



How To Write A Successful Tribal 319 Competitive Grant Proposal

Thursday, November 10, 2016
2:00 – 3:30pm Eastern

Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters





Guide to the Webinar



- **Overview of Competitive Tribal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Grant process**
- **Featured Speakers**
 - **Dan Kusnierz**, Penobscot Indian Nation
 - **Peggy Obear**, Prairie Island Indian Community
- **Question and Answer segment**
 - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar

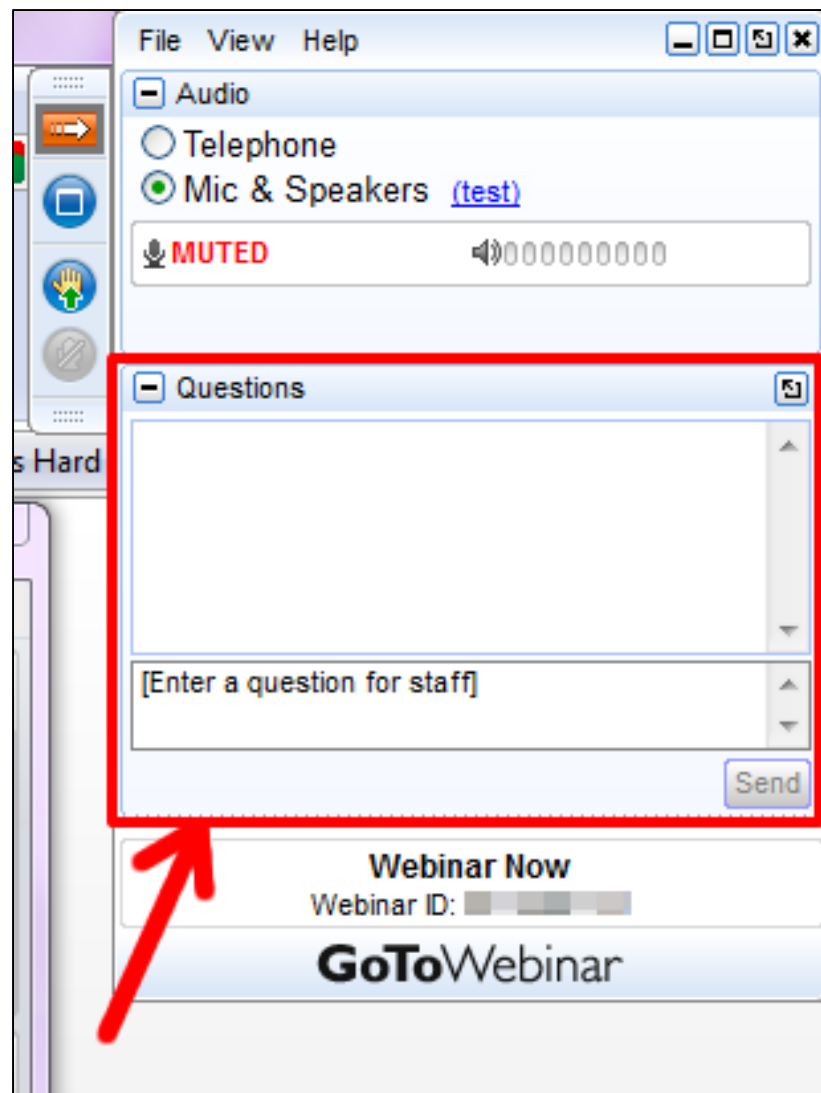


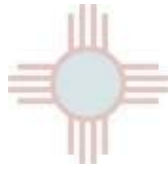
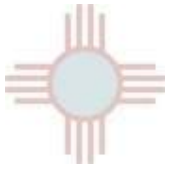
To Ask a Question – Type your question in the “Questions” toolbox on the right side of your screen and click “Send”.

Answers will be addressed either during the webinar and/or posted on the tribal NPS page:

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal>

A copy of the webinar will be posted to the tribal NPS page.



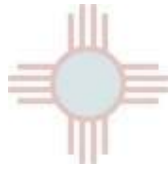
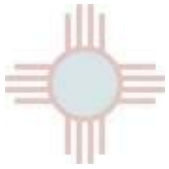


Key Dates

- **October 14, 2016:** date by which tribal applicants must have met eligibility requirements to be eligible for FY2017 CWA section 319 grants
- **Mid-November to Early January, 2017 (45 days):** Open application period
- **2-weeks prior to open application period end:** Last day to submit questions to your EPA Regional Coordinator

*Proposals must be submitted electronically to EPA through www.grants.gov





FY16 Competitive 319 Grant Materials available at:

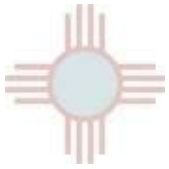
www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-tribal-request-proposals

**This year's (FY17) materials will be
available very soon! Very few changes
from FY16 RFP.**

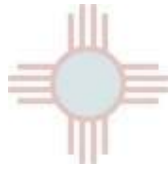


If you have a good idea, (Re)apply!

Year	# Proposals Submitted	# Proposals Awarded	% Proposals Awarded	Competitive Project Cap
2005	41	31	76%	\$150,000
2006	50	28	56%	\$150,000
2007	52	25	48%	\$150,000
2008	50	32	64%	\$150,000
2009	62	26	42%	\$150,000
2010	57	26	46%	\$150,000
2011	51	24	47%	\$150,000
2012	54	20	37%	\$150,000
2013	43	17	40%	\$150,000
2014	44	25	57%	\$100,000
2015	46	31	67%	\$100,000
2016	43	29	67%	\$100,000

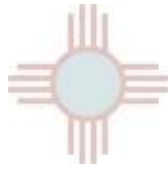
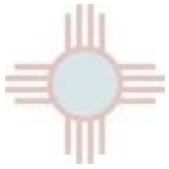


Reminders



- **Competitive grant and base grant have separate deadlines – check www.epa.gov/nps/tribal for most up-to-date information**
- **EPA Regional NPS staff cannot provide assistance on development of competitive grant proposals/workplans**
 - Questions re: RFP will be directed to EPA HQ
 - Answers posted on the Tribal 319 NPS page & updated throughout competition period
- **Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000**
- **Page limit!**
 - 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the proposal narrative
 - Additional pages are allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.)





