

REQUEST FOR ABSTRACTS

Distributed by the Great Lakes Commission
on behalf of the
Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium

June 2002

Opening Date: June 10, 2002. Note: While this request will remain open until the available funds are allocated, please see the “target funding windows” under the Scope of Work below for effective closing dates.

All associated information can be found on the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium web site at: www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/

1. BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes Commission continues to facilitate a large-scale collaborative effort that will yield a long-term monitoring program for Great Lakes coastal wetlands. The ultimate mission of the project is to *develop a monitoring implementation plan*. A multi-agency, multi-disciplinary, binational collaborative body, the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium (hereafter referred to as “the Consortium”), has been formed to accomplish this task. It brings together the experience, expertise and resources of federal, state and provincial governments; regional organizations; tribes; academia; and other nongovernmental organizations.

A Project Management Team (PMT) continues to guide the investigative decisions and monitoring plan development, with advice from technical subcommittees. This team is uniquely qualified to deliver products in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner. Further, the composition of this team will ensure that the indicator, monitoring and database initiatives are institutionalized for use and enhancement over the long term.

This past winter, six projects were selected for the first year of research to develop elements of the monitoring program. These pilot projects will test the implementation and integration of methodologies to collect data related to the Consortium’s selected indicators. This research and testing is being conducted at over 30 coastal wetland sites throughout the Great Lakes basin. For more information on specific projects, visit the Consortium website at www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/.

The GLC staff, in consultation with its U.S. EPA partners, continues to provide guidance, technical support, fiscal and quality control oversight, information collection and distribution, and final authorship on Consortium reports.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Work requested under this announcement may include the evaluation of first year work and projects, the design of long-term monitoring program options, assessment of indicators of wetland condition, and the continued development and population of a broadly accessible binational wetlands inventory and database of relevant coastal wetland monitoring information.

2.1 PRIORITY NEEDS

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) invites abstracts from qualified applicants to conduct work to address any or all of the following four Consortium needs. These needs are listed in order of priority. A target funding window is listed next to each need. This window establishes approximate time frames under which the Commission and reviewers will consider abstracts for full proposals and final funding. While abstracts that address specific needs may be submitted before individual windows open, they are not likely to be considered until the time frame indicated. These are the anticipated needs at this time, however, as information becomes available, needs and priorities may change. The Commission reserves the right to alter needs and priorities as needed and will communicate any changes to this list via the Consortium's discussion list (see www.great-lakes.net/lists/wetlands-general/) and its website (www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/).

2.1.1 **Assessment and Classification of Wetlands Inventory.**

Target funding window: June 10 – July 31, 2002

Examine the current coastal wetlands inventory compiled by the GLC and determine its completeness as it relates to overall Consortium needs – site selection, geographic reference and potential use with landscape indicator evaluation. Develop recommendations to address gaps. After gaps are filled by the GLC staff, classify the wetlands in the inventory referenced above in accordance with the Consortium's geomorphic classification scheme (see www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands/wetlands-class-scheme.doc).

2.1.2 **Assess Year-One Pilot Studies.**

Target funding window: November 1, 2002 – January 31, 2003

Researchers will complete field work this summer to test a set of metrics and methodologies at wetland sites across the Great Lakes basin. Once data collection and initial analysis is completed, it will be necessary for some entity to compile the data and assessments from the six separate studies and combine the results to ultimately determine the degree to which these techniques can be used to make basinwide comparisons and draw conclusions. Overall, this combined assessment should be based on the Consortium's six criteria:

- 1) Cost
- 2) Measurability
- 3) Basinwide applicability or sampling by wetland type
- 4) Availability of complementary existing research or data
- 5) Indicator sensitivity to wetland condition changes
- 6) Ability to set endpoint or attainment levels

Along with the assessment of results, the applicant should also conduct a gap analysis of the data in relation to the Consortium's indicators to determine work that is needed to further develop coastal wetland indicators.

