

2016 Request for Proposals

CLOSING DATE
December 21, 2016

The West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) is requesting proposals for research expected to be funded March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Department of the Interior, will sponsor the research. Faculty from all West Virginia colleges and universities are encouraged to submit proposals.

Research Priorities

Proposals are invited that enhance the Environmental STEM Research Program at the Boy Scouts of America's Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. Important components of each proposal will be the potential for generating student training and information transfer. Proposals from new researchers that focus on preliminary explorations of innovative research areas will receive special consideration. Research topics of primary interest include the following:

Indicators of Long Term Climatic Trends

Stream Recovery from Mining Operations

- Stream recovery trends
- Comparative analysis with area streams

Successful applicants will develop aspects of the proposed research into a curriculum that will be taught to Boy Scouts of varying ages, typically 12-20 years of age. Proposed research and activities should complement the current Environmental STEM Research Program at the BSA Bechtel Summit and fit into the framework already established. Research areas already established in the program include Eco-hydrology, Wetland Ecology and Phenology. Proposals that enhance the scouting experience through education, research and training will receive the most attention.

Funding and Cost-Share

One year projects are requested with a start date of March 1, 2017 and end date of February 28, 2018. Funding selected proposals is dependent upon the availability of funds. It is expected that up to 4 projects will be funded at \$10,000 each. It is expected that approximately \$40,000 will be available for new and continuing projects in 2017. Colleges and universities receiving research grants must provide 2:1 cost-sharing (\$2 cost-share for every \$1 Federal). Original signed letters of cost-share commitment must be submitted as per the instructions on page 4 of this RFP. Investigators are encouraged to solicit co-sponsors for their research to meet the matching requirement. Federal funds shall not be used to pay indirect costs. Matching funds may contain indirect costs and non-federal salaries and benefits.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are faculty members or affiliates at institutions of higher education in the State of West Virginia.

Ineligible applicants are the following:

- a. Applications for research on health effects involving human subjects.

- b. Applications for research involving oceanography (estuarine research applications are acceptable).
- c. Applications submitted by principal investigator(s) that have not met reporting requirements on a previous award by the USGS.

Contacts

Inquiry	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Research priorities; research program	Paul Ziemkiewicz	304-293-6958	Paul.Ziemkiewicz@mail.wvu.edu
STEM program and proposal content	Andrew Stacy	304-293-7085	astacy@mail.wvu.edu
USGS 104b program and proposal components	Tamara Vandivort	304-293-6968	Tamara.Vandivort@mail.wvu.edu
Electronic submission	Cameron Laird	713-303-8975	claird@phaseit.net

Time Line

The schedule for developing the FY 2017 Program is as follows:

- December 21, 2016 Deadline for filing proposals on the National Institute for Water Research (NIWR) web site
- Early January, 2017 West Virginia Water Advisory Committee for Water Research completes proposal evaluations and makes selections to forward to U.S. Geological Survey; applicants notified
- Mid January, 2017 Selected proposals sent to USGS for funding consideration
- March 1, 2017 USGS funding arrives at West Virginia Water Research Institute and is distributed to USGS-selected project recipients

Instructions for Proposal Submission

Applications must be filed on the NIWR internet web site at: <https://niwr.net/> prior to 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, December 21, 2016.

NOTE: Even if the web site allows for proposal submission after the deadline, only those proposals submitted by the December 21, 2016 5:00 EST deadline will be considered for selection by the West Virginia Advisory Committee for Water Research.

Each application must be submitted through the website at <https://niwr.net/> and shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the specific instructions provided at that site. Submission will require two distinctly different actions: (1) submission of specified information as text directly into a Web form and (2) "depositing" at the website document files containing detailed descriptions of the work being proposed. These files may be prepared using the word processing software of choice, but must be translated to PDF format prior to being deposited. **(Detailed instructions for preparing and submitting these files, and verifying their submission are provided at the website.)**

WEST VIRGINIA WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Instructions for Proposal Preparation

Project Proposals. (Includes research, education, information transfer, and information management system proposals. "Graduate Fellowship" and "Seed Grant" projects must each be entered as **separate** research proposals if they support research.)