Getting Started

- **Read through the RFP**
- **Review your NPS Assessment Report and NPS Program Management Plan**
- **Find a priority project that you want to implement in FY2017 with NPS competitive funding**
- **Develop a workplan narrative to address the threshold criteria and ranking criteria**
- **Proposal work plan should conform to outline in Section IV.B of the RFP**



The RFP Process

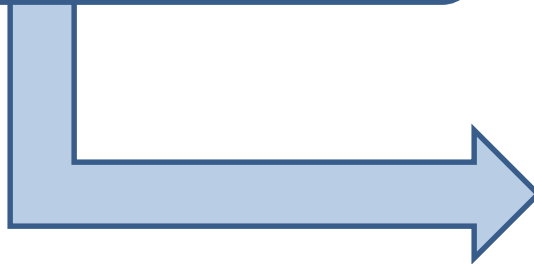
Proposals are submitted online at Grants.gov by stated date and time



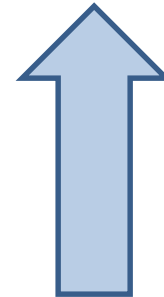
EPA Regions review proposals to ensure they meet RFP threshold criteria



Proposals passing Regional Threshold Review are forwarded on to National Review committee



Review committee members evaluate proposals and scores are averaged to result in ranked list



Awards announced in Spring 2017



Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria?



Threshold Criteria (Section III.C)

- EPA Regional review
- Signed Standard Form (SF) 424 – Application for Federal Assistance
- Proposal workplan
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.B
- No score

Ranking Criteria (Section V.A)

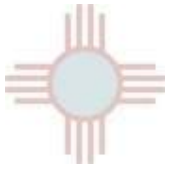
- National Committee review
- Proposals are evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points





Nine Ranking Criteria Section V.A. of RFP





Ranking Criteria – NPS subcategories

- a. The extent, and quality, to which the subcategories of NPS pollution are identified and described. (10 points)***
- Identifies each significant subcategory of NPS pollution
 - Extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed

*See Appendix B of RFP



Example format for documenting NPS pollution (sub)categories

NPS Categories/Subcategories	Associated Impacts/Pollutants	Affected Waterbody		
		Clear Creek (2.3 mi)	Muddy Creek (3.4 mi)	Oak Creek (1.2 mi)
Agriculture				
Pasture land	Sedimentation, erosion, bacteria, nutrient runoff	X	X	
Hydrologic/Habitat Modifications				
Streambank modification/destabilization	Sedimentation, erosion		X	
Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment				
On-site/Decentralized Wastewater Treatment	Bacteria	X		X

NPS pollution categories addressed in FY16 awarded proposals

NPS Category	# Proposals
Abandoned Mine Drainage	2
Agriculture	13
Silviculture	6
Hydrologic/Habitat Modifications - Removal of riparian vegetation (16) - Streambank modification/destabilization (17)	23
Marinas and Boating	0
Construction (on sites <1 acre in size)	4
Urban Areas	0
Wetlands and Riparian Management	5
Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment	7
Other	2



Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Problem



b. The extent, and quality, to which the water quality problems or threats to be addressed are identified and described. (10 points)

- Identify each water quality problem or threat to be addressed caused by the subcategories of NPS pollution identified in the work plan
- Incorporate specific descriptions of water quality problems or threats, for example, in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate waterbody health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).



Show the water quality threat or problem.



Failing septic system



Eroding streambank

Ranking Criteria – Goals & Objectives, Proposed Activities, & Location

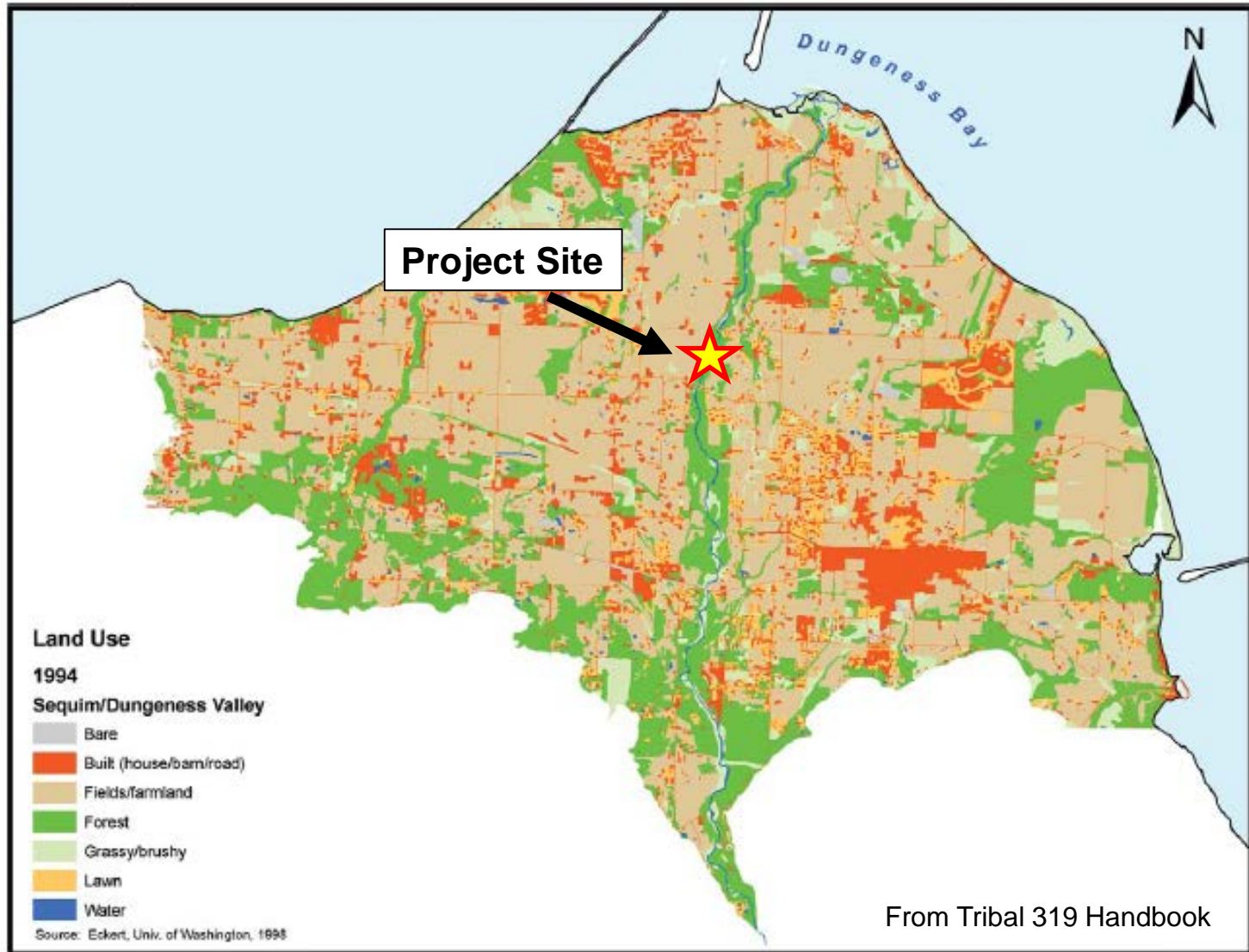
c. The extent and quality to which the goals and objectives of the project work plan components, and the project location are described. (20 points total)

