

**State of Maine**  
**Master Score Sheet**

<b>RFA# 202302026</b>					
<b>Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development</b>					
<b>Bidder Name:</b>		<b>Town of Eastbrook</b>	<b>Town of Skowhegan</b>	<b>Washington Co. SWCD</b>	
<b>Proposed Cost:</b>		<b>\$49,986.00</b>	<b>\$49,760.00</b>	<b>\$49,524.35</b>	
<b>Scoring Sections</b>	<b>Points Available</b>				
Section I: Applicant Qualifications Experience	<b>10</b>	9	9	10	
Section II: Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	6	5	8	
Section III: Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	10	6	10	
Section IV: Nature Extent Severity NPS Prob.	<b>10</b>	10	7	10	
Section V: Feasibility of Success	<b>25</b>	19	19	20	
Section VI: Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	21	21	23	
Section VII: Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	
Section VIII: Disadvantaged Community	<b>5</b>	5	5	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>100</u></b>	<b><u>80</u></b>	<b><u>72</u></b>	<b><u>86</u></b>	

**Award Justification Statement**  
**RFP# 202302026 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects**  
**Watershed-based Plan Development**

**I. Summary**

The aforementioned RFA sought applications for projects to help communities develop Watershed-based Plans (WBP) to either restore nonpoint source (NPS) impaired water bodies or to protect water bodies threatened by NPS pollution. A watershed-based plan provides assessment and management information and describes actions needed to restore NPS impaired water bodies or to protect water bodies threatened by NPS pollution. A watershed-based plan accepted by the Department is a prerequisite to be eligible to apply for CWA Section 319 funds to help implement the plan.

Three applications were received, reviewed, and found eligible for funding. Based on the applications, amount of funding requested, and available funding, the team recommended funding all three applications. Applications were shared with the funding agency, US EPA, and they supported DEP's findings and recommendation to fund all three projects.

**II. Evaluation Process**

The Evaluation Team (ET) for this RFA included the following people: Alex Wong (NPS Program Coordinator, DEP), Addie Halligan (DEP), Jeff Dennis (DEP) and Tom Miragliuolo (DACF).

All of the evaluation team members have participated in previous grant reviews and all are familiar with the State's process. Maine DEP staff participating on the evaluation team have extensive experience with these types of projects, including the typical costs and scope of work.

Coordination and orientation of the ET was conducted via email. ET members conducted independent reviews of the 3 applications and took notes on the applications received. Comprehensive Plan Consistency information was provided by Tom Miragliuolo, and scores calculated by Alex Wong. Disadvantaged Community information was obtained using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST, Council on Environmental Quality), and scores calculated by Alex Wong. The group held a day-long hybrid meeting on 5/11/23, concurrently in-person and via MS Teams to score the proposals using a consensus decision-making process. Alex Wong served as the RFP Coordinator/Lead Evaluator and took notes on the team consensus evaluation.

**III. Qualifications & Experience**

**Award Justification Statement**  
**RFP# 202302026 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects**  
**Watershed-based Plan Development**

Applications that scored highest on the Qualifications and Experience criteria had staff with recent and extensive experience with similar NPS grants projects. They also had organizational capacity and/or well-rounded teams that would allow for project success even in the event of staff turnover.

**IV. Proposed Services**

Each application included a series of tasks designed to help develop the associated watershed-based plan. Some of the factors that reflect differences in scoring are listed below. Projects that scored higher tended to demonstrate:

- the importance and uses of the water body to local residents, the larger public and wildlife;
- an informed understanding of the water quality problem;
- an informed understanding of the additional monitoring needed to answer remaining water quality questions and identify NPS sources;
- strong local support and a well-rounded team of partners participating in the project; and
- consistent comprehensive plans in watershed towns;
- a higher percentage of the watershed being located within a defined Disadvantaged Community.

**V. Cost Proposal**

The grant amounts requested, local match amount and total project costs for the applications are listed below.

Project	Applicant	Grant Funds	Match Funds	Total Budget
Abrams Pond	Town of Eastbrook	\$49,986	\$17,508	\$67,494
Whitten Brook	Town of Skowhegan	\$49,760	\$18,908	\$68,668
Upper Narraguagus River Watershed	Washington Co. SWCD	\$49,524	\$21,240	\$70,764

**VI. Conclusion**

The three applications that were selected for funding stood out in several ways. The highest scoring proposal (Washington Co. SWCD, Upper Narraguagus River Watershed) stood out because of its feasibility for success and cost effectiveness due to the partners involved. The next highest proposal (Town of Eastbrook, Abrams Pond) demonstrated a very strong understanding of the lake's water quality issues and clearly identified steps needed to fill knowledge gaps. The final funded project (Town

**Award Justification Statement**  
**RFP# 202302026 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects**  
**Watershed-based Plan Development**

of Skowhegan, Whitten Brook) scored well because of the applicant's strong qualifications/experience and feasibility for success in restoring the lower portion of Whitten Brook.



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

Julie Curtis  
Town of Eastbrook  
959 Eastbrook Road  
Eastbrook, ME 04634

July 5, 2023

RE: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards - RFA#20230206, Watershed-based Plan Development

Dear Julie Curtis:

This letter is in regard to the Request for Applications (RFA) referenced above, issued by the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Department has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA and is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following applicants:

Bidder	Application Title
Town of Eastbrook	Abrams Pond Watershed-based Management Plan Development Project
Town of Skowhegan	Whitten Brook Watershed-based Management Plan Update
Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District	Upper Narraguagus River Watershed-based Management Plan Update

The applicant listed above received the evaluation team’s highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6). This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for submitting an application to help improve and protect Maine’s waters.

