

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# Nonpoint Source Program Request for Proposals

July 30, 2014

**To be used in applying for funding for projects  
implementing approved watershed management plans.**

Rick Snyder, Governor  
Dan Wyant, Director

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Watershed Planning .....	1
Funding .....	1
Sources and Availability.....	1
Minimum and Maximum Amounts .....	1
Required Match.....	1
Eligibility .....	1
Eligible Applicants.....	1
Ineligible Applicants .....	2
Eligible Activities .....	2
Ineligible Activities.....	2
Eligible Watersheds .....	3
General Requirements .....	3
Project Specific Requirements .....	3
Monitoring Evaluation and Quality Assurance Plans .....	6
Project Outcomes.....	7
Areas of NPS Program Emphasis .....	7
Funding Priorities.....	8
Evaluation Criteria .....	8
Process and Schedule .....	9
Deadlines .....	10
Submittal Addresses.....	10
Contacts .....	10
Other Funding Sources .....	11

## **NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM GRANTS**

### **Introduction**

Michigan's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program assists state, federal, and local partners to restore water bodies impaired by NPS pollution and protect high quality waters from impairments caused by NPS pollution. The basis of our program is watershed management; therefore, we are requesting proposals that will implement the priority NPS recommendations in critical areas defined in approved watershed management plans.

### **Watershed Planning**

While watershed management plan development is not eligible under this Request for Proposals (RFP), in very limited cases, a task for technical revisions of watershed management plans approved as meeting federal criteria can be added to an implementation project. General watershed plan updates are not eligible. Technical revisions include:

- Updates to watershed modeling to account for changes in land use.
- Incorporating the nonpoint source load allocation from approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
- Incorporating a Landscape Level Wetlands Functional Assessment (See [Appendix A](#))
- Monitoring or inventories to fill data gaps.

Projects including a technical update task are encouraged to complete the technical update prior to beginning the implementation phase of their project so that any new insights can be incorporated.

The NPS Program will continue to review and approve watershed management plans as meeting State and federal criteria (See [Appendix B](#)). It is strongly encouraged that NPS staff is contacted for involvement early in all planning projects regardless of the project funding source.

### **Funding**

#### **Sources and Availability**

This RFP contains information concerning both federal and State funding sources. Federal funds are authorized under the federal Clean Water Act and State funds are from the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI). A total of up to \$2.6 million may be available. This includes up to \$2.1 million in federal funds and approximately \$500,000 in State funds. Funds should be available for selected projects in mid-2015. Grant awards are contingent upon the sale of CMI general obligation bonds to support these projects and the enactment of sufficient funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2015 federal and State budgets to support this grant program as well as any other necessary approvals.

#### **Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts**

The minimum request is \$25,000 in grant funds. While there is no maximum request, the NPS Program encourages comprehensive implementation projects that will result in restoration of impaired waters or the long term protection of high quality waters.

#### **Required Match**

Projects require a minimum of 25 percent match which can include cash and in-kind services from non-federal sources.

### **Eligibility**

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Units of government (State agencies, counties, cities, townships, and villages), regional planning agencies, conservation districts, public and private colleges and universities, and incorporated nonprofit organizations who are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, all applicants must:

- Supply proof of a successful financial audit for a period ending within the 24 months immediately preceding the Notice of Intent (NOI) due date as demonstrated by an *Independent Auditor's Report* signed by a Certified Public Accountant from a Comprehensive Annual Report. The audit must be of the applicant organization – **No fiduciary arrangements will be accepted.** **Note:** The audit date is based on the audit period and not the date of the audit or the audit letter. To be eligible under this RFP the end date of the audited period must be after August 20, 2012.
- Be in good standing with DEQ programs. Within the 24 months immediately preceding the NOI due date:
  - No DEQ grant revoked or terminated.
  - No demonstrated inability to manage a grant or meet the obligations in a project contract with the DEQ.
- Not appear on the Federal Debarment and Suspension List. The list can be searched through the System for Award and Management (SAM) [here](#).
- Successful applicants and all contractors will be required to certify they are not an Iran-based business and contractors must also certify they are not an Iran-linked business as defined in [MCL 129.312](#).

