

Chesapeake Bay Program Office FY2018 Request for Proposals to Support Development and Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan

Background: During its December 19-20 retreat, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) agreed to convene a PSC-appointed Steering Committee to oversee the development of a separate and collaborative Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that will provide details on how to reduce adverse water quality impacts to the Chesapeake Bay resulting from Conowingo Dam infill, as well as a timeline at which it can be accomplished.

The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee is seeking assistance from a third-party to provide highly specialized scientific, technical, and programmatic support in the development and implementation of the Conowingo WIP. EPA agreed to draft and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee with this requested third-party assistance.

Elements of the Conowingo RFP: EPA CBPO plans to award one cooperative agreement to an organization or organizations under the RFP to support the following key activities:

- Provide facilitation and programmatic, administrative, and technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Conowingo WIP and two-year milestones, including a timeframe of when the actions and commitments reflected in the Conowingo WIP will be accomplished;
- Develop strategies and approaches to target implementation of the most cost-effective and efficient pollutant reduction practices and other innovative technologies within the Conowingo most-effective basins, working directly with federal, state, regional, and local governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- Develop, build, and implement a framework for a multijurisdictional approach to financing, which may include significant legal and policy innovations for raising, allocating, and disseminating revenues and investments. This framework may result in a new and different financing system and associated implementation plan;
- Serve as a fund manager to award funding to other parties for the implementation of practices and projects as specified in the Conowingo WIP, and to develop an approach to phase in amounts and forms of contributed resources from individual jurisdictions, as well as additional funding sources, over time; and
- Enhance the capabilities of state, local and non-profit partners to track, verify and report on practices providing nutrient and sediment pollutant load reductions, and to propose updates to BMP tracking, verification and reporting systems, as well as to the Conowingo WIP and associated two-year milestones to reflect new science, data, funding, and implementation progress.

Proposed Timeline for Releasing and Awarding the RFP

- ~~7/16/18~~ 8/1/18: Issuance of RFP
- ~~9/10/18~~ 10/1/18: Proposal Submission Deadline
- ~~10/29/18~~ 11/26/18: Approximate date for EPA to notify applicants of results
- ~~11/26/18~~ 12/31/18: Approximate date for applicant to submit federal cooperative agreement
- ~~1/7/19~~ 2/25/19: Approximate date of award