



Pre-RFR Information Session



Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed
Restoration Program



**Round 3 Restoration Plan &
Supplemental Environmental
Assessment (RP/SEA) for
Land Protection & Habitat Conservation**



August 5, 2013, Lenox Library, Lenox, Massachusetts



Pre-RFR Information Session

AGENDA

- **Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program Overview**
- **Round 3 Overview**
- **Round 3 Requests For Responses (RFR)**
- **Round 3 Proposal Review**
- **Q & A**



Restoration Program Overview: Massachusetts SubCouncil

The MA SubCouncil of the
Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees:

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Restoration Program Overview: Massachusetts NRD Funding

MA SubCouncil is responsible for disbursing funds from the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages (NRD) settlement.

Funds are used for compensatory restoration projects that will restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and/or their services that were injured or lost as a result of the release of hazardous materials, including PCBs, into the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.



ROUND 3 OVERVIEW



Round 3 Overview: RP/SEA

The Round 3 RP/SEA:

- Describes the plan for identifying and funding Round 3 projects for compensatory restoration of the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River.
- Provides formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation.
- Was developed with public input and subject to public comment prior to finalization.
- Focuses on Land Acquisition to Conserve Habitat.
- Targets \$2 million for disbursement.



Round 3 Overview: Project Eligibility

Who? (Eligible Applicants)

- Eligible applicants include public and private entities including local, state, federal, and tribal governments; academic institutions; non-profit; and commercial organizations.
- Applicants can be based outside of the Housatonic River watershed.

What? (Eligible Projects)

- Eligible projects are those that would benefit injured natural resources and/or services in the Housatonic River watershed in Massachusetts through land acquisition to conserve habitat.

Where? (Project Locations)

- Projects may be conducted at any location, but must directly benefit the injured natural resources and/or services in the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.
- Priority will be given to projects with the Housatonic River watershed.



Round 3 Overview: Next Steps

- **Release of Round 3 Request For Responses (RFR)**
- **Bidders Conference**
- **Project Proposal & Review Process**
 - Phase 1 (selected proposals advance to Phase 2)
 - Phase 2 (additional due diligence and final selection)
- **Funding of Selected Projects***

* The MA SubCouncil may conduct a second subround of funding under Round 3 if adequate funds remain following completion of the initial RFR process.



**ROUND 3
REQUEST FOR RESPONSES
(RFR)**



Round 3 RFR: Overview

- **Anticipated Release Date:**
 - Fall 2013.
- **Notification of RFR Release:**
 - Program Website at **www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org**
 - Commonwealth's Procurement Access & Solicitation System (Comm-PASS) available at: **www.comm-pass.com/**
 - Via email to known interested parties.
- **RFR Materials available through:**
 - Comm-PASS website: **www.comm-pass.com/**



Round 3 RFR: Components

RFR Components will include:

- Section 1: Introduction and Background, Contract Duration and Value
- Section 2: Procurement Calendar, Bidder Q and A
- Section 3: Qualifications and Specifications
- Section 4: Additional Terms (e.g., Reporting)
- Section 5: Evaluation Criteria (Mandatory Requirements & Desirable Specifications)
- Section 7: Instructions for Submitting Responses
- Section 8: Terms required for all RFRs
- Section 9: Instructions for Commonwealth Forms
- Section 10: Glossary



Round 3 RFR: Tips & Requirements

Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

- Applicants that have not undertaken a project of this magnitude are encouraged to partner with a more experienced organization.

Subcontracting

- The qualifications, experience, roles and responsibilities of all subcontractors must be clearly identified in each proposal.

Multiple Applications

- Applicants may submit more than one proposal for distinct restoration projects.

RFR Appendices

- Appendices will include the Commonwealth's standard requirements and instructions.

Bidders Questions

- How will questions be addressed after release of the RFR?



ROUND 3 PROPOSAL REVIEW



Proposal Review: Phases 1 & 2

Phase 1

- Applicants have 6 months to prepare proposals including:
 - Map, opinion of value, estimated cost to perform due diligence, narrative.
- Review teams evaluate Phase 1 proposals
 - Stage 1: 6 **Mandatory Requirements** (“Threshold Criteria” in RP/SEA)
 - Stage 2: 4 categories of **Desirable Specifications** (“Evaluation Criteria” in RP/SEA)

Phase 2

- Due Diligence grant agreement executed with successful Applicants
- Applicants have 6 months to perform due diligence including:
 - Title search, formal land appraisals, environmental site assessment, physical inspection and historic research, and letter of interest or commitment from landowner
- Final review and selection of proposals for funding



Proposal Review: ***Phase 1, Stage 1 – Mandatory Criteria***

- No. 1:** Does the application **contain the information necessary** to proceed with an evaluation as described in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure?
- No. 2:** Does the proposed project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire **the equivalent of natural resources or natural resource services that were injured** by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances?
- No. 3:** Is the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, an action that is **presently required under other federal, state, or local law**?



Proposal Review:

Phase 1, Stage 1 – Mandatory Criteria (con't)

- No. 4:** Is the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, **inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or policy?**
- No. 5:** Will the proposed project, in terms of its cost, be **consistent with the stated goals of the MA SubCouncil to retain sufficient funds** to accomplish restoration over at least three rounds of proposal solicitations and serve a wide geographic area that benefits the restoration priority categories?
- No. 6:** Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be **inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions** in the Housatonic River watershed?