#### Ineligible Applicants

Federal agencies, individuals and groups without nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Inter-County Drainage Boards, and entities without proof of a successful audit within the 24 months preceding the application due date. However, these entities can serve as project partners or receive grant funds as subcontractors to eligible grantees.

#### Eligible Activities

In general, implementing water quality based priority recommendations in approved watershed management plans including physical, vegetative, and managerial best management practices (BMPs) and information and outreach activities. Activities must directly address the NPS pollutants, causes, and sources identified as priorities in the watershed management plan. In addition, the pollutants, causes, and sources must also be addressed in [Michigan's NPS Program Plan](#).

Permits: Some eligible activities may require permits from the DEQ. [Appendix C](#) of this RFP contains additional information concerning the types of activities that may require a permit and the information needed by the DEQ to help make this determination. Application for a grant does not constitute a permit application, nor does a grant award signify DEQ approval for an activity requiring a permit.

#### Ineligible Activities

The following types of activities will not be considered for funding:

- Activities that are required or will be required under a permit, required in a court or enforcement order, or required by law.
- Maintenance practices (including, but not limited to, weed harvesting, alum treatments, dredging, integrated crop management, and catch basin repairs).
- Land acquisition (land purchase in fee simple).
- Construction, operation, or maintenance of septage facilities, sanitary sewer, or traditional storm sewer collection systems (this includes installing catch basin inserts and other practices between the inlet and outlet of an existing storm water collection system).
- Purchasing capacity at an existing wastewater treatment plant.
- Point-source related projects.
- Addressing issues not included in Michigan's NPS Program Plan (e.g. atmospheric inputs or contaminated sediments).

- Development of, or other work related to, wetland mitigation banks.
- Projects that negatively impact any water resource.
- Development of watershed management plans.

#### Eligible Watersheds

- Watersheds covered by a watershed management plan approved by the DEQ as meeting CMI criteria and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) “Nine minimum elements of watershed management planning” on or before July 30, 2014 (See map and listing [here](#)).

#### General Requirements for All Proposals

- Projects cannot exceed three (3) years.
- USEPA’s policy Timely Obligation, Award and Expenditure of USEPA Grant Funds requires the expedient obligation of federal grants. Therefore, applicants must be able to enter into a grant contract with the DEQ within 90 days of a grant award. The DEQ retains the right to withdraw funding if a contract has not been signed within 90 days.
- Projects must implement specific high priority recommendations in a watershed management plan approved by the DEQ as meeting the USEPA’s “Nine minimum elements of watershed management planning” and include in the [Project Description \(section A\)](#) reference(s) to the specific recommendations proposed for implementation.
- Applicants must include in the [Project Description \(section A\)](#) a description of how the proposed work fits into the overall watershed management plan implementation strategy and priorities.
- Proposals must include the targeted load reduction from the watershed management plan and the projected pollutant load reduction of the project in the [Project Description \(Sections B and F\)](#) for each targeted pollutant.
- Projects must include, as a separate attachment (one page maximum) or as part of the [Project Description \(section A\)](#), a statement on the status of the implementation of the watershed management plan. The statement should summarize past and on-going actions, discuss progress in terms of the priorities of the watershed management plan, and explain how the proposal fits into the overall implementation process.
- Projects that will affect stream flow, including any potential upstream and downstream impacts from BMP implementation, must include a hydrologic analysis (see [Appendix D](#)).
- The DEQ reserves the right to work with applicants to select new sites or BMPs, or cancel a grant award in whole or in part if, prior to implementation, the DEQ determines that the proposed sites or BMPs are not viable or do not meet program priorities.

#### Project Specific Proposal Requirements

##### Implementing Physical BMPs

- Proposals to implement physical BMPs with NPS program funds or used as match must include specific locations and BMP information utilizing a BMP form and site plans (See exception for On Site Waste Water Treatment System proposals as described below).
- Applicants must submit site plans for any vegetative or structural practices, including any earth change activities, physical modifications of the stream channel, or practices that modify hydrology. Site plans are a depiction of each project area showing all existing water bodies (including designated flood plains and wetlands), structures, and on-site conditions as well as the proposed treatment. For the proposal, conceptual site plans will suffice. However, prior to implementing a BMP, engineered site plans prepared by a licensed professional engineer (P.E.), architect, or other professional working under a licensed engineer’s authority, must be submitted to and approved by an

NPS Program engineer when the BMP will be installed with NPS funds or used as match.

