



NFWF



2022 Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins Grants Program Applicant Webinar

AGENDA

1. Webinar Instructions
2. Overview of 2022 PA Most Effective Basins Grants Program
3. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants



Jake Reilly,
Program Director



Stephanie Heidbreder,
Program Manager



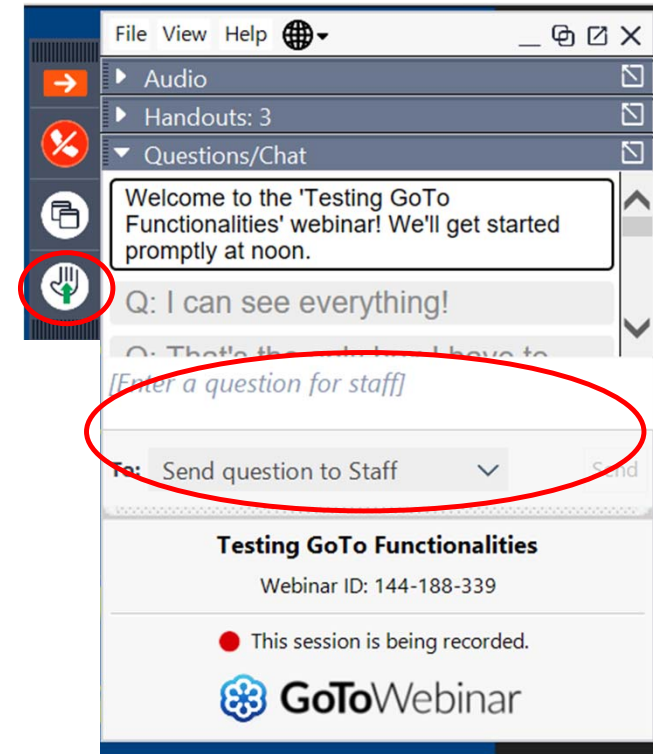
Nicole Thompson,
Program Coordinator



WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

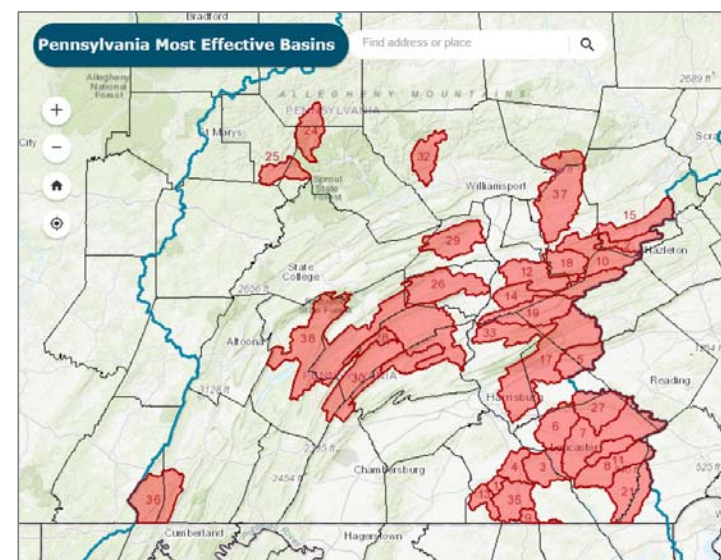
- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. To ask a question:
 1. Enter your query where it says “Enter a question for staff” and click send. Nicole will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A. OR
 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar.
- 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



PA MEB PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Priority:	Rapid implementation of cost-effective agricultural nitrogen load reductions
Geographic Focus:	Selected basins in PA's CB watershed
Applicant Eligibility:	Conservation districts, NRCS-approved Technical Service Providers, county action plan coordinators, local gov't*, nonprofits*
Landowner/Operator Eligibility:	Individuals and entities with ownership or management control of an agricultural operation
Evaluation Criteria:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost-effectiveness for ag N 2. Readiness to implement 3. Co-benefits
Grant Size:	Up to \$1,000,000 per award
Matching Requirements:	N/A, but encouraged
Project Duration:	18-24 months (ASAP!)



