2017 CBSF Applicant Webinar for Pennsylvania Ag Conservation Partners



Accelerating local implementation of the most innovative, sustainable and costeffective strategies to restore and protect water quality and vital habitats within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Agenda

- 1. Webinar Instructions
- 2. Overview of Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
- 3. Intro to 2017 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund RFP
 - Special opportunities for PA Ag conservation partners
 - Corodination with NRCS CIG program
- 4. "Fine Print" and other important details



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Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
 - 1. Enter your query where it says "Enter a question for staff" and click send. Elizabeth will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
 - 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar will be available for download within 48 hrs. at NFWF.org/Chesapeake







A public-private funding partnership, administered by NFWF, that supports the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership through:

- Grants for implementation of local conservation and restoration projects OPEN NOW!!!
- Grants and other tools and resources to increase technical assistance and capacity for local partners **SUMMER 2017**
- Networking and information-sharing opportunities for watershed partners

Awarded more than \$11 million in Federal and private funding for projects in 2016 alone



Funding Partners













3. Review of 2017 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund RFP

Small Watershed Grants

Grant size: ✓ Between \$20,000 to and \$200,000

Matching Funds:

 ✓ Non-federal matching contribution equal to one-third of the grant request required

Eligibility:

 Non-profits, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, and K-12 educational institutions.

Duration:

✓ 2 years

Outcome: CBSF conservation objectives tied to 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Innovation Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants

Grant size:

✓ Between \$200,000 and \$500,000; up to \$1M for regional proposals.

Matching Funds:

✓ 1:1 non-federal match encouraged

Eligibility:

 ✓ Nonprofits, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, and educational institutions.

Duration:

✓ 3 years

Outcome: N/P/S reductions to the BAY ✓ Meets "innovation" bar

All NFWF grants MUST address at least one of the Conservation Objectives



STEWARDSHIP FUND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Restore and protect vital habitats

- ✓ Restore riparian areas (incl. buffers) to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- ✓ Restore eroding streambanks to reduce sediment pollution and improve in-stream fish habitat.
- ✓ Restore and enhance wetlands for water quality and habitat.
- Preserve forests, riparian corridors, wetlands and farmland vital for protecting water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Improve fish passage to provide access to up-stream habitat for fish target species (esp., Eastern brook trout, river herring, American shad, and American eel).
- ✓ Restore sustainable populations of native oysters.

Improve conservation on private lands

- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and restore wetlands, streams, and riparian forested buffers on working forests and farms.
- Reduce nutrient and sediment pollution and stormwater runoff from residential and commercial properties.

Improve urban stormwater management

✓ Store, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff through management practices such as bio-retention and rain gardens, etc.

CBSF Priority Funding Strategies

1. Targeted River and Watershed Restoration: projects capable of achieving measurable water quality improvements consistent with state WIPs, as well as habitat restoration and species recovery goals for targeted species

2. Green Infrastructure in Urban Landscapes: projects that build the capacity of local governments and watershed partners to implement green infrastructure for stormwater management

3. Innovation on Crosscutting Issues: innovative approaches that hold the promise to drive down costs, expand the effectiveness of restoration practices, and accelerate the pace of recovery



"Targeted Watersheds" Program Priority 1b: Implementing Priority Agricultural Practices in PA

- Seeking proposals to accelerate implementation of costeffective priority riparian restoration and soil health practices
- Focus on agriculturally-impaired watersheds (e.g. Pennsylvania's Integrated Water Quality Report, NFWF's Targeted Rivers and Watersheds)
- Expect practices to be designed and implemented consistent with prevailing standards and specifications relevant to each practice (e.g. Pennsylvania NRCS FOTG).



"Targeted Watersheds" Program Priority 1b: Implementing Priority Agricultural Practices in PA

- Funding may be available for landowner outreach, technical assistance, and associated monitoring activities
- Landowner Agreements must be secured prior to design and implementation of conservation practices
- Considering scale and appropriate CBSF grant program:
 - SWG: Smaller projects or those proposing the use of existing delivery systems to immediately accelerate practice implementation
 - INSR: Larger projects or those deploying new program delivery systems, landowner incentives, or partnership models or the application of existing models at larger regional scales



"Innovation" Program Priority 3a: Industry-Led and Market-Based Approaches for PA Agriculture

- Potential to generate pollutant load reductions beyond current approaches (e.g. public and private cost-share and technical assistance programs, federal or state regulatory programs, etc.)
- Include partnerships with relevant agricultural sector partners wherever possible
- Target opportunities to build upon private capital and agricultural markets to advance proposed solutions.
- <u>Must</u> provide clear evidence of some measurable nutrient and sediment load reductions during the project period and how nutrient and sediment reduction can be sustained over time.