- Applicants must include a task to obtain all federal, state and local permits that may be needed to complete the work plan. This task should also include a list of permits that will be obtained prior to BMP implementation (General Environmental Permit Information checklist is available [here](#)).
- Proposals that will utilize NPS funds for technical and staff support and implement BMPs using other sources of funding (Farm Bill for example) will not have to provide specific locations and BMPs at the proposal stage. Rather, such proposals must include a description of the methodology that will be used to target the pollutants/causes/sources and critical areas of the applicable watershed management plan. Applicants should be aware that if selected for funding:
  - BMPs must be designed and installed according to recognized standards (The Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide, Michigan DEQ Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices Manual, or Statewide Low Impact Development [LID] manual for example).
  - Structural or physical BMPs installed with non-federal funds and used as match for the project require DEQ engineering review and approval.
  - Projects will be required to report on the location, costs, and load reductions for each installed BMP.
- Proposals that implement physical BMPs to address active/known localized sources of NPS pollution in high quality waters must describe the basis for selecting the site(s) in terms of measurable water quality improvements. Priority will be given to those proposals utilizing up-stream/downstream monitoring or assessment as justification.

#### Land Protection Projects:

Implementing long-term protection techniques to prevent nonpoint source pollution due to land use changes that have or may impact water quality, including changes to local zoning or ordinances, and permanent conservation easements.

- Projects must be primarily based on preventing future water quality impacts from nonpoint sources but may also consider other secondary factors such as endangered species.
- Applicants must provide reporting measures directly related to the watershed management plan goals and water quality conditions addressed by the proposal. For example, a proposal intended to address phosphorus and sediment impacts to designated uses must project phosphorus and sediment loads that will be avoided by the proposal.
- Proposed conservation easements must be selected based on potential water quality benefits and must permanently protect the proposed area.
- NPS Program staff will inspect all proposed easement sites prior to signing a grant contract.
- Proposals including conservation easements that will be paid for or used to match NPS Program funds must provide maps showing each parcel of interest overlain with an easement boundary.

#### Infiltration Practices

Infiltration of storm water runoff is necessary to provide stable and healthy lakes and streams and it is strongly encouraged by the Michigan DEQ. However, a sufficient site characterization is needed to assure the practice will function properly and that it will not cause unintended environmental problems by impacting existing or creating new areas of soil and groundwater contamination. The following requirements are intended to provide guidance for applicants proposing to implement infiltration practices.

Prior to the DEQ signing a contract for projects including infiltration BMPs, and preferably as part of the proposal, applicants must:

- Note any known on-site conditions that would impede infiltration.
- Conduct a background check of the BMP location(s) to determine the potential for leaking underground storage tanks, past or present contamination that isn't registered as a known contaminated site, or other soil/groundwater concerns in the area (such as: drinking water wells, roads and structures). For guidance see the Due Diligence section of the Part 201 Citizens Guide, Baseline Environmental Assessments – BEA [here](#).

Note, the two bullets above must be completed prior to the DEQ signing a contract and they cannot be grant funded or used as match.

Proposals that include infiltration practices should provide a soil boring log, or equivalent method of soil characterization for each location. This will help to quantify infiltration rates and to rule out subsurface conditions that may impede or prohibit infiltration (such as high water table, fine grained soils, or contamination) prior to construction. If this information is not presented as an attachment to the proposal, a task must be included in the proposal work plan to conduct this work. Collection of this information can be grant funded or used as local match. See [Work Plan Instructions](#) for specific required tasks.

Soil boring log requirements:

- Each boring should be to a depth of an impermeable layer (including bedrock), water table, or a minimum of four (4) feet below each proposed practice.
- Using the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) or equivalent, note grain size distribution percentages, moisture, color, odors, and staining for each infiltration BMP location.

