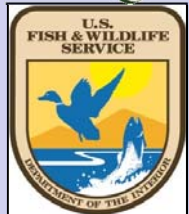




Public Information Session



Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed
Restoration Program

**Second Subround of
Round 3 Restoration Project Proposals
for
Land Acquisition to Conserve Habitat**

Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages Fund

September 17, 2015, Lenox Library, Lenox, Massachusetts

Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees
One Winter Street, 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108



Agenda

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PRESENTATION

- **Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program**
- **Round 3 Restoration Plan**
- **Grant Announcement & Application**
- **Proposal Review**
- **Grant Contracts**
- **Resources**

3. OPEN FORUM / Q&A



HOUSATONIC RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

GE/Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Settlement

- Consent Decree in 2000
- \$15 million in damages as compensation for resource damages
 - Approx. \$7.5 million targeted for projects in Massachusetts

Massachusetts SubCouncil of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), represented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Department of the Interior (DOI): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

Massachusetts SubCouncil Voting Members

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Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

The MA SubCouncil is responsible for disbursing funds from the Massachusetts portion of the 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.

Two previous rounds of restoration projects have been funded as a part of this Restoration Program.



ROUND 3 RESTORATION PLAN



Round 3 Restoration Plan: Overview

Round 3 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (RP/SEA)

- Completed May 2013
- Documents the plan for identifying and funding Round 3 projects for compensatory restoration of the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River
- Developed with public input and subject to public comment
- Focuses on land protection to conserve habitat
- Targets a total of \$2 million for disbursement



Round 3 Restoration Plan: Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants include public and private entities including:

- Local, state, federal, and tribal governments;
- Non-profit organizations;
- Individuals; and
- Commercial organizations.

Applicants may be based outside of the Housatonic River watershed.



Round 3 Restoration Plan: Eligible Projects & Project Locations

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

Land must be protected in perpetuity through fee title, conservation restriction, or dedication.

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 located within the Housatonic River watershed in Massachusetts.



Round 3 Restoration Plan: First Subround

To date, 2 projects selected in First Subround:

- **Hinsdale:** 90 acres of wetland and upland habitat, including ACEC, NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$90,000*)
- **Egremont:** 23 acres of coldwater fisheries, riparian, floodplain, and upland habitat, including NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$187,500*)

One project still under review in First Subround:

- > 200 acres of wetland, stream, riparian, and upland habitat, including BioMap 2 Core Habitat. (*Potential NRD funding: \$871,000*)

Final project selection and announcements for First Subround:

- Anticipated late September 2015



Round 3 Restoration Plan: Second Subround

Subround 2 Funding:

- Available funding is dependent on outcome of final project review and selection for Subround 1.

Process for second subround of funding will include:

- Release of Grant Announcement & Application (GAA)
- Applicants' Conference
- Proposal development and review:
 - Phase 1 (selected proposals advance to Phase 2)
 - Phase 2 (additional due diligence)
- Project selection and funding



Second Subround of Round 3
GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT &
APPLICATION (GAA)



Grant Announcement & Application: Overview

Anticipated release date:

- October 7, 2015

Notification of GAA release will be available at:

- Program website at: www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org
- MassDEP NRD website at:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>
- Commonwealth's Procurement website(COMMBUYS) available at:
www.commbuys.com.html
- Via email to known interested parties

GAA Materials will be Available at:

- COMMBUYS website
- MassDEP NRD website



Grant Announcement & Application: GAA Components

The GAA is anticipated to include:

- Section 1: GAA Table of Contents
- Section 2: Grant Summary
- Section 3: Eligibility
- Section 4: Definitions
- Section 5: Procurement and Grant Contract Information
- Section 6: Instructions for Submitting an Application
- Section 7: Terms and Conditions of Grant Contract Awards
- Section 8: List of Attachments
- Section 9: List of Acronyms
- Attachments: Application Form, Application Requirements, Supplemental Terms & Conditions, Conflict of Interest Guidance and Disclosure Certification



Grant Announcement & Application: Application Tips and 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 projects.

Applicants' Questions

- Following release of the GAA:
 - The MA SubCouncil will hold an Applicants' Conference.
 - Written questions will be accepted (up to a date identified in the GAA) and answered by the MA SubCouncil and MassDEP.



