**Questions and Answers**

**Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring in the District**

**Q1**: Is there call in information for the pre-application public information session on Wednesday or if it is only available in person?

**A1**: Remote participation is possible at the DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring RFA pre-application public information session on April 11, 2018, from 1:00-2:30pm using the following information:

Meeting Number: 199 448 326

1. [Click here to join](https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/#/meetings/detail?uuid=M94P2LLAR0EKIIZK3R77BIRQTP-1T19&rnd=727575.35880) the online event or copy and paste the following link into a browser:

<https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/#/meetings/detail?uuid=M94P2LLAR0EKIIZK3R77BIRQTP-1T19&rnd=727575.35880>

1. To join the audio conference only, call the number below and enter the access code:  
   US Toll: +1-866-741-7514  
   Access code: 2014667

**Q2:** Is participation in the pre-application meeting on 4/11/18 mandatory?

**A2:** No, however applicants who cannot attend the meeting can participate remotely via WebEx or by phone using the information provided above.

**Q3:** Per the scope of this project, can children participate in the water monitoring?

**A3:** The applicant has the discretion to choose the age limits for the participation of children in the project.

**Q4**: Regarding the Project Period (Section 7.1 - page 19 of the RFP document). Is the project period ending date of September 30, 2018 correct? If so, that would give approximately 2-3 months to implement the project (assuming a Grant Award Notification date in late June or July 2018). Should the date be September 30, 2019?

**A4**: The Project end date has been revised to September 30, 2019.

**Q5:** Section 7.1 states: “This project must be conducted in District segments of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and ‘selected’ tributaries where ‘recreational’ activities are most likely to occur.” Please expand on what you mean by ‘selected’ and by ‘recreational’.  Specifically, would Dumbarton Run (runs through Dumbarton Oaks Park), a small, continuously running tributary stream feeding Rock Creek qualify for this grant even though the stream does not support ‘waterskiing, paddling or swimming’?

**A5:** Selected tributaries refers to small streams within DC where water based activities like wading, fishing, water play by children and other water contact activities may occur.

**Q6:** Will DOEE be providing content for Appendices 1-4?

**A6:** Content for appendices 1-4 is available as attachments on the DOEE website <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1320086>.

**Q7**: Section 7.1 states: “This project must be conducted in District segments of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and ‘selected’ tributaries where ‘recreational’ activities are most likely to occur.” Please expand on what you mean by ‘selected’ and by ‘recreational’. Specifically, would Dumbarton Run (runs through Dumbarton Oaks Park), a small, continuously running tributary stream feeding Rock Creek qualify for this grant even though the stream does not support ‘waterskiing, paddling or swimming’?

**A7**: Selected tributaries refer to tributaries where people recreate or may choose to recreate in the District of Columbia. Recreational activities refer to activities that involve or may result in any form of contact with the water. For example wading, fishing and any other water contact activity.

**Q8**: Will contents be provided for appendices 1-4?

**A8:** Appendices 1- 4 are provided on DOEE internet website under Resources, Grants an Funding, Notice of Funding Availability- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring in the District

**Q9**: Is it a single award or multiple awards?

**A9**: It is a multi-year award of $150,000 per year dependent on funding availability and performance of the grantee.

**Q10**: Is $150,000 available through 2019?

**A10**: Yes, the fund will be available until September 30, 2019. Please note that September 30, 2019 is also the revised end date for the first year of the project.

**Q11**: What is the source of the fund for this RFA project?

**A11**: See Section 1.3 of the RFA. (The District of Columbia Anacostia River Clean Up Protection Fund and the Stormwater Enterprise Fund)

**Q12**: Will the grantee determine if the water body is swimmable?

**A12**: No, the grantee will not determine if the water body is swimmable. The grantee will generate water quality data and submit the data to DOEE.

**Q13**: How will the volunteers share all the dataset collected with the public?

**A13**: DOEE will instruct the grantee on how the data collected by volunteers will be submitted through the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) website.