Sincerely,

Alex Wong

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
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PORTLAND  
312 CANCO ROAD  
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PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

NPS Program Coordinator, Bureau of Water Quality

**STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases, Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

Jeff Hewitt, Director of Economic Development  
Town of Skowhegan  
225 Water St.  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

July 5, 2023

RE: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards - RFA#20230206, Watershed-based Plan Development

Dear Jeff Hewitt:

This letter is in regard to the Request for Applications (RFA) referenced above, issued by the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Department has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA and is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following applicants:

Bidder	Application Title
Town of Eastbrook	Abrams Pond Watershed-based Management Plan Development Project
Town of Skowhegan	Whitten Brook Watershed-based Management Plan Update
Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District	Upper Narraguagus River Watershed-based Management Plan Update

The applicant listed above received the evaluation team’s highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

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JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

Nathan Pennell  
Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District  
8 M & M Place  
Machias, ME 04654

July 5, 2023

RE: Notice of Conditional Contract Awards - RFA#20230206, Watershed-based Plan Development

Dear Nathan Pennell:

This letter is in regard to the Request for Applications (RFA) referenced above, issued by the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Department has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA and is hereby announcing its conditional contract awards to the following applicants:

Bidder	Application Title
Town of Eastbrook	Abrams Pond Watershed-based Management Plan Development Project
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Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District	Upper Narraguagus River Watershed-based Management Plan Update

The applicant listed above received the evaluation team’s highest rankings. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6). This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for submitting an application to help improve and protect Maine’s waters.

Sincerely,

Alex Wong

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**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**SUMMARY PAGE**

**Department Name:** Environmental Protection

**Name of RFP Coordinator:** Alex Wong

**Names of Evaluators:** Jeff Dennis, Addie Halligan, Tom Miragliuolo, Alex Wong

<b><u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Pass</u></b>	<b><u>Fail</u></b>
• Match at least 25%	<b>X</b>	
• Eligible Recipient	<b>X</b>	
• NPS Priority Watershed	<b>X</b>	
<b><u>Scoring Sections</u></b>	<b><u>Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Points Awarded</u></b>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Section IV. Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Communities	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>	<b><u>80</u></b>

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I  
Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Good experience all around – HCSWCD and APA have been successful in the past, good consultant qualifications listed. Likely that the current consultant will continue. Only concerns are about volunteer commitment and availability, and resources available at a small town office is a concern. Seem to be very involved with other projects.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION II  
Relative Value of Waterbody**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Actual public access seems to be overstated, although the possibility of protected shoreline and planned trail system has some value. Other waterbodies in the area may be more attractive for public boating access.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION III  
Water Quality Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Clear that applicant has a good understanding of water quality issues, and the data that they have, the data gaps, and what needs to be done to fill those gaps. This is a classic situation that qualifies for a 9-element plan.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV  
Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section IV. Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Currently experiencing severe cyanobacterial blooms, possible cyanotoxin threat, current data point to biologically mediated loading, needs more study for restoration strategy. Have a good understanding of the issue.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION V  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

The right partners for success are involved in the project, but there are some issues with the work plan:

- Ag sources, like upstream blueberry barrens are not addressed
- Task 2 was brief, unclear of how this will get answers to questions, thought the WS assessment was good.



**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VI  
Cost Effectiveness**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Costs are reasonable for what they're proposing, but also recognize that this plan is the gateway to an actual restoration. Investing the funds to open a necessary door to a desirable end product is a good investment. We can't participate in restoration without this plan.

Good match mix of in-kind and cash for critical tasks. But they're just meeting match requirements – it would be nice to have a little more buffer.

Also, the admin costs for this project are lower than for previous grant awards for implementation, which seems odd.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

MPAP reports no consistent comp plan

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VIII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Community	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

The entire watershed is identified as disadvantage using CEJST.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**SUMMARY PAGE**

**Department Name:** Environmental Protection

**Name of RFP Coordinator:** Alex Wong

**Names of Evaluators:** Jeff Dennis, Addie Halligan, Tom Miragliuolo, Alex Wong

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
• Match at least 25%	<b>X</b>	
• Eligible Recipient	<b>X</b>	
• NPS Priority Watershed	<b>X</b>	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
Section IV. Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Communities	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>72</u>

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I  
Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Town has had previous successful 319 grant projects. Though the public works director is different the rest of the team remains unchanged. Past projects make it clear that the town (applicant) values the brook. Town is probably in top 10% of capacity of towns in the state.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION II  
Relative Value of Waterbody**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

This section lacked detail. The West branch is in conservation, has public hiking, has a native brook trout population in west branch West branch conservation area also have public access trails and provides cold water refuge for fish in the Kennebec. Whitten Brook is considered one of the most restorable urban streams. But none of that was mentioned.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION III  
Water Quality Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

This section lacked detail. Previous geomorphic studies should have been included in the discussion. Such as: high flow events, sandy bottom, changes habitat frequently in north branch. Lower stem needs culvert replacements.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV  
Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section IV. Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Issues well documented, but WQ data is old, NPS data are more timely.