Infiltration Practice Design:

- Subsurface findings must be incorporated into the final site plans.
- It must be demonstrated that infiltration practices will not exacerbate known sources of groundwater or soil contamination.

Where known sources of contamination exist as defined by Part 201, Environmental Remediation, or Part 213, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 1994 PA 451, as amended, additional design features may be necessary to prevent exacerbating onsite contamination. Applicants proposing infiltration practices near areas of contamination will be asked to show that the practice does not increase the magnitude or extent of the contamination.

### Rain gardens

The NPS program recommends the use of mature plants over the use of plugs, and discourages the use of seeds to establish the rain garden plantings.

### Dams and Dam Removal

- Eligible Activities:
  - Pre-removal engineering designs for dam deconstruction and stream restoration.
  - Analysis of reservoir sediment samples for contaminants, as necessary to generate the removal design.
  - Stream channel restoration or stabilization practices following, or performed in conjunction with, dam removal.
  - Pre- and post-removal monitoring, especially to assess sediment and hydrologic impacts or biological changes.
- Ineligible Activities:
  - Deconstruction of existing dam structures.

- Stabilization or removal of contaminated sediments.
- Additional information on Dams and Dam Removal is available on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [Dam Management](#) website.

#### Projects within Phase II Storm Water Areas

Activities that are above and beyond permit requirements are eligible for funding. However, the proposal must clearly identify permit requirements and the activities for which grant funding is being requested, or which will be used as match. Additional information on Phase II requirements and a list of Michigan's Phase II (MS4) storm water communities can be found [here](#). Applicants invited to submit full proposals will be required to assert that projects in MS4 communities meet the criteria described in the USEPA's supplemental guidance for 2007-2009: "Watersheds In and Near Metropolitan Areas – Preventing, Reducing, and/or Eliminating Impacts Associated with Urban Runoff." ([Appendix E](#))

#### On-Site Waste Water Treatment Systems

It is a long term goal of the NPS Program to protect and restore waters of the state through control of discharges from inadequately functioning on-site wastewater treatment systems. Proposals targeting these efforts through the implementation of watershed management plans may be eligible for funding. Specific guidance for the use of NPS grants for addressing on site waste water treatment systems can be found in [Appendix F](#).

Due to human health concerns, the NPS Program will allow an exception to the requirements of identifying specific locations, BMPs and including site plans for proposals to identify and correct failed or failing on-site waste water treatment systems under the following conditions:

- The proposal meets all of the requirements in [Appendix F](#).
- The proposal will include a methodology for addressing systems ineligible for (i.e. cheater pipes), or in excess of, NPS funding.

#### Outreach and Education

Whether as a stand-alone effort or as part of a larger restoration or protection project, outreach and education efforts should focus on the targeted audiences, critical areas, and priority pollutants identified in the approved watershed management plan. Typically, before and after surveys utilizing the Social Indicator Data Management and Analysis (SIDMA) tool are used to measure the impact of the outreach campaign through changes in awareness, behavior, constraints and other social indicators. Additional information can be found in [Appendix G](#).

- Results of the "pre" survey should be used to refine the proposed outreach message and methods.
- Grant fund contributions are limited to \$150,000. Match contributions are not limited.

#### **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Assurance Project Plans**

All projects must include an evaluation component to determine the success of the project activities in relation to the stated project goals. Projects that collect physical, chemical, biological, or social information for evaluation or project guidance will be required to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for approval by the DEQ. A QAPP is not needed for the proposal phase.

Projects that propose water quality monitoring to determine the status of designated uses will be required to meet or exceed the State's sampling protocols so the State can make a decision on designated use support using project data. This requirement does not apply to other water quality monitoring that might be proposed as part of the project, such as pollutant source identification monitoring.

The QAPP guidance for **environmental monitoring** is located [here](#). Applicants proposing to perform environmental measurements (water quality, macroinvertebrate populations, stream morphology, etc.) must complete and include the environmental monitoring table in the Project Description, [Section F](#). Applicants are encouraged to contact Joe Rathbun (517-284-5517; [rathbunj@michigan.gov](mailto:rathbunj@michigan.gov)) prior to submitting a proposal including environmental monitoring.

