

Request for Letter of Interest
Reedy River Water Quality Group
Greenville, SC
Economic Impacts Study of Water Quality Improvements
May 6, 20016

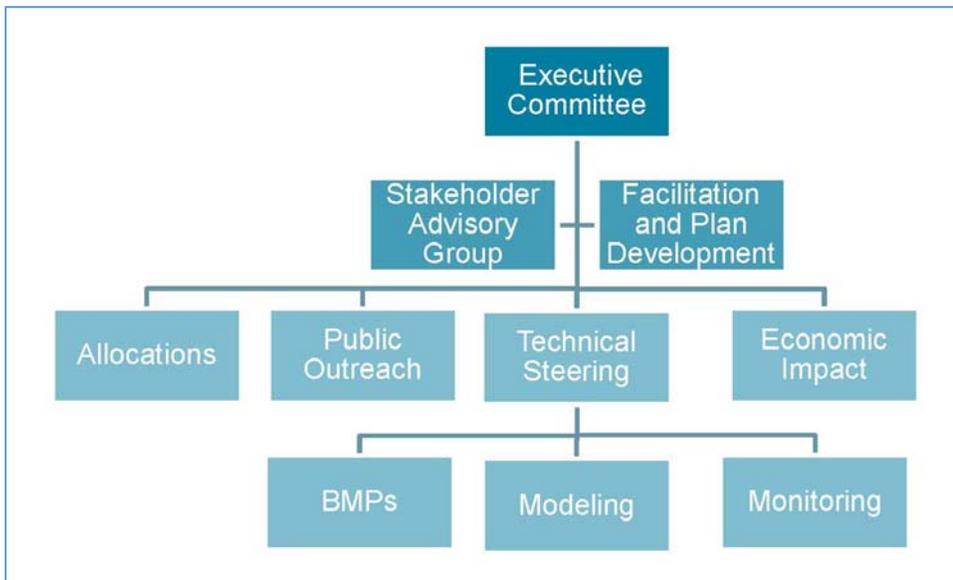
Summary

The Reedy River Water Quality Group is requesting invited professionals to indicate their interest in conducting a study of the economic impacts of water quality improvements in the Reedy River watershed. Background on the Group, the nature of the study, and information requested for response is detailed below. Deadline for receipt of the Letter of Interest is June 6, 2016.

Background

The Reedy River Water Quality Group (RRWQG) has one mission: protect, preserve, and improve water quality in the Reedy River. To do this, we've gathered 31 stakeholder organizations (e.g local city and county agencies, homeowner groups, conservation groups, and business groups) to work together toward reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into the river. Historically, water quality restoration efforts of this type have been led and implemented by State and Federal Regulators. The RRWQG is pursuing an alternative water quality restoration approach (the 5R) that was established in 2013 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in order to increase opportunities for successful restoration of waters identified on each States list of impaired waters (the 303(d) list). The Group will monitor water quality, model the river system, teach the public about pollution prevention, review successful practices, and analyze economic impact. We will choose programs that will have the highest benefit to the community and the environment and the greatest cost efficiency (the triple bottom line).

The RRWQG works through its committee structure: The committees are:



The committees perform under the auspices of the Executive Committee, which is comprised of the three permit holders in the Watershed who are the sponsors: the City of Greenville, Greenville County,

and Renewable Water Resources. In addition, there is a facilitation team that manages communication, logistics, and facilitates meetings of the Group. The projection for plan completion is May 2019.

More information is available at www.cleanreedy.org.

Economic Impacts

The Economic Impact Committee is charged with estimating the regional community costs and benefits that will result from the water quality improvements plan. The Committee proposes a study that will answer three questions:

1. The cost differential between a traditional total maximum daily load (TMDL) developed by the regulatory agency, and the 5R currently underway.
2. The cost and benefits of maintaining the status quo and not making further improvements in water quality.
3. The cost and benefits of implementing best management practices and achieving water quality improvements that comply with regulations.

The Best Management Practices Committee will provide the Economic Impact Committee with a menu of best management practices (BMPs) that are believed to have the greatest efficiency in reducing the pollutants of concern from the waterway. The Economic Impact Committee will assist in the selection of BMPs, and will provide information for the public outreach effort, by providing information gained through the study as a measure. The information will be in some part financial, and in some part derived from triple bottom line measures, such as ecology.

The 5R is new and innovative approach to watershed restoration plans and few national examples exist. The RRWQG stakeholders and consultants are thus charting new waters with high visibility in the water sector.

Funding and Cost Estimate

RRWQG is submitting for at least one grant to support the economic study, and may obtain other donations as a result of the grant award. In order to submit the grant application, it is necessary to provide planning levels costs of the study. The RRWQG does not have an informed estimate for the cost of the study, and hopes that information will be obtained through responses to this Letter of Interest.

Response Information

Respondents are asked to provide the following information:

1. Confirm their interest in consulting with the RRWQG and conducting the study referenced above.
2. Provide a brief qualifications statement (no more than two pages) of their expertise to conduct the study.
3. Provide a planning level cost estimate range for the study.
4. Outline a scope for the study (no more than three pages).

It is anticipated that the Committee will be able to make a consultant selection from the Letters of Interest, however, it reserves the right to interview candidates.

Schedule

The schedule for the study is dependent on the timing of funding and the work of several other committees, particularly the Best Management Practices Committee, but RRWQG estimates that the consulting contract could be awarded in August 2016, and the study could commence in September 2016.

We hope that you are interested in the opportunity to assist in the decisions that will benefit residents of the watershed and to augment the body of literature that exists on the topic of water quality economic impacts. In the future, as more impaired watersheds are improved through the stakeholder-centric approach, this project and its tools will be a model. Please provide your Letter of Interest electronically by June 6, 2016, to Sandra Ralston, sandraraalston@wqr-inc.com. Respondents are welcome to ask clarifying questions.

Sandra K. Ralston
Facilitation Team
Reedy River Water Quality Group
843-697-7840
sandraraalston@wqr-inc.com