

DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) Project

Request for Application
Public Information Session
7/26/21

Efeturi Oghenekaro Ph.D
Environmental Protection Specialist
Water Quality Division



DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) Project

Request for Application
Public Information Session
7/26/21

Meeting Attendance:

Complete poll or send contact to ecoli.grants@dc.gov

- Name
- Organization
- Job title
- Contact (email/phone)



Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Background on Water Quality Division (WQD)**
- **VWQM Project RFA**
 - Overview
 - Relevance
 - Purpose
 - Application process and details
 - Timeline
 - Responsibilities, Deliverables, and Evaluation Criteria
- **Questions & Answers**



Introductions and Background on DOEE Water Quality Division (WQD)

- Project is managed by the Water Quality Division
- **Key Staff**
 - Efeturi Oghenekaro, Environmental Protection Specialist, Planning and Reporting Branch – Project Manager
 - Nicoline Shulterbrandt, Branch Chief, Monitoring and Assessment Branch
- **WQD Mission:** To evaluate the health of the District's waters and aquatic resources, establish and enforce water quality standards, set targets for pollution reduction, develop implementation strategies to meet standards, track and report on restoration progress and manage funds to achieve these goals.



Project Overview

- Volunteers monitored water quality including *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in surface waters within the District.
- Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and Tributaries such as Rock Creek.
- Conducted Recreation survey.
- Multi-year (3 years, May – September).
- Results are published weekly.



Relevance

DOEE increased monitoring of *E. coli* in order to:

- 1) Evaluate the impact significant capital investments may have in reducing bacteria.
- 2) Provide timely and accessible data to persons who may choose to recreate in District waters.



VWQM RFA

Purpose

- To provide funding to continue the implementation and management of DOEE's citizen-based water quality monitoring program that will recruit and train volunteers to monitor *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in District waters.

Funding

- One award, \$300,000 is available for a period of 24 months (\$150,000/year). Funding for work performed will be provided through reimbursement.
- Grant can be extended for an additional 24 months, up to a total of 48 months. Dependent on fund availability and grantee performance.

Eligibility

- Nonprofits, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and educational institutions.
- Monitoring stations shall include all 22 sites currently sampled, and only sampling activities conducted in DC will be eligible.

Important Details to Remember

- Compile and submit all required documents listed in the RFA. Read the RFA and its attachments very carefully.
- Submit applications in **PDF format** via email: ecoli.grants@dc.gov by **11:59 pm on Monday, August 16, 2021**.
- Email all questions to ecoli.grants@dc.gov with “**RE: RFA# 2021-2116-WQD**” in the subject line.
- All RFA updates, questions and answers will be published at doee.dc.gov.
- Cutoff date to submit questions: Monday, August 9, 2021.

Project Responsibilities for Grantee

- Recruit, select and train volunteers.
- Prepare a Quality Assurance Project plan (QAPP) for approval by DOEE before data collection activities occur.
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/vol_qapp.pdf
- Design and implement the volunteer training sessions.
- Identify, order, maintain, distribute and store all supplies and equipment needed by volunteers.
- Manage and quality assure all volunteer activities throughout the project.
- Analyze water samples, record and submit data.
- Responsible for quality assuring all data collected by volunteers and posted to the database platform or website identified by DOEE.

Deliverables

- DOEE approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) before sampling starts.
- Project Work plan.
- Outreach and recruitment plan.



- Volunteer training.

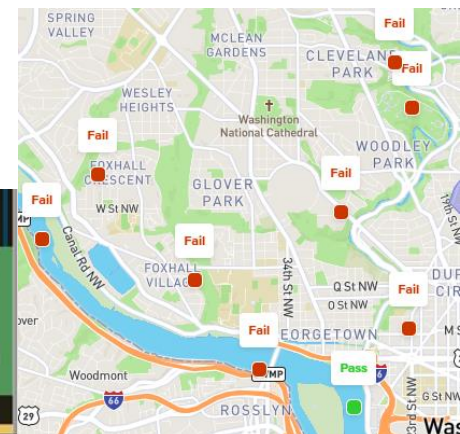


Deliverables



- Weekly sampling.
- Weekly water recreation surveys.
- Online publication of all monitoring datasets.
<https://cmc.vims.edu/>

- Periodic reports explaining the details of the sampling (location, time, volunteer name, other variables) must be included in the report.
- Quarterly and final progress reports listing progress to date, programmatic, and financial updates.



