



July 8, 2016

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**NOTICE FOR 2017-2018 WATER QUALITY PLANNING 604(b) FUNDING  
Request for Letters of Intent**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is requesting Letters of Intent (LOI) from Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) for potential 2017-2018 Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning projects. The LOI will be used to select projects warranting further development. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal application to compete for funding.

**The top priority for these funds is developing watershed-based plans in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria specifying nine required elements for such plans (see [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/wbp\\_section319\\_guidance.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/wbp_section319_guidance.htm) and [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/watershed\\_based\\_plans.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/watershed_based_plans.htm) for examples). Consider utilizing sub-contracts for services, such as modeling pollutant loads, generating water quality goals, creating Best Management Practice (BMP) prioritization tables, etc. if in-house capacity does not exist.**

Preference will be given to projects that address water quality concerns in high priority impaired or high quality waters as identified in the Nonpoint Source Management Plan Appendix (see <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/nps-plan.htm> ). Pages A-56 through A-64 present Protection Potential maps for each Regional Planning Commission.

Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act requires funds to be allocated to regional planning entities for conducting water quality planning, including:

- 1) identifying the most cost effective and locally acceptable facility and non-point source measures to meet and maintain water quality standards;
- 2) developing an implementation plan to obtain State and local financial and regulatory commitments to implement water quality plans;
- 3) determining the nature, extent, and causes of water quality problems in the State; and
- 4) determining those publicly owned treatment works which should be constructed, taking into account the relative degree of effluent reduction attained and the consideration of alternatives to such construction.

Other eligible projects that address the above water quality concerns may include but are not limited to: developing corridor management plans for designated rivers, conducting monitoring to address specific water quality concerns; planning stormwater retrofits to address water quality impairments; green infrastructure projects that manage wet weather to maintain or restore natural hydrology; and/or working with municipalities committed to adopting specific model ordinances and/or meeting regulations (MS4 Permits) to address a priority water quality planning concerns. ***Projects that are coordinated with other watershed partners are highly encouraged.***

To apply, your LOI must be no more than three pages and include the following:

- Project title, description, and general location (communities and watershed);
- Name and contact information of person who will be responsible for carrying out the project.
- Water quality problem being addressed;
- Water quality status as reported in the 305(b) report; (see Watershed Report Cards at [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/report\\_cards.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/report_cards.htm)) Note: Watershed Report Cards are best viewed from Internet Explorer.
- Project partners and their involvement with the project;
- Relevance to items 1), 2), 3), or 4) listed above;
- Specific deliverables and associated environmental outcomes; and
- Estimated cost of the project. Estimates should be as accurate as possible.

A total amount of \$54,000 is available for calendar year 2017, with at least \$40,000 expected for calendar year 2018. NHDES anticipates funding between one to three projects with the available funding over the next two years. Applicants are encouraged to leverage 604(b) grant funds with local funding, in-kind services, and other forms of match to generate effective project budgets. Although not required, projects that demonstrate matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive a higher ranking. Administrative costs, including indirect costs, must not exceed 10% of the total project budget.

The LOI must be received by NHDES by 4:00 pm on **August 5, 2016**. The LOI is non-binding, but is required for initial consideration. The LOI should be emailed to [stephen.landry@des.nh.gov](mailto:stephen.landry@des.nh.gov).

Upon review of the LOI, selected applicants will be notified by August 12, 2016 and will be invited to submit formal applications by **September 8, 2016**. **Final selection of applications to receive funding will be made by October 7, 2016**. Projects are expected to receive Governor and Council approval in mid-December and are anticipated to begin in **January 2017**.

Submittal of a LOI does not commit NHDES to award a contract or pay any costs incurred during the preparation of a LOI. All awards are subject to Governor and Council approval. NHDES also reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals and to negotiate the scope of work and requested grant amounts.

Contact: Stephen C. Landry, Supervisor  
Watershed Assistance Section  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

(603) 271-2969  
[stephen.landry@des.nh.gov](mailto:stephen.landry@des.nh.gov)