The QAPP guidance for **social surveys** is [here](#). Applicants proposing to perform a social survey work plan task must complete and include the social monitoring table in the Project Description, [Section F](#). Applicants are encouraged to contact Robert Sweet (517-284-5520; [sweetr@michigan.gov](mailto:sweetr@michigan.gov)) prior to submitting a proposal including social monitoring. Additional information on social monitoring is in [Appendix G](#).

### **Project Outcomes**

**Restoration projects** should be designed to meet one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Result in measurable improvements that meet the USEPA strategic targets, Sub-objective 2.2.1
  - i. Fully restore impaired water bodies that are [not attaining designated uses due to NPS causes](#).
  - ii. Remove at least one specific cause of water body impairment from impaired water bodies that are [not attaining designated uses due to NPS causes](#).
  - iii. Improve water quality in 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) subwatersheds in Michigan. Improved conditions mean that one or more of the designated use impairment causes are removed for at least 40 percent of the impaired water bodies within the subwatershed.
2. Result in measurable improvements in water quality in water bodies that are not meeting designated uses due to NPS causes.
3. Achieve or make substantial progress toward achieving the NPS load reduction targets of an approved TMDL or an approved watershed management plan in areas where a TMDL has not been developed.

**Protection projects** should be designed to meet one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Achieve or make substantial progress toward achieving the land use protection targets of an approved watershed management plan.
2. Result in measurable water quality improvement at NPS impacted sites in high quality watersheds.

**Outreach and Education projects** should be designed to meet the following outcome:

1. Result in measurable change in social indicators (e.g. awareness, behavior, knowledge) for targeted audiences in critical areas and focused on priority pollutants from the approved watershed management plan.

### **Areas of NPS Program Emphasis**

The NPS Program is encouraging projects that utilize LID and Green Infrastructure (GI) to address water quality and quantity issues under certain circumstances:

- Projects must be in watersheds with impairments caused by unstable hydrologic conditions.
- LID or GI must be identified as a high priority activity to address restoration or protection goals in the associated approved watershed management plan.
- LID or GI activities must be focused on critical areas identified in approved watershed management plans.

Projects that appropriately and comprehensively use LID or GI practices to address water quality issues will be more highly regarded.

## **Funding Priorities** (In ranked order)

### **Tier 1**

Projects focused on water bodies on the [2015 Fiscal Year Targeted Water bodies](#) list which implement the designated Priority Activities and meet one or more of the following outcomes or NPS Program emphasis:

- Restoration of impaired water bodies (Restoration Projects 1.i.).
- Removal of at least one specific cause of impairment from an impaired water body (Restoration Projects 1.ii.).
- Measurable water quality improvements in impaired water bodies or watersheds (Restoration Projects 1.iii. or 2.).
- Achieve the land use protection goals of an approved watershed management plan (Protection Projects 1.).
- Measurable water quality improvement at NPS impacted sites in high quality watersheds (Protection Projects 2.).
- Successful outreach and education campaign indicated by measurable change in social indicators (Outreach and Education Projects 1.).
- LID and GI practices consistent with the program emphasis above.

### **Tier 2**

Projects for any eligible water body that

- Meet one or more of the outcomes listed for Tier 1.
- Achieve or make substantial progress toward the NPS load reduction target of an approved TMDL or watershed management plan (Restoration Projects 3.).
- Achieve substantial progress toward the land use protection goals of an approved watershed management plan (Protection Projects 1.).

### **Tier 3**

Other NPS projects which are consistent with the eligibility criteria and the NPS Program Plan.

Proposals meeting the criteria for Tier 1 will be considered for funding first. We may select good Tier 2 projects over Tier 1 projects that poorly address priorities. Tier 3 proposals will be considered last.

Site selection should follow the prioritized list or prioritization strategies in the watershed management plan and implementation should proceed in a logical manner. Projects that include specific sites with landowner letters of support will rank higher than similar proposals which do not demonstrate land owner support.

