wetland restoration projects:
* Involve conservation easements or other arrangements to ensure permanent land protection;
* Remove small dams, dikes, and other in-stream barriers;
* Remove agricultural fill (fully or partially);
* Roughen former farm surfaces to create microtopography and habitat;
* Reconstruct stream channels and floodplains;
* Add large wood to create habitat
* Plug ditches and use other techniques to repair wetland hydrology;
* Remove tidal restrictions and restore tidal hydrology (if in a coastal setting);
* Create or maintain trail systems;
* Encourage rapid recolonization by native wetland vegetation; and,
* Smooth perimeter transitions between wetlands and uplands to facilitate wildlife movement.
* Streamflow restoration projects:
	+ Develop water management plans to restore more natural streamflow regimes (e.g. management of dams on recreational lakes and drinking water reservoirs);
	+ Use water conservation methods to reduce water consumption and withdrawals (e.g., development of campaigns to reduce residential outdoor water use);
	+ Explore alternative local water supplies to minimize flow stress in specific stream reaches; and,
	+ Propose innovative methods to document and address stream flow issues including low flow, no flow, or altered flow regimes that impact biota and water quality.
* Urban stream and river revitalization projects:
* Create natural vegetated buffers in urban riparian corridors;
* Naturalize stream form and habitat;
* Improve water quality;
* Daylight stream reaches that have been buried underground;
* Improve connections between local communities and their rivers via new access points and educational opportunities; and,
* Propose innovative methods to improve ecological conditions and services of streams and wetlands and public access in urban settings or areas with limited access to open space.

**1F. Property Owner Support**

To be eligible for *Priority Project* designation, applications that propose (or will eventually result in) any physical work on one or more properties must be accompanied by a letter signed by the property owner(s) demonstrating their commitment to pursue the project’s stated restoration goals and actions. Commitment letters from property owners must indicate clear support for the details of the application, including the identified partner roles and responsibilities.

An application may be eligible for *Priority Project* designation if it includes evidence of a pending sale of the project site to an entity and includes a letter signed by that entity demonstrating a commitment to pursue the project’s stated restoration goals and actions.

Commitment letters are NOT required for larger-scale Streamflow Restoration or Urban Revitalization projects.

DER will only support voluntary, proactive restoration projects that have no direct connection to compensatory mitigation and/or have no independent prior obligation to perform restoration / mitigation pursuant to statute, regulation, ordinance, consent decree, judgment, court order, permit condition, contract, enforcement order or other requirement of law. This requirement does not strictly apply to owners facing an order from the MA Office of Dam Safety.[[2]](#footnote-3)

**1G. Application Deadline**

Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:00 P.M.

**1H. Funding availability**

The maximum value of any technical services or direct funding awarded to each project will vary according to the scope, nature of the project, and available funding each year until the project is completed or new information warrants a revision of project status. The value of technical services or funding for individual projects in past years has typically ranged from $10,000 - $70,000 annually.

**1I. Match Requirement**

Applicants are not required to provide match to be awarded Priority Project or Provisional status. DER is rarely able to fund the full cost of a restoration project and will require assistance from the project partners in securing additional funds to complete a project. Applicants are encouraged to report other known sources of funding for the proposed project in the Application Form, both secured and anticipated sources.

**1J. Duration of Priority Project Status**

Once a project has been awarded *Priority Project* status, it remains a *Priority Project* until it is complete or until new information or circumstances warrants reconsideration of status. Project partners do not need to re-apply in subsequent years. An accepted *Provisional Project* will have one year from the award date to work with DER to address issues identified as necessary to resolve, in order to determine if full *Priority Project* status will be awarded; this timeline may be extended at the discretion of DER.

**1K. Applicable procurement law**

Grants MGL c. 7A, § 7; St. 1986 c. 206, § 17; 815 CMR 2.00

**2. PERFORMANCE AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS**

**2A. Cooperative Agreement with Lead Project Sponsor**

Each application must identify a designated Lead Project Sponsor (which could be the Applicant, Landowner, or another entity) that is responsible for collaborating and communicating directly with DER. The Lead Project Sponsor must commit to pursuing sustained good-faith efforts to develop and implement the Project and will be expected to sign a cooperative agreement with DER. The purpose of this agreement is to establish the roles and responsibilities of the two parties. Examples of these agreements may be found on [DER’s website](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/become-a-der-priority-project). Applicants **should NOT** submit the Cooperative Agreement with their applications; these agreements will be developed collaboratively by DER and the Lead Project Sponsor during the *Priority Project* acceptance process.