**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION V  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Whitten Brook is our most restorable UIS, but restoration work needs to be coordinated with MDOT construction horizon (2025-2027). Some concern if a successful plan can be written. This is not a traditional 9-element plan. Tasks to address pollutants of concern and bacteria aren't clear, neither is outreach

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VI  
Cost Effectiveness**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Good partners, good match quality and amount, estimates seem reasonable, though the greatest cost is for engineering. Extent of planning vs. implementation isn't clear.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

MPAP reports no consistent comp plan

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VIII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Community	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Alex - All of watershed is identified as DAC in CJEST.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER:** Washington Co. SWCD

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**SUMMARY PAGE**

**Department Name:** Environmental Protection

**Name of RFP Coordinator:** Alex Wong

**Names of Evaluators:** Jeff Dennis, Addie Halligan, Tom Miraglioulo, Alex Wong

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
• Match at least 25%	<b>X</b>	
• Eligible Recipient	<b>X</b>	
• NPS Priority Watershed	<b>X</b>	
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Section IV. Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Communities	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<u>Total Points</u>	<u><b>100</b></u>	<u><b>86</b></u>

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

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**BIDDER:** Washington Co. SWCD

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I  
Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section I. Applicant Qualifications and Experience	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

---

**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Applicant and partners have had previous 319 grants with no issues. Partners bring a huge amount of expertise.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION II  
Relative Value of Waterbody**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Relative Value of Waterbody	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

This area is nationally known, and very important to the overall economy of eastern Maine. Water quality is AA and is critical habitat for endangered species. However, access can be limited – not that many roads, and landowner permission for public access might be an issue.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION III  
Water Quality Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section III. Water Quality Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

This section was very thorough. Habitat issues are explained well, and included info on biomonitoring and water temperature and impacts on stress levels, extensive temperature data set.



**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV  
Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section IV. Nature, Extent, and Severity of NPS Problem	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Even though this isn't traditional project, the applicant did a good job at describing past traditional NPS project history. Good logical support for this application.

Also, of the 4 major issues affecting salmon recruitment (offshore, pH, connectivity, habitat). This habitat issue is one that we can address.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION V  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section V. Feasibility for Success	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Partners bring lots of expertise, and local landowner involvement is good.

Pilot approach is good, but immediate result will be 319 implementation on pilot areas after assessment. Also need to recognize that this assessment process will be applied watershed wide. Might be incremental successes. Might also lead to building local trust in DEP for future projects.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VI  
Cost Effectiveness**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VI. Cost Effectiveness	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Again, partners bring lots of expertise. These would be consultants in any other project, but are partners that don't have to be paid. We're also getting geomorphological work on a very large scale.

Some confusion with match. unclear who is providing in-kind match and who is being hired. Is the engineer being paid and volunteering time? Federally funded positions can't be used as match.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION VII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VII. Comprehensive Plan	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

MPAP reports no towns have consistent comprehensive plans. Also checked with LURC, and no unorganized towns have consistent planning either.

**STATE OF MAINE  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

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**BIDDER:** Washington Co. SWCD

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**EVALUATION OF SECTION VIII  
Feasibility for Success**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section VIII. Disadvantaged Community	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

Proposed project area is 100% DAC identified in CJEST.

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** 5/10/2023

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Addie Halligan

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

\*\*\*\*\*

**Instructions:** *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:**

*P= positive; N = Negative; Q= Question, I= Interesting*

Can we fund threatened lake plans? – 2024 impaired lakes via personal communication with Linda- in RFA part 2, C#4: alternative plans such as lake protection plans, for a small number of complex water quality or NPS issues and likely to be impaired in the future.

**Applicant Qualifications and Experience (relevant experience, financial, admin, technical quals. Past performance, quals of consultants or project partners)**

- Town of Eastbrook Selectman and Treasurer to oversee the project and financial transactions
- Subgrant to Hancock County for watershed survey and S.C.
- Abrams Pond Association – Bathymetric mapping, septic databased and septic survey, education and outreach
- Consultant – Project coordinator
- **P:** financial oversight is strong
- **P:** Past relevant experience – Town served as the grantee for Abrams Pond Phase II, recent experience
- **P:** Subgrant to Hancock County (Jeff Norment) – relevant past experience with Branch Lake and Beech Hill Pond watershed surveys & as technical assistance for 319 funded projects.
- **P:** Project partners – Abrams Pond Association has experience volunteer monitors, connections with landowners in lake community. Trained 10 volunteers
- **P:** consultant must have experience in EPA 9-elment plans, watershed modeling, GIS mapping, water quality analysis, public outreach and technical writing.

Overall, the application demonstrates a strong group of stakeholders who each bring their own expertise and experience to complete the tasks described.

Q: How did the town perform in their role as the grantee for Abrams? Only two phases over ten years?

- They've performed really well in the past.

# STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

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**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

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**EVALUATOR NAME:** Addie Halligan

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

Q: How the Hancock County do with watershed surveys

- Jeff has watershed survey experience

Q: APA knowledge re: lake water quality?