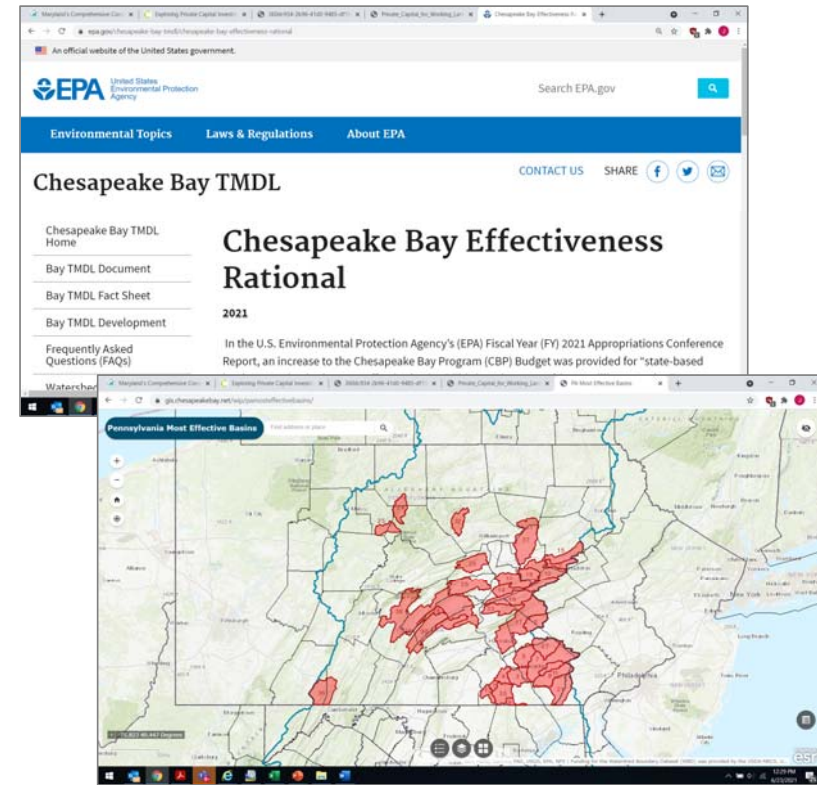
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GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

- EPA Appropriations: Increase in the CBP budget for “state-based implementation in the most effective basins”
- MEBs subsequently determined by EPA based on both cost effectiveness and load effectiveness
 - Cost effectiveness: emphasis on agricultural nitrogen load reductions (e.g. \$/lb)
 - Load effectiveness: considers effect on DO based on land to water, delivery, and DO response
- Implementation must occur **wholly within** defined basins of PA's CB watershed



APPLICANT AND LANDOWNER/OPERATOR ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants: Conservation districts, NRCS-certified TSPs, CAP coordination entities, local governments*, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations*

- Local gov't and nonprofits must provide letters of support from affected conservation district and CAP coordinators
- Awards may include actual costs only; recipients may not apply loaded rates or realize profit from an award of federal financial assistance funds

Eligible Landowners/Operators: Individuals and entities with ownership or management control of an agricultural operation, per PA statute, located in MEB





Eligible Practices

- Identified by EPA based on the demonstrated ability to yield low-cost reductions in agricultural nitrogen loading
- Includes both annual (i.e., “management”) and structural (i.e., “engineered”) practices
 - Tillage Management
 - Tree Planting
 - Wetland Restoration
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Animal Waste Management Systems
 - Manure Incorporation
 - Manure Injection
 - Manure Transport
 - Barnyard Runoff Control
 - Loafing Lot Management
 - Alternative Crops
 - Retirement of Highly Erodible Land
 - Cover Crops –Traditional
 - Cover Crops – Commodity
 - Forest and Grass Buffers
 - Forest and Grass Buffers w/ Exclusion
 - Core Nutrient Management – Nitrogen
 - Supplemental NM – N Rate
 - Supplemental NM – N Placement
 - Supplemental NM – N Timing
 - Soil and Water Conservation Plans



