

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

SUPPORTING ANNEX 2001: BUILDING AN IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

SUMMARY

The Great Lakes Protection Fund seeks preproposals for a number of coordinated short-term projects to advance activities under the June 2001 Annex to the Great Lakes Charter. The Fund will distribute up to \$2 million dollars in grant awards to a group of projects that help potential water users, resource managers, scientists, and other technical experts make effective choices under the water resource management system contemplated by the Annex.

The deadline for submitting preproposals in response to this supplemental request is 5:00 p.m., January 25, 2002.

BACKGROUND

Over the past 30 years, the citizens, governments, and industries of the Great Lakes Basin have addressed chemical contamination and improved water quality in the Great Lakes. Together, these groups have demonstrated that economic and environmental health can go hand-in-hand. Now, new threats to the basin's ecological security are beginning to emerge. These include the effects of possible bulk water exports, potential new diversions of water out of or into the basin, and the need to more completely consider the natural resource consequences of water uses within the basin.

Since the Governors entered into the region's first formal agreement on management of Great Lakes water resources—the 1985 Great Lakes Charter—the state of scientific knowledge of how the ecosystem can be affected by changes in hydrology has greatly improved. It is now understood that the basin's ecological integrity is dependent upon how water moves through the ground, across the land, through rivers and streams, and into the Great Lakes—in addition to the rates at which water leaves the system.

The legal and policy context has also changed since the Governors first signed the Charter. For example, the States and Provinces have adopted various regulations governing the use of Great Lakes waters. In 1986, the US federal government included language in the Water Resources Development Act that prohibits diversions from the US portion of the Great Lakes unless all Governors approve the request. The US and Canada have also entered into two significant international trade treaties—the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (supplemented by agreements concerning the World Trade Organization)—that affect decisions about the use and transfer of water. Just last year, Congress, when adopting revisions to the Water Resources Development Act, encouraged the Governors, in consultation with Canada's Great Lakes Provinces, “to develop and implement a mechanism that provides a common conservation standard embodying the principles of water

conservation and resource improvement for making decisions concerning the withdrawal and use of water from the Great Lakes basin.”

In light of the changed scientific, legal, and policy environments, the Region’s Governors and Premiers signed the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001 in June of 2001. In the Annex, the Governors and Premiers reaffirm their commitment to the Charter principles and also “commit to develop and implement a new common, resource-based conservation standard and apply it to proposed new or added increased capacity withdrawals of Great Lakes water.”

The Fund has already awarded over \$5 million in support of two initiatives related to the commitments in the Annex. In 1999, the Fund supported a series of 13 projects to explore how the health of aquatic resources of the Great Lakes can be improved by the restoration of the physical hydrology of the basin. Links to these projects can be found on the Fund’s website at www.glpf.org/GLPFflow.htm. In 2000, the Fund initiated a multi-phase project to assist the Great Lakes states and provinces in developing a robust water resources decision support system (DSS). The Great Lakes Commission is leading a group of basin stakeholders in inventorying information about the state of Great Lakes water resources, the uses of those resources, and how the various types of uses interact with the basin’s ecological health. Information about the first phase project can be found at: <http://www.glc.org/waterquantity/wrmdss/>

The Fund’s goal is to support projects that help facilitate water management decisions that restore and protect the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

PROJECT CRITERIA

The Fund now seeks preproposals for a number of coordinated, short-term projects to advance activities under the Annex. The Fund intends to support a series of individual efforts that, together, will help potential water users, resource managers, scientists and other technical experts to make effective choices under the water resource management system contemplated by the Annex. The Fund is particularly interested in projects that build technical tools, test various decision-making processes, and provide tangible examples of improvements to the basin’s water-dependent natural resources.

The Fund wishes to encourage a broad array of innovative strategies that link likely future uses of the basin’s water resources to opportunities to improve the health of the basin’s water-dependent natural resources. The Fund encourages approaches that include applied scientific research, decision analysis and simulation, exploration of market mechanisms to implement the Annex, and stakeholder involvement. Applicants must be willing to interact with other grantees, Fund staff, and others in the basin to capture and share the lessons from the supported work.

Supported projects must:

- Be a next practical step in the development of a basin-wide water resource management system that conserves and restores exhaustible, water-dependent natural resources,
 - Make a tangible contribution to the commitments made in Annex 2001,
 - Involve multi-disciplinary teams that include and have the support of customers who will use the results of the proposed work,
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- Be a collaborative effort resulting in new, publicly available information on the basin's water-dependent natural resources,
- Make maximum use of ongoing and planned efforts,
- Inform key decision-makers but not include lobbying strategies,
- Begin to produce meaningful results in nine months or less, and
- Leverage Fund support as much as possible.