**2B. Priority Project Support**

Once a project is selected as a *Priority* or *Provisional* Project it will be eligible to receive support that may include: (1) technical assistance from DER staff; (2) technical services from consultants under contract to DER; and/or (3) direct grant funding. For *Priority Projects*, the type and level of support will be determined annually until project completion or until new information or circumstances warrants a revision of project status. DER assistance for *Provisional Projects* will include up to one year of support for collecting information that DER needs to determine whether the project should be accepted or denied as a full *Priority Project*. This timeline may be extended at the discretion of DER.

Examples of technical assistance that may be provided by DER staff include: Planning, project scoping, partnership building, initial survey and data collection, conceptual design, fundraising support, streamflow gauging and analysis, project management support, engineering design review, permitting support and regulatory coordination, community outreach support, and monitoring plan development.

Examples of technical services that may be provided by pre-approved DER contractors include: Data collection and assessment, feasibility studies, community-based planning, hydrologic modeling, geotechnical or other technical studies, restoration design, engineering, permitting, construction bid process support and/or oversight, construction oversight, and pre- and post-restoration monitoring.

Direct grant funding may be provided to the project landowner, Lead Project Sponsor, and/or other project partners to support project development and implementation.

DER will not:

1. Sign as the applicant on permit applications; or,
2. Hold a contract for construction work to implement a restoration project.

The level of assistance DER provides to a project will be determined based on the following:

* Demonstrated need;
* Timeframe and readiness of project;
* Estimated cost;
* Level of available contributions/funds from the sponsor and other sources;
* Level of project support from the Landowner, abutters, and surrounding community; and,
* Available DER resources for a given fiscal year.

**2C. Terms/Details of Priority Project Status**

DER strongly values working with local and regional partners to design, permit, and implement on-the-ground river and wetland restoration projects. In order to provide basic structure for what is typically a multi-year relationship with partners, DER requires the following as terms for all accepted *Priority Projects*:

1. Project partners will incorporate DER input throughout the various phases of restoration and/or revitalization. Additional partners may join the project team once a project is accepted by DER.
2. To develop technical service and/or grant scopes of work and contracts, project partners will work with DER to identify project needs, supply project information, and assess current and future stages. In return and in keeping with Commonwealth procurement policies, DER staff will prepare required documents to provide technical services or direct funding to partners.
3. Once awarded Priority Project status, DER may decide to award direct funding. Recipients of direct grant funding will be required to comply with Commonwealth procurement policies and federal sub-grant policies, as applicable, and all federal and state laws. The recipient of the award agrees to submit all required forms and information.
4. For direct grant funding awarded to partners and used for technical services, DER staff must be invited to participate in the review process for contractor selection (e.g., for engineering) by the project partner(s). Contractors must meet minimum qualifications, as appropriate to the project scope, or work with sub-contractors that provide these skills.
5. Direct grant funding, if provided, shall be provided on a reimbursement for services basis. However, exceptions may be made on first payments to accommodate upfront construction costs, such as a down payment for high-cost infrastructure. Terms for any financial assistance from federal and private partners administered by DER may differ.
6. Failure to comply with any terms detailed throughout the RFR may be grounds for terminating *Priority Project* Status.
7. **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

**3A.****Application Process**

Applicants for Priority Project Status must meet the eligibility requirements described above and submit an application.

Once the Application Form has been completed, applicants must submit the application online. Applicants will fill in basic details about their project online and upload the application materials listed below through an online submission portal. ***The link to the online submission portal will be provided upon release of the RFR.***

**Submissions should include the following:**

* **Completed Application Form** (*Required*)
* **Letter of commitment** A letter of commitment from property owner or if applicable a copy of Purchase and Sale Agreement and Letter of Commitment by purchaser (This is not required if *the property owner is the Applicant and is also not required for larger-scale Streamflow Restoration and Urban Revitalization projects*)
* **Assessor’s Map** Copy of the latest Assessor’s Map showing the parcel(s) on which restoration work might take place and the ownership info for that lot. (*Required except for larger-scale Streamflow Restoration and Urban Revitalization projects*)
* **Photographs** (*Required*) At least one photograph of the project site. For multi-site projects, at least one labelled photograph of each site must be submitted.
* **Supporting Documentation** (*not required*) Additional information if applicable and available. Such information may include but is not limited to:
* Additional photographs.
	+ Locus map.
	+ Design plans (*if completed*). For example, completed conceptual or engineering designs.
	+ Letters of support from the community, e.g., letters from selectmen, abutters, local organizations.
	+ Project budget and timeline (*if available*). Please indicate any matching funds that have been secured.
	+ Permits, if obtained.
	+ Press and media coverage (e.g., newspaper clippings, articles).

**The application is limited to 25 pages and the application and materials uploaded via the online submission portal cannot exceed 20MB in total.**  Required documents can be uploaded in Microsoft Word, or to reduce file size, the document may be converted and uploaded as an Adobe PDF file. Supporting documentation should be uploaded with the online submission form when feasible.

