



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	P14AS00203
Project Title	Urban Waters Learning Network
Recipient	Groundwork USA
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	Stephen Burrington
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$149,984.40
Cost Share	none
New Award or Continuation?	Continuation of Cooperative Agreement H4531110704
Anticipated Length of Agreement	From date of award until 7/31/205
Anticipated Period of Performance	From date of award until 7/31/205
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	16 USC 1(g); 16 USC 460.1-1(d)
CFDA # and Title	15.921 Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(2) Continuation
NPS Point of Contact	June Zastrow 303-987-6718 june_zastrow@nps.gov

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this task agreement is to support the work of GW USA to continue development of the Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN) and expand it to additional communities. GW USA will draw on the expertise it has developed through the GW USA network and partnerships with other practitioners to provide technical assistance to communities impacted by brownfields and other environmental justice issues to conserve and improve impaired urban water resources, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands and shorelines. It will provide local organizations, tribal and local governments that are part of the UWLN with the skills and techniques to effectively restore these resources over time. The UWLN includes NPS developed Groundwork Trust organizations and grant recipients from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Urban Waters Program. GW USA, the national office of the GW USA network, is a critical component of the Groundwork model. Its mission is to support the development of the Groundwork network, promote and coordinate the work of the network, access national resources and partnerships to support local projects and programs, establish and document best practices and share the expertise and best practices it has developed with communities doing similar work. Unless otherwise specified herein, the terms and conditions as stated in the Cooperative Agreement will apply to this Task Agreement.

The objectives of this task agreement are:

- To increase the effectiveness and productivity of the UWLN and participation by Urban Waters practitioners;
- To assist participants in the UWLN in their community-led urban waters restoration projects to develop sustainable projects that improve and protect urban waters;
- To identify and assess needs of communities and organizations working to conserve their urban water resources and inform federal agency partners to improve the effectiveness of their support to urban waters organizations;
- To provide technical assistance to build capacity and effectiveness of organizations working on urban waters projects that have critical needs that are barriers to success.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

1. That the funds made available through this Task Agreement will be used to support community led urban water restoration projects by drawing on the experience of the GW USA network and its partners to develop and share best practices for community led urban water restoration projects, advise NPS, EPA and the Urban Waters Federal Partners on the specific needs of communities and organizations working on urban waters projects, to highlight and document successes, and to provide technical assistance to help selected organizations overcome barriers to success.
2. That the funds provided under this Task Agreement cannot be used for construction documents or construction of specific projects.

3. To support community led urban water restoration projects by accomplishing the following tasks:
 - a) Compile sixteen success stories/profiles/case studies on the work of the urban waters grantees and practitioners and their organizations over the period of this agreement in accordance with previously agreed formats. Complete 1-2 per month and distribute to NPS, EPA and the Network. When possible, identify examples that cross NPS, EPA and other Federal Partners' programs.
 - b) Coordinate and promote use of UWLN communications and networking systems. Maintain and update Urban Waters webpage. Facilitate information transfer and peer-to-peer sharing to provide resources and tools to UWLN members needed for on-the-ground urban waters work. This facilitation may include development of member profiles, soliciting members' work products for sharing, highlighting 3-5 of the best work products in the major topic areas to share, and directly posting information to practitioners.
 - c) Facilitate transfer of knowledge among Urban Waters practitioners by providing quarterly listings of work products, programs and events of Network members that have been identified through the various UWLN activities. Post selected activities on Basecamp, the Urban Waters webpage and on other formats.
 - d) Develop and provide at least 9 training and networking opportunities to Network members through webinars, peer-to-peer and regional conference calls and other methods, in needed topical areas including technical information, organizational capacity building, project management, and education and outreach. Topics would be selected in consultation with EPA, regional EPA Urban Waters coordinators, NPS and/or other Federal Agency Partners to address current challenges faced by EPA Urban Waters grantees, as well as by feedback from participating UWLN members through surveys or discussions.
 - e) Connect new Urban Waters grantees to the UWLN. Coordinate with EPA Regional staff, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and EPA Office of Environmental Justice to provide an introductory conference call for new grantees, and orient them to the Network resources and the Basecamp communication system. Provide support to grantees in meeting grant requirements, assisting with presentations to the Federal Partnerships and tracking attendance for required trainings.
 - f) Provide UWLN members with information about technical assistance and resources available through various federal agencies that are part of Urban Waters Federal Partnership (e.g. HUD, DOT, EPA Brownfields, Sustainable Cities Program, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program/RTCA, etc.); as a way to highlight other programs that are vital to broad urban waters projects.

- g) Advise EPA on recommendations for initial program metrics. Drawing on the experience of GW USA and its partners, Urban Water grantee reports, and EPA staff, develop draft recommendations for simple metrics to capture Urban Waters program effectiveness. Provide forum for input from Urban Waters grantees to determine reality of collecting metrics and how well they capture on-the-ground effectiveness.
 - h) Facilitate the work of UWLN members on Environmental Justice issues through their program delivery, organizational development and their access to the resources of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.
 - i) Develop and coordinate training sessions at River Rally 2015 for the UWLN as part of a pre-Rally, half-day facilitated session for the Network. Actively solicit session abstracts from Network members for the Rally. Propose a session and submit an abstract for a facilitated Environmental Justice session.
 - j) Advise EPA Urban Waters team on potential Public-Private Partnership support for the UWLN, providing a review of possible partners and strategies.
 - k) Advise EPA Urban Waters team on needs, issues, and barriers affecting Network members and urban waters practitioners. Provide twice yearly written summary. Participate and assist in planning of and attending national meetings where requested.
 - l) In response to direction from EPA, provide individual coaching to UWLN grantees that appear to EPA regional staff to be "at risk" for completing their grants successfully.
4. To prepare a final report at the completion of the project that documents the outcomes and provides recommendations to EPA and NPS for the UWLN model and associated work of this task agreement.
 5. To submit quarterly narrative progress reports to the NPS documenting the work completed on the tasks outlined above and required financial reports, in accordance with NPS requirements.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part the National Park Service is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, the National Park Service will be responsible for the following:

1. That the funding under this Task Agreement may be used to support the work of GW USA to support community led urban water restoration projects by drawing on the experience of the GW USA network and its partners to develop and share best practices for community led urban water restoration projects, advise NPS, EPA and the Urban Waters Federal Partners on the specific needs of communities and organizations working

on urban waters projects, to highlight and document successes, and to provide technical assistance to help selected organizations overcome barriers to success.

2. To support GW USA with the funding from this Agreement to accomplish the tasks of this agreement.
3. To support the work of GW USA to link communities working on urban waters restoration projects with technical assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.
4. To participate in the work of GW USA and its partners to accomplish the tasks described, especially providing technical assistance to communities working to conserve their urban water resources.
5. To coordinate support activities with GW USA, EPA and other partners involved in the UWLN.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS
Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.
In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives; (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity; (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress’ intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose; (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity

based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;

- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

The National Park Service did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(2) CONTINUATION

SINGLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION DESCRIPTION:

THIS IS A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This is a Task Agreement (P14AC01302) under Cooperative Agreement (H4531110704) in the amount of \$149,984.40 with a period of performance from date of award until 07/31/2015.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- A. 16 U.S.C. §1(g) authorizes the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements that involve the transfer of NPS appropriated funds to state, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of carrying out National Park Service programs.
- B. 16 U.S.C. 460.1-1(d) of the Outdoor Recreation Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance and advice, and to cooperate with States, political subdivisions, and private interests, including nonprofit organizations, with respect to outdoor recreation.