NRCC D&I Block Grant Q&A 6/14/21

*Question on general timeline* –

June 18 is only for projects that will be started immediately. You can submit applications for all projects, but projects that are proposed to be implemented August or later will likely be put into the general category. We expect to allocate 1/3 or less of total funding in the early round.

*Question on project types – how to determine the definition of a project and required deliverables for each?*

Please review the Project Types Table in detail as this defines all eligible project criteria, performance measures, deliverables, etc. This will also inform your application such as deliverables metrics. In addition, the CWIP funding policy has many details such as match requirements.

*Question on stormwater projects eligibility, specifically 3-acre sites?*

If you have a stormwater project (especially on a 3 acre site or potential future 3 acre site) be careful to review the RFA stormwater section. Some stormwater projects on 3-acre sites are eligible, others are not.

Anywhere you indicate yes on the natural reasour

*Question on eligible costs and requirement for water quality benefits* –

All costs must have a direct water quality and/or project benefit. There are several types of costs we have seen where there may be water quality benefits that are not immediately clear to reviewers. These have included expensive materials where cheaper substitutes exist, access pathways. In these cases, be sure to describe in your application what the water quality and project benefits are – may include decreasing erosion, life of the project, engineer recommendation and explanation, etc.

*Natural resources screening – what qualifies as a ‘potential natural resources concern’ and what steps are needed in those cases?*

Anywhere you indicate ‘yes’ on the ‘natural resources screening’ section of the application (pages 4-5) is considered a potential natural resources concern. This doesn’t mean the project is ineligible, it only means you need to check with the applicable DEC office staff and get permission to proceed with the project. Please be sure to describe all potential natural resources concerns in your application, get approvals from the applicable offices, and have the applicable layers on your ANR screening map.

*Leverage/match funds – are there restrictions on the type (state vs. federal etc) of funds that can be used as match or leverage on project applications to DEC?*

All leverage/match funds requirements can be found starting on page 22 of the FY21 CWIP Funding Policy. In summary, DEC requires leveraged funds be from non-state dollars. There are no DEC restrictions against using federal funds as match on DEC applications; however keep in mind DEC does not allow its funds and awards to be used as match on external applications without explicit permission (for instance, using DEC funds to meet a federal funder match requirement on an external application).

*Projects database requirement – do projects need to be in the watershed projects database, and how should groups go about putting projects in the database?*

Projects should be entered into the watershed projects database at the time of application or before. If you have a project that needs to be entered into the database, your watershed planner can input projects into the database for you, please coordinate with them.

*Partners on projects – can applicants name or use partner organizations you can have partners on projects (the example given during the call was a conservation district wishing to work with a watershed group on a project)?*

Yes, you can name partners on projects as long as they are an eligible entity, and they will be subject to a subgrantee approval (see CWIP funding policy for details on eligible entities to receive funds). Please describe their scope of work and roll in the project on your application, and include their work in your budget application. In these cases, partners would operate as a subcontractor.

*Will there be a fall 2021 funding round/when will it be?*

We don’t have a set date right now, but for projects not anticipated to begin work until the winter, we estimate there will be an additional funding round in October or November.

*Will MARC and WUV have upcoming funding rounds also?*

Yes, these groups have received similar awards and will likely have their own funding rounds shortly. DEC has a summary page with all partner funding opportunities including NRCC and others.