To make arrangements for emailing additional supporting documentation exceeding the file size limit or if you have trouble with your online submission, please contact:

Ryan Barney, Program Assistant

Ryan.Barney@mass.gov

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of the application within 2 business days following submission. Please contact Ryan Barney (see above) with any issues concerning confirmation notices.

All Applications, including receipt of all the supporting materials, must be received by DER by 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020.

Responses will be accepted and are encouraged to be submitted in advance of the submission deadline. Applications received after the deadline will automatically be rejected. DER reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or request additional information and documentation if needed.

By submitting a proposal, the applicant acknowledges the terms and specifications contained within the RFR.

1. **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**4A. Application Evaluation and Selection**

DER will assess each application using a combination of resources, including available GIS data from MassGIS and other sources that inform the existing and potential ecological value of the project area. As part of the review of proposals, DER may call applicants for clarification or to request additional information. If DER staff is not already sufficiently familiar with the project site, then a site visit with the applicant and communication with other experts may also be used to inform review. In these cases, DER will contact the landowner to obtain permission to perform a site visit before scheduling. Any required safety measures required in light of Covid-19 will be followed. Each application will be scored and ranked using standard criteria described below.

DER reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to only accept projects that are in keeping with DER’s mission. The number of projects selected will be based on consideration of the availability of DER resources to meet the needs of the project. Other considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution of projects and opportunities for strategic partnerships.

**4B. Evaluation Criteria**

DER will evaluate each application against the following criteria, using materials supplied by the applicant, as well as information from the internal DER assessment. The review committee reserves the right to request additional details and documentation. Scoring will take into account the type of project proposed - Cranberry Restoration, Streamflow Restoration or Urban Revitalization – please review section “1E. Eligible Projects” for more information. Projects will be evaluated against like projects (i.e. Urban Revitalization projects will be evaluated together).

**Ecological and Community Benefits (60%)**

**Uses a sound restoration approach that results in ecological recovery and self-sustainability**. DER will evaluate whether the proposed project assists with the recovery of an ecosystem that has been damaged, degraded, or destroyed. Higher scoring projects will target root causes of impairment (not symptoms) and encourage dynamic rather than static conditions over time. For revitalization and streamflow projects, DER will evaluate if the proposed project has the potential to significantly improve water quality, natural flow regime, habitat, ecological function, stewardship and/or perceived value of the waterway to the community.

**Yields substantial positive ecological impact in terms of scale and setting**. DER will evaluate the proposed project’s benefit to the environment and the scale of the project. In terms of scale, higher scoring projects will involve have a more significant impact (i.e. more acres and provide greater connectivity gains. In terms of setting, higher scoring projects may include some or all of the following: Proximity to protected land, location within a future inland marsh migration corridor, presence of coldwater or diadromous fisheries; mapped or potential endangered species habitat; location is a BioMap Core habitat; expected water quality improvements; reconnected floodplains, improved flow regime, enhanced habitat, elimination of hard engineered structures and/or increased use of bioengineering, re-established naturally vegetated riparian communities & buffers corridors, and floodwater storage; and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat. Cranberry bog projects equal to or greater than 10 acres of restored wetlands area will receive preference.

**Reduces vulnerability and increases local resiliency to climate change (and sea level rise, if applicable)**. DER will evaluate the extent to which a completed project helps protect a community and environmental resources from anticipated impacts from a changing climate. Higher scoring projects will address current and future risks including public health and safety, flooding, drinking water protection, and aging and undersized infrastructure.

**Provides public amenities, education, and public involvement opportunities**. DER will evaluate the expected community benefits associated with the proposed project. Such benefits may include protected open space, greater access to natural resources for the community especially for communities with limited access to open space, positive impact on the local economy, opportunities to introduce and involve students and the public in restoration and stewardship activities, or increased access to recreational and other services for an underserved population.Higher scoring projects will include some of these elements in current or future phases.

**Partner Capacity (25%)**

**Includes a project team with time, resources, experience, and leadership qualities to help complete the project**. DER will evaluate the project team’s ability to help get the project done. Higher scoring projects will include specific actions from individuals and organizations such as local leadership, partner coordination, project planning, contracting, grant writing, fiscal management, administration, permitting, data collection and monitoring, public outreach and education, public open space maintenance, and more.

**Includes strong partner commitment and landowner support**. DER will evaluate landowner and partner involvement in terms of site access, commitment to land protection and/or restoration, funding, time, and expected level of involvement and effort. Higher scoring projects will demonstrate commitment from the key partners and stakeholder(s) (e.g., landowner, dam owner/operator, municipal board). For revitalization and flow projects higher scoring projects will demonstrate strong long-term commitment from local, state and/or federal government, the community and other key partners. Stakeholder commitment is best demonstrated by including written letters of support in the application but may also take other forms. If a project involves physical alteration of the landscape, a letter of commitment from the landowner (if not the applicant) is required.