Each proposal shall consist of the following 20 elements. Items numbered 1 through 12 are to be entered in the Web form provided at the website.

1. Title. Concise but descriptive.
2. Project Type. Choose from the following: Research, Information Transfer, Information Management System, Education, or Other (please specify).
3. Focus Categories. Choose a maximum of three focus categories from the list provided (Attachment A), with the most preferred focus category first.
4. Research Category. Choose from the following the one category that most closely applies: Social Sciences, Ground-water Flow and Transport, Water Quality, Biological Sciences, Engineering, or Climate and Hydrologic Processes.
5. Keywords. Enter keywords of your choice descriptive of the work.
6. Start Date. Enter the actual beginning date for the project. (No earlier than March 1, 2017.)
7. End Date. Enter the estimated end date for the project. (No later than February 28, 2018.)
8. Principal investigator(s). Provide name, academic rank, university, email address and phone number of the principal investigators.
9. Congressional District of the university where the work is to be conducted.
10. Abstract. Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and objectives in the space provided at the Internet site.
11. Budget Breakdown, as requested by the Web form (See Attachment B).
12. Budget Justification, as requested by the Web form (See Attachment C).

Items 13 through 20 are to be "deposited" as a file document in PDF format at the website. Note: This document shall not exceed 10 single-spaced pages - 12 point font, exclusive of resumes (item 20). Upon submission of your application components, the entire package will be available in PDF format for your inspection and final approval. You are responsible for verifying the approval, including compliance with the 10-page limit. If editing is required, you must edit the problem document(s) using your word processor and resubmit that application component.

13. Title. Please use the same title as was entered in the Web form under item 1, above.
14. Statement of regional or State water problem. Include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.

15. Statement of results or benefits. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
16. Nature, scope, and objectives of the project, including a timeline of activities.
17. Methods, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
18. Related research. (Research projects only). Show by literature and communication citations the similarities and differences of the proposed project or on-going work on the same topic.
19. Training potential. Estimate the number of graduate and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.
20. Investigator's qualifications. Include resume(s) of the principal investigator(s). No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

Indirect Cost Rate

Federal funds cannot be used to pay indirect costs. However, matching funds may contain indirect costs for the value of direct costs of both Federal and matching funds. (Refer to Attachment B.) Provide a copy of the approved indirect cost rate agreement or other documentation to support the proposed indirect cost rate to Tamara Vandivort, Assistant Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute at the address provided below. **Indirect cost rate documentation must be post-marked or e-mailed by December 21, 2016.** Note that this applies only to non-West Virginia University proposals.

Cost Share Letters of Commitment

Copies of original signed letter(s) of cost-share commitment are to be uploaded to niwr.net at the time of the submission of the application. Please be sure that scanned documents are legible. Cost-share commitment letters must contain the dollar value of cash and/or in-kind services committed to the project.

Reporting

The Principal Investigator of the successful proposal(s) will be obligated to submit an annual report(s) for to the WVVRI Director. The annual report(s) will be due May 30, 2017 and the final report(s) will be due May 30, 2018.

WEST VIRGINIA WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FY17 Proposal Review Process

1. All proposals should be prepared according to the instructions provided on the NIWR website.
2. Members from the West Virginia Water Advisory Committee for Water Research will review the proposals. Factors to be considered are:
 - a. Quality of written presentation
 - b. Importance of research
 - c. Qualifications of researchers
 - d. Potential for success
 - e. Journal articles published on previously-funded USGS 104b-funded projects, if applicable
3. In addition to the technical aspects of the proposal, administrative factors such as the following will be considered:
 - a. Budget justification and availability of matching funds
 - b. Researchers' efforts to coordinate proposed study with user agency or interest group
 - c. Potential to train water resource specialists
 - d. Relevance of proposal to the stated goals in the RFP
 - e. Potential for projects to help new researchers enter the research field
 - f. Promotion of projects that exhibit preliminary exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand understanding of water and water related phenomena
4. If an Advisory Committee member submits a research proposal to WWRI, that committee member will abstain from the proposal review process.
5. The Advisory Committee, after considering the technical merit of a proposal, will consider administrative factors listed under (3), and will make recommendations to the Director.
6. The Institute Director, giving due consideration to the available funding and the requirements of the funding agency (USGS), will develop a coherent research program and submit it to USGS to consider for review and approval.

