

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

### Connecticut DEP

#### Water Quality Management Planning Grant

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##### Description of the Grant and Summary of Activities:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Connecticut DEP (CTDEP) \$485,000 in Water Quality Management Planning Grant funds under section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. Under the federal Clean Water Act, Section 604(b) funds are awarded to State water quality management agencies (CTDEP) to carry out water quality management planning including revising water quality standards; performing waste load allocation/total maximum daily loads, point and non-point source planning activities, water quality assessments and watershed restoration plans. The seven projects that will be conducted with these grant funds are outlined below.

- 1) Evaluation of CT's Stormwater General Permits to promote better site design and incorporation of Low Impact Development practices to minimize stormwater runoff volume and pollutant loads for new land use development projects. This project will be administered by CTDEP. Technical and professional services will be conducted by a Vendor to be procured through a request for proposal (RFP). OPM approved the RFP. RFP is in process. Public Notice, Letters of Intent (LOI) and answers to questions are all posted on DAS and DEP website. The final Proposal deadline is January 8, 2010. Vendor services will not exceed \$150,500.
- 2) Development of a Water Diversion Database Planning Tool – data management architecture and analytical tool to store, derive and display water quality and water quantity data for enhanced management of CT's water resources. This project will be administered by CTDEP. Technical services will be provided by the Vendor TriCom, Inc. who is the current consultant working on the CTDEP WQX water quality data management system. 1 job retained. As of 12/31/09, payments of \$21,692.34 were made. Vendor services will not exceed \$100,000.
- 3) Publication of Municipal Aquifer Protection Guidance Manual to help municipal aquifer protection agencies better understanding the important role they have in protection of ground water. This manual will be an important tool for municipal aquifer protection agencies to assist them with the adoption and implementation of local aquifer protection regulations. The manual content has been developed by CTDEP. A Vendor Creative Services Group has been hired to conduct the professional publication services. A draft Manual was submitted to printers on 11/12/09. DEP is awaiting submittal of

draft guidance manual for review. This project is 50% complete. FTE retained = .3. Vendor services will not exceed \$25,000.

- 4) Municipal Aquifer Protection Agency Training will be conducted to educate and train municipal officials and staff of the eighty-two (82) towns in Connecticut that have aquifer protection areas. Trainees will acquire the tools needed from the training program to successfully implement local Aquifer Protection Area Program for the protection of public drinking water. This project will be administered by CTDEP. The University of Connecticut, College of Continuing Studies will be the Vendor on this project and assist with arranging a training location, accept and track registration, register participants, send certificates, along with other logistics. The Memorandum of Agreement has been finalized and one of three training sessions has been completed. Vendor services will not exceed \$15,500.
- 5) Creation of a Norwalk River Watershed Based plan to address bacterial impairments, based upon the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative's Action Plan and Update. The project will be administered by the Sub Recipient, Southwest Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA), with input from the City of Norwalk. SWRPA will revise and re-write the Norwalk River Watershed Action Plan to incorporate EPA's Nine Elements format. Contract has been signed by the Attorney General's Office in 12/09 and work has been initiated. Vendor services will not exceed \$35,000.
- 6) Creation of a Watershed Based Plan to address bacterial impairments in the Pequonnock River. The project will be administered by the Sub Recipient, Southwest Conservation District, with input of representatives from Bridgeport, Trumbull, and Monroe, who will develop the Watershed Based Plan. Contract is in the signature process. Vendor services will not exceed \$59,000.
- 7) Creation of a Watershed Based Plans for the Saugatuck/Aspetuck, Mianus, and Five Mile River Watersheds. The project will be administered by the Sub Recipient, SWRPA, who will develop draft Watershed Based Plans with input from the Nature Conservancy, Norwalk, New Canaan, Darien, Greenwich, Stamford, and the Mianus Watershed Council. Contract has been signed by the Attorney General's Office in 12/09 and work has been initiated. Vendor services will not exceed \$100,000.

Since this grant was awarded on May 18, 2009, CTDEP identified eligible planning projects. Projects that were evaluated included projects that could be conducted by CTDEP and projects CTDEP received in response to a solicitation conducted for federal Clean Water Act, Section 319 funding. Once these seven projects were selected, CTDEP developed work plans for these projects.

### Reports Required Through 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:

Report	Submitted to	Due Date	Status	Quality Assurance
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	7/8/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	8/5/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	9/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Quarterly Report	US OMB	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	10/15/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	11/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	12/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Programmatic Report	Region 1 EPA	1/10/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete
Quarterly Report	US OMB	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	2/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	3/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
Quarterly Report	US OMB	4/10/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	4/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending

### Data Reported:

Although some Vendors have been selected, CTDEP is conducting significant amounts of work to fulfill these projects without charging administrative expenses to this grant. Therefore, there are not significant activities reported. It is anticipated that approximately six jobs will be created or retained when all Vendors are selected.

### Addressing Challenges:

The mechanisms for delegating responsibilities and establishing financial transfers continued to be challenges. CTDEP is utilizing previously developed ARRA instruments that will aid in the resolutions of ARRA, EPA and State requirements. In addition, CTDEP is coordinating with EPA to ensure activities taken meet their expectations.

### Forecast of Fourth Quarter Activities:

**Evaluation of CT's stormwater general permits to promote better site design and incorporate low impact development practices:** A Vendor will be procured through an RFP process and work will initiate.

**Enhancement of the DEP Water Quality Exchange (WQX) data management system to incorporate the water diversion database planning tool:** Work will continue on this project.

**Design and publishing of municipal aquifer protection guidance manual:** CTDEP staff will continue to work on the content of this guidance manual with the Vendor for professional proofing, editing, and graphics services that has been initiated.

**Develop and present training for municipal aquifer protection agencies:** CTDEP under a Memorandum of Agreement with UCONN College of Continuing Studies will begin to process the second of three training sessions for municipal aquifer protection agency staff (anticipated in May, 2010).

**Creation of a watershed based plan for the Norwalk River watershed to address bacterial impairments:** Work is commencing on updating and revising the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative Action Plan.

**Develop a watershed based plan to address bacterial impairments in the Pequonnock River:** CTDEP will finalize and execute the contract with Southwest Conservation District and work will begin on developing a watershed based plan.

**Creation of watershed based plans in the Saugatuck/Aspetuck, Mianus, and Five Mile River watersheds:** Work is beginning on the creation of watershed based plans for the above three watersheds.