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Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program

Introduction

Advances in wastewater treatment practices have improved Ohio's surface water quality in the past 30 years. However, current data indicate that nonpoint source runoff, habitat degradation and man-made alterations also significantly impair water resources, thereby preventing attainment of Ohio's water quality goals.

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) addresses the loss of ecological function and biological diversity that is threatening the health of Ohio's water resources. The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) provides funds through the WRRSP to implement projects that will protect or restore aquatic habitat.

Eligible Applicants

An applicant to the WPCLF for a direct loan can also apply to carry out its own WRRSP project, or to sponsor a WRRSP project that will be implemented by another organization. WRRSP implementers may include political subdivisions, park districts, and not-for-profit organizations.

The Process

The sponsor and implementer of the WRRSP project sign an agreement describing the project and identifying their respective roles and responsibilities to carry it out.

The implementer must

demonstrate that it has the technical and institutional capacity to implement and permanently manage the project in a manner consistent with its water quality purposes.

Funding

Ohio EPA will advance a portion of the interest payments that will be received from the sponsor's direct loan to pay for the implementation of the WRRSP project. The amount awarded for a WRRSP project must be less than the amount of interest that the WPCLF will receive from the sponsor's direct loan.

No other repayment of the interest advanced for the WRRSP project is required. In addition, the interest rate on the sponsor's loan is reduced by up to 0.1 percent.

Project Selection

For the current year, Ohio EPA will make \$15 million available for WRRSP projects. Projects are classified as either restoration or protection projects, and are ranked within those categories. A WRRSP project is then designated for available funding based on its position on the priority list, and the sponsor's readiness to proceed with the direct loan project.

Other Considerations

- The costs required by consent decrees for Supplemental Environmental Projects are not eligible for WRRSP funding.

Eligible Activities

An eligible WRRSP project must, by itself or in combination with other activities, provide protection or restoration of aquatic habitat sufficient to fully meet or protect the designated uses of the benefitted water resource, as defined under Ohio's water quality standards. It must also help implement Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

Eligible projects include restoration activities such as stream bank stabilization and riparian re-vegetation, and protection activities such as the purchase of land or use limitations for permanent conservation.

- Preliminary WRRSP project plans must be completed prior to the award of funds.
- Limitations will be established to assure the compatibility of future uses of the project site with the water quality purposes of the project.

Additional Information

For more information, contact us at (614) 644-2798. Application materials and frequently asked questions are available through the WPCLF Program page on our Web site.