"Innovation" Program Priority 3a:

Industry-Led and Market-Based Approaches for PA Agriculture

Example projects **<u>could</u>** include:

•Pilot new and/or creative incentives to increase conservation adoption, including the development of industry standards, reward and recognition programs, agricultural certainty and regulatory relief programs, and marketbased incentives

• Develop farmer-focused and producer-led communications and outreach campaigns that result in increased willingness to implement conservation practices and management that improve soil and stream health

• Increase the number and capacity of individuals to provide outreach, guidance, and technical assistance for conservation planning and implementation through innovative education and training, mentorship, and conservation workforce development initiatives



Don't Forget! Regional-Scale Restoration Program Delivery

- Targeting institutionalized partnerships for coordinated, regional delivery of on-the-ground water quality improvement and habitat restoration programs
- Proposals should aim to increase coordination through network development, shared staffing and equipment, shared planning, prioritization, and decision making, and integration of programs, planning, and funding via organizational mergers, Memoranda of Understanding, new governance models, etc.
- Projects must clearly demonstrate plans for sustaining new regional coordination and program delivery mechanisms beyond the requested grant term, including clear plans for self-financing, governance, etc.
- <u>Must</u> provide clear evidence of some measurable nutrient and sediment load reductions during the project period and how nutrient and sediment reduction can be sustained over time.



NFWF Coordination with PA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants

- 2016 Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council announcement
- PA NRCS Bay CIG Announcement of Program Funding anticipated shortly, 60-day application period
- Significant overlap in priorities, eligibility, and award details between NFWF CBSF and NRCS CIG programs
- Where possible, NFWF and NRCS encourage interested parties to apply for funding under both programs to increase potential for project funding under either program
- Where capacity is limited, NFWF and NRCS can direct applicants to "best fit"
- A few distinctions:
 - Individuals and for-profits eligible for CIG (not for NFWF)
 - NRCS emphasis on implementation of structural practices
- NFWF and NRCS to partner on coordinated review of applications to both programs

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



Metrics Overview



FieldDoc

To assist applicants in generating credible nutrient and sediment load reduction estimates, NFWF has partnered with the Chesapeake Commons and Maryland Department of Natural Resource to develop <u>FieldDoc</u>, a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of selected water quality improvement activities and associated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed grant projects.

NFWF will be hosting a demonstration webinar with Chesapeake Commons on March 23rd at 10 a.m. EST

Registration for the webinar can be found on NFWF's RFP page at: nfwf.org/chesapeake



Guidelines – The Fine Print

You will want to review the entire section, but here are some highlights / changes from last year:

- All applicants with active grants from NFWF must be in good standing in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and QAPPs (if required).
- Applicants will be required to indicate the status of all permits required to comply with federal, state or local requirements.
- If projects involve significant environmental monitoring or data collection/generation, applicants will be asked to develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) as part of their grant. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task if appropriate. So budget for it!
- When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.



Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

NFWF - Eligibility

Small Watershed Grants

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, and K-12 educational institutions.
- x Ineligible applicants include U.S. federal government agencies, state government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations.

Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, and educational institutions.
- x Ineligible applicants include U.S. federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations.



NFWF - Ineligible Uses of Funds

- **x** Projects that seek funding for land or easement *acquisition*, political advocacy, lobbying or litigation are **NOT** eligible.
- X Ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements (except to improve on baseline compliance, or develop cost-effective programs to implement MS4 permit requirements).

Note regarding policy on indirect.

Grantees may only use grant funds for indirect costs if:

- 1.) the grantee organization has a federally-approved indirect rate; OR
- 2.) They can take the de minimus 10% indirect cost rate without an approved NICRA

Direct administrative expenses are allowed



Implementation Grant Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed, evaluated, and scored based on *the extent to which* they meet the following criteria:

- •Environmental Results
- •Priority Strategies and Goals
- Partnership and Community Engagement
- Transferability and Dissemination Plans
- •Technical Merit, Work Plan, and Budget



Timeline for 2017 Grants

(Committee Reviews, Congressional/Board Notification through August)

- Grants AnnouncedAugust
- Grant Agreements Issued.....Likely starting in October



Quick Tips for Applicants

- ✓ If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login *TODAY* and familiarize yourself with the system.
- ✓ Turn off your pop-up blockers. If you use Internet Explorer, turn them off again and again...
- Print the "Tip Sheet" from <u>NFWF.org/Chesapeake</u> and use it as a reference tool, field-by-field in EasyGrants.
- \checkmark Do not mail letters of support to the office upload electronic copies.
- \checkmark Re-read the RFP. Call us if you're confused.
- ✓ Talk to people about your project idea. Listen.
- ✓ These are competitive grants. Your projects should have a "wow" factor.
- \checkmark Be strategic first, opportunistic second.
- ✓ Submit your proposal ON OR BEFORE May 9th
- ✓ Note that NFWF staff will not be in the office at 11:50 pm on May 9^{th} !



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