

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRE-PROPOSALS for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

### **New Procedure: Pre-proposals Required**

Pre-proposals are solicited from faculty members of senior colleges and universities in North Carolina under the Water Resources Research Institute Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Program. Applications for grants must be submitted via the WRRRI web site (<http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/preproposal.html>) by **Wednesday, September 24, 2008**. Total available funds are approximately \$250,000. This includes \$92,000 in Federal funds if appropriated through the U.S. Geological Survey.

The purpose of the Institute's program is to encourage research on water resources problems in North Carolina. A list of priority research topics identified by the WRRRI Advisory Committee is located at <http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/2009-10Priorities.pdf>. However, pre-proposals on any water resources topic that fall within the Institute's mission will be considered.

Criteria that will be used to judge pre-proposals include:

- the need for this research in North Carolina,
- how closely the project relates to the WRRRI research priorities and mission,
- the usefulness of the results for managing water resources in North Carolina
- the potential for continued support from other funding sources
- fostering student involvement in water research

Research funded by this program is intended to address water resource problems of significance in North Carolina. Special consideration will be given to pre-proposals that satisfy the above criteria, that include a WRRRI research priority topic, and that involve the use of Institute funds to match those from other agencies. Further consideration also will be given to qualified proposals where the principal investigator is an early-career or assistant professor. WRRRI strongly encourages collaboration with state, federal and local agencies. Attention will also be given to past performance on grants funded through WRRRI (see Past Performance on page 4). Requests for funds should not exceed \$50,000 in direct costs. WRRRI does not pay indirect costs ([http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/WRRRI\\_OHPolicy.pdf](http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/WRRRI_OHPolicy.pdf)).

**Timeline:** This timeline depends upon the timing of the Congressional budget approval process for federal fiscal year 2009.

YEAR	DATE	ACTION
2008	August 20	Request for Pre-proposals distributed
	September 24	Pre-proposals due electronically to WRRRI by 5:00 pm.
	Week of September 28	Pre-proposal review and ranking
	October 6	Successful candidates requested to submit full proposals
	November 7	Full proposals due
	December 4	Technical reviews due to WRRRI
	December 10	Technical Committee meets
	Week of December 15	Successful candidates notified
2009	January 15	Research projects to receive USGS funding due to USGS
	March 1	USGS-funded research projects start
	March - August	WRRRI-funded research projects start
2010	February 28	USGS-funded research projects conclude
	March - August	WRRRI-funded research projects conclude

The starting date for projects is no earlier than March 1, 2009 and must be completed within a 12-month period. Investigators may apply for funding on continued (Phase II) research projects contingent upon successful progress on the first year's funding. Investigators will still need to submit a pre-proposal to be considered for Phase II.

Please include the following information in an MS-Word document or pdf file (3-page limit):

- Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigators (include affiliations, phone, fax, and email addresses)
- Project Title
- Duration of the Project (not to exceed 12 months)
- Estimated total budget amount (not to exceed \$50,000)
- Brief **project description** consisting of these sections: Statement of the Critical Regional or State Water Problem, Statement of Results or Benefits, Nature and Objectives of the Proposed Research, Methods, Brief description of related research.
- Investigator Qualifications (not included in 3-page limit): include C.V. of the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigators (not to exceed 2-pages for each person).

Submit the 3-page pre-proposal and the investigator qualifications as one document (MS-Word or pdf file) at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/preproposal.html>.

**Topics Not Appropriate for This Program.** Although the Institute encourages research on a broad array of topics, there are some topics that are not appropriate under this program. Specific topics that are considered to be unsuitable include:

1. Research on health effects involving human subjects or their surrogates; and
2. Research involving oceanography (estuarine research is suitable).

**Past Performance.** While we recognize that sometimes circumstances (e.g., graduate student schedules, etc.) beyond the investigator's immediate control can adversely affect the schedule of research, nonetheless, we are constrained by administrative rules and funding requirements to adhere to project schedules, unless adjustments are mutually agreed to beforehand. Thus, timeliness of researcher performance on past projects funded through WRRRI must be a factor in proposal selection. As a consequence, any researcher who is late in an ongoing study funded through WRRRI without an approved no-cost extension may not be eligible to be a named participant in any proposal for the 2009-2010 funding cycle. If you have any questions about your eligibility for 2009-2010 projects, please contact WRRRI.

NOTE: If you are interested seeing what the full proposal submission information will require for the successful candidates, the link is [http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/FY2009-10\\_ProposalInstructions.pdf](http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/cfp/FY2009-10_ProposalInstructions.pdf).

**Questions?** Contact Kelly Porter, WRRRI Environmental Education and Communications Coordinator, at [kelly\\_porter@ncsu.edu](mailto:kelly_porter@ncsu.edu) or 919-513-1152.