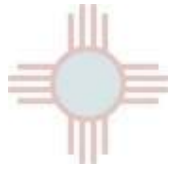
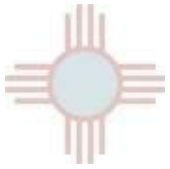
- The goal(s) and objective(s) of the project (2 points)
- The work plan components, which includes an outline of all activities to be implemented (7 points)
- The level of detail provided in relation to specific management measures and eligible practices to be implemented (7 points)
- Specificity in identifying where NPS project will take place in relation to waterbody affected by NPS pollutants (4 points)



Example format for organizing Goals, Objectives, and Proposed Activities

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Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Benefits

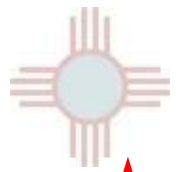


d. The extent to which the project will address the subcategories of pollution and extent to which significant water quality benefits will be achieved as a result of the project. (10 points)

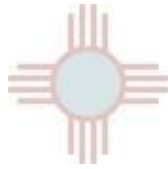
- Describe water quality benefits achieved
- Specific water quality-based goals
- Info not available to make specific estimates? Water quality-based goals may include narrative descriptions and best professional judgment based on existing information.

How will the proposed work help address the water quality problem/threat you described earlier in the proposal?





Ranking Criteria -- Project type



e. The extent and quality to which the proposal fits into the watershed context and how it addresses 1 of the following 4 factors. (10 points)

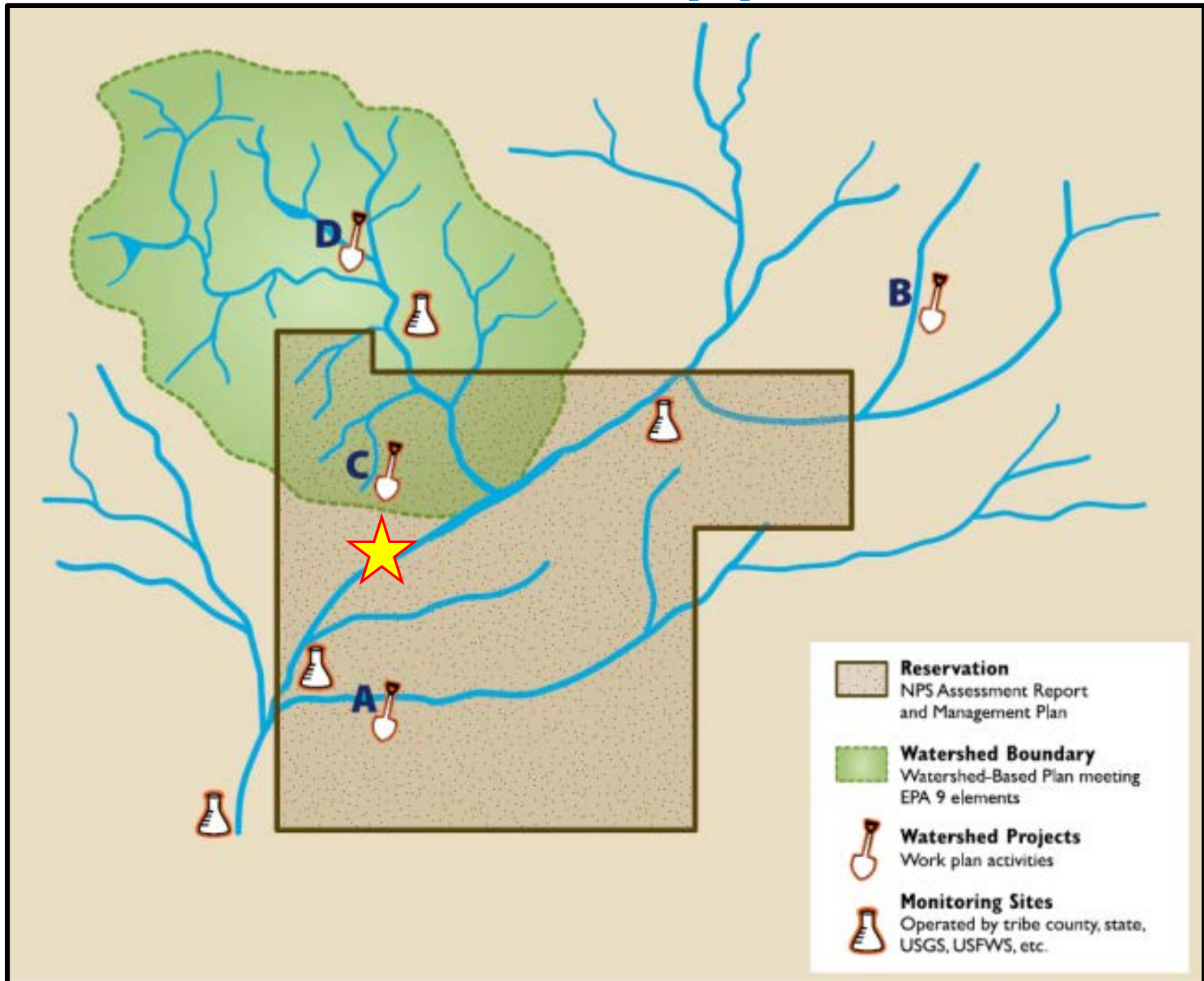
(WBP = Watershed-based Plan)

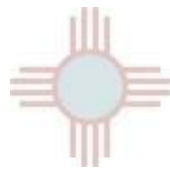
CHOOSE ONE:

- (i) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a WBP**
- (ii) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a watershed project (that does not implement a WBP)**
- (iii) Implement a WBP.**
- (iv) Implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.**



Watershed Approach





Ranking Criteria – Environmental results and past performance

f. The extent and quality to which the proposal meets each of the following sub-criteria: (10 points total)

(i) Demonstrates potential environmental results (3 points)

(ii) Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring and tracking progress (3 points)

(iii) Past (last 3 years) performance under the federally funded assistance agreements. (4 points)





Ranking Criteria -- Budget



g. The adequacy and specificity of the budget in relation to each work plan component/task. (10 points total)

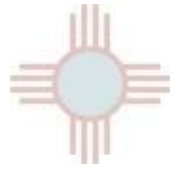
(i) Demonstrates reasonableness and allowable of budget and estimated funding amounts for each component/task. Adequacy and specificity of the information provided in detailed budget. Total project costs must include both federal and the required cost share/match (non- federal) components. (8 points)

(ii) Approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner (2 points)

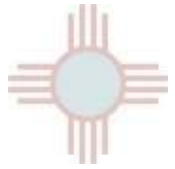


Example format for project budget

Goal 1, Objective 1, Management Activities 1 and 2: Remove livestock access, stabilize streambank and restore riparian area along Oak Creek			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fencing materials	0.5 miles	\$400/mile	\$200
Work crew to complete fencing and restoration	60 hours	\$80/hr	\$4,800
Livestock off-site watering structures	2 units	\$1,500 per unit	\$3,000
Bank stabilization materials	100 ft	\$20/ft	\$2,000
Native riparian plants	50 plantings	\$30/planting	\$1,500
Native grass seed mix	50 lbs	\$10/lb	\$500
Total			\$12,000



Ranking Criteria -- Schedule



h. The level of detail in relation to the schedule for achieving the activities identified in the work plan. (10 points)

-Detail and clarity in relation to the schedule of activities for each work plan component and task or activity.

