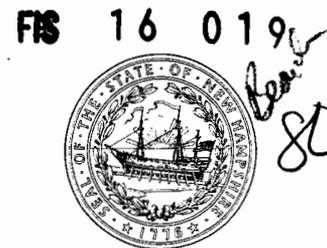




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 13, 2016

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House

[Signature]
 Approved by Fiscal Committee Date

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a:VI, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to accept and expend \$163,209 in Federal funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementation of the Wetland Program Development Grant: Wetland Biocriteria and Outreach Tools in New Hampshire, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2017. 100% Federal funds.

Funding is budgeted as follows:

Wetland Improvement Grants
 03-44-44-442010-2205
FY2016

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
000-404115	Federal funds	(\$370,744)	(\$163,209)	(\$533,953)
Expenditures				
018-500106	Overtime	\$1,000	\$250	\$1,250
020-500200	Current Expense	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
022-500255	Rents-Lease Other Than Sta	\$100	\$0	\$100
024-500227	Maint Other Than Bldg-Grounds	\$200	\$0	\$200
026-500251	Organizational Dues	\$50	\$0	\$50
027-582703	Transfers to DOIT	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
030-500302	Equipment New Replacement	\$7,200	\$0	\$7,200
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000

040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$14,373	\$8,797	\$23,170
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$263	\$110	\$373
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$10,607	\$1,227	\$11,834
050-500109	Personnel Part-Time	\$13,075	\$49,000	\$62,075
057-500535	Books Periodicals Subscript	\$600	\$0	\$600
059-500117	Salary Temporary Employees	\$100,020	\$0	\$100,020
060-500601	Benefits	\$70,466	\$21,175	\$91,641
066-500546	Employee Training	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
067-500558	Training of Providers	\$300	\$0	\$300
069-500567	Promotional Marketing Exp	\$300	\$0	\$300
070-500705	In-State Travel	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
072-500576	Grants Federal	\$120,000	\$61,650	\$181,650
073-500582	Grants Non Federal	\$50	\$0	\$50
080-500712	Out Of State Travel	\$2,500	\$200	\$2,700
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$18,640	\$20,800	\$39,440
TOTAL		\$370,744	\$163,209	\$533,953

EXPLANATION

DES obtained a competitive grant from the EPA. Through this grant, DES will:

- Investigate development of numeric biocriteria thresholds for aquatic life in fringing and emergent wetlands,
- Collaborate with Maine to develop and test aquatic vegetation sampling protocols.
- Update the New Hampshire Wetland Program Plan to reflect current priorities for the core elements of our wetlands program.
- Develop coordination resources for the new mitigation preapplication requirement.
- Develop new wetlands outreach that incorporate new published research and eLearning tools. DES and its partner, the DRED- Natural Heritage Bureau will evaluate and document the current status of historical exemplary wetland systems so the information can be reliably used for environmental reviews and conservation planning, and establish Floristic Quality benchmark thresholds for approximately half of NH's wetland system types.

DES is requesting funds to be budgeted as follows:

Class 018 *Overtime* – To cover the costs of overtime hours incurred.

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Class 040, 041, 042, and 60 *Indirect Costs, Audit Set Aside, Additional Fringe, and Benefits* – Increases in each class respectively, are necessary since there are additional personnel costs and these classes are based on a percentage of personnel costs.

Class 50 *Personnel Part-Time Employees* – The funds in class 50 will be used for a seasonal intern and one existing staff position. These funds will be used to supplant funding of the following position, which is currently budgeted.

Position #	Title	Account (03-44-44)	Funding Mix	Amount
42193	Environmentalist III	442010-3855	100% Other	\$49,000

Class 072 *Grants-Federal* – To support the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED-NHB) for the work the Natural Heritage Bureau will conduct under this grant workplan.

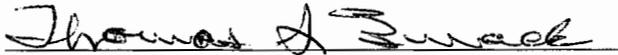
Class 080 *Out of State Travel* – To cover additional costs to attend a national conference to present on the work conducted and outcomes achieved in fulfillment of grant requirements to provide outreach and education.

Class 102 *Contracts for Program Services* – To cover costs for contractor services to sort, identify and enumerate macroinvertebrate samples collected, as described in the grant workplan.

These funds were not included in the 16/17 operating budget as DES was not aware of this funding opportunity until this competitive grant was posted to the EPA federal website in April 2015 and awarded to DES in September 2015.

In the event that the Federal funds are not available to complete the grant, General Funds will not be requested to support these projects.

We respectfully request your approval.


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

**WETLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT
FISCAL SITUATION FY16
03-44-44-442010-22050000**

Total Federal	\$	567,500
Less Expenditures thru 6/30/15		141,187
Remaining Authorization to Budget		426,313
Less Current FY16 Budget Authorization		263,104
Total Available for Budgeting		163,209
REQUESTED ACTION	\$	163,209
Available to Budget at a later date		-

Grant Award Number	<u>Award Amount</u>	<u>Expenses to 6/30/15</u>	<u>Balance</u>
CD-96179201	\$ 400,000	\$ 141,187	\$ 258,813
CD-00A0014	167,500	-	167,500
TOTAL	\$ 567,500	\$ 141,187	\$ 426,313

	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Grant Agreement		GRANT NUMBER (FAIN): 00A00014 MODIFICATION NUMBER: 0 PROGRAM CODE: CD	DATE OF AWARD 09/18/2015	
			TYPE OF ACTION New		MAILING DATE 09/25/2015
			PAYMENT METHOD: ASAP		ACH# 10108
			RECIPIENT TYPE: State		
RECIPIENT: New Hampshire D.E.S. 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095 EIN: 02-6000618		PAYEE: New Hampshire D.E.S. 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095			
PROJECT MANAGER Sandra Crystall 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095 E-Mail: sandra.crystall@des.nh.gov Phone: 603-271-2471		EPA PROJECT OFFICER Trish Garrigan 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OEP06-3 Boston, MA 02109-3912 E-Mail: Garrigan.Trish@epamail.epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1583		EPA GRANT SPECIALIST Brian Tocci Grants Management Office, OARM16-2 E-Mail: Tocci.Brian@epamail.epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1979	
PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION Wetland Biocriteria and Outreach Tools in New Hampshire The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and its partners are completing a plan to develop wetland specific biocriteria. DES will investigate the development of numeric biocriteria thresholds for aquatic life use using several existing protocols and assessments. They will evaluate historical wetland records to improve their applicability for use in environmental review and support the development of Floristic Quality Assessment scores. DES will develop new resources and processes for improved mitigation requirements, and they will update outreach materials and the Wetland Program Plan. The results of these projects will contribute to the protection of wetlands of high ecological value and the development of criteria to assess wetland condition.					
BUDGET PERIOD 10/01/2015 - 12/31/2018		PROJECT PERIOD 10/01/2015 - 12/31/2018		TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST \$446,719.00	
				TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST \$446,719.00	
NOTICE OF AWARD					
Based on your Application dated 08/26/2015 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$167,500. EPA agrees to cost-share 75.00% of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$167,500. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.					
ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)			AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE		
ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS EPA New England 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912			ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 1 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912		
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY					
Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official for Michael Kenyon - Director, Office of Administration and Resource Management Fred Weeks - Award Official delegate				DATE 09/18/2015	