EVALUATION CRITERIA #1 – COST-EFFECTIVENESS

- NFWF will utilize **cost-effectiveness for ag N load reduction** as the principal program evaluation criteria
- Calculated as the **total project funding request** divided by **total N load reduction potential** from the project
- Total N load reduction potential considers **annual N load reduction** from proposed practices and **proposed timeframes** for sustaining implementation/performance
- CBP-approved **practice credit durations** used as default timeframes (*see Appendix A*), with option for applicants to extend via innovative approaches

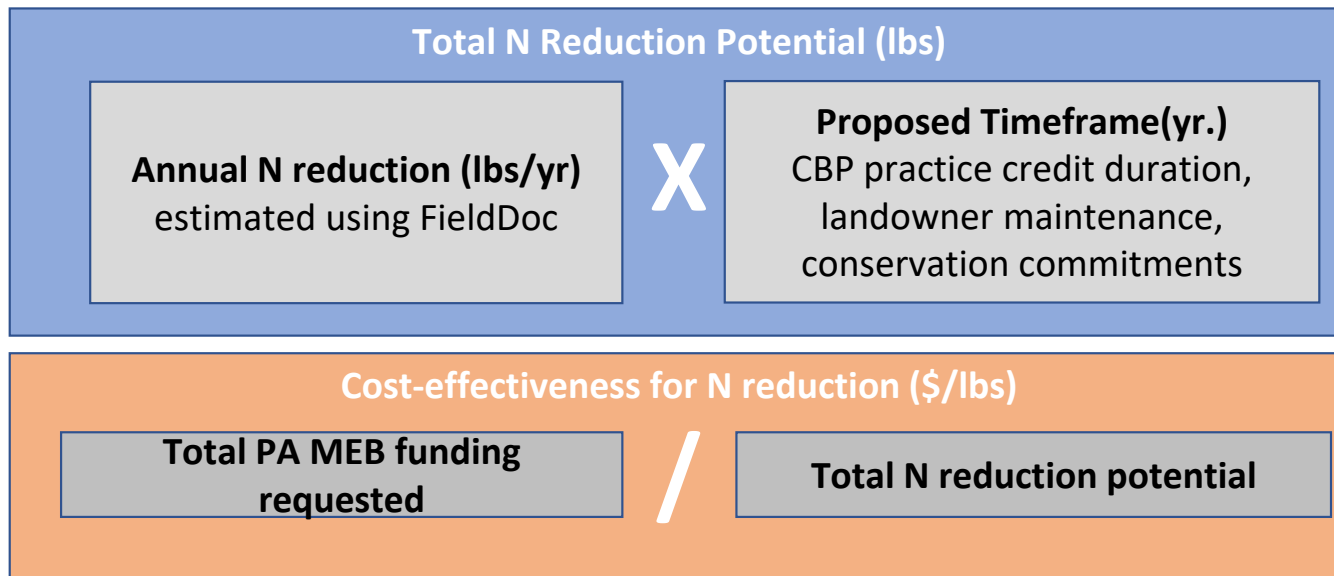



Appendix A
Eligible Practices for the PA-MEB Program

CBP Practice Name (Practice Credit Duration)	Definition	Other Common Practice Names and Standards
Tillage Management (Annual, 1 year)	Conservation tillage involves the planting, growing and harvesting of crops with minimal disturbance to the soil. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Residue Tillage: Maintains 55 to 70 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting Conservation Tillage: Maintains 20 to 50 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting High Residue, Minimum Soil Disturbance Tillage: Maintains at least 60 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residue and Tillage Management, no till (NRCS 529) Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS 345)
Tree Planting (10 years)	Any trees planted on agricultural land, except those used to establish riparian forest buffers, targeting lands that are highly erodible or identified as critical resource areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windbreak/Shelter establishment (NRCS 580) Tree/Shrub Establishment (NRCS 632) Tree Planting (FSA QP3) Shrubland Tree Planting (FSA QP5A)