- Lake assoc has been working with Linda directly

## **Relative Value of the Waterbody (use, access, values, drinking water, public recreation, scenic and aesthetic, aquatic and terrestrial, commercial)**

- 435 acre Great Pond
- Access: Town Road but town has not created a boat launch. Access is through private sites. Snowmobile access
- **P:** aquatic & terrestrial value: high value inland waterfowl/wading bird habitat (Significant Wildlife Habitat). Union River is Designated Critical Habitat for the Atlantic Salmon, Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment under the Endangered Species Act. Warmwater fish, trophy bass pond. 6 loons/year.
- **P:** Headwaters to four lakes/ponds and into the Union River – important to focus on upstream/headwaters.
- **P:** Potential for public access in the future – 35 acre tract of lakeshore
- **N:** No formal boat launch or public access currently (proposed), public access is limited or not established yet.
- **N:** No commercial benefit mentioned

## **Water Quality Problem (informed understanding of water quality conditions, severity)**

- Threatened, but submitted for addition to impaired lakes in 2023
- Sensitive to pollutant loading from watershed and internal recycling of nutrients from bottom sediments – watch list (nuisance algal blooms, water quality trends)
- Nuisance algal blooms since 1999, water clarity <2m. Avg. SDT 4.7m Water quality data since 1980, incl. 31yr SDT, 13 yr TP and 12yr Chl-A
- **P:** Severity: significant decline in water clarity and increase in TP and Chl-a since 1980. 2022 avg SDT was 2.9m and min. 1m. TP highed in 2022 24ppb, and average 14.9. High concentrations of TP surface June – august, high concentrations lower in water column sept-fall mixing
- **P:** Understanding that the primary sources of P in Abrams Pond is both from watershed resources and internal loading. shallow depth = does not strongly stratify = increase concentration of TP at the bottom and available in the water column. 2022 analysis of P mass – highest in mid June (suggesting watershed inputs). P bound in cyano rising up from bottom sediments in July
- **I:** more data is needed to refine the role of cyanobacteria moving P into the water column.

## **Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems (workplans understanding of what actions are needed to address NPS sources)**

- Private gravel roads, large expanses of actively farmed blueberry barrens
- 2015 watershed survey – 34 sites
- 2022 WQ Monitoring & Analysis – additional parameter to provide better understanding of sources of P loading to the pond

## STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

**RFP #:** 202302026

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**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

- **P:** Understanding that the exact mechanism for internal P loading is not clear and there is an action needed to study and address NPS issues through this plan.
- **P:** Actions from this plan will help address NPS Sources – like further studying internal recycling and septic systems.

Q: how many sites have been addressed? Phase 1 – Dickens Farm Road. Phase 2 – 15 sites addressed

**Feasibility for Success (successfully completed as proposed, waterbody can be restored/protected. Info and capacity to determine actions needed, task to address wq stressors/pollutants of concern, stakeholder participation, community support)**

- **Tasks**
  - Task 1: consultant project admin
  - Task 2: WQ Monitoring – SAP, volunteers-led bathymetric mapping and in-lake monitoring, sediment sampling and analysis, and monthly phytoplankton analysis
  - Task 3: WQ Analysis – DEP data and past Abrams Pond Data
  - Task 4: watershed survey, septic survey and database
  - Task 5: Watershed modeling – land cover, delineating subwatershed, P load modeling, climate change scenarios,
  - Task 6: Meetings, stakeholder and outreach -
- **P:** Strong Group of Stakeholders: Town of Eastbrook, Abrams Pond Association, HCSWCD, St. Josephs college and consultant each bringing their own expertise.
- **N:** The Water quality monitoring task is weak, and is unclear how the efforts described will help answer the question of the mechanism for internal P loading and cyanobacterias role. It seems that a lot of details would need to be flushed out before workplan is finalized.
- **P:** Watershed Assessment task is strong as it goes beyond just a watershed survey and includes septic system vulnerability assessment, septic survey, watershed survey.
- **N/Q:** Community Support: Q: Will APA volunteers be conducted the watershed survey – don't included in Donated Services -Labor but would be a good opportunity to get community support.

### **Overall**

Q: Will tasks help answer the question of the mechanism for internal P loading

Q/N: How will the septic system database be ground-truthed to determine actions needed?

Q/N: Task 3 – WQ analysis, it sounded like they had data from 1980 with trends observed, how is this task different than what has already been done?

**Cost Effectiveness (grant funds – good return for investment, reasonable estimates, amount and quality of match)**

**P:** Quality Match from APA, \$14,158 in cash and in-kind for critical tasks (in-lake monitoring, bathymetric mapping, septic database and survey work, education and outreach.

**P:** I think overall it's a reasonable estimate, and good return for investment.

**N:** Barely meeting the 25.9% match requirement, especially when it comes down to volunteer time.



**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

Overall it's reasonably cost, quality match is being provided by APA.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

Misc:

- suggest separating out Task 6 into two separate tasks, Steering Committee and Engagement and Outreach

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/10/2023

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Addie Halligan

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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**Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:**

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience (relevant experience, financial, admin, technical quals. Past performance, quals of consultants or project partners)**

- **Town of Skowhegan** – will manage the grant, Director of Dept. of Economic and Cmty Development – 30 years of experience
- **P:** Town has relevant experience, financial, admin qualifications and many town employees involved with varying roles and expertise. Additional town staff will be involved, CEO – ordinance experience, civil construction experience. Highway commission – Stormwater BMP concept plan task & town road projects.
- **P:** Qualified consultant will have experience in EPA 9-element plans, managing 604b grants, meeting facilitation, public outreach and technical writing.
- **P:** Consulting engineer to be hired – experience performing topographic surveys and stormwater infrastructure, HydroCAD modeling.
- **P:** Skowhegan Conservation Commission – volunteer support for all aspects of the project.

