

WRRSP Call for Nominations with Important Program Information

Ohio EPA invites entities with potential Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) projects to nominate them for inclusion in our upcoming 2019 – 2020 WRRSP two-year funding cycle. Nominations will be accepted from July 2 through August 17, 2018, with qualifying projects being included as part of the 2019 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Program Management Plan.

When preparing nominations, remember that readiness-to-proceed remains an important consideration for WRRSP projects, so any information that can be helpful in assessing a proposed project's readiness- to-proceed will be considered as part of the project ranking process.

WRRSP details and supporting documents are [available here](#):

PLEASE NOTE: WRRSP NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2018** TO BE CONSIDERED. ONLY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE NOTE THAT, UPON RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDANCE OR ACCEPT SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION FOR YOUR PROJECTS.

Important Program information for the 2019 nomination period (2019-2020 funding cycle)

Notable Changes for 2019 nominations:

- Required pre-nomination site visits.
- Eligibility for projects with oil & gas leases will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- A 5-project cap on the number of active/open projects that an implementer may have administratively open at the time of nomination.
- Corridor and restoration projects may have an implementation horizon of no greater than three years.
- For restoration projects, both habitat and bioassessment post-restoration target scores are required.
- For restoration projects, stream and/or wetland restoration checklists must be included with the nomination.
- An accelerated 1-year funding option is being offered for protection projects that meet readiness to proceed criteria as determined by Ohio EPA DEFA.

Optional 1-year cycle (for protection projects only): the following must be submitted with the nomination form:

- Justification/need for an early award.
- Draft Management Plan.
- A "clean" title search (i.e. no encumbrance or ownership issues)
- Draft [Environmental Covenant](#) (including *Final* Exhibits)
- Executed purchase agreement.
- Full appraisal report.
- [Letter of Intent](#) from the project's Sponsor.

Projects with both habitat and biological assessment data will continue to be given priority over those based only on habitat assessments.

For projects that score within funding range for the 2019-2020 cycle, the following milestones must be met during Year 1 (2019):

- Draft Management Plans must be submitted by **April 1, 2019**.
- If a Restricted Appraisal Report is submitted with the nomination form, a Full Appraisal Report must be submitted by **May 1, 2019**.

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- Draft Environmental Covenant with final exhibits must be submitted by **June 1, 2019**.
- Final Management Plan and, for restoration projects, either a Final RFP (design-build) or 60% design plans (design-bid-build) must be submitted by **October 31, 2019**.
 - Note: Design costs for restoration work are eligible for reimbursement with WRRSP funding, but no funds will be available until a construction contract has been approved by DEFA and executed (during Year 2, after the sponsoring loan has been awarded and the Environmental Covenant has been recorded).
- Signed/Notarized Environmental Covenants must be submitted by **December 29, 2019**.

Program Info for next year's nomination period (2019-2020 funding cycle)

Expected changes for the 2020 nomination period:

- Implementers who have not submitted annual reports for all previously awarded WRRSP projects by December 31, 2019 will not be considered for funding for new projects during the 2020 nomination period.
- There may be a 3-project cap on the maximum number of projects an implementer will be permitted to have open at the time of nomination.

For further information, please contact Steve Malone at: steven.malone@epa.ohio.gov or 614-644-3663.