Wetland Restoration (25 years)	Includes any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland Restoration (re-establishment): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former wetland. Wetland Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded wetland. Wetland Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific function(s). Wetland Creation (establishment): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland that did not previously exist at a site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland restoration (NRCS 657) CBP or CBP wetland restoration (QP2) and wetland restoration, non-food/plan (QP2.5A)
Prescribed Grazing (10 years)	Pasture management and grazing techniques to improve the quality and quantity of the forages grown on pastures and reduce the impact of animal travel lanes, animal concentration areas or other degraded areas. Prescribed grazing systems must maintain a vegetative cover of 60% or greater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed intensive grazing: Prescribed grazing (NRCS 528 or 529A)

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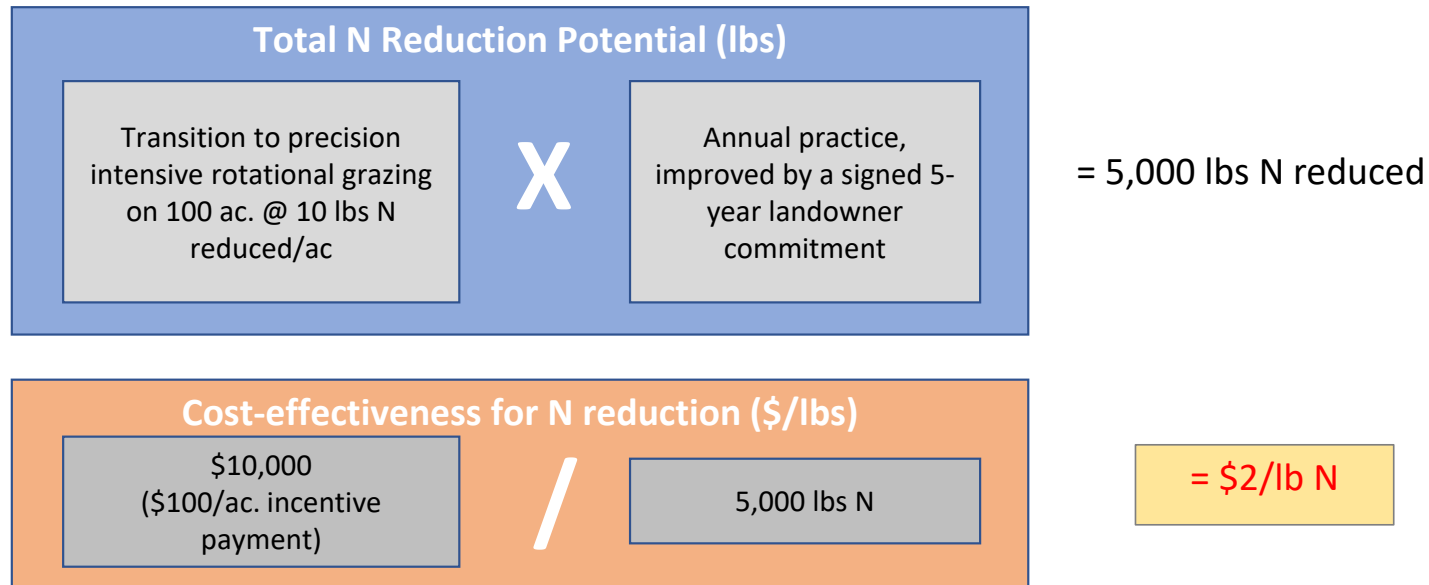
EVALUATION CRITERIA #1 – COST-EFFECTIVENESS



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EVALUATION CRITERIA #1 – COST-EFFECTIVENESS



EVALUATION CRITERIA #2 – READINESS

- NFWF is seeking projects that can move quickly into implementation and delivery of load reduction benefits
- NFWF will consider the status of necessary planning, design, and permitting required to proceed with implementation
- The need for significant, additional technical assistance activities prior to implementation may impact assessment of readiness