Q: Only one phase of implementation, what is their past performance like?

**Relative Value of the Waterbody (use, access, values, drinking water, public recreation, scenic and aesthetic, aquatic and terrestrial, commercial)**

- 1.1 mile brook – help sustain biodiversity of downstream rivers
- **N:** not a high value stream, description of benefits is general.
- **P:** recreational fishing, native brook trout – believed to be one of the few remaining native brook trout fisheries in the state

Overall stream does not appear to provide much value, no mention of access.

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

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**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/10/2023

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Addie Halligan

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

**Water Quality Problem (informed understanding of water quality conditions, severity)**

**P: Severity** - Impaired for benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, habitat assessment and E.coli. Did not meet class for aquatic life or habitat in 2002 or 2007 (unsuccessful in recent years). High SpC levels.

**N:** Unclear if there is an informed understanding of current conditions due to lack of data in recent years. Bacteria was last collected in 2006. Data from 2022 which is a very small data set only exceeded at one site in August. Water chemistry data is infrequent. 2006 and 2022.

Q: Is there enough data going in to this plan, or with this plan result in more questions than answers?

Q: Is bacteria data being described from 2006 the geometric or instantaneous?

I: Sewer lines have been made, replaced aging pump station, separating CSO.

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems (workplans understanding of what actions are needed to address NPS sources)**

- 2008 TMDL – IC TMDL, high percentage of developed land
- 2010 Watershed and Impervious Cover Delineation – Watershed stormwater conveyance system
- 2010 Watershed Study – Level 1 stream corridor survey, retrofit reconnaissance inventory – culverts, storm drain outfalls, highway ROWs, parking lots. 33 sites of potential stormwater retrofit opportunities.
- 2011 Restoration Plan – focus on Madison Ave outfall, high impact sites from RRI study, education and outreach
- 2021-2022 MDOT Detention Basin Planning and Camera Inspections – unclear the findings of this
- 2022 watershed survey – revisited stormwater retrofit sites along Madison Ave, documented new NPS sites, desktop analysis of potential residential retrofits in the watershed and site visits to stormwater outfalls and stream crossings. **38 sites.**

**P:** While much of their water quality data is old, the recent watershed survey is advantageous to understanding the actions needed to address NPS sources and conduct further studies through this plan.

## STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

**RFP #:** 202302026

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**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/10/2023

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Addie Halligan

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

**Feasibility for Success (successfully completed as proposed, waterbody can be restored/protected. Info and capacity to determine actions needed, task to address wq stressors/pollutants of concern, stakeholder participation, community support)**

Action Need:

Tasks:

- Task 1: Project admin
- Task 2: Water Quality Analysis – relying on old data
- Task 3: Stormwater BMP Concept plans
- Task 4: Municipal Ordinance Review –
- Task 5: Steering Committee meeting
- Task 6: Education and Outreach – secure easements, commercial business mixer – 45 landowners

**P:** Stakeholder: Strong stakeholder engagement – Town of Skowhegan devoting time, SCC education and outreach, municipal ordinance review. Consultant with appropriate experience for urban impaired streams, engineer with applicable expertise.

**P:** Community support: Skowhegan Conservation Commissions cash match demonstrates community support and initiative, and SCC has well established connections within the community.

**N:** plan includes analyzing DEP and VRMP data to determine current status of water quality, but based on description in the water quality overview section there is limited recent data available, and additional data is needed to understand the current trends.

**N:** Task 2 mentioned recommendations for future monitoring – but that will not help with writing the current plan, which is what is needed now to be able to adequately understand the waterbody in order to write a restoration plan in the 2-year time frame of the grant.

**N:** uncertain if waterbody can be restored. Mentioned that sampling for macro in recent years has been unsuccessful.

**N:** Outreach task includes securing easements, however this seems premature for a WBMP.

**Q/N:** unclear why securing easements for a detention basin is part of this plan, as this is not the implementation stage.

**Q:** working with DEP to identify new biomonitoring sites? Are they working with WMU or biomonitoring unit?

**Q:** Task 6 calls for invitations to 45 landowners with identified NPS sites, however the survey only identified 38?

**Cost Effectiveness (grant funds – good return for investment, reasonable estimates, amount and quality of match)**

**P:** Good quality cash match - 27.5% match

**P:** Good return for investment.

**N:** not a lot of community support, donated services for this project.

**Q/N:** Task 3 is very expensive, 60%+ of the total grant funds are going to creating concept designs for implementation.

**Q:** Good return for investment if they've only implemented one phase before?

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

Q: I have not seen many plans before that have a task devoted to the concept plans - is this intended to help determine cost/feasibility/actions for the WBMP?

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

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**BIDDER NAME:** Washington Co. SWCD

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience (relevant experience, financial, admin, technical quals. Past performance, quals of consultants or project partners)**

- Washington County SWCD – experience with NPS surveys on Atlantic salmon watersheds. Experience partnering with project SHARE and the Watershed Councils on Dennys River WBMP and the original Narraguagus River WBMP.
- Project consultant – will have experience in watershed mgmt. plans, knowledge of riverine ecology and processes, knowledge of Atlantic salmon biology and habitat, specific knowledge of the Narraguagus, GIS, remote sensing, LiDar analysis

Q: what are the 7 DEP-319 like NPS Surveys?