-May include: a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component and task or activity; an estimate of the specific work years for each work plan component; and interim milestone dates for achieving each work plan component and task or activity.



Example format for Project Schedule

	2017				2018						
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
Final Report											

Task 1: Pre-project water quality monitoring

Task 2: Install livestock exclusion fencing

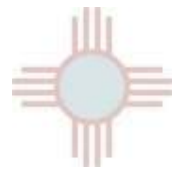
Task 3: Install off-site water supply for livestock

Task 4: Streambank stabilization design

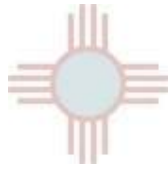
Task 5: Streambank stabilization

Task 6: Riparian planting

Task 7: Post-project water quality monitoring



Ranking Criteria -- Roles and Responsibilities



i. The extent and quality to which the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and project partners in carrying out the proposed work plan activities are specifically identified. (10 points)

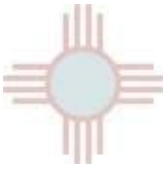
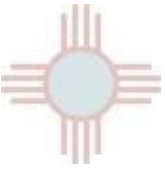
- **Specifically and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each responsible party in relation to each work plan component**
 - **defining the specific level of effort for the responsible parties for each work plan component**
 - **identifying parties who will take the lead in carrying out the work plan commitments**
 - **identifying other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.**



Things to Consider While Working on your Competitive Grant Proposal

- Review committee can only evaluate proposal based on information provided
 - Committee does not have access to the Tribe's NPS Assessment Report and Management Program Plan, or Watershed Based Plan
- Review RFP carefully: Address both threshold criteria and ranking criteria

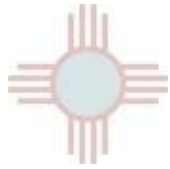
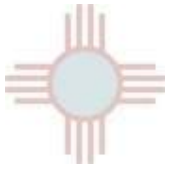




Follow-up Questions?

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Dan Kusnierz

Penobscot Indian Nation



PENOBSCOT NATION

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM



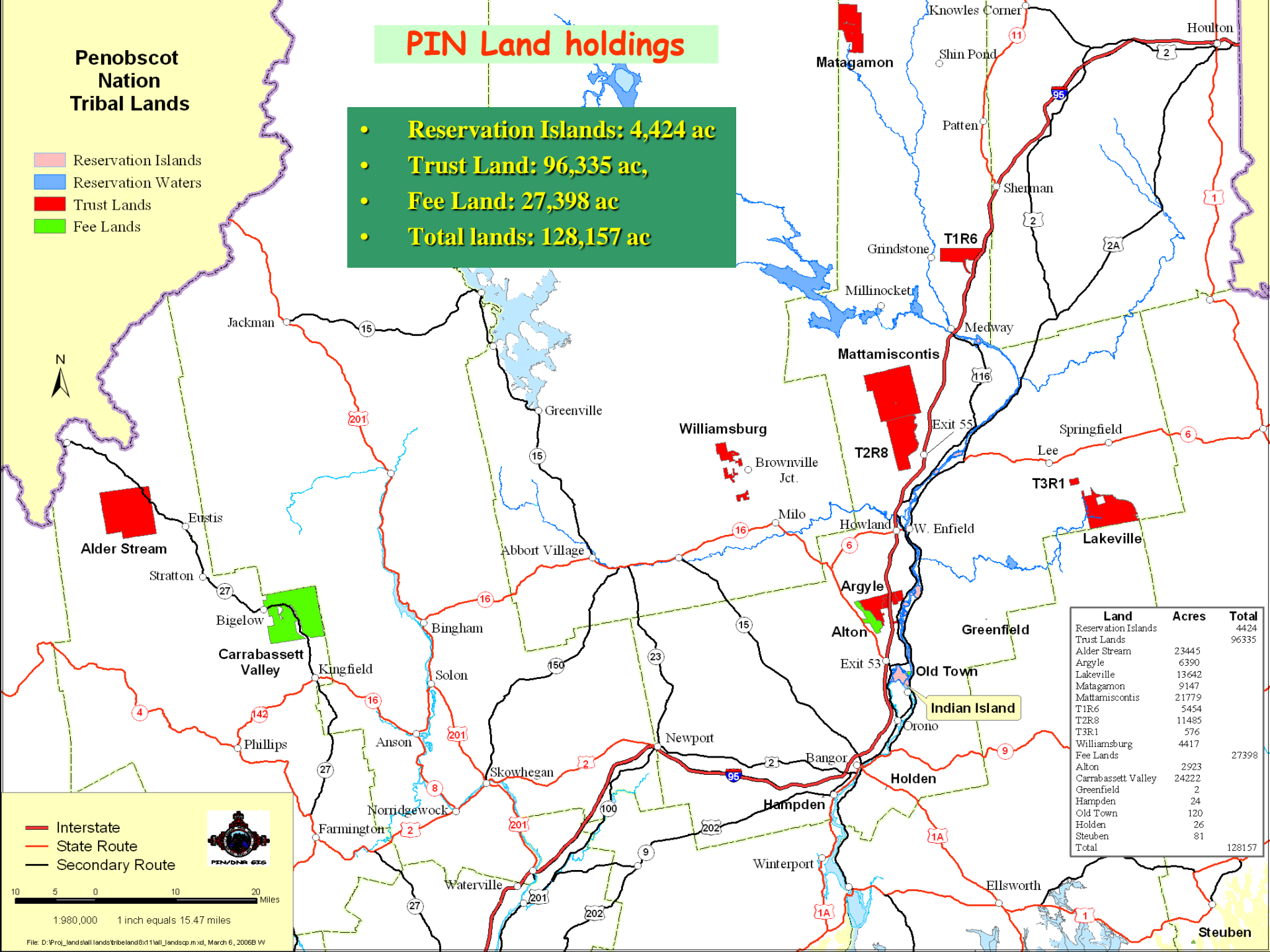
Our Experience with CWA
Section 319 Competitive Grant
Projects
EPA Webinar – November 10, 2016

