State Fiscal Year 2015
319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Project Descriptions

Request for Proposals and Selection Process

The Department posted a request for proposals (RFP) establishing priorities for SFY2015 319(h) funding. Projects ranked highly if they improved resiliency to storm events like Superstorm Sandy and were consistent with the Department's priorities of addressing combined sewer overflows (CSOs), via implementing non-point source (NPS) reduction strategies, including green infrastructure and living shorelines. Consideration was also given to projects in the Barnegat Bay and the non-tidal Raritan River watersheds with approved watershed based plans. Proposals were evaluated and ranked relative to the criteria established in the RFP. The Department selected applicants that demonstrated the ability and expertise to successfully complete the grant project, cost effectively addressing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Use Impairments, or other priority issues such as runoff volume reduction in urban areas with CSO discharges The result of the review process was provided to Assistant Commissioner Kennedy prior to finalizing the award decisions and developing this spending plan. Current EPA guidelines require states to direct 50% of the 319(h) funds to the implementation of approved watershed plans and TMDL allocations. This spending plan proposes to award $1,947,000 to meet this requirement (slightly higher than the $1,261,000 (50%) required by the guidance).

Projects Recommended for Pass Through Grants:

1. **Green Infrastructure for the City of Paterson**
   Grantee: Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
   Funding Amount: $500,000

This grant will support the implementation of green infrastructure strategies to reduce stormwater runoff and the frequency of CSO discharges in the City of Paterson. This grant will build upon the techniques and lessons learned in (2) similar projects implemented by the Water Resources Program (WRP) of Rutgers University in the cities of Newark and Camden, supported by 319 grant funds from SFY2009 and 2011, respectively. This project proposes to reduce runoff volumes that contribute flows to drainage systems associated with CSO discharges, through the implementation of green infrastructure techniques such as rain gardens, rain water reuse, community gardens and infiltration structures. This grant will mirror the youth and adult hands on education programs, focusing on the design and construction of these types of projects piloted in the cities of Newark and Camden. The WRP at Rutgers University has been a valuable watershed partner and is responsible for, or has contributed to, the development and successful implementation of many watershed plans.

The WRP at Rutgers University provides a unique and specific skill set to the design and implementation of green infrastructure and the development and coordination of watershed partners that other state universities are not currently able to provide. Rutgers University was selected as the grantee for this project due to their past success on the Newark and Camden projects, the unique expertise available through the WRP, and their commitment to provide in-kind services as a match to the requested grant funds.

2. **Implementation of the Raritan River TMDL**
   Grantee: Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
   Funding Amount: $700,000

The Raritan River Basin is approximately 1,100 square miles in size and contains portions of seven counties and 98 municipalities. Based upon a preliminary land cover analysis of the entire basin, the basin contains approximately 140 square miles of impervious cover or 89,482 acres of impervious cover. Through the support of another Federal grant program, Rutgers WRP completed regional stormwater management plans and restoration plan for 54 municipalities within the Raritan River basin. These plans identify green infrastructure BMP techniques for improving water quality and reducing flooding largely through the infiltration of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, prior to entering the stormwater infrastructure system. This project proposes to design and implement water quality improvement projects identified in these stormwater management plans and will sever to implement the adopted phosphorus TMDL for the Raritan River Watershed. Rutgers WRP is very experienced in the design and implementation of green infrastructure techniques and demonstrated proficiency through the successful completion of many 319(h) supported green infrastructure implementation projects.

3. **Green Infrastructure for Gateway Park, Camden and Pennsauken**
   Grantee: Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA)
   Funding Amount: $65,000

Green infrastructure will be installed in Gateway Park, the 25-acre stretch of primarily grass park land that lies in Camden and Pennsauken between the Cooper River and the eastbound lanes of the Admiral Wilson Boulevard, one of the principal arteries funneling Southern New Jersey commuters to and from Center City Philadelphia each day. Currently being acquired from the Delaware River Port Authority by the CCMUA and to be co-managed with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Gateway Park will soon be open for public access, with an ambitious set of goals to provide amenities for the urban population of one of the nation's poorest cities, which suffers severe flooding during rain events resulting in overflows of Camden's CSO's. Restoration of natural habitat is one of the components of the park creation, and the proposed three bioswales and tree plantings will provide habitat as well as serve to relieve stormwater impacts. An estimated 350,000-400,000 gallons of stormwater is expected to be captured annually, not only to help attenuate flooding, but to reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the Cooper River from this urban environment. Partners include the New Jersey Conservation Foundation which will co-manage the park, Rutgers WRP which will design the bioswales, and the New Jersey Tree Foundation which will advise on the tree plantings. CCMUA has been an active partner in the implementation of green infrastructure techniques as a measure to reduce stormwater flow to stormwater systems associated with CSO's, and is contributing $20,000 as match to the grant award.