**Relative Value of the Waterbody (use, access, values, drinking water, public recreation, scenic and aesthetic, aquatic and terrestrial, commercial)**

- Timber mgmt. is the principle land use – one primary landowner holding 82,900 acres.

P: Recreational value – canoe, kayaking, hunting, trapping and fishing

P: Access – several points of access

P: Aquatic and Terrestrial: Brook Trout, supports Atlantic Salmon

N: Unclear how valuable it is

**Water Quality Problem (informed understanding of water quality conditions, severity)**

- Classified as Class AA and A
- **P:** Severity – Biomonitoring from 2013/2016 indicated that water temperature was exceeding the stress levels for both Atlantic Salmon and Eastern brook Trout. Extensive temp monitoring indicates longer periods in the summer months.

## STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

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**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

- **P:** Workplan indicates a strong understanding of how geomorphic issues and temperature are the cause of water quality concern and impacts to salmon habitat.
- **Note:** geomorphic work is considered an NPS issue

Q/N: Currently meeting classification

### **Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems (workplans understanding of what actions are needed to address NPS sources)**

- 2003 WBMP – did not access historic land use impacts
- 1991-2001 7 NPS Surveys were completed, documenting 175 NPS sites.

**P:** Nature of the problem: Historical context provided and understood – log drives, harvesting, decreased riverbank stability, over-widening, connectivity issues b/w floodplain and river, loss of wood and boulder complexity in stream.

**P:** Plan outlines using the extensive temperature monitoring data to conduct a proximate stressor analysis to link legacy impacts from the log drive to temperature increases and describe causal pathways – clear action item.

**Q/:** The purpose of this project includes an analysis of causal pathway from legacy effects of the log drive era to proximate stressors impacting the riverine ecosystem and less about the NPS issues. However they did justify this direction based on previous NPS focused work.

### **Feasibility for Success (successfully completed as proposed, waterbody can be restored/protected. Info and capacity to determine actions needed, task to address wq stressors/pollutants of concern, stakeholder participation, community support)**

Tasks:

- Technical Advisory Committee –
- Proximate Stressor Analysis of pilot study reach –
- Lidar Grade Line analysis of pilot reach –
- Geomorphic assessment of pilot reach - prioritizing sites for in-stream habitat restoration.

**P:** Incredible strong group of stakeholders. Project partners – WCSWCD, consultant, engineer, US Forest Service, USDA NRCS, USFW... seemingly all critical stakeholders are planned to be engaged in this project.

**P:** American Forest Management – landowner interest will be represented.

**Q:** Hard to assess the likelihood that the whole upper watershed will be feasible as this is a pilot project.

**Other:** the impacts of this project will not be seen

**Q/N:** Its unclear to me how this workplan will produce all the details needed to satisfying EPA 9-elements.

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

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**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

**Cost Effectiveness (grant funds – good return for investment, reasonable estimates, amount and quality of match)**

**P: 30% match**

**Q:** I don't think DMR can contribute in-kind services. Have the hydraulic engineer, geomorphologist agree to contributing in-kind services? As these are significant pools of match. Match would then be 28%.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Misc:**

- Task 1 – I don't think subgrant is correct here. Subagreement?
- QAPP timing should be planned out in advance. Which DEP QAPP is Task 5 referring to?
-



**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

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**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** 5/10/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Alex Wong

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

*P= positive; N = Negative; Q= Question, I= Interesting*

**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

+ Team of the Town, APA and HCSWCD has project experience, successfully closed out Phase 1 of 319 project, has another underway.

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

+ Public access, but headwater to Scammon Pond and WMA, also part of Union River Atlantic Salmon habitat; warm water fisher7y

**Water Quality Problem**

+ Blooming, on the watchlist – sediment chemistry. Regular blooms since 1999

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

+ Shallow, doesn't strongly stratify, but has some near the bottom that releases P. P mass analysis done in 2022. Watershed inputs are being addressed

**Feasibility for Success**

+ will definitely come up with a plan, will probably suggest alum.

**Cost Effectiveness**

I – Admin costs for town is almost \$3k less for this proposal than for Phase II -

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

MPAP – Tom says no consistent comp plan for Eastbrook or Franklin

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

Entire watershed in DAC

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/10/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Alex Wong

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

*P= positive; N = Negative; Q= Question, I= Interesting*

**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

+ Town personnel the same as for previous planning and implementation projects.

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

+ UIS, but still has native brook trout

**Water Quality Problem**

+ is impaired for macros, habitat, and bacteria

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

+ sand scour from road runoff affecting habitat and macro community

**Feasibility for Success**

+ a plan will definitely be updated. Will include PE for the biggest contributor to NPS issues.

**Cost Effectiveness**

+ will leverage MDOT work in 2025-2027. Bigger bang for the buck

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

- Tom, MPAP says Skowhegan does not have consistent comp plan

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

+ Whitten Brook watershed 100% DAC

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Washington Co SWCD

**DATE:** 5/10/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Alex Wong

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

+ SHARE and WCSWCD have successfully done 319 projects in the past

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

+ Salmon streams are identified priorities for DMR

**Water Quality Problem**

I – class AA, has had previous 319 work done, has had passage work done, yet still no fish returning.