**Second Subround of Round 3
PROPOSAL REVIEW**



Proposal Review: Review Team and Review Phases

Grant Review Team

- Includes members of the MA SubCouncil and staff from departments within the Massachusetts EEA, USFWS, and Stantec.

“Phase 1” Review

- Grant Review Team reviews project proposal based on:
 - Threshold Criteria (minimum requirements for project eligibility)
 - Evaluation Criteria (scoring and prioritization criteria for proposed projects)
- Projects selected to proceed to Phase 2 due diligence.

“Phase 2” Review

- Grant Review Team reviews project due diligence materials.
- MassDEP executes final Grant Contracts with selected applicants.



Proposal Review: Phase 1

Applicants have 6 months to prepare Phase 1 applications including:

- Completed Application Form
- Land Protection Plan and Cost Estimate
- Personnel Resumes
- Letter of Commitment from Project Partners (if applicable)
- Required Completed Forms and Other Application Requirements

Phase 1 Application review includes:

- Stage 1: MA SubCouncil reviews applications relative to the **Threshold Criteria**
- Stage 2: Grant Review Team (GRT) evaluates and scores applications relative to the **Evaluation Criteria**

Selected applicants will be invited to advance to Phase 2



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 1 – Threshold Criteria

- No. 1:** The application **must contain the information necessary to proceed with an evaluation** as described in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP).
- No. 2:** The proposed project **must 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 through land acquisition and/or land protection measures.
- No. 3:** The proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, **must not be an action that is presently required under other federal, state or local law.**



Proposal Review:

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

- No. 4:** The proposed project **must be consistent with federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies.**
- No. 5:** In terms of cost, the proposed project **must be consistent with the stated goals of the MA SubCouncil to retain sufficient funds** to 1) accomplish restoration over at least three rounds of proposal solicitations and 2) serve a wide geographic area that benefits the restoration priority categories.
- No. 6:** The proposed project **must not be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions** (e.g., primary restoration) in the Housatonic River watershed.



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria

<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	75
TOTAL	26	285



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (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

* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (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

* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (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

* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



Proposal Review: Phase 1, Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)

Category 4: Socioeconomic Merit

Review Criteria: *

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

* Review criteria identified in bold are those with a relationship to specific attributes identified by the Land Acquisition Focus Group as important to the purpose of evaluating land protection projects.



Proposal Review: Phase 2

Due Diligence grant contracts executed with selected applicants

- Summer 2016 (estimated)

Applicants have 6 months for Phase 2 due diligence

- Due diligence includes: Formal Land Appraisal, Environmental Site Assessment, Letter of Interest / Commitment from Landowner
- Due Winter 2017 (estimated)

Phase 2 due diligence material reviewed and projects selected

- Announcement of final funding awards: Spring 2017(estimated)

Grant Contracts amended with selected applicants:

- Spring 2017 (estimated)

*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

2015

- Grant Announcement and Application (GAA) released (*October 2015*)
- Applicants' Conference (*December 2015*)

2016

- Deadline for submittal of questions (*January 2016*)
- Phase 1 proposals deadline (*April 2016*)
- Proposed projects selected to advance to Phase 2 (*June 2016*)

2017

- Phase 2 due diligence deadline (*January 2017*)
- Final selection of proposals for Round 3 funding (*April 2017*)



Second Subround of Round 3
GRANT CONTRACTS



Grant Contracts: Additional Information

Grant Awards

- Single or multiple Grant Contracts
- Maximum \$ amount for each Grant Contract

Contract Duration

- Base period: 3 years
- One renewal option: 1 year
- Maximum contract period: 4 years

Contract Components

- Commonwealth Standard Contract
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Supplemental Terms and Conditions

Payment

- Grantees reimbursed for costs/expenses



RESOURCES



Resources: ***Restoration Program Resources***

Resources specific to the Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program include:

- Restoration Planning Strategy (RPS)
- Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP)
- Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- Round 3 RP/SEA

References are available at the Restoration Program Website:

www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org



Resources: Contact Information

Points of Contact:

Karen Pelto, MassDEP NRD Program Coordinator

Karen.Pelto@state.ma.us

617-292-5785

Grant Announcement and Application:

MassDEP NRD Website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>

Project Information, Resources & Updates:

Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

Website: www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org



OPEN FORUM / Q&A