

Notice of Contract Opportunity for MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Project Name: Wetland Restoration Partnership Projects

Details: The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is seeking to develop wetland credits through partnerships with landowners, local governments, and other entities to restore previously drained or filled wetlands. The credits generated by the wetland restoration project would be split between BWSR and the partner based on the terms of a partnership agreement. BWSR is requesting proposals from potential partners with sites located in the following Bank Service Areas (BSA): 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. This includes all or portions of the following counties: Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Clay, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomen, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine.

Partnership projects take advantage of the experience, capabilities, and technical resources of each partner. Respondents considering this option should be familiar with the wetland banking process and understand the technical and financial commitments associated with wetland banking as well as possess the financial means to support construction of a wetland banking project. For this RFP, BWSR has defined the partnership roles and responsibilities in the following manner.

- BWSR will be responsible for the planning, designing, and obtaining regulatory approval of the Mitigation Bank Plan under the Wetland Conservation Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, obtaining a Section 404 permit (if necessary), and obtaining);
- Partners will be responsible for construction (including any other permits associated with construction), post-construction monitoring for a period five years, and preparing, submitting, and receiving approval of a final wetland delineation report. Alternative arrangements for completing the monitoring and final delineation will be considered.
- Partners may propose to take responsibility for vegetation establishment and management at the site or elect to have BWSR be responsible for this task.

Additional information on partnership projects is provided on the BWSR website by navigating to the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program portion of the Wetlands tab on the BWSR website at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/local-government-road-wetland-replacement-program>. Potential respondents are strongly encouraged to read through this information prior to preparing and submitting a response to this RFP.

Restoration projects will be evaluated using the following criteria. The percentage in parentheses is the contribution of the criterion towards the total score for the project:

Credit Yield (20%)

Technical Feasibility (20%)

Functional Benefit for the Watershed (10%)

Rare or Difficult to Replace Wetland Functions or Characteristics (10%)

Qualifications of the Applicant (10%)
Cost per Credit (30%)

Copy of Request for Proposal: The RFP and submission forms are available on the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program portion of the Wetlands tab on the BWSR website at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/local-government-road-wetland-replacement-program>. The RFP and submission forms can also be obtained by submitting an email request with “Partnership RFP Request” in the subject line, to:

Tim Smith
Wetland Mitigation Coordinator
MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
tim.j.smith@state.mn.us

Proposal Deadline: Proposals submitted in response to the RFP in this advertisement must be received by mail or courier no later than 2:30 p.m. Central Time, April 7, 2021. Email and faxed proposals will not be considered. Proposals must be sent in a sealed envelope to:

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
ATTN: 2021 PP RFP
520 Lafayette Rd North
St Paul, MN 55155

This request does not obligate the State to complete the work contemplated in this notice. The State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation. All expenses incurred in responding to this notice are solely the responsibility of the responder.