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

I – habitat modification is pretty extensive.

**Feasibility for Success**

+ a plan will definitely be produced

**Cost Effectiveness**

- the budget needs to be reviewed more closely.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

- Tom, MPAP says no consistent comp plan for organized towns in this area, reaching out to LUPC to check unorganized areas

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

100% of all watersheds are in DAC. (All of Washington Co is DAC).

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P – Town staff have relevant skills and experience for managing the financial and sub-grant aspects of the grant. The required experience for the consultant includes all the skills and knowledge that will be required for development of a strong plan.

Q – Not sure if the current district project manager has direct experience managing planning grants and watershed surveys, but his qualifications seem strong.

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

P – Most of the shoreline of the undeveloped eastern shore and adjacent forest land is protected in the Abraham's woods Preserve, providing substantial public access to the lake shore once the designed trail system is created.

N – There is currently no formal public boat access to the lake, though the town owns a parcel of lake frontage that could be used for that purpose.

**Water Quality Problem**

P – The application's Water Quality Overview section give a concise but complete summary of the lake's recent history of sever algal blooms. Due to recurring summertime cyanobacteria blooms, some of which resulted in SDT  $\leq$  2.0 m, Abrams Pond was will like be moved from the Watch list to the Impaired list in the 2024 Integrated Report.

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

P – The blooms are severe and could present a cyanotoxin threat. Available data indicates that the blooms are a result of both phosphorus concentrations from the watershed and, most likely, biologically

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

mediated internal recycling from the bottom sediments. There is a great need to better define both the external and internal P sources so that an effective restoration strategy can be developed.

**Feasibility for Success**

P – The tasks described in the workplan present a comprehensive program for evaluating the issues and determining the best means of addressing them, particularly in regard to characterization of sources. The elements in this workplan are similar to those used to develop many of the most recent and strongest WBPs addressing severe blooms. The fact that there is a current protection plan for Abrams Pond and that two 319 implementation project have already been completed speaks well for local support both of WBP development and of implementation of the plan once it is completed.

Q – In the discussion of the watershed survey, it is unclear how the potential agricultural sources will be evaluated. This should be clarified in the grant work plan.

**Cost Effectiveness**

P – The costs presented in the application are in line with those of recent high quality plans addressing similar problems. It is likely that the cost of restoring Abrams Pond will be substantial and it is essential that a plan is developed that accurately assesses the issues and honestly identifies the required actions. Investing in a strong plan is essential for effective restoration of lakes with blooms that result from both external and internal sources.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P – The Town of Skowhegan, and particularly Jeff Hewitt, who will administer the grant, has experience with two previous successful 319 implementation grants. The Conservation Commission has, in the past, provided needed and very valuable support in both evaluating the issues and implementing the BMPs in the two previous 319 projects. While the current staff are not the same as in the past, the previous highway commissioner and the public works department played a huge role in development and implementation of the two previous 319 projects.

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

P – Whitten Brook is unusual in that, at least the north branch and the mainstem below the confluence provide a stream in a very urban setting that still has significant riparian cover in many reaches. In addition, the watershed of the west branch is mostly forested and provides access to a beautiful forested stream immediately adjacent to the urban center. While it is not mentioned in the application, Whitten Brook is unique in that, despite its location and its habitat and water quality challenges, it still maintains a native brook trout population and provides an effective cold water refuge for Kennebec River fish. The Conservation Commission's strong and sustained support for stream protection reflect the value of the stream to the community.

**Water Quality Problem**

P – Whitten Brook is a Class B stream that fails to meet the aquatic life (macroinvertebrate) and habitat criteria for Class B streams. Many reaches of the stream (north branch and mainstem) have impaired habitat as a result historical alterations, confinement of the channel in residential setting, inadequate culverts and high flows from the Madison Avenue storm sewer catchments. Conductivity is elevated and may indicate a current baseflow toxicity issue, especially in the north branch. It certainly indicates a potential issue in the future.

## STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

### **Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

P – The habitat alterations in the north branch and mainstem limit the streams ability to support a robust macroinvertebrate community. In the north branch, this is principally due to the discharge of high stormwater flows from upper Madison Avenue which frequently results in erosion and downstream deposition of the sandy substrate. These frequent alterations make it difficult for aquatic insects with annual life cycles to stay in the reach because once they have been washed downstream they cannot attempt to re-establish themselves until the following year. The resulting community is dominated by short life cycle taxa (amphipods, isopods, midges) and lacks significant populations of mayflies and stoneflies. These high flows also exacerbate the problems with channel alterations and inadequate culverts downstream.