Penobscot Nation Tribal Lands

PIN Land holdings


- Reservation Islands: 4,424 ac
- Trust Land: 96,335 ac,
- Fee Land: 27,398 ac
- Total lands: 128,157 ac

- Reservation Islands
- Reservation Waters
- Trust Lands
- Fee Lands



Land	Acres	Total
Reservation Islands		4424
Trust Lands		96335
Alder Stream	23445	
Argyle	6390	
Lakeville	13642	
Matagamon	9147	
Mattamiscontis	21779	
T1R6	5454	
T2R8	11485	
T3R1	576	
Williamsburg	4417	
Fee Lands		27398
Alton	2923	
Carrabasset Valley	24222	
Greenfield	2	
Hampden	24	
Old Town	120	
Holden	26	
Steuben	81	
Total		128157

— Interstate
— State Route
— Secondary Route



10 5 0 10 20 Miles
 1:980,000 1 inch equals 15.47 miles

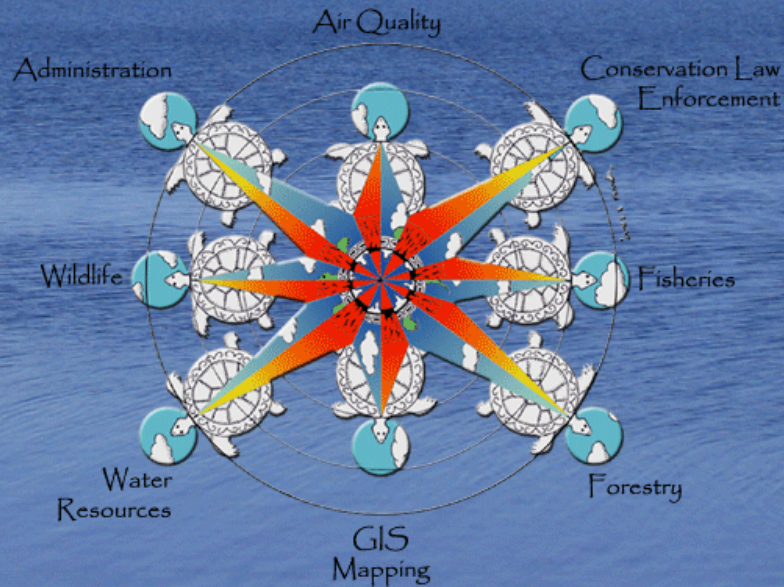
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Department of Natural Resources

Our mission is to manage, develop and protect the Penobscot Nation's natural resources in a sustainable manner that protects and enhances the cultural integrity of the Tribe.

Water Resources Program

- 5 full -time staff
- 1-3 seasonal techs/interns
- Includes NPS Coordinator/Field Coordinator (splits time b/n NPS activities and WQ monitoring)



A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of stylized fish and turtles. The fish are depicted in profile, facing right, with various patterns on their bodies. The turtles are shown from a top-down perspective, with their shells and heads visible. The border is set against a light blue background.

Water Quality Issues :

- Dissolved oxygen impairments

- Hydroelectric dams

- Toxic contaminants in fish

- Dioxins (paper mills)

- PCBs (industrial sites)

- Mercury (local and airborne)

- Algal blooms from point source and NPS

- Erosion/sedimentation

- Forestry related roads

- ATVs

- Threats of development

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

RIVER ,STREAMS

BIWEEKLY - WEEKLY

- 90 sites throughout main stem Penobscot , East & West Branches, and tributaries

SITES SELECTED

- “Clean/healthy” reference conditions
- Industrial & municipal dischargers (e.g. paper mills and sewage treatment plants)
- Dam impoundments
- Non-point sources of pollution (for example; farm fields)
- Pre vs post dam removal

BASELINE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

MONTHLY

- **21 SITES ON 11 LAKES**

SITES SELECTED

- **“CLEAN/HEALTHY” REFERENCE LAKES**
- **DEEPEST LOCATION**
- **LOCATIONS NEAR POLLUTION SOURCES (FOR EXAMPLE; CAMPS OR ROADS)**

Some other things we do:

- Sample/assess toxic contaminants in wild foods and environment
- Monitor aquatic insects (indicators of WQ)
- Pre- vs post-dam removal WQ
- Continuous temperature
- Real-time monitoring of algal blooms
- Tribal WQS
- Review NPDES and dam licenses





PIN NPS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Assess and identify non-point sources of pollution
- Control NPS pollution by installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on tribal lands
- Educate and reach out to members of the Penobscot community and beyond



PIN Nonpoint Source Categories:

- Silviculture ~ Road Construction/Maintenance
- Hydromodification ~ Flow regulation/bank modification/removal of riparian vegetation
- Construction ~ Land development
- Other ~ Recreational activity (ATVs), road maintenance
- Land disposal ~ On-site wastewater

How we use CWA 319 Base

- Staffing to coordinate program activities
- NPS Educational activities
 - Workshops
 - Brochures
 - Presentations
- Updating Assessment/Management Plans
- Identifying sites where BMPs needed
- Leveraging other NPS related projects (Hydro licensee)
- Small to mid-size BMPs (see examples)

Base Program Projects



Beaver deceivers to prevent clogging of culverts and road washouts



Improved ditching on logging roads



Flexible water bars on road approaches to lake

Base Program Projects



Stream bank erosion
along poorly sited road



Stream bank several years later



Road retired, bank
stabilized

Competitive Program Projects



Damage to streams from
ATVs driving in streams and
badly eroded trails = erosion &
sedimentation.



Solution: Installing ATV bridges

Additional BMPs include rerouting trails away from sensitive areas, installing culverts, water bars, and ditching and seeding trails to stabilize and redirect water into more suitable areas



Competitive Program Projects

Shoreline erosion from wave action, ice and lack of vegetation near the water



We have armored/stabilized bank and planted riparian vegetation. To date ~4,000' of riverbank has been stabilized.



Competitive Program Projects



Failing box culvert on gravel road was being washed out repeatedly causing sedimentation.

Designed and replaced with properly sized bridge. Also installed road related BMP's including cross drainage culverts, ditching, road shaping.



Competitive Program Highway Crew Training/Handbook

- 3 day training session for road crews in Penobscot watershed
- Engineering for non-engineers
- Culvert issues and designs
- Road ditch issues and designs
- Road slope stabilization methods and designs
- Road turnouts and buffers

Competitive Program Highway Crew Training Handbook

- Hands on learning
- Participants work in teams to:
- Analyze the size of watersheds, and design for erosion control by selecting appropriately sized culverts, and determining ditch and stabilization methods.
- Participants receive a certificate of completion as well as 6 continuing ed credits from the State of Maine NPS learning center.