4. **Restoration Along Holland Brook and Pleasant Run (Raritan River Basin)**
   Grantee: Readington Township
   Funding Amount: $650,000

Readington Township has a long-history of protecting and restoring the Township's natural resources. This is clearly reflected in the Township's environmentally proactive land development ordinances and master plan initiatives, and their extensive efforts to preserve farmland and open space. Most of the environmental accomplishments of the Township have been the direct results of the Readington Township Environmental Commission (RTEC). The RTEC's role as the stewards of the Township's natural resources is reflected in their various projects, including the preparation of an award-winning Natural Resources Inventory and participation in various volunteer water quality and stream monitoring efforts. Of particular significance to this project is that the RTEC served as the Lead Planning Agency for the NJDEP approved (2009) Watershed Protection Plan for Holland Brook and Pleasant Run. The RTEC also has a long history of working in concert with the two primary project partners, Princeton Hydro and the Raritan Headwaters Association. This grant will support the implementation of water quality improvement projects identified in the Department approved watershed plan and will also sever to implement the Phosphorus TMDL adopted for the Raritan River watershed. These projects include green infrastructure BMP's in both suburban and agricultural areas. Partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to utilize Farm Bill funding assistance to implement projects in Agricultural areas will be explored as part of the grant project. Readington Township is providing matching funds in the amount of $38,600.

5. **Stormwater Management for Jackson Township (Barnegat Bay Watershed)**
   Grantee: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County
   Funding Amount: $597,000

This grant project will design and implement water quality projects within Jackson Township, as identified in the Department approved (2013) Metedeconk Watershed Plan. The Township of Jackson (Ocean County) is home to nearly 55,000 residents and covers approximately 100 square miles, making it the largest municipality in Ocean County, and the fourth largest by area in New Jersey. The headwaters of the South Branch of the Metedeconk River run through the northeastern portion of Jackson. The Metedeconk River serves as an important regional source of drinking water supply and provides a significant amount of freshwater discharge to the Barnegat Bay estuary. It is the primary water supply source of the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority (BTMUA). Water quality and quantity concerns for the Metedeconk River result primarily from stormwater impacts. The Metedeconk River Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan identified problem areas and outlined specific management measures that should be implemented in various areas within the watershed. Both large- and small-scale projects are currently underway in many municipalities within the Metedeconk River Watershed and this project seeks to expand stormwater implementation to Jackson Township. This will occur through a partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County,

the BTMUA, and Jackson Township to address stormwater issues through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the portion of Jackson Township that drains to the Metedeconk River. Implementation of the projects supported through this grant will complement and build on the 319(h) supported (over $1 million) BMP implementation effort already underway by the BTMUA. The grantee is providing $22,500 of in-kind services as match to the grant funds.

Non-Pass through Funds:

NPS Travel, Training, and Conference Registrations: $10,000

These funds will be used to send representatives from the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards to relevant training events and conferences or meetings relating to nonpoint source pollution abatement efforts. Eligible costs would include travel, lodging, ground transportation, parking and any registration expenses that would be associated with attendance at events that are either required for receipt of the Federal 319(h) grant award or are determined by management to be necessary to support nonpoint source management efforts of the Department. As an example, each year EPA holds a national Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) Users Group Meeting and Nonpoint Source Conference to assist States in meeting the mandatory EPA GRTS reporting requirements through an increased understanding of the GRTS system, including use of its Business Intelligence database report generation system and the EPA STEPL load reduction calculation model. Maintaining the GRTS database is a mandatory requirement established in the Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) with EPA. This database provides the means to account for 319(h) funding and the effectiveness thereof in achieving strategic measure goals for water quality improvement. Attendance at such events is also essential to proper program administration, as information gathered is then shared with all staff responsible for GRTS use. The allocation of these Federal funds would also be used to fund attendance by staff and/or management at other relevant statewide or nationally recognized non point source related events, such as the annual New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission conference, a forum for sharing important advances and developments in nonpoint source pollution control.