### **Feasibility for Success**

P – The principal component of this plan update is to develop a concept plan for the modifications of the existing detention basin just upstream of the upper Madison Avenue stormwater outfall that would be required for this basin to provide effective detention of stormwater that would reduce the frequency of exposure of the north branch stream channel to excessively high flows without risking contamination of the groundwater with high chloride stormwater during winter and spring melt events. The detention basin upgrade was the highest priority action item in the Whitten Brook Watershed Restoration Plan. The actual implementation of this action item requires coordination of 319 funding and local support with DOT work on Madison Avenue which will include reconstruction of the upper Madison Avenue storm sewer discharge pipe so that its flow can be diverted to the detention basin most of the time, except when stormwater chloride concentrations are likely to be high. While DOT engineers have done some initial planning of the required detention basin alterations, there are still many unknowns that need to be ironed out in order to determine design requirements and projected costs for the project. Since it is the intention to use 319 implementation funds for the design and construction of the project, it is necessary to have reasonably accurate estimates of the associated costs in order to be able to draft a 319 implementation grant proposal for the project, and the cost cannot be estimated until more information about the project (e.g. berm reconstruction and outlet structure requirements, etc) is gathered and incorporated into a “Basis of Design Report”. This is the bulk of the work described in Task 3. It must be accomplished quickly so that an application for an implementation grant to design and construct the basin can be submitted in time for the actual construction to align with DOT’s work. This concept plan is an essential step in implementation of the highest priority action item in the 2011 Restoration Plan. The accomplishment of this step is straight forward and well within the wheelhouse of consulting engineers that are likely to bid for the engineering consultant contract, so the likelihood of successful completion of the concept plan is high. The other elements of Task 3 will further enhance the efforts to mitigate contamination of Madison Avenue runoff and are an important part of updating the Restoration Plan. A key component of success will be developing a scope of work for the consulting engineer contract that addresses all the goals for management of stormwater and design of a safe and maintainable basin.

P – From a broader perspective, Whitten Brook has long been viewed as our most restorable impaired urban stream, but there is no chance of its restoration if we cannot effectively deal with the stormwater discharge from the upper Madison Avenue. Final implementation of this action item will be a huge and essential step in the restoration of the stream.

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

**Cost Effectiveness**

P – The costs proposed for this plan upgrade appear reasonable considering the scope of work and the expertise required.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**



**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Washington Co. SWCD

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P – WCSWCD has experience managing 319 grant projects. The list of requirements for the sub-contractor seems comprehensive. The expertise that several of the partners will provide as well as the fluvial geomorphologist sub-contractor greatly enhance the likelihood of project success.

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

P – Because of its current and much greater future potential as habitat for endangered Atlantic Salmon the Upper Narraguagus River is of extremely high value.

**Water Quality Problem**

P – Historic use of the river for log drives has compromised or eliminated the Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout habitat in much of the basin by widening the channel, impounding water behind relic dams and resulting warming of the water, elimination of structural and flow regime diversity as well as access to the flood plain and depositing fine sediment on spawning and rearing habitats.

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

P – The habitat issues described in Water Quality Problem above are a severe limitation on the potential for successful restoration of Atlantic Salmon in the system.

**Feasibility for Success**

P – Because of the expertise of the partners involved and the knowledge that will be gained in the pilot reaches, there is a high feasibility of success of enhancing the WBP so that it will effectively guide efforts throughout the watershed to address the historic geomorphological impacts on salmon habitat. This is an essential step for successful restoration of the salmon runs.

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Washington Co. SWCD

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Jeff Dennis

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Protection

**Cost Effectiveness**

The proposed costs seem reasonable. The project is greatly enhanced by the contributions and collective expertise of all the partners.

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Eastbrook

**DATE:** 5/29/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Tom Miraglioulo

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P – 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, HC Registry of Deeds, HCSWCD, Abrams Pond Association volunteers, + consultant

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

N

**Water Quality Problem**

P

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

P – severe blooms

**Feasibility for Success**

P

**Cost Effectiveness**

P 25.9% match

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

0

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

5

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Town of Skowhegan

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Tom Miragliuolo

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P – likely top 10% of qualified towns

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

P – easy access

**Water Quality Problem**

P

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

**Feasibility for Success**

P

**Cost Effectiveness**

P – 27.5% match

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

0

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

5

**STATE OF MAINE  
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202302026

**RFP TITLE:** Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan Development

**BIDDER NAME:** Washington Co SWCD

**DATE:** 5/9/23

**EVALUATOR NAME:** Tom Miragliuolo

**EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

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**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

**Individual Evaluator Comments:**

*Type or write down notes under the scoring criteria below:*

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**Applicant Qualifications and Experience**

P

**Relative Value of the Waterbody**

P

**Water Quality Problem**

**Nature, Extent and Severity of NPS Problems**

P very large watershed

**Feasibility for Success**

P

**Cost Effectiveness**

P 30% match - highest

**Comprehensive Plan – score to be calculated by DEP**

0

**Environmental Justice/DAC – score to be calculated by DEP**

5



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**RFA#: 202302026**

**RFA TITLE:**

**Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan  
Development**

I, Addie Halligan accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFA.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFA nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

**I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Aroposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.**

*Addie P. Halligan*

5/10/2023

**Signature**

**Date**



**STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**RFA#: 202302026**

**RFA TITLE:**

**Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan  
Development**

I, Alex Wong accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFA.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Wong'.

Signature

5/5/23

Date





STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**RFA#: 202302026**

**RFA TITLE:**

**Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan  
Development**

I, Jeff Dennis accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Applications (RFA) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFA.

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**4/27/2023**

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Signature

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Date



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**RFA#: 202302026**

**RFA TITLE:**

**Nonpoint Source Grant for Pollution Control Projects Watershed-based Plan  
Development**

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I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

**I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Aroposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.**

Handwritten signature of Tom Miragliuolo in blue ink.

Signature

Handwritten date 5/10/2023 in blue ink.

Date