How we identify and prioritize projects

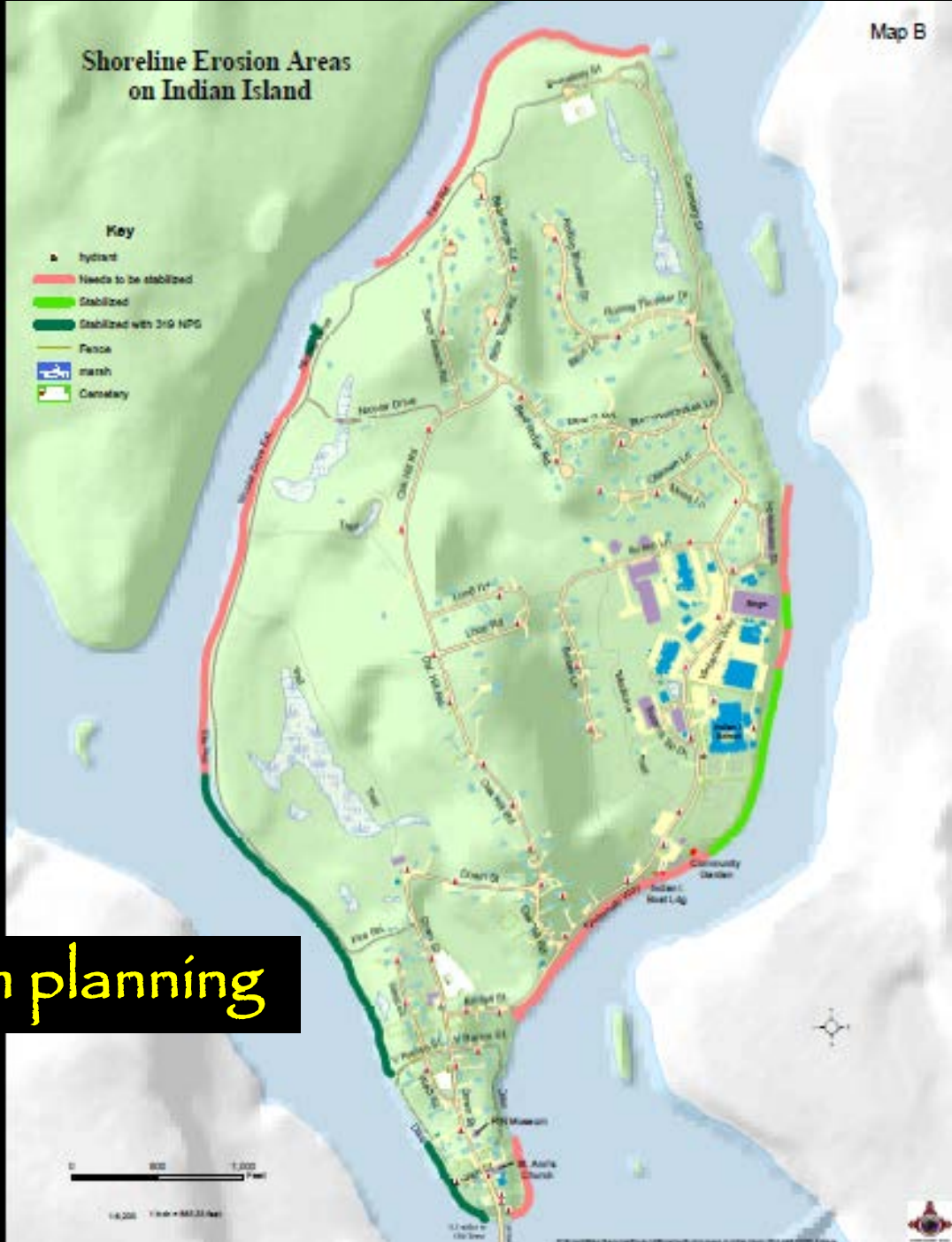
- Use our NPS Assessment and Management Plans
- Long term, multi-year perspective
 - ~ Large projects – break down into smaller sizes
 - ~ Some can be “picked away at” with base funds
 - ~ Some need larger budget from competitive program
- Some projects are urgent because of threat severity
- Efficiencies with other activities
 - ~ Will equipment be nearby for other projects
 - ~ Timing of access
- What other opportunities exist for completing project
 - ~ BIA, private, NRCS, etc

Shoreline Erosion Areas on Indian Island

Map B

Key

- Hydrant
- Needs to be stabilized
- Stabilized
- Stabilized with 210 NPG
- Fence
- marsh
- Cemetery



Long term planning



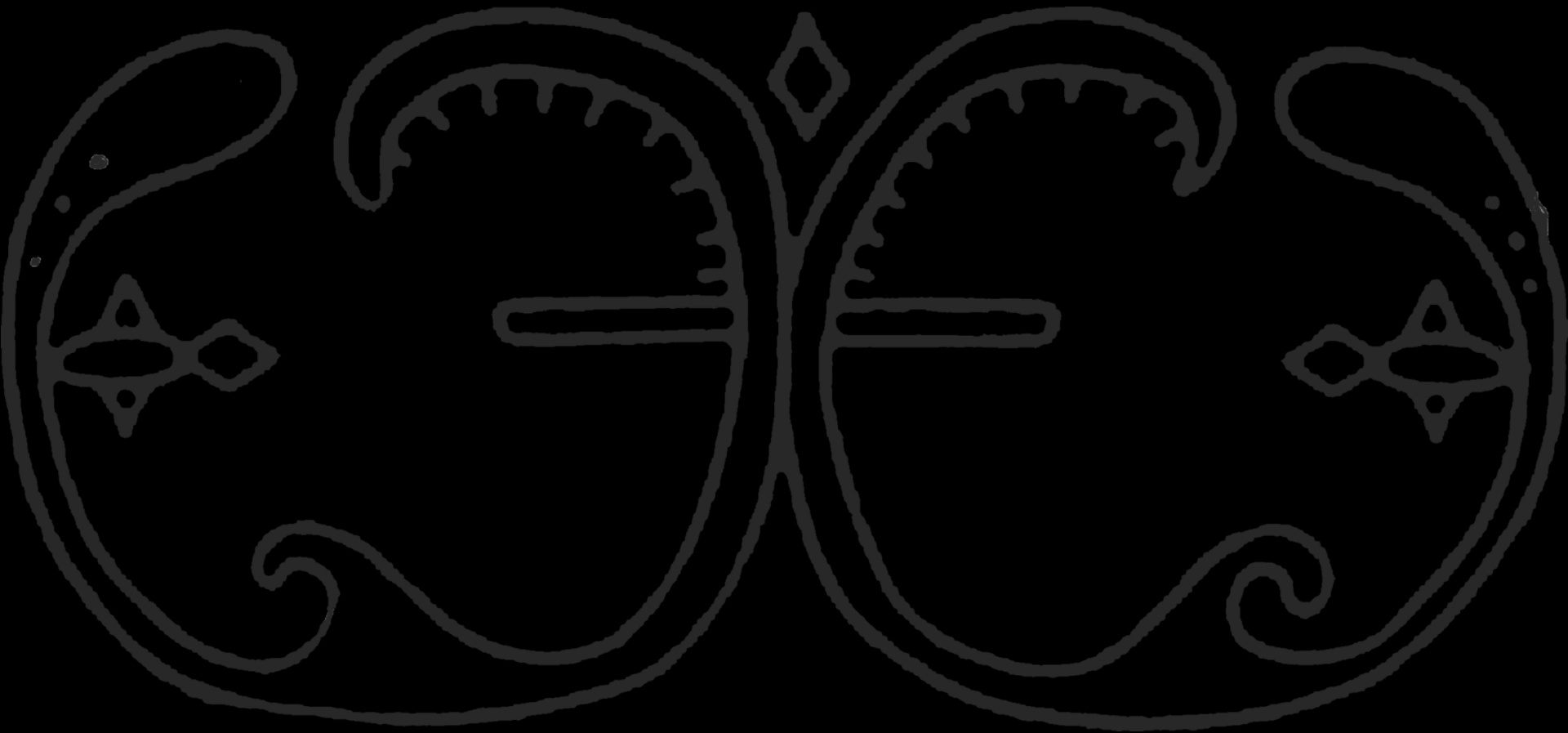
What We Learned: aka Tips For Success:

