



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Programs

Pat McCrory
Governor

S. Jay Zimmerman
Director

Donald R van der Vaart
Secretary

TO: Executive Directors, Regional Councils of Governments (COGs)

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY 2015 Grant Funding under Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 604(b)/205(j)

Announcement

Pursuant to Section 205(j)/604(b) of the CWA, the Division of Water Resources is seeking proposals for water quality management planning projects using federal Fiscal Year 2015 grant funds.

As stated in Section 205(j) of the Act, grant funds are to be awarded to Regional Commissions and Councils of Government “to carry out water quality management planning, including, but not limited to:

- A. Identifying most cost effective and locally acceptable facility and non-point source measures to meet and maintain water quality standards;
- B. Developing an implementation plan to obtain state and local financial and regulatory commitments to implement measures developed under (A); and
- C. Determining the nature, extent, and cause of water quality problems in various areas of the state.”

For 2015 federal Fiscal Year, North Carolina has \$99,000 to award for water quality planning projects.

2015 Priorities

Just as in 2014, Division Planning staff has selected the development of watershed restoration plans as a 205(j) priority to align with the Environmental Protection Agency focus on watershed planning. Projects that develop “nine element” watershed restoration plans in whole or in part, including the modification of existing plans qualify. Guidance can be found on Division’s Planning Branch website: [How to Develop Watershed Plan](#).

In addition, in February 2014 planning staff requested feedback from all COGs and Regional Commissions statewide to assist in the prioritization of 2015 205(j) funds. The detailed table below summarizes feedback we received. You will note in the table that COG priorities have been tied to the specific grant purposes enumerated above.

COG and Regional Commission Priorities	205(j) Grant Purposes
Building local & regional capacity to manage watershed and/or impacts through collaborative efforts. Includes 9-element plan creation and education on nutrient management measures. Includes communities with aging infrastructure; education and outreach of elected officials; technical assistance when approaching community capacity	A, B, C
GIS Mapping - municipal stormwater systems, impervious surface, land use/land cover, all stormwater infrastructure, watershed planning/implementation efforts. Mapping infrastructure and noting failures/improvements, mapping watershed efforts for communities	C
Long-term water management planning for multiple-jurisdiction regions that serve 2 or more river basins & supports water resource resiliency planning to ensure clean and plentiful water. Assessment of present and future water supply capacity & demands. Including interbasin transfer issues, community planning efforts. Impacts of climate change of needs and infrastructure	A, B, C
Expand the pool of practices that receive credit under the state water quality regulatory programs. Includes identifying & design BMPs for water quality and educational benefit. Stormwater quality projects are relatively new to some of the small local governments and funds are limited (small and rural areas)	A,
Educating elected officials on how state-level policy decisions relating to water resources are made, what opportunities there are for input and when they occur, and how best to get involved.	A,B
Emergency Management planning for water resources and infrastructure in response to manmade and natural disasters. Coordinated plan of action to catastrophic events across jurisdictional boundaries. Education and outreach for community officials is essential to local success. Use this platform to address sanitary sewer overflows with community officials.	A,B
Remote sensing inventory and assessment of groundwater supplies and their quality. Includes digital inventory, estimated supply, and water quality (avoid potential impacts)	C
Land development code evaluation - including the development of model ordinances to promote conservation and open space.	B,C
Green infrastructure Plans - greenways, open space, retrofit opportunities. Opportunity to work with transportation networks and build green capacity.	B,C
Regional education initiative to engage faith-based community, especially in impaired watersheds to engage on behavior BMP they can take to reduce water quality footprint. Outreach to these communities will have a far reaching impact throughout the area.	C
Operating funds for COGS - so that COGs can develop annual work program, post year reporting that details accomplishments in the area of water quality protection. Funds to cover grant writing and overhead as COG funding dwindles	

How to Apply

Download the Application from the Division’s [205j Grant Program Website \(http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu/205j\)](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu/205j). Submit an electronic version of the completed application to Heather.b.jennings@ncdenr.gov with “205J Grant Proposal” in the subject line. The deadline for applications is **Friday, September 30, 2015**.

On the application, estimate proposed work not to extend any later than August 30, 2017.

Addressee
Date
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Proposals will be reviewed and scored based on completeness, timeliness, and the application evaluation criteria. All applicants will be informed of our funding decision no later than October 31, 2015 whether or not selected for funding. If your proposal is selected, you will be contacted to provide additional information for developing the contract details. As a reminder, billable work may not begin until contracts are fully executed. Review standards and process can be found on the Division website: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu/205j>.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Jennings at (919) 807-6437, heather.b.jennings@ncdenr.gov. Thank you.