**Likelihood of Success (15%)**

**Does not involve significant feasibility issues that threaten project success**. DER will evaluate issues associated with the project that could impact project completion or the likelihood of successful restoration. Based upon DER experience, these feasibility issues may be social (e.g., strong community opposition to work), or technical (e.g., significant infrastructure or pollution). Higher scoring projects will have no or limited significant feasibility issues that threaten project success or provide information on how potential known issues can be reduced (i.e. willingness of a utility company to relocated infrastructure). Potential feasibility issues do not disqualify a project but will likely result in a lower score under this criterion.

**Includes project elements likely to lead to successful fundraising**. DER will evaluate whether the benefits or setting of a project is likely to contribute to future fundraising success from known sources. Higher scoring project will include one or more elements that are attractive to primary funders for restoration work. For example, DER is aware of funding opportunities for projects that have benefits for commercially/recreationally important fisheries, rare species habitat, Environmental Justice populations, or have approaches that build climate resiliency (i.e. reduce flooding).

**Has limited need for on-going operations and maintenance**. DER will assess a project’s need for ongoing maintenance after implementation, in consideration of project type. Higher scoring cranberry bog wetland restoration projects, for example, will involve only limited on-going maintenance, such as invasive plant management. Urban Revitalization and Streamflow Project may require more substantial on-going maintenance, higher scoring projects in these categories will demonstrate commitment to support the long-term operation, maintenance, and project goals.

**5. DEADLINES AND PROCUREMENT CALENDAR**

**5A.** Pre-RFR Period: Between May 7, 2020 and May 28, 2020, 4PM. DER will be able to discuss and answer any questions regarding proposed projects, and especially questions regarding potential ecological value of a culvert replacement. We encourage applicants to contact DER to discuss possible projects during this period:

Cranberry bog wetland restoration projects – contact Alex Hackman, alex.hackman@mass.gov

Streamflow restoration projects – contact Michelle Craddock, michelle.craddock@mass.gov

Urban stream and river revitalization projects – contact Cindy Delpapa, cindy.delpapa@mass.gov

**5B.** Release of RFR: May 28, 2020, 5PM

**5C.** Information Session: There is no bidders’ conference. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available on DER’s [website](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/become-a-der-priority-project). Only clarifying or technical questions regarding the application and application process may be answered following the release of the RFR.

During this time all questions should be submitted in writing to Ryan Barney at ryan.barney@mass.gov until 5PM June 12, 2020. Questions will not be answered over the phone. Answers to all questions will be posted on COMMBUYS and DER’s website by June 15, 2020.

**APPLICANT COMMUNICATION WITH DER AND THE COMMONWEALTH**: Applicants are prohibited from communicating directly with any employee of DER regarding this Opportunity during the RFR except as specified in this Grant Announcement. No other individual Commonwealth employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any question or inquiry concerning this Grant Announcement. Applicants may contact the contact person for this Grant Announcement in the event this Grant Announcement is incomplete, or the applicant is having trouble obtaining or submitting any required attachments. Note that there is an open period to submit written questions up to the deadline specified in this Grant Announcement.

**5D.** Application due date: Thursday, **June 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM**

**5E.** Estimated Award date: Decisions on project selection are expected to be made within two to three months following the close of the RFR. Decisions regarding DER financial assistance for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 top June 30, 2021) for projects selected under this RFR will be determined shortly thereafter.

**6. Miscellaneous**

**6A. Type of Procurement:** Grant

**6B. Use of This Procurement**: This RFR is a single department procurement. All contracts awarded under this RFR will be utilized solely by the issuing entity.

**6C. Request for Single or Multiple Contractors**: This procurement may result in the designation of one or more Priority/ Provisional Projects.

**6D. RFR Distribution Method:**  This RFR has been distributed electronically using the COMMBUYS system. It is theresponsibility of every Applicant to check COMMBUYS for any addenda or modifications to an RFR to which they intend to respond.

**6E. Public Records**. All responses and information submitted in response to this RFR are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L., c. 66, s. 10, and to c. 4, s. 7, ss. 26. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with these statutes shall be disregarded.

**6F. Attachments**

* Priority Projects Application Form
* Example Cooperative Agreements
1. Direct funding will not be used to pay for state or federal agency staff time or expenses. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. For clarification, dam owners facing a requirement from the MA Office of Dam Safety to address deficiencies or remove the dam are eligible if they commit to move forward with a dam removal. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)