**Anacostia Freshwater Mussel Restoration Project**

**RFA #2019-1913-WPD**

**May 10, 2019**

**RFA Questions & Answers as of 5/16/19**

**Q1: How concrete are the project locations of Nash Run and Watts Branch versus other streams? Does work have to be in Kingman Lake?**

A1: DOEE has prioritized Nash Run & Watts Branch for this project because they are restored streams with direct access (no fish blockages) to the Anacostia River. If the applicant can justify why another stream in the Anacostia watershed within the District of Columbia would be appropriate for this project, DOEE is open to making changes. Nash Run & Watts Branch streams are identified in our grant application to NFWF so will need to confirm changes with them as well. Grantees should plan on working in part in Kingman Lake but they can also give justification if they want to add additional sites within the Anacostia River.

**Q2: Can NFWF Funding be used in whole or in part to fund the grant if a federal government agency is the lead applicant?**

A2: A federal agency as a sub-grantee is allowable, contingent on that agency determining they can accept EPA funds.

**Q3: Is the grant end date (Sept. 30, 2020) a hard end date?**

A3: Yes. DOEE hopes to get a grant extension from NFWF but cannot guarantee it. All applications should be written and planned as if all deliverables will be completed by Sept. 30, 2020. While, we anticipate an extension to the grant by NFWF, they will not grant extension until closer to the grant end date.

**Q4: Can grantees substitute mussel species for the 3 species identified in the grant?**

A4: Yes. The grantee should justify why another species is a better fit for this project in their application and the mussels must be native to the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers near DC.

**Q5:** **Does the applicant need to propose a plan for expending the full $400K grant award by September 2020?**

**A5. Yes**

**Q6: Is there a requirement to propagate relatively equal quantities of each of the mussel species listed in the RFA?**

A6: No.

**Q7: Does the applicant have flexibility to propose alternative or additional site locations for mussel propagation?**

A7: Yes, provided the sites are within the Anacostia Watershed within the District of Columbia.

**Q8: Are there specific guidelines or expectations for what the five-year restoration plan looks like?**

A8: No.

**Q9: Should the restoration plan address mussel restoration in the Anacostia River specifically or the District of Columbia as a whole?**

A9: The District as a whole.

**Q10: Can grant funds be used to pay federal subcontractors?**

A10: A federal agency, as a partner to a sub-grantee is allowable, contingent on the federal agency determining they can accept EPA funds.

**Q11: Does the applicant need to provide a Clean Hands certificate for all partner organizations (regardless of whether or not they will be supported by grant funds)?**

A11: Only the Applicant and partners receiving funding from this grant need to submit a Clean Hands Certificate.

**Q12: With regards to the outcomes, 2 years does not seem like enough time to increasing native freshwater mussel populations to stable levels.**

A12: These outcomes are long term. You will be expected to report on your progress toward reaching these outcomes.

**Q13: What kind of study do you want done? Are you looking for an institute study or a lab study?**

A13: We want the applicant to propose what they think is the best way to study the results of having mussels restored. We want to be confident in the reported amount of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus reduced.

**Q14: In the RFA it says 10 new mussel beds or baskets, do want baskets or beds?**

A14: The RFA is guidance on the range of what we want to see.

**Q15: Are there locations in Kingman Lake where you want some mussels to be on sediment?**

A15: Yes but we would need to coordinate DOEE’s Toxic Substance Divisions. The grantee would probably need to keep the mussels in cages on the sediment should they need to be moved at some point in the future. The grantee would be required to get all applicable permits and permissions from property owners where mussels are placed.

**Q16: We have experience with a subcontractor on a NFWF grant being allowed to spend money after the grant period has ended. Can we do that on this grant?**

A16: No, NFWF confirmed all project work and funds must be spent by the end of the grant period.