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications

<i>Category</i>	<i># of Criteria</i>	<i>Max. Points</i>
Relevance and Applicability	7	85
Technical Merit	6	65
Project Budget	6	60
Socioeconomic Merit	7	35
TOTAL	26	245



Proposal Review: ***Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications*** (con't)

Category 1: Relevance and Applicability of Project

Review Criteria:

- Natural Recovery Period
- Location of Project
- Sustainable Benefits
- Magnitude of Ecological Benefits
- Human Health & Safety
- Benefits to Multiple Restoration Categories
- Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions

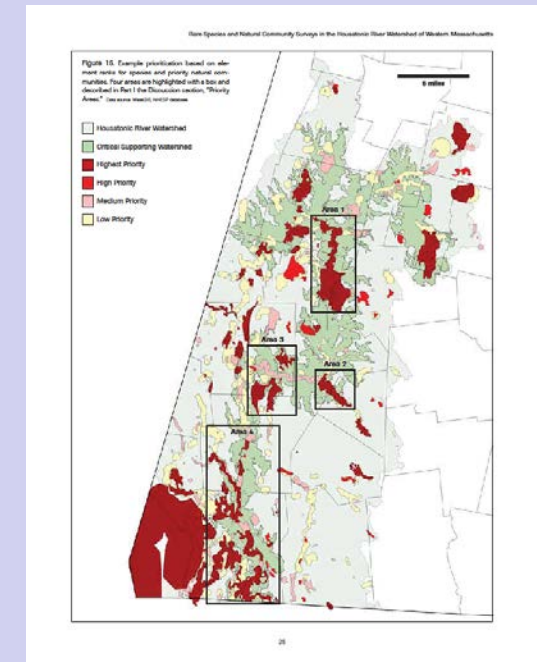
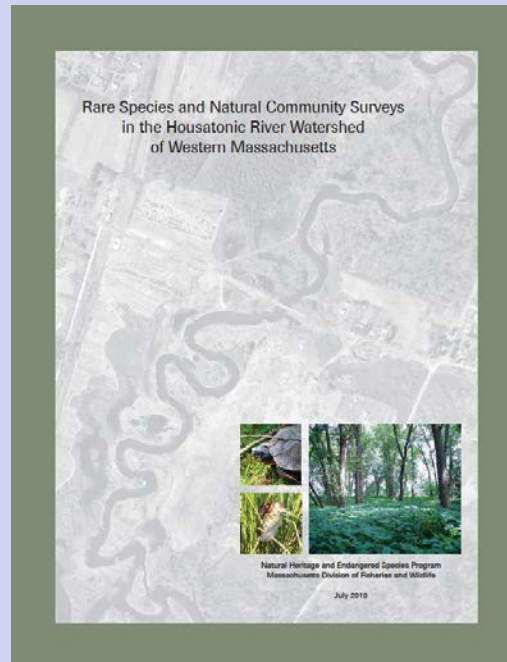


Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications (con't)

Category 1: Relevance and Applicability of Project (con't)

Potential Resources:

- NHESP's "*Rare Species and Natural Community Surveys in the Housatonic River Watershed of Western Massachusetts*" developed in 2010 with Round 1 funding.





Proposal Review: ***Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications*** (con't)

Category 2: Technical Merit

Review Criteria:

- Technical/Technological Feasibility
- Technical Capacity of Applicant and Project Team
- Potential for Adverse Environmental Impacts
- Measureable Results
- Contingency Actions
- Administrative Capacity of Applicant and Project Team



Proposal Review: ***Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications*** (con't)

Category 3: Project Budget

Review Criteria:

- Relationship of Expected Costs to Expected Benefits
- Implementation Oriented
- Budget Justification & Understanding
- Leveraging of Additional Resources
- Coordination & Integration
- Comparative Cost-Effectiveness



Proposal Review: ***Phase 1, Stage 2 – Desirable Specifications*** (con't)

Category 4: Socioeconomic Merit

Review Criteria:

- Enhancement of Public's Relationship with Natural Resources
- Fostering Future Restoration and Stewardship
- Community Involvement
- Potential for Adverse Socioeconomic Impacts
- Complementary with Community Goals
- Public Outreach
- Diverse Partnerships



Proposal Review: ***Phase 1: Additional Scoring Requirements***

Additional Commonwealth RFR Scoring Requirements

- In addition to the proposal scoring requirements described in the Round 3 RP/SEA, additional proposal scoring criteria may be applied as necessary to address Commonwealth requirements.



Proposal Review: Phase 2

Phase 2 Review and Selection Process

- Selected proposals advance to Phase 2.
- Due diligence Grant Agreements executed with selected Applicants.
- Applicants have 6 months to perform due diligence including:
 - Title search, formal land appraisals, environmental site assessment, physical inspection, historic research, and letter of interest or commitment from landowner.
- MA SubCouncil conducts final review and selection of proposals.
- Existing Agreements amended with selected Applicants.
- Proposals may remain eligible for funding if the closing of the land protection transaction occurs prior to the conclusion of Phase 2 review provided that:
 - The closing date occurs after the formal announcement that a proposal has been selected to advance from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the review process.



Proposal Review: Anticipated Timeline

2013

- Request for Responses (RFR) Released *[Fall 2013]*
- RFR Bidders Conference *[2 weeks after RFR Release]*

2014

- Phase 1 Proposals Deadline *[6 months after RFR Release]*
- Proposals Selected to Advance to Phase 2 *[2 months after Phase 1 Proposal Deadline]*
- Phase 2 Due Diligence Contracts Awarded *[2 months after Phase 2 Proposal Selection]*
- Phase 2 Due Diligence Deadline *[6 months after execution of Grant Agreements]*

2015

- Final Selection of Proposals for Round 3 funding *[2 months after Phase 2 Deadline]*
- Awards provided to Selected Applicants *[2 months after Final Selection]*



Additional Information

Additional information, resources, and program updates can be accessed at:

www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org