**Q14**: Is the CMC service free of charge?

**A14**: See Section 7.1 Project Outputs (2) of the RFA. The CMC services are given at no cost to all applicants. You can access the CMC website and contact the CMC Program Manager using this link https://cmc.vims.edu/.

**Q15**: If a site is selected by the grantee that falls within the boundaries of Maryland, can the funding for this grant be used to survey the site?

**A15**: No. All collection sites should be within the District of Columbia.

**Q16**: Would a site in Bladensburg Maryland which is in close proximity to the DC boundary qualify for this project?

**A16**: No, it would not qualify.

**Q17**: Should only the District’s river recreation survey form provided by DOEE be used to collect recreation data?

**A17**: No. The grantee can also design their own recreational survey forms. The preference is for the type of information collected by the grant.

**Q18**: Does DOEE expect the sampling to occur during the summer of 2018?

**A18**: DOEE expects the grantee to begin sampling in 2018 and collect samples from all the sites identified in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) at least once before September 30, 2018.

**Q19**: Will volunteers be collecting E. coli data only?

**A19**: Other water quality variables will be collected by volunteers in addition to E. coli.

**Q20:** Is monitoring expected to be conducted from the beginning of May and through the end of September or the end of May through Labor Day? Could you give expected approximate start and end dates.

**A20**: Section 7.1. States, ‘The program will include the monitoring of E. coli in surface waters of the District of Columbia (District) during the recreational season (May - September)’. DOEE expects the applicant to submit a proposed monitoring schedule for this time period with E. coli monitoring occurring at least once a week. DOEE will not specify monitoring dates but expects all monitoring activities to fall within the indicated time frame.

**Q21**: Is the recreational water survey to be a visual counting and recording survey or TBD with DOEE?

**A21**: The recreational water survey will involve visual counting and documentation of all water contact activities occurring at the sampling site during the time of sample collection or on a date designated by the grantee.

**Q22**: Is $150,000 available for a one-year period with the option to renew for three additional years funded at $150K each year?

**A22**: See Section 7.1 of the RFA. The project period will be until September 30, 2019. However, this period can be extended and additional funding of up to $150,000 provided for a total of 3 years, depending upon the performance of the grantee and the availability of funds.

**Q23**: Will you be posting a recording of the April 11, 2018 pre-application meeting and the questions/answers from the meeting?

**A23**: The questions and answers from the meeting have been posted. The PowerPoint slides for the pre-application meeting is available at <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1320086>.

**Q24**: Are matching funds required or advantageous?

**A24**: Matching funds are not required (see sections 3.2 and 4.2)

**Q25**: Should we count the estimated amount of time to be contributed to the project by the volunteer water quality monitors as in-kind matching funds to the project?

**A25**: See section 3.2 for information about in-kind contributions. Volunteer management is the responsibility of the grantee and therefore the amount attributed to volunteer hours should be based on the discretion of the applicant.

**Q26**: Are you looking for projects that will use all or close to the entire $150,000?

**A26**: See Section 1.5, 1.8 and 6.2 of the RFA

**Q27**: What percentage of indirect costs is allowed in the budget?

**A27**: If the applicant organization has a federally-approved indirect cost rate, then that should be used. However, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) specified that non-federal entities that have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge a de Minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely.

**Q28**: Which parts of the application are part of the Project Description and therefore limited to 10 pages?

**A28**: See sections 3.1 and 3.2 for the components of the proposal which may be included in the project description.

**Q29**: Do we only need to include the first page and last two pages (signed) of the DOEE Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances document, or do we need to include the entire document?

**A29**: The application should contain the first page and last two pages (signed) of the DOEE Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances document.

**Q30**: Do we need to include letters of support from other entities or just letters of commitment from project partners?

**A30**: See section 3.2 (d)(4). Letters of support from other entities should only be included if it is required for the execution of the project.