



Applicant's Conference

Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed
Restoration Program

Grant Announcement and Application

Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages Fund

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



June 17, 2014, Lenox Library, Lenox, Massachusetts

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



Agenda

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- **Introductions**
- **Meeting Purpose & Agenda**

2. PRESENTATION

- **Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program**
- **Round 3 Restoration Plan**
- **Grant Announcement & Application**
- **Application Review Criteria**
- **Project Selection & Grant Awards**

3. OPEN FORUM / Q&A



HOUSATONIC RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

GE/Housatonic River 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

Karen Pelto

State Trustee Representative & Lead Administrative Trustee

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street, 6th Floor

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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Ken Munney

Trustee Representative for the DOI / USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300

Concord, NH 03301

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phone: (603) 223-2541 ext. 19



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

The 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.

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

The Final 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 \$2 million for disbursement*

* A 2nd subround of funding may be conducted if adequate funds remain following completion of the initial award process.



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 can 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.*



GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT & APPLICATION



Grant Announcement & Application: Overview

Grant Announcement and Application:

- Released on **March 28, 2014**, and available at MassDEP NRD Website at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>

Deadline for Written Questions:

- **June 24, 2014, at 5:00 PM**

Deadline for Submittal of Applications:

- **September 30, 2014, at 4:30 PM.**

Address Questions & Applications to:

Karen Pelto, NRD Program Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
One Winter Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Karen.pelto@state.ma.us



Round 3 Grant Application: What to Submit with an Application

Application (Attachment A)

- Including:
 - Applicant information
 - Parcel and project information
 - Location map
 - Opinion of value/appraisal
 - Draft Conservation Restriction (CR) language
 - Summary of project benefits
 - Potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts



Round 3 Grant Application: What to Submit with an Application (con't)

Detailed Application Requirements (Attachment B)

- Land Protection Plan and Cost Estimate
 - Includes task descriptions, project schedule, project management plan, personnel organization chart, and project budget (including estimated costs to perform Phase 2 due diligence)
 - Serves as a Scope of Work if grant is awarded
- Key Personnel Resumes
- Letter of Commitment from Project Partners (if applicable)
- Required Forms and Other Application Requirements, including...

Supplemental Terms and Conditions (Attachment C)

- Applies to awarded grant contracts

Conflict of Interest Certification Statement (Attachment D)

- Applies to awardees and subcontractors/subconsultants



Grant Announcement & Application: Where to Submit Applications

Deadline for Submittal of Applications:

- The Application and all supporting documents must be delivered to MassDEP by **4:30 PM on Tuesday, September 30, 2014**

Submit Applications to:

Karen Pelto, NRD Program Coordinator

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

One Winter Street, 6th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

Karen.pelto@state.ma.us



Round 3 Grant Application: 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

* The Threshold Criteria and Evaluation Criteria were identified in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP) available on the project website and are described in the Round 3 RP/SEA and Grant Announcement and Application.



Round 3 Grant Application: Phase 2

Due Diligence grant contracts executed with selected Applicants:

- December 31, 2014 (estimated)

Applicants have 6 months to perform Phase 2 due diligence including:

- Formal Land Appraisal
- Environmental Site Assessment
- Letter of Interest / Commitment from Landowner

Phase 2 due diligence due:

- June 30, 2015 (estimated)

Phase 2 Review:

- MA SubCouncil reviews Phase 2 due diligence and selects projects for funding
- Announcement of final funding awards: September 30, 2015 (estimated)



Grant Announcement & Application: Tips & Requirements

Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

- Partnerships and collaborations are encouraged
- 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 Land Protection projects



Grant Announcement & Application: 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



Grant Announcement & Application: Schedule

2014

- March 28:** Grant Announcement Posted
- June 17:** Applicant's Conference
- June 24:** Deadline for Submission of Written Questions
- July 8:** Official Answer to Questions Posted on MassDEP Website
- Sept. 30:** Application Due Date (Phase 1)
- Dec. 31*:** Announcement of Project Selection for Phase 2 & Contract Start Date for Phase 2 Due Diligence Analysis

2015

- June 30*:** Phase 2 Due Diligence Analysis Due Date
- Sept. 1*:** Announcement of Final Project Selection & Contract Start Date for Selected Projects

* Estimated date.



APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: Review Criteria and Review Team

Threshold Criteria*

- Mandatory

Evaluation Criteria*

- Used to score and prioritize projects

Grant Review Team

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

* The Threshold Criteria and Evaluation Criteria were identified in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP) available on the project website and are described in the Round 3 RP/SEA and Grant Announcement and Application.



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: Stage 1 – Threshold Criteria

- No. 1:** The application **must contain the information necessary to proceed with an evaluation** as described in the 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.**



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: 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.



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: 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



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (con't)

Category 1: Relevance and Applicability of Project

Review Criteria:

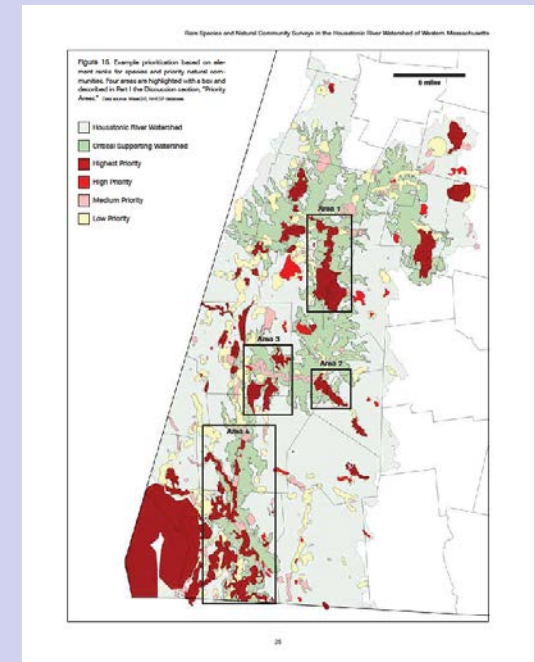
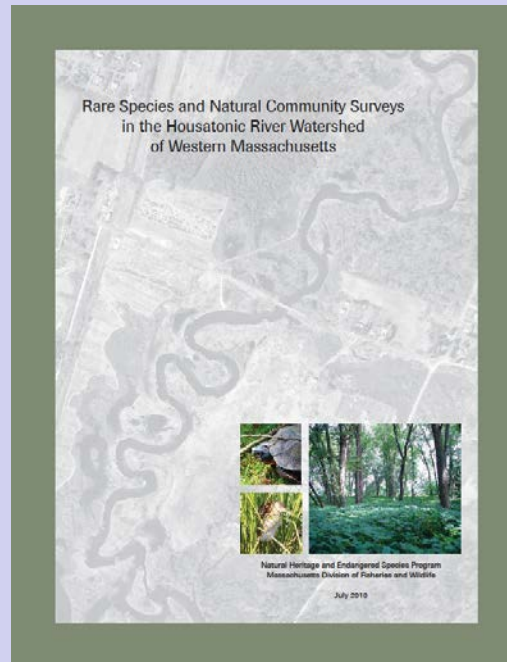
- Natural Recovery Period
- **Location of Project**
- **Sustainable Benefits**
- **Magnitude of Ecological Benefits**
- Human Health & Safety
- Benefits to Multiple Restoration Categories
- Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions

Round 3 Application Review Criteria: Stage 2 – Evaluation Criteria (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.





Round 3 Application Review Criteria: 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



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: 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



Round 3 Application Review Criteria: 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
- Potential for Adverse Socioeconomic Impacts
- **Complementary with Community Goals**
- Public Outreach
- Diverse Partnerships



FINAL PROJECT SELECTION & GRANT AWARDS



Project Selection & Grant Awards: Final Project Selection

Selected project applications advance to Phase 2

- Due Diligence Grant Agreements executed with selected Applicants
- Applicants have 6 months to perform due diligence

Final project selection

- MA SubCouncil conducts final project selection following review of Phase 2 due diligence
- Existing Agreements amended with Applicants of selected projects

Closings prior to final project selection

- Projects 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



Project Selection & Grant Awards: Grant Awards

Grant Awards

- Single or multiple Grant Awards
- Maximum \$ amount for each Grant Award

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



Additional 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