Recreation Survey Form

District Rivers' Primary Contact Recreation Survey

Location: _____

Date: _____

Start time: _____

End time: _____

Observers: _____



Activity	Number of participants	Total
Swimming		
Water skiing		
Diving		
Surfing		
Bathing		
Tubing		
Water play by children		
Jet skiing		
Wake boarding		
Kayaking		
Swim event		

Proposal Evaluation

	Scoring Criteria	Points
1.	The application demonstrates experience in developing, implementing and managing a volunteer-based water quality monitoring program.	20
2.	Provides an achievable detailed description to develop a citizen monitoring program and to recruit a diverse team of volunteers.	15
3.	Identifies a likely achievable timeline to execute the project.	5
4.	Demonstrates the ability to meet the proposed project's objectives, activities, and outputs.	10
5.	Demonstrates the ability and experience to manage and administer grant-funded activity honestly, effectively, and according to established financial principles.	5
6.	Demonstrates experience in managing District of Columbia grant-funded activities.	5
7.	The applicant or its key personnel demonstrate experience in water quality advocacy and volunteer management.	5

Proposal Evaluation

	Scoring Criteria	Points
8.	Key personnel have qualifications and experience in conducting science-based projects for <i>E. coli</i> and environmental monitoring.	10
9.	Proposes likely achievable outreach and recruitment strategies to equitably educate and engage the local community.	5
10.	Proposes an effective communication strategy for the findings of the sampling.	5
11.	Demonstrates ability to write reports which summarize data in a clear and comprehensive manner.	5
12.	Provides a reasonable numeric project budget.	5
13.	Contains a clear justifiable and comprehensive budget narrative that aligns with the numeric budget.	5

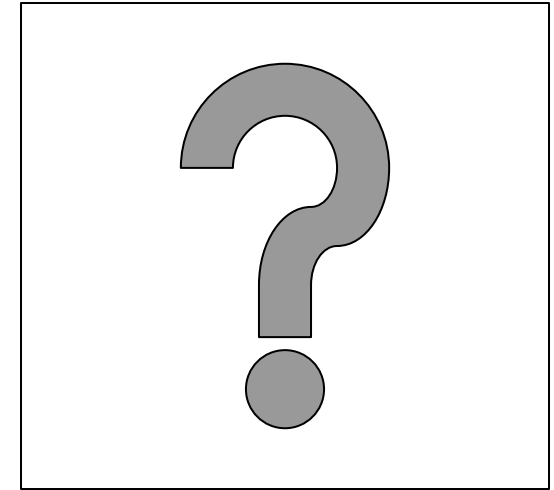
Questions and Answers Period

- Type questions into the chat box and we will respond to them in the order they are received.
- PowerPoint presentation, Q&A discussed today will be posted to the DOEE website at doee.dc.gov.
- Good Luck!

Thank You!

Questions?

ecoli.grants@dc.gov



- **RFA Link:** <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1549326>

- **Meeting Attendance:**

Complete poll or send contact to ecoli.grants@dc.gov

- Name
- Organization
- Job title
- Contact (email/phone)



VWQM Project Sampling Locations

Station	Rock Creek Tributary	Potomac River	Anacostia River
ST1	Rock Creek at Juniper St	Battery Kemble Creek	National Arboretum
ST2	Pinehurst Branch	Fletcher's Cove	Hickey Run
ST3	Broad Branch	Foundry Branch	Kingman Lake
ST4	Soapstone Creek	Washington Canoe Club	Anacostia Park
ST5	Melvin Hazen Run	Thompson Boat Center	Yards Marina
ST6	Rock Creek below Piney Branch	Tidal Basin	Buzzard Point
ST7	Normanstone Run	Columbia Island	Washington Channel
ST8	P Street Branch		