ACID DEPOSITION	ACD
AGRICULTURE	AG
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES	CP
CONSERVATION	COV
DROUGHT	DROU
ECOLOGY	ECL
ECONOMICS	ECON
EDUCATION	EDU
FLOODS	FL
GEOMORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES	GEOMOR
GEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES	GEOCHE
GROUNDWATER	GW
HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY	HYDGEO
HYDROLOGY	HYDROL
INVASIVE SPECIES	INV
IRRIGATION	IG
LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY	LIP
MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING	M&P
METHODS	MET
MODELS	MOD
NITRATE CONTAMINATION	NC
NON POINT POLLUTION	NPP
NUTRIENTS	NU
RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES	RAD
RECREATION	REC
SEDIMENTS	SED
SOLUTE TRANSPORT	ST
SURFACE WATER	SW
TOXIC SUBSTANCES	TS
TREATMENT	TRT
WASTEWATER	WW
WATER QUALITY	WQL
WATER QUANTITY	WQN
WATER SUPPLY	WS
WATER USE	WU
WETLANDS	WL

Budget Breakdown

Attachment B

BUDGET BREAKDOWN*

Project Number: (Number will be provided by the application system)

Project Title:

Cost Category	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
1. Salaries and Wages	\$	\$	\$
- <u>Principal Investigator(s)</u>			
- <u>Graduate Student(s)</u>			
- <u>Undergraduate Student(s)</u>			
- <u>Others</u>			
Total Salaries and Wages			
2. Fringe Benefits			
- <u>Principal Investigator(s)</u>			
- <u>Graduate Student(s)</u>			
- <u>Undergraduate Student(s)</u>			
- <u>Others</u>			
Total Fringe Benefits			
3. Tuition			
- <u>Graduate Student(s)</u>			
- <u>Undergraduate Student(s)</u>			
Total Tuition			
4. Supplies			
5. Equipment			
6. Services or Consultants			
7. Travel			
8. Other direct costs			
9. Total direct costs			
10a. Indirect costs on federal share	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX		
10b. Indirect costs on non-federal share	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX		
11. Total estimated costs	\$	\$	\$
Total Costs at Campus of the University on which the Institute or Center is located.	\$	\$	\$
Total Costs at other University Campus Name of University:	\$	\$	\$

* This form is provided as a worksheet only

Budget Justification
BUDGET JUSTIFICATION*

Project Number: (Number will be provided by the application system)

Project Title

Salaries and Wages for PIs. Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual.
Salaries and Wages for Graduate Students. Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work. Also, note that tuition has its own category below and that health insurance, if provided, is to be included under fringe benefits.)
Salaries and Wages for Undergraduate Students. Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work. Also, note that tuition has its own category below and that health insurance, if provided, is to be included under fringe benefits.)
Salaries and Wages for Others. Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual.
Fringe Benefits for PIs. Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. . Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.
Fringe Benefits for Graduate Students. Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.
Fringe Benefits for Undergraduate Students. Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable
Fringe Benefits for Others. Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. . Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.
Tuition for Graduate Students.
Tuition for Undergraduate Students
Supplies. Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies. Provide a breakdown of the supplies in each category.
Equipment. Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items. A detailed breakdown is required.
Services or Consultants. Identify the specific tasks for which these services, consultants, or subcontracts would be used. Provide a detailed breakdown of the services or consultants to include personnel, time, salary, supplies, travel, etc.
Travel. Provide purpose and estimated costs for all travel. A breakdown should be provided to include location, number of personnel, number of days, per diem rate, lodging rate, mileage and mileage rate, airfare (whatever is applicable).
Other Direct Costs. Itemize costs not included elsewhere, including publication costs. Costs for services and consultants should be included and justified under "Services or Consultants (above). Please provide a breakdown for costs listed under this category.
Indirect Costs. Provide negotiated indirect ("Facilities and Administration") cost rate.

* This form is provided as a worksheet only.