

Date: November 20, 2018

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Request for Proposals:
Wetland Easements and Restoration
Pre-Bidders Meeting and Question and Answers
November 5, 2018

Attending: Julie Follensbee (DEC), Laura Lapierre (DEC), Jordyn Geller (DEC), Bethany Sargent (DEC), David Pasco (DEC), Andrea Dotolo (Trudell Consulting Engineers), Allaire Diamond (Vermont Land Trust)

Questions and Answers

- 1. Q: We are looking for clarity on the combination of what could happen along with wetland restoration. Our project proposal would be along a river corridor and would include wetland restoration along a buffer, but also would include the river corridor aspect. This project would fit nicely as a wetland restoration with that piece of land, but we are aware that past projects have not been funded.**

ANSWER: The RFP does allow for river corridor easement along buffers, but that larger activity can be eligible as a part of this grant. However, the prioritization is based on wetland restoration aspect of the project.

- 2. How does the mapping need to correspond to the project area?**

ANSWER: The mapping is not 100% accurate, but the project does need to correlate with the ANR Atlas layer. There needs to be a relationship with the mapped polygons to be eligible – this doesn't mean they have to overlap, but the mapping should indicate the need in the general area.

- 3. Is there a preference on an area with multiple small projects, or one large area?**

ANSWER: A larger project would have a larger area scored, so most likely would score higher, however projects with multiple areas are eligible.

- 4. How was the mapping layer made?**

ANSWER: The map layer is a 2017 update to a 2007 Lake Champlain restoration plan. The identified areas on the landscape are modeled to be potential restoration sites. The goal of the project is to restore wetlands in the Lake Champlain basin in order to mitigate phosphorous. The mapping can have inaccuracies

- 5. What is the date the restoration needs to be completed by?**

ANSWER: The restoration needs to be completed by August 2020.

6. May we submit a proposal as a team? Are there any preferences on the lead organization?

ANSWER: You are encouraged to submit as a team, the entire team's experience will be considered in the scoring. We have no preference in which organization is the lead.

7. Will the size of the wetland be the most important scoring criterion?

ANSWER: There are number of areas that will be scored as outlined in the RFP, but one of biggest will be the site of the restoration. If the project is in the Missisquoi, St. Albans Bay, or Lake Carmi it will receive additional points as those areas are high priority. However there are many other criteria in the RFP including the budget and organization experience in wetland restoration that are factors.

8. With regard to the Arrowwood website, please provide the username for access to the parcel information?

ANSWER: An eligible project need only overlap with a polygon from the Arrowwood RCPP Wetland Restoration Model- Site Prioritization Map or the Wetland Restoration Potential layer on the ANR map. The provided password links the user to potential easement sites. The intent of the RFP is to accelerate projects that are already in some phase of development, not to necessarily identify and conduct outreach on new projects due to the limited timeframe.