EVALUATION CRITERIA #3 – CO-BENEFITS

- NFWF and program partners are seeking proposals that can also:
 1. Benefit other goals and outcomes of the [Watershed Agreement](#) and NFWF's [Chesapeake Bay Business Plan](#)
 2. Deliver operational and/or financial benefits (e.g. reducing operating costs, simplifying or streamlining farm management processes) for cooperators
- See additional resources on the multiple benefits of eligible practices, developed by CBP in support of Phase III WIP planning



ASSOCIATED EASYGRANTS METRICS

Applicable Metrics	Metric Description/Instructions
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N avoided (annually)*	Please use FieldDoc to develop estimates of the total nitrogen load reduction potential your proposed project. Enter FieldDoc-generated pollutant load reduction totals in this field then upload your FieldDoc Project Summary in the "Uploads" section.
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs	Enter the total number of acres under agricultural or non-urban BMPs to reduce nutrient or sediment loading. Do not double-count individual acres which have multiple BMPs.
CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of riparian habitat restored through the implementation of forest or grass buffers that are at least 35 feet wide. If you're implementing livestock exclusion, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock exclusion -- miles of fencing installed" metric. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), the % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%), the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Swamp), the buffer width, and the acres.
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops	Enter the number of cropland acres with cover crops practices. Please describe the cover crop practices in the NOTES section.
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage	Enter the number of cropland acres with conservation tillage practices. Please describe conservation tillage practices in the NOTES section.
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with enhances nutrient management	Enter the number of cropland acres with enhanced nutrient management practices other than or in addition to conservation tillage or cover crops. Please describe the nutrient management practices in the NOTES section.
CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with managed grazing	Enter the number of acres with managed grazing (i.e., promoting plant growth above and below ground, improving wildlife habitat, and maximizing soil carbon through a variety of grazing approaches). Please describe the grazing practices in the NOTES section.
CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed	Enter the number of miles of livestock exclusion installed. Assume activities include exclusion fencing and a 35-foot forest or grass buffer, unless otherwise noted.
CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of wetland habitat restored, created, or enhanced.
CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement	Enter the number of acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30-yr). Assuming the specific parcel(s) has been identified, in the NOTES indicate what % of natural land cover would have been cleared in the absence of the easement(s).
CBSF - Land, wetland restoration - Number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted for all non-urban projects/practices. In the NOTES section, specify the specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), # of acres, and average # of trees per acre.

INELIGIBLE USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- X** Procurement of equipment, services, or systems that uses telecom equipment or services produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation
- X** Political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- X** Direct land or easement acquisition
- X** Operations under enforcement action by PA DEP, SCC, or U.S. EPA are ineligible for program funding



OTHER COST CONSIDERATIONS

Equipment: Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases.

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

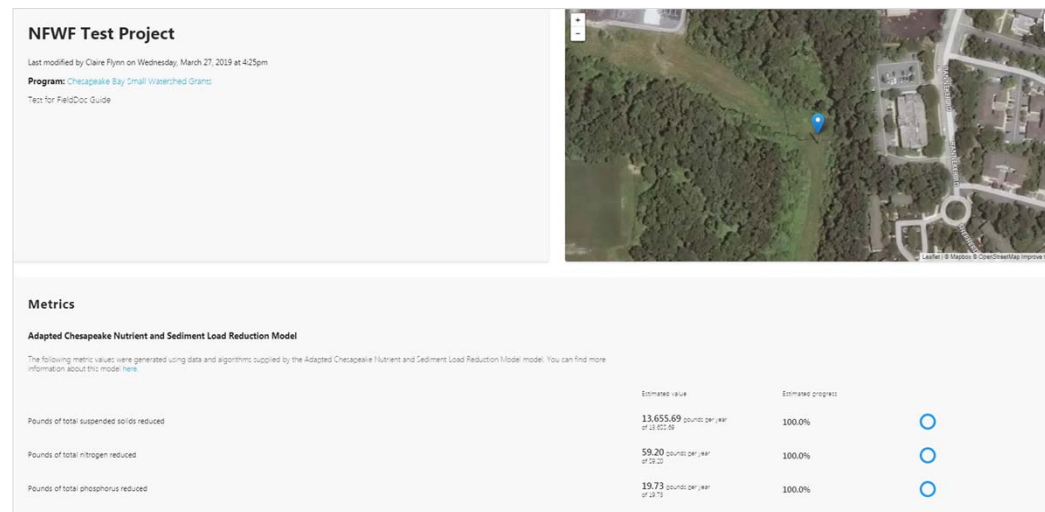
Direct administrative expenses are allowed.