2.1.3 **Develop Monitoring Plan Options.**

Target funding window: January 2 – February 28, 2003

Develop a set of monitoring plan design options, including specifications on site selection, data collection, storage, analysis and reporting. Options must be based on Consortium work to date (e.g. site selection criteria, methodologies to be used, etc.) and shall include an evaluation of benefits and drawbacks for each option presented. The options should be designed to generate monitoring results that will allow for statistically valid comparisons across wetland geomorphic and regional types.

2.1.4 **Evaluation of Landscape and Contamination Indicators.**

Target funding window: January 2 – March 28, 2003

Test and evaluate a method or methods for collecting basin-wide information on Great Lakes coastal wetlands using the Consortium's six criteria listed above to address landscape-level or wetland contamination indicators. The information generated from the method(s) must be sufficient to detect change and eventually establish trends and basin-wide comparisons for the indicators. The method(s) should be evaluated against other methods including those used to composite landscape level information from site-specific data collection. Abstracts will be accepted that address either landscape indicators or the contamination indicator or both.

3. FUNDING AVAILABLE

A total of \$300,000 is available to fund work outlined above for the second year of this three-year project. The allocation of these funds to different applicants will vary depending upon the level of effort required for each component.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include institutions, organizations, and agencies that have the capacity and experience to conduct rigorous scientific analysis according to the needs outlined above relevant to Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

5. ABSTRACT FORMAT/GUIDELINES

The abstracts requested represent a simplified proposal process. **Abstracts should not exceed two pages in length.** Proponents whose projects warrant further consideration will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal at a later date.

5.1 Applicant Information: Name, address, phone and fax number of applicant, and primary contact (name, phone and email address).

5.2 Applicant Background: Brief description of the applicant (e.g., type of organization, nonprofit status, etc.)

5.3 Project Title

5.4 Project Narrative/Workplan:

5.4.1 Brief description or summary of your proposed project.

5.4.2 How your project addresses any or all of the activities and criteria listed in "Scope of Work" above.

Note: If your project is considered for funding, you will be asked to submit a full proposal with a detailed account of the work you propose to do to accomplish items you list in 5.4.2 above.

5.5 Project Team: Names and professional affiliations of the individuals who will conduct the work and what role they will have in the project.

5.6 Project Schedule/Timeline: Indicate in months the time needed to complete workplan tasks, either in narrative form or in a chart format. Approved projects may be scheduled to start months post approval, pending the completion of related Consortium work.

5.7 Project Budget: Provide a single cost estimate for your proposed project.

Note: If your project is considered for funding, you will be asked to submit a detailed, itemized budget as part of the full proposal (see 5.4 above).

5.8 Other Funding: Identify other sources of funds that will support the project.

6. ABSTRACT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Abstracts will be evaluated by a review team using the following criteria:

- * Alignment of the project to the activities cited under of “Scope of Work” above (Note that the activities are listed in priority order, so abstracts addressing high priority needs will be assessed first.);
- * Technical merit of the proposed project as it relates to the Consortium’s stated needs;
- * The degree to which the applicant proposes collaborative work with other project stakeholders including state, provincial, and tribal agencies, such that the collaboration will enhance project scope to broadly address issues across the Great Lakes basin;
- * Applicant’s demonstrated awareness of past and current related projects - avoiding redundancies and building upon existing work; and
- * Adequacy and reasonableness of the proposed budget.

7. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND POINT OF CONTACT

As noted above, abstracts will be assessed on a priority-order basis according to target funding windows. Once a project is selected to address a given need (see Scope of Work), no other abstracts will be considered for that need. Therefore, abstracts received promptly by the GLC within the target funding windows may receive greater consideration for funding.

Abstracts should be submitted as e-mail attachments sent to both rlawson@glc.org and jhummer@glc.org. The document should be formatted as either a Microsoft Word or Word Perfect file.

The point of contact for this request for abstracts is Ric Lawson, Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, rlawson@glc.org.

8. FUNDING DISBURSEMENT

Funds will be disbursed by the Great Lakes Commission upon receipt of reports or quarterly invoices.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Background information on the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium (including member contact information) and all aspects related to the development of this request is available online at www.glc.org/monitoring/wetlands. Other information regarding Great Lakes wetlands is available at www.great-lakes.net/envt/air-land/wetlands.htm.