## **Evaluation Criteria** (in priority order)

- The anticipation that the project will result in a water body meeting one or more of its designated uses.
- The anticipated improvement or protection of water quality.
- The consistency of the project with the priorities identified in the watershed management plan being implemented.
- Site specificity – proposals with site specific information will rank higher than proposals implementing practices over a defined area (proposals without specific sites identified).
- Demonstration that there is an identifiable source of funds for the future operation and maintenance of the proposed project.
- The anticipated water quality benefits of the project in relation to the cost (although a thorough cost/benefit analysis is not required).
- Whether the project provides water quality benefits to sources of drinking water.
- The ability of the applicant and the partners and contractors to carry out the project as demonstrated by previous NPS grants or submitted information.

- Financial and technical assistance from the partners in the project, as documented by letters of commitment.
- Financial and other resource contributions in excess of the required minimum match. *Note: The percent match listed in the proposal will be used in the project contract if the proposal is selected for funding.*
- Expectations for long-term water quality improvement or protection.
- The balanced distribution of projects throughout the state as part of project selection.

### **Process and Schedule**

**NOI:** The NPS Program is requiring all applicants interested in funding through this RFP to electronically submit a [NOI form](#) for each proposed project. Following the [NOI Instructions](#), submit all NOI forms in Microsoft Word<sup>®</sup> format to [deg-npsgrants@michigan.gov](mailto:deg-npsgrants@michigan.gov) before **5:00 p.m. August 20, 2014**. **Do not** submit the NOI form as a PDF document. This address should be used **only** to submit NOI forms. All questions and comments should be sent directly to [NPS Staff](#). The DEQ will reply to all NOI forms submitted to the listed address. If you do not receive a reply within two hours during regular business hours, please contact [Mr. Robert Sweet](#) ([sweetr@michigan.gov](mailto:sweetr@michigan.gov) or 517-284-5520) for assistance. Information supplied on the NOI form will be used to judge eligibility, and all eligible entities will be invited to submit a full proposal. **Full proposals will only be accepted from invited entities.** All applicants will be notified by the DEQ via e-mail on or before **September 3, 2014**, in regard to their eligibility and, if eligible, extended an invitation to submit a full proposal.

The request for a full proposal will identify a NPS program technical contact person; applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the identified NPS staff to discuss their project ideas and the program priorities.

**Full Proposals:** Each project should be applied for separately, with a complete proposal package consisting of **three** hard copies including a checklist signed by the preparer of the application and one electronic copy of all required components. Please read this information package carefully. Extraneous information will not be accepted or included in the grant proposal review process. Staple or clip the pages of the proposal. **Do Not bind the proposal or use a cover letter or cover sheet other than the NPS Program Application Cover Sheet.** If color graphics such as maps or photos are important for evaluating your proposal, your proposal package should include three color copies and an electronic copy of each.

The required electronic copy of your proposal must include **all** aspects of your proposal on a flash drive, CD, or DVD. The project description, work plan, time line, budget, and all necessary forms must be submitted using Microsoft Office compatible formats. The Cover Sheet (signed), maps, graphics, and photographs can be submitted as PDF or similar files.

Instructions for the grant proposal should be downloaded and followed. **The checklist on page seven (7) of the [instructions](#) must be completed and signed by the preparer of the application and submitted as part of the application.** Proposal evaluation will be based on the information received by the due date. Full applications from invited entities must be received **by 4:00 p.m., October 17, 2014**, or carrier dated (i.e., U.S Postal Service, United Parcel Service, and Federal Express) no later than **October 17, 2014**. Late materials will not be accepted or reviewed.

All required forms for this grant proposal are available from the NPS home page ([www.michigan.gov/nps](http://www.michigan.gov/nps) under "Grant Applicant Information"). Forms should be downloaded and saved to your computer, completed, and then submitted with the other components of the grant proposal. **Do not use forms from previous years or from other programs.**

### **Project Clarification/Revisions**

The DEQ may request additional information for clarification purposes. The DEQ can award grants for amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan.

### **Confidentiality**

Submitted proposal information is not confidential. Grant proposals are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, PA 442 of 1976, as amended.