FIELDDOC

NFWF has partnered with The Commons to develop [FieldDoc](#), a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of selected water quality improvement activities and associated load reductions

NFWF is hosting a demonstration webinar for FieldDoc on Thursday, March 3rd at 10:00AM EST



2022 UPLOADS – APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC FORM – NEW

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities. To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic information about their workforce demographics on this form.

As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand how our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for this information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, although the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website. not share identifying information about any particular entity or project. These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.

The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.

Instructions: Complete all pertinent fields *shaded in green*. Your Human Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. Please be sure to complete the General Information section. If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/not sure" option instead of guessing. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. **Do not make any other changes to this form.** You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still must upload this form to Easygrants with your application and complete the first section of the form.

All applicants must complete this section, even if you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months or are opting out for another reason.

If you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months you do not need to provide it again but you must still complete this top section of the form and submit it with your proposal.

Easygrants project # from your grant application:

Grant program name shown on the RFP:

If you are opting out, select a reason from the dropdown list in the green box:

General Information

Date Completed:

Project Title:

Organization Full Name:

Organization EIN:

Organization Type:

Organization Size (number of employees)

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

PART 1: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION - ALL EMPLOYEES (if applicable)

Please provide the following demographic information about all of your organization's employees, including senior leaders.

1. How many people currently work for your organization? (Include temporary and part-time employees in your response but do not include contractors)

Total Number:

2. How many of your employees identify as each gender?

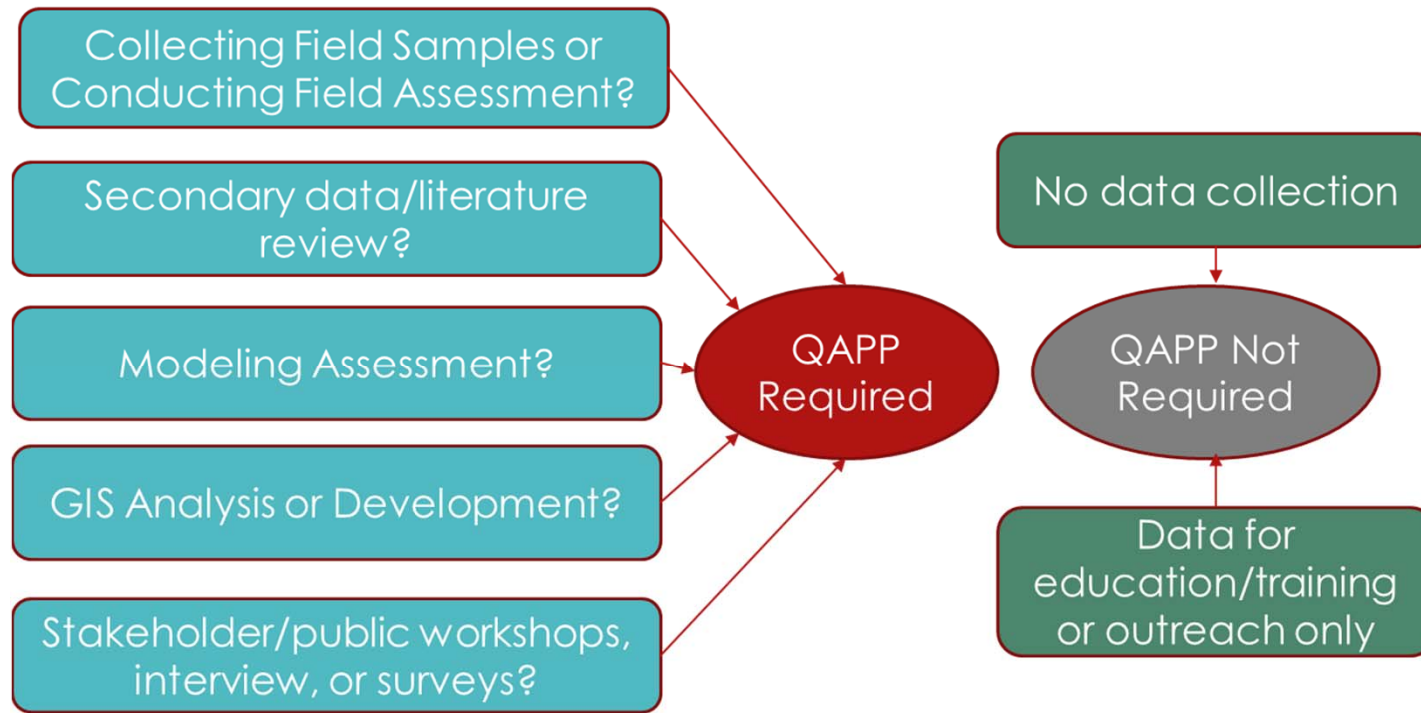
Female:

