



CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (CWMTF) GRANTS GRANT EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The following evaluation system will be used by the CWMTF in its review of applications submitted during the next cycle (February 1, 2008 – November 31, 2008).

A. Eligible applicants for CWMTF grants.

- 1) Any of the following are eligible to receive a grant from CWMTF for the purpose of protecting or enhancing water quality:
 - a) A state agency
 - b) A local government or other political subdivision of the state or a combination of such entities.
 - c) A nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation and restoration of our state's environmental and natural resources.
- 2) No match is required; however, a match is recommended.
- 3) Trustees may choose to fund projects at less than 100% of the application request.

B. CWMTF purposes:

- 1) Grant monies from CWMTF may be used for any of the following purposes:
 - a) Acquire land for riparian buffers for environmental protection of surface waters or urban drinking water supplies, or for establishing a network of greenways for environmental, educational or recreational uses.
 - b) Acquire easements in order to protect surface waters or urban drinking water supplies.
 - c) Coordinate with other public programs involved with lands adjoining water bodies to gain the most public benefit while protecting and improving water quality.
 - d) Restore degraded lands for their ability to protect water quality.
 - e) Repair failing waste treatment systems: if (i) an application to the Clean water Revolving Loan and Grant Fund has been submitted and denied in the latest review cycle; (ii) repair is for a reasonable remedy to an existing waste treatment problem; and (iii) the repair is not for the purpose of expanding the system to accommodate future anticipated growth of a community. Priority shall be given to economically distressed units of local government.
 - f) Repair/eliminate failing septic tank systems, to eliminate illegal drainage connections, and to expand waste treatment systems if the system is being expanded as a remedy to eliminate failing septic tank systems or illegal drainage connections. Priority shall be given to economically distressed units of local government.
 - g) Improve stormwater controls and management
 - h) Facilitate planning that targets reductions in surface water pollution.

C. CWMTF Objectives and grant application evaluation and prioritization. Grant applications will be quantitatively evaluated upon their contribution toward achieving the principal objectives of the fund:

Objective
1. Restoration of degraded waters or protection of unpolluted water (0-45 points). These criteria are scored based on information given in the supplemental questions for each project type.
<u>Acquisition Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establishment of riparian buffers- (b) Links to other conservation projects in region/watershed (c) Buffer density – buffer length: acres ratio; buffer width (d) Cost benefit – cost per linear foot, or cost per acre (e) Condition of tract – age and composition of vegetative stand (f) Working Forest Easement / Federal Program coordination (g) Local planning and/or ordinances (h) If project does not protect pristine waters or restore degraded waters, deduct 5 points
<u>Stream Restoration Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Links to other conservation projects in region/watershed (b) Level: Restoration vs Enhancement vs stabilization (c) Cost benefit – cost per linear foot (d) Sediment delivery reduction (e) Stormwater management, ordinances, planning (f) Local buffer, wetland and floodplain protection ordinances (g) Watershed stability (developing or stable) (h) Maintenance responsibility (i) If project does not protect pristine waters or restore degraded waters, deduct 5 points
<u>Stormwater Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Links to other conservation projects in region/watershed (b) Meets DWQ minimum design specifications (c) Alternatives investigated (i.e., in-line vs off-line) (d) Local planning / ordinance initiatives (e) Stormwater Utility establishment (f) Regional efforts (g) Treatment for compliance only, or beyond compliance requirements (h) Total pollutant reduction (sediment, nutrients, etc.) (i) Cost benefit – cost of pollutant reduction (j) Local buffer, wetland or floodplain protection ordinance (k) Maintenance responsibility (l) If project does not protect pristine waters or restore degraded waters, deduct 5 points
<u>Wastewater Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cost benefit (i.e. cost per linear foot, number homes, gallons treated, pollutant load reduction) (b) Discharge elimination or decrease (c) Reuse (d) Regionalization (e) Treatment for compliance only, or beyond compliance requirements (f) Value added product (g) Groundwater or surface water withdrawal reduction (h) If project does not protect pristine waters or restore degraded waters, deduct 5 points (i) Tier of County (j) High Unit Cost vs local rates

Planning Projects - applications will be reviewed by the appropriate committees with additional evaluation under those categories.