### **Acceptance of Contract Content**

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a project contract with the DEQ. A project contract consists of standard “boilerplate” language ([Appendix H](#)), the applicant’s project description, work plan, time line, and budget information. Failure of a successful applicant to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the grant award.

### **Deadlines**

- NOI forms must be e-mailed to [deq-npsgrants@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-npsgrants@michigan.gov) before 5 p.m. **August 20, 2014**. The DEQ will reply to all NOI forms submitted to this address. If you do not receive a reply within two hours during regular business hours, please contact [Mr. Robert Sweet \(sweetr@michigan.gov\)](mailto:sweetr@michigan.gov) or 517-284-5520) for assistance.
- Full applications from invited entities only must be received before **4 p.m., October 17, 2014**, or carrier dated (i.e., U.S Postal Service, United Parcel Service, and Federal Express) no later than **October 17, 2014**.

### **Please note:**

1. Dates from mail metering machines will not be accepted as a qualifying date. Metered mail must be delivered, or separately U.S. Postal Service post-marked by the deadline (metered mail is not usually post-marked – you must specifically request this service).
2. The tracking code and electronic tracking systems will be relied on to determine carrier dates for proposals sent via United Parcel Service and Federal Express.
3. Packages weighing one pound or more cannot be mailed from drop boxes under United States Postal regulations. Packages weighing one pound or more left in a drop box will be returned to the sender undelivered.
4. Faxed or e-mailed full proposals will not be accepted.
5. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.

### **Submittal Addresses:**

**Postal Address** for US Postal Service:  
Attention: Robert Sweet  
Department of Environmental Quality,  
Water Resource Division,  
Nonpoint Source Program  
P.O. Box 30458  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958

**Physical Address** for UPS, FedEx, etc.:  
Attention: Robert Sweet  
Department of Environmental Quality,  
Water Resource Division, Nonpoint Source Program  
Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

### **Contacts:**

For questions about this RFP and its contents, contact [Robert Sweet](#), (517-284-5520).  
For questions about specific project ideas contact the appropriate [NPS Staff](#).

## **Other Funding Sources**

The following programs fund projects similar to those requested in this RFP and they are noted here for informational purposes only. Responding to this RFP will not result in funding from these programs.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

The USEPA has announced up to \$27.5 million will be available in three categories under the [2014 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI). The categories include:

- Invasive Species Control
- Sediment Reduction from Priority Watershed Tributaries (GLRI Priority Watershed in Michigan are the Saginaw and Maumee Watersheds).
- Watershed Management Plan Implementation (in areas outside of the Priority Watersheds)

### **State Revolving Fund (SRF)-NPS Projects**

Implementation projects eligible for NPS Program funding are generally also eligible for SRF NPS funding. The DEQ director annually allocates SRF funds between traditional point source projects and the NPS projects. At least two percent of available SRF lending capacity must be allocated to NPS projects that are consistent with Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Additional information is available on the [Clean Water Revolving Funds](#) Website.

### **Dam Management Grant Program**

This program provides funding and technical assistance to local and state units of government, non-profit groups and individuals to manage dam removal, repair and major maintenance projects that will enhance aquatic resources and fishing opportunities along with reducing infrastructure costs and improving public safety in Michigan. Application materials for the 2014 grant cycle will be online [here](#) in August with applications being due in November. The DNR currently anticipates \$350,000 to be available for 2014 grant awards.

### **Coastal Zone Management Program**

Each year the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) awards grant funds to coastal communities and partners located within [Michigan's coastal zone](#). Grants range from \$10,000 up to \$100,000, require 50% match and are competitively selected based on CZMP objectives. Projects can include efforts that protect, manage and restore public access, coastal habitat, coastal erosion, flood hazards, and water quality. Types of planning projects include, but not limited to, historic and cultural preservation, coastal education, community master planning and zoning, and waterfront redevelopment studies. Low-cost construction projects such as habitat protection, land trails, water trails, boardwalks, scenic overlooks, education and/or interpretive displays, restoration of historic coastal structures, and providing accessible structures for all users are also eligible. Coastal communities are notified in October each year about the availability of funding and are invited to submit an application. Additional details are available on the [program website](#) or from [program staff](#).