The following is an illustrative list of strategies that applicants may wish to consider. These are provided to stimulate thinking, not as an exhaustive list of fundable projects. Projects might:

- Systematically identify opportunities for improving the ecological health of the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes basin,
- Identify how groundwater supports the basin's water-dependent natural resources and describe the potential impacts of changed groundwater withdrawals within and just outside of the surface water basin,
- Define common measures of resource improvement, identify key uncertainties associated with each measure, and develop the means to quantify, bank, and trade improvement actions,
- Describe the potential beneficial and adverse ecological consequences of expanded water uses, the key uncertainties in predicting and measuring those consequences, and develop methods to manage those uncertainties,
- Develop and analyze illustrative case studies of withdrawal requests likely to require review under the system contemplated by the Annex and identify elements common to successful requests,
- Develop a set of simple, conceptual models for the major types of ecological systems in the basin that identify how the hydrologic changes associated with likely water withdrawal requests will affect the biological features of those systems,
- Identify the entire range of water-dependent natural resources that should be considered under the Annex.

The key factor that will be considered is whether or not a project's tangible products are of consequence throughout the basin.

ELIGIBILITY

The Great Lakes Protection Fund can support a wide variety of applicants. Non-profit organizations (including environmental organizations, trade associations, and universities), governmental agencies, individuals, and for-profit businesses are eligible for Fund support. Successful applicants must maintain open access to project data, records, and information.

All applicants must show that the proposed work has clear public benefit and that any related financial benefits will accrue to the public good. *Government agencies must show that Fund support is not being used to replace or duplicate public funds. Private, for-profit, concerns must show that all project benefits inure to the public good.*

CONTENT OF PREPROPOSALS

Preproposals are overviews of the project team's anticipated product, the general plan of work and time frame, and the team's qualifications. Preproposals are the first step in securing support from the Fund. A more detailed and complete proposal will be invited after a preproposal is selected.

Preproposals should be no more than five pages of text. No attachments are permitted. Please fill out a Preproposal Cover Sheet and e-mail it along with your preproposal to the Fund. Do not send cover letters, covers or binders.

Please send preproposals as e-mail attachments (Microsoft Word, rich text or pdf files) to preproposals@glpf.org no later than 5:00 p.m., January 25, 2002.

Please address the following issues, in the order below, in your preproposal:

Project Outcome

Identify the expected product of the work. Describe how the product will advance the goals of Annex 2001 and how it builds on ongoing activities. Indicate whom the customers for the product are, what they are expected to do with the project results, and describe their role in the project.

Proposed Work

Outline the work to be carried out. Identify major task categories. Include a timeline for the project that describes when the work will be complete and the major interim products. Discuss how the team will identify and capture relevant information being developed by work underway in and outside of the region.

Key Personnel

Identify the members of the project team (those supported by the request, by other funding sources and volunteers), indicating roles and responsibilities. The project team must include meaningful representation of all interests affected by the proposed work. Briefly describe qualifications of the team's leaders.

Financial Plan

Present the estimated costs of the proposed work in summary categories: personnel, equipment and supplies, travel, consultants, overhead, etc. The Fund will not support overhead costs in excess of 15% of the direct project costs (excluding travel and sub-contracts).

Identify the type and amount of support requested of the Fund. Identify how other moneys will be raised to support the proposed work.

CALENDAR

December 2001

Request for Preproposals

January 25, 2002
Preproposal Submissions

February 2002
Full Proposals Invited

April/May 2002
Full Proposal Review and Revision

June 2002
Announcement of Awards

RESOURCES

Applicants may find the following resources of use in designing preproposals:

The Great Lakes Charter of 1985

Annex 2001 to the Great Lakes Charter

Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes, International Joint Commission, 2000

Indirect Ground-Water Discharge to the Great Lakes, USGS, 1999

Importance of Ground Water in the Great Lakes Region, USGS, 2001

The Natural Flow Regime: A New Paradigm for Freshwater Conservation, BioScience, 1997

A Literature Review on Cumulative Ecological Impacts Of Water Use and Changes in Levels and Flows, Great Lakes Commission, 2001 (410KB pdf file)

Anthropogenic Impacts on the Hydrology of Rivers and Lochs, University of Dundee, 1999 (493KB pdf file)

Restoring Natural Flow Regimes- summary of previous GLPF investments

THE GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND

The Great Lakes Protection Fund is a private, nonprofit corporation formed in 1989 by the Governors of the Great Lakes States. It is a permanent environmental endowment that supports actions that improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The Fund seeks projects that lead to tangible improvements in the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, address the interdependence of ecological and economic health, and are innovative, creative, and venturesome. The Fund accepts preproposals at any time and in response to periodic, supplemental requests for preproposals on specific topics such as this.

In addition to providing over \$36 million to regional projects that restore the health of the Great Lakes, the Fund has also returned over \$31 million directly to its member states for their Great Lakes priorities. Please contact the Fund for information on individual state programs.