2022 MEB FULL PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – COMMUNITIES IMPACTED

Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place, who will benefit from the project, and how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation. Provide demographic information on the community(ies), including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates.

- Describe community characteristics of the project area and identify any communities impacted.
- Describe outreach and community engagement activities.
- Use demographic data to document (poverty statistics, school lunch data, demographic records to articulate high need or underserved communities).
 - This data can be found using Census data, School District data, State data centers, EJ Screen, and other sources

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE



Note that data collection related to engineered practices may not need a QAPP but may be covered under a Quality Assurance Statement which requires no additional documentation

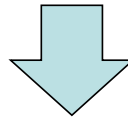
<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund/tools-current-grantees/quality-assurance>

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE

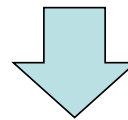
- Applicants **can and should** budget time and resources in their MEB proposal to complete this task.
- Reimbursement for project activities, including non-data collection activities, may be delayed until quality assurance compliance requirements are complete.
- **New for 2022-** Projects that require a QAPP should budget time and resources to complete the QAPP and have it approved within the *first 3 months of the grant's period of performance*. The timeline for receiving review feedback and comments and subsequent submittal for EPA approval is dependent upon the quality of the draft QAPP submission and may involve several iterations.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE

Prepare a draft QAPP: Your document will be reviewed by the external QAPP consultants at Cardno. Comments are dependent upon the quality of the QAPP submission and may involve several iterations prior to submission to EPA. Each resubmission of the draft QAPP to Cardno will initiate a 30-day review and comment period.



QAPP is technically approved and submitted to the EPA by NFWF: EPA will have a chance to review and comment on the draft QAPP prior to providing their signature. It is our goal that QAPPs submitted to EPA receive no additional feedback and are technically sound enough to be signed by them.



QAPP Review and Approvals: NFWF will advise grantees concerning the status of the QAPP review (e.g. approved, requested revisions, etc.) and circulate the final, signed version. The QAPP tag restricting payment on data collection activities is removed.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Grantees must obtain signed agreements with participating landowners prior to grant execution
- Match, while not required, is encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to report on both traditional non-federal match, as well as “leverage” from complementary federal programs
- Unless otherwise noted, all conservation and restoration practices implemented through the PA-MEB program must conform to established and recognized standards and practices specifications



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- All **applicants with active grants from NFWF must be in good standing** in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and quality assurance (if required).
- Applicants must demonstrate awareness and 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 may be asked to develop quality assurance documentation as part of their grant. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task if appropriate.
- When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.