- Read and follow the RFP!
- Maps and photos
- Long term planning
- Clearly address elements in RFP
- If not successful, request debriefing
 - Helps determine Was it a problem with project? Or with how we presented it?
 - Identifies what needs to be strengthened/improved
 - We have always been successful next time

Read and follow the RFP!!!



FOR INFORMATION:

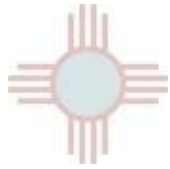
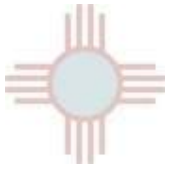


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Peggy Obear

Prairie Island Indian Community





MAKE IT A REALITY

319 Competitive Grant
Funding Solutions for On the Ground
Projects

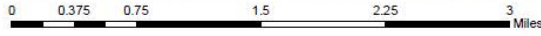
PEGGY OBEAR

- From South Eastern Wisconsin
- 20 years as a taxidermist in Naples, Florida
- Earned Associates in Science in Geology at 52
- Earned Bachelors in Science in Geography at 54
- Accepted position as PM for NPS Grant at 55 in April 2015

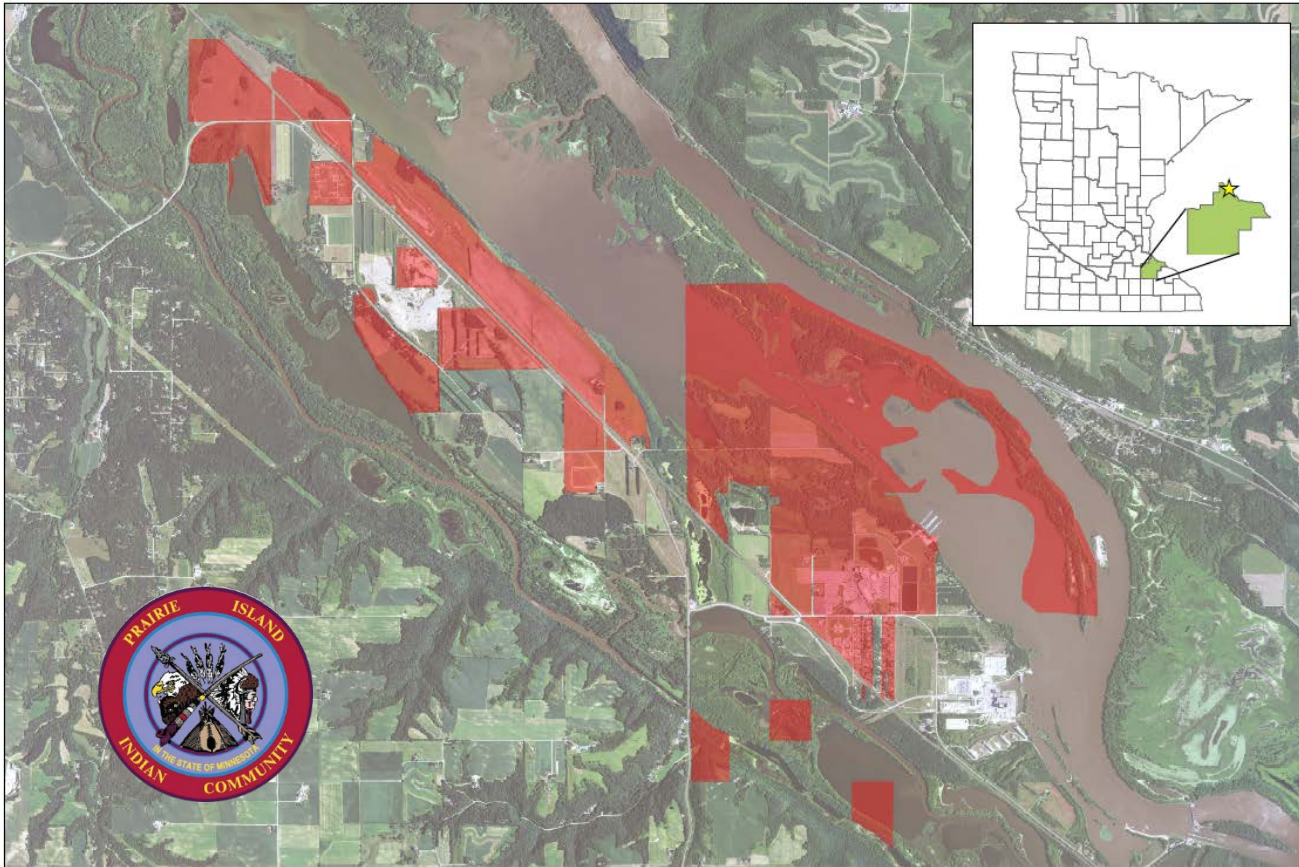




Prairie Island Indian Community



PIIC Property Boundaries

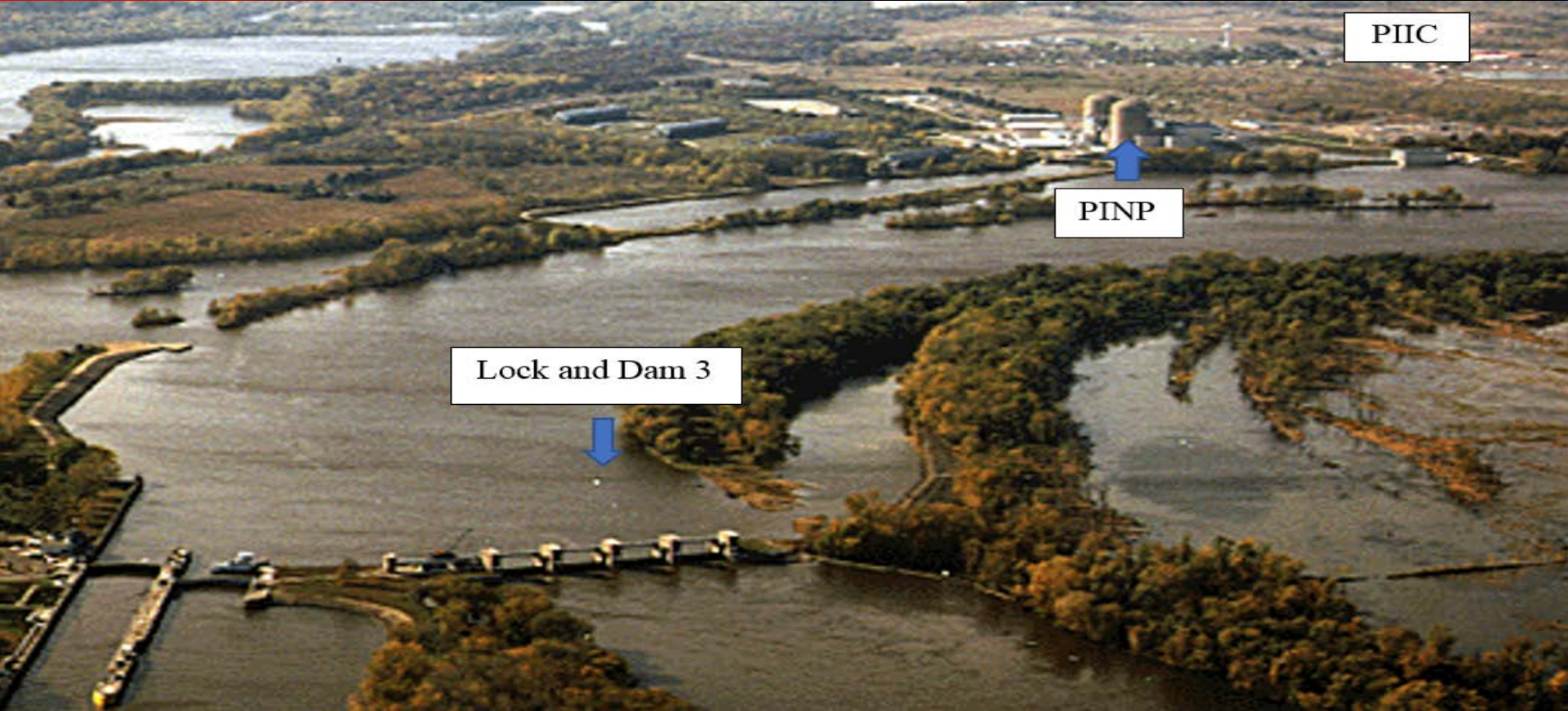


Source: FSA 2010 Aerial, USACE boundaries

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY

- Approximately 3000 acres in a patch work form of reservation lands
- Located between Minnesota and Wisconsin in the Mississippi River
- Dakota Sioux Tribe
- Approximately 2000 Tribal members
- 2 million acres upstream
- Located in the largest watershed in the US
- Main sources of NPS Pollution are:
 - Urban runoff and agriculture
 - Up stream sources
 - Erosion of shorelines





Lock and Dam 3 built in 1936 Flooded much of the tribes rich river bottom farm lands
Prairie Island Nuclear Plant built in 1970's on historic town site and burial mounds

DON'T BE AFRAID

- It does not cost anything to submit a grant application
- There is no penalty if you are not awarded the grant
- No one will die and no countries will fall



WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED?

- Make a list of projects
- Does it fall within the scope of the 319?
- Is it important to the Tribe/State/Territory?
- Prioritize the projects
- Can it be finished within a reasonable amount of time?
- Will it need on going care to remain functional?
- Next slide shows our 2016 competitive grant project



BIO-FILTRATION - SNOW GARDEN PILOT PROJECT