- (a) Links to other conservation projects and plans in region/watershed
- (b) Commitment to implementation of plan
- (c) Clear need for plan with clear outline and vision of the plan
- (d) If project does not protect pristine waters or restore degraded waters, **deduct 5 points**

2. Targeted Areas (10 full points if any of the following criteria are met)

- (a) Headwaters of rivers, streams, and creeks – 1storder streams
- (b) Water Supply Watershed I and II
- (c) Drinking Water Assessment Area Susceptibility Ratings – Higher and Moderate Rates
- (d) Urban 303(d) listed stream
- (e) Shellfish waters or Trout waters
- (f) Elimination of stormwater outfalls to oceanfronts
- (g) Wastewater Regionalization Project
- (h) Relates to military installation land use plans and associated flyways
- (i) Public necessity- addresses permit or water quality standards, DENR orders, or the lifting of moratoriums

3. Special Significance Of Waters (0-20 points)

20 Points

- Outstanding Resource Waters classification
- Impaired waters identified by the Division of Water Quality and on the 303(d) list
- Rare aquatic species (S1G1, S1G2, S1G3, S2G2, S2G3) or nationally significant aquatic habitat as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program
- Classified shellfishing SA approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health

16 Points

- High Quality Waters classification – does not include HQW “by definition” such as WSI, II or SA waters
- State significant aquatic habitat as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program
- Wild trout as designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission
- Excellent bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Quality

14 Points

- Other rare aquatic species as identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program (S3)
- Classified shellfishing SA conditionally approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health
- Water Supply I classification
- Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Higher”

12 Points

- Water Supply II classification
- Division of Coastal Management exceptional wetland
- Division of Water Quality unique wetland
- Natural Heritage Program rare wetland
- Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification
- Other impaired waters but not on the 303(d) list

10 Points

- Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Wildlife Resources Commission
- B classification
- Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Moderate”
- Essential Fish Habitat as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

8 Points

- Water Supply III classification
- Natural Heritage Significant Area
- Good bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Quality
- Local watershed planning area
- Riparian Corridor Plan

6 Points

- Water Supply IV or Trout classification
- Other SA (not approved or conditionally approved for harvest)
- Division of Marine Fisheries Critical Habitat and other functional nursery areas
- Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Lower”

2 Points

- Water Supply V classification

<p>4. Preserves Waters With Special Uses (0-5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) National Scenic Waters (b) National Heritage River (c) National Seashore, National or State Park, National Wildlife Refuge, Coastal Preserve (d) Exceptionally heavy recreational use
<p>5. Contributes To Ecological Network (0-5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Protects old-growth forests or mature, pristine wetlands or other relatively pristine areas of ecological significance and provides a connection to other such protected areas. (b) Protects old-growth or mature forests, pristine wetlands or other relatively pristine areas of ecological significance in relative isolation (c) Does not involve old-growth, pristine or mature systems of ecological significance
<p>6. Consistency With Division of Water Quality's Basinwide Plan (0-15 points).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Explicitly Mentioned in the Basinwide Plan as needed (b) Project type mentioned as beneficial to pristine or NSW waters (c) Generally supports goals of the Basinwide Plan (d) No connection to the Plan
<p>7. Measurable and Enduring Outcomes (0-15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ready to go and targeted to significant waters; water quality improvements or protection document able in a direct manner from specific project implementation (b) Ready to go and targeted to significant waters, part of an overall initiative that could provide document able improvements or protection in water quality in the future (c) Ready to go and targeted to significant waters, but direct improvement to, or protection of, water quality difficult to document (intuitive) (d) Not ready to go; improvement to, or protection of, water quality may result from effort (e) Non-targeted waters, not part of a larger water quality improvement plan, improvements or protection doubtful
<p>8. Innovative Procedures or Technologies (0-5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) New technology or procedure (b) Existing technology or procedure not commonly used (c) Standard or common technology or procedure
<p>9. Development of Riparian Greenways (0-10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Will establish greenway system (b) Possible greenway development (c) No greenway to be developed
<p>10. Provides Public Education (0-5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Part of an organized educational effort (b) Passive interpretation trail (c) Possible educational actions to follow (d) No educational component

11. Matching Resources (0-20 points).

Match points will be the sum of the following two factors:

- (a) Up to 10 points based on the amount of all match, with points = percentage of total multiplied by 0.11.
- (b) Up to 10 points based on the source of matching funds and water quality benefit. Points are selected from the following table. For projects with a mixture of match sources and water quality benefit, the portion of the matching table representing the highest percentage of match source and water quality benefit will be used.

Water Quality Benefit Project Type Source Of Funds Points

Direct Acquisitions: Riparian buffers or wetlands

OR

Other project types: Directly related (integral and necessary) to the restoration of water quality Cash from grantee's funds or its donors **or** loan 10
Bargain sale or value of donation (Appr. Value less price) **or** Other (in-kind services such as administrative support, monitoring, maintenance, management) **or** Matching grant *not* NC govt 8
Match from NC govt agency 6

Indirect Acquisitions: Uplands

OR

Other project types: Indirectly related (not integral and necessary) to the restoration of water quality Cash from grantee's funds or its donors **or** Loan 5
Bargain sale or value of donation (Appr. Value less price) **or** Other (in-kind services such as administrative support, monitoring, maintenance, management) **or** Matching grant *not* NC govt 3
Match from NC govt agency 1

12. Applicant Qualifications (0-10 points).

- (a) Previous grant with good progress (10 pts.)
- (b) Previous grant and mixed progress
- (c) No previous grant
- (d) Previous grant and poor progress (0 pts.)