Timeline for 2022 MEB Grants Program

RFP Released:	Wednesday, February 16th
Applicant Webinar:	Tuesday, March 1st
FieldDoc Webinar:	Thursday, March 3rd
Proposals Due:	Thursday, April 28th
Proposal Review:	May
Board Approval:	August
Award Notification:	September (estimated)



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QUICK TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- ✓ Re-read the RFP. Call us if you're confused.
- ✓ Talk to people about your project idea. Listen to feedback.
- ✓ These are competitive grants. Your projects should have a “wow” factor.
- ✓ Be strategic first, opportunistic second.
- ✓ Submit your proposal **ON OR BEFORE April 28th**
- ✓ Note that NFWF staff will not be in the office at 11:59 pm on April 28th!



Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



QUESTIONS?

(202) 857-0166 | www.nfwf.org/chesapeake

NFWF Chesapeake Staff:

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Nicole Thompson, Program Coordinator

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Easygrants Questions

Easygrants@nfwf.org

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Kristen Hughes Evans	kristen@sustainablechesapeake.org	(415) 730-7503	• Agricultural Conservation
Elizabeth Feinberg	liz.feinberg63@gmail.com	(610) 212-2345	• All Sectors
Katie Ombalski	katie@woodswaters.com	(814) 574-7281	• Agricultural Conservation • Habitat Restoration

AGENDA

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2. Overview of 2022 PA Most Effective Basins Grants Program
- 3. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants**



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Program Coordinator



HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Step One: Create an Account



Enter your login ID and password and click **Log In** below. If you have forgotten your password, click **Forgot your password?** below.
If you are a first time visitor to this system, click **Register here** below.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Log In

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Login ID / Email

Password

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[Forgot Password?](#)

Log In

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:

- [Use a Supported Browser](#)
- [Enable Pop-ups](#)
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For Technical assistance, please contact us via [e-mail](#) or phone 202-595-2497.
[Download Adobe Reader](#)

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PLEASE ADD A PHONE NUMBER!

- Once you have created your Easygrants log-in and or you log-in as an existing user, please visit review your contact details and make sure that you provide a phone number.



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Science. Restoration. Partnership.

BUDGET TIPS

- **Concise Budget Narrative must be included for *every* line item.**
- Budget should only include the grant amount requested from NFWF
- Must comply with [OMB's Uniform Guidance](#)
- Itemize all costs in appropriate budget categories.
- Avoid lumping costs e.g., All Materials and Supplies: \$10,000.
- Total Amount Requested in Project Information section must equal the Budget Grand Total in Budget section



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FINANCIAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

All financial documentation must:

- Represent the same fiscal year period
- be the most recent financial information available and *less than* two years old


Further details on document requirements and for FAQs [here](#).



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Let's try it...

**NFWF**

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To access a task below, [click the task name link in the Task column](#).
Peer Reviewers: To view the proposal you are reviewing please click the "Third Party Review" link. Please do not click View PDF, as it will open a copy of the review you are submitting and not the proposal.

Apply for FundingView All My Tasks

MyTasks

Easygrants ID	Primary Contact/PI	Task	Program Name	Funding Cycle Name	Status	Outcome	Due Date	
62195	Question, Claire	Full Proposal	Grants	Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Implementation 2018	Incomplete	Not Submitted	9/4/2018	View PDF

For Technical assistance, please contact us via [e-mail](#) or phone 202-595-2497.
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QUESTIONS?

(202) 857-0166 | www.nfwf.org/chesapeake

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Easygrants Questions

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Elizabeth Feinberg	liz.feinberg63@gmail.com	(610) 212-2345	• All Sectors
Katie Ombalski	katie@woodswaters.com	(814) 574-7281	• Agricultural Conservation • Habitat Restoration