

## **Task Force Evaluation Guidance for Project Proposals**

The purpose of the pre-proposal review is to: 1) determine if the proposed actions are applicable for addressing the identified NPS pollution concerns or a statewide priority NPS pollution issue; 2) evaluate if the project is consistent with the goals of the NPS Pollution Management Program; and 3) recommend the extent of Section 319 funding for the project. A fourth component of the review process is to provide written comments on elements of the proposals in need of revision in order to strengthen the project plan and prepare it for final review and funding consideration.

NPS Pollution Management Program Goals: 1) Expand the number and distribution of assessed waterbodies in the state to better define local and statewide needs for addressing the sources and causes of NPS pollution threatening or impairing waterbody beneficial uses; 2) Through the local watershed projects, improve water quality trends and/or restore impaired beneficial uses of 5 waterbodies by 2025; 3) Increase public awareness and understanding of the sources and causes of NPS pollution as well as the feasible and sustainable solutions for addressing NPS pollutants impairing the beneficial uses of waterbodies; 4) Increase the capacity and ability of soil conservation districts and other resource managers to develop and implement comprehensive watershed-based projects to address local water quality priorities; 5) Support the implementation of the components of the ND Nutrient Reduction Strategy for Surface Waters that are focused on evaluating and/or addressing nonpoint sources of nitrogen and phosphorus.

### **Scope of Work Items to Consider:**

- 1) Is the planned educational message and/or watershed restoration activities focused on solutions to water quality impairments associated with NPS pollution?
- 2) Is the focus of the project consistent with the goals and objectives of the ND NPS Pollution Management Program?
- 3) Is the size of the project area appropriate?
- 4) Is the primary target audience appropriate?
- 5) Is the project goal appropriate for the message being delivered or water quality and beneficial use impairments being addressed?
- 6) Do the Objective Statements include realistic and measurable targets for achieving or advancing toward the project goal?
- 7) Are the Tasks for each Objective clearly stated and focused on the target set for the Objective?
- 8) Are the type and number of planned activities appropriate and attainable?
- 9) Have priorities been set or will be established for the delivery of the planned events, services, or support?

10) Are the appropriate partners involved in the project? If not, provide suggestions for other entities that should be involved.

11) Will the project be working with other projects or programs with similar goals (e.g., Extension Service, Schools, other 319 projects, Universities, etc.) to avoid duplication of efforts?

12) Has the extent of local support been described or confirmed through feedback from potential partners and participants or support letters (sources of letters can be listed or the letters can be attached)?

13) Have sufficient monitoring measures been scheduled to evaluate or gauge progress toward the targets set in the project goal and objectives?

14) Are the costs listed in the Budget reasonable and appropriate, given the activities described in the project's objectives and tasks?