Before



Dry Creek



Bio-filter



WHERE TO START?

- Know what you want to do (I had at least 3 projects that were priorities)
- Build a vocabulary list to apply to your grant (back to earth sciences)
- Have photos (they are really important in reporting and documenting)
- Have maps (if you do not know how to map take “ print screen” shots)
- Do some math
- Know where you are in a watershed (USGS HUC #)
- Know how your work will impact the watershed downstream



CONFUSED?

- So was I
- Print the RFP and Read it-again, again, and again
- Highlight what applies to your situation
- Concentrate on the Criteria with the highest points (this is how they decide who to award the grants)
- I can not emphasize enough that the Criteria is the goal

GRANTS 101

- Answer the question asked
- Answer the questions (read criteria) in the exact order that they appear
- Write the criteria down with the appropriate number/letter before it (like when you were kids in school)
- Look at the points on criteria-spend most of your time on high value ones
- Use the management plan and technical reports produced by your 106 CWA
- If you do not have solid data from there, check on line
- Use the wordage from previous grant applications to cover the “Programmatic Capability” sections (yes, I do mean cut and paste)
- Do the same for “Reporting on Environmental Results”
- proof read



- Know your work plan / management plan and tie this back to it
- When it is done, leave it for a few days then reread it
- If you have a grant manager , have them
- Be sure it is all there, *but not one page more*-guaranteed no go!
- *Don't be late*- guaranteed no go!
- PS- if it is stand alone - about %40 match-under ppg will be much less



IF YOU GET THE GRANT

- First, don't expect the \$ to be released for at least 6 months
- Plan for late fall projects
- If you are down south this is not a big deal
- If you are up north, think ahead
- Figure end of October or November for your projects
- Take photos
- Follow instructions on requirements
- Give credit where credit is due



RESOURCE LINKS

- https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/2010_02_19_nps_tribal_pdf_tribal_handbook2010.pdf
- <https://www.epa.gov/grants>
- <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>
- margaret.obear@piic.org

