



INVITATION TO BID
by the
PAWTUXET RIVER AUTHORITY

**Feasibility Study for Anadromous Fish Passages to Blackamore Pond, Cranston RI
and Cranberry Pond, Warwick, RI**

The Pawtuxet River Authority (the PRA) is soliciting bids from responsible contractors to conduct an investigative study of the potential for development of aquatic systems to facilitate the habitation of Cranberry Pond Warwick and Blackamore Pond Cranston by anadromous fish species, soon to be present in the Pawtuxet River.

Minority business enterprises and women owned business enterprises (MBEs) pursuant to RIGL 37-14.1, as well as disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) pursuant to 49 CFR 26, will have maximum opportunities to participate in the performance of PRA procurement transactions.

BACKGROUND

The Pawtuxet River Authority, doing business as the Pawtuxet River Authority & Watershed Council (the PRAWC), is a quasi public agency and non-profit public benefit corporation created by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1972 (RI General Laws 46-24). The authority is expressly authorized to provide for land and water conservation and for the construction and maintenance of hiking and biking trails, flood control and water pollution control facilities, preservation of wetlands, dam construction, diversion of streams, dikes, walls, and pumping stations in relation to the Pawtuxet River in Rhode Island.

The PRA is undertaking a project to examine the feasibility of creating entrance and habitation by alewives, American shad and blueback herring into two ponds proximate to the main stem of the Pawtuxet River.

By removing a dam at the mouth of Pawtuxet River in 2011, the Pawtuxet River Authority created a large fish-passage to provide the river and its watershed with its first exposure to anadromous species of fish since the 1600s. The RI Department of Environmental Management subsequently stocked almost 200,000 adult American Shad and 1.6 million Alewives and Blueback Herring into the river to begin a reproduction cycle. The passage will now provide the last 7.5 miles of the 23 mile Pawtuxet River with migrating oceanic fish seeking to reproduce exclusively in freshwater.

The Pawtuxet River is one of the three largest freshwater systems (HUC#01090004060) in the state of Rhode Island which flows into Narragansett Bay. The river's watershed drains approximately 230 square miles of urban RI. The Pawtuxet River Authority's long-term goal is to populate as much of the watershed of the Pawtuxet River as is possible with anadromous fish. Preferred habitat for several of these species is calm, impounded water. The Authority has identified two freshwater bodies, with minor man-made obstructions and proximate to the lower Pawtuxet River, as potentially optimal additional spawning waters for the target species. The Authority seeks to evaluate these water-bodies for habitat expansion.

PROJECT

PRA seeks fisheries biologists and lake scientists provided by a contractor to evaluate the suitability of Blackamore Pond, Cranston and Cranberry Pond, Warwick to provide anadromous fish spawning habitat should their outlets be configured to allow fish passage into either pond. Assuming that one or both of these ponds may be suitable for anadromous fish spawning, the next step under this project would be to evaluate the potential costs for improving passage into either pond. Costs that will be considered may include the installation of fish ladders or fishways, dam removal, daylighting stream channels, or other physical modifications in the streams between the Pawtuxet River and each of these ponds. The contractor will work to identify any significant barriers to fish passage and the relative costs for making improvements including the costs for permitting, design, and construction. Once potential suitability and value of making these habitats are understood and the costs for making these improvements are known, the contractor will use these feasibility studies to pursue additional funding to make these improvements to the river system.

SCOPE OF WORK

The contractor will evaluate the feasibility of restoring fish passage by conducting initial fish habitat and stream flow investigations at each of the two ponds. These investigations will be focused primarily on documenting system conditions for the following:

1. Water Quality (dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, conductivity, turbidity, transparency, color, and pH)
2. Plant Community (species composition, plant coverage, plant bio-volume, and planktonic algal community composition)
3. Sediment (composition, grain size determination, depth of sediment, sediment quality testing)
4. Stream flow out of each system (continuous flow monitoring for duration of field study using automated water level monitoring devices)

5. Assessment of Barriers to Fish Passage (photo document, field data collection, and describe the nature of each barrier to herring migration into each pond system).
6. Based on these evaluations, a matrix will be developed to document the factors effecting the decision for moving forward with fish passage restoration at each pond.
7. Land ownership issues

Deliverables and Timelines

Develop Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)	Approved QAPP	PRA: Task Oversight Contractor: Technical Lead	Month 4
Evaluate Each Pond System and Outlet Tributaries	Matrix showing habitat value of each pond for fish spawning along with costs for improving fish passage	PRA: Task Oversight Contractor: Technical Lead	Month 6
Measure and Document Results	Water Quality Data, Stream Flow Data, Habitat Data, and Cost Estimates.	PRA: Task Oversight Contractor: Technical Lead	Month 6
Quarterly Reports	Reports on months 3& 6	PRA: Task Oversight Contractor: Technical Lead	Month 7
Final Report	Final Report	PRA: Task Oversight Contractor: Technical Lead	Month 8

Task 1 Develop a QAPP: This proposed grant project includes field data collection and, therefore, involves environmental data operations. The contractor will develop a project QAPP and submit it to PRA for review after the start of the contract period. The PRA will provide guidelines for QAPP development. The QAPP must be approved by U.S. EPA, and the New England Water Pollution Control Commission.

Task 2 Evaluate Each Pond System and Outlet Tributaries: This task will be conducted in accordance with the approved QAPP.

Task 3 Measure and Document Results: A brief project report and narrative along with a matrix will be developed to document all data collection and conclusions drawn from these data. Data will include water quality data, continuous stream flow data, pond habitat data, stream habitat data, photo documentation, and engineering cost estimates for construction of potential fish passage barrier removal.

Task 4 Quarterly Reporting: The contractor will prepare quarterly reports on months 3 and 6 in accordance with PRA guidance.

Task 5 Final Reporting: The contractor will develop a final grant report in accordance with PRA guidance and append other paper deliverables.

REQUIREMENTS OF RESPONDENT'S SUBMITTAL

Responses to this solicitation are required to specifically contain the following two areas of information:

A. Qualification Statements

The following documentation of qualifications must be provided and shall be used to evaluate the ability of the respondent to perform all work:

- Documentation of the respondent's professional qualifications (including licensing) and experience in similar projects. The PRA will be the sole judge as to the similarity of the project(s) referenced.

B. Other requirements for the Bid

- Project Costs
Include in the proposal an estimate of the costs for the project as outlined in Scope of Work. Direct costs shall be broken down by task as applicable including costs for subcontractors.
- Resources and Availability of Personnel
Provide a description of the resources needed for your completion of this project (including subcontractors) and their availability over the term of the project.
- Project Schedule
A project schedule shall be included in the proposal outlining the time necessary to complete the project. The schedule shall show the anticipated start and end dates for each task and subtask, as appropriate, from the start of the project to final completion. A start date of March 7, 2014 should be assumed for proposal project scheduling purposes

All work is to be done in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act.

Funding for this project will be provided by a collaboration of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Should the respondent feel additional tasks are needed to prepare a better evaluation and design, these tasks should be included along with a discussion of their necessity and a clearly articulated separate credit/charge associated with the recommended work.

SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES

Prospective candidates must submit a bid containing the above information consisting of (1) paper format and (1) electronic format. Bids are to be placed in sealed envelopes bearing on the outside the name and address of the bidder, the date and time of the bid opening and clearly marked: "BID-FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR BLACKAMORE & CRANBERRY PONDS FISHPASSAGES".

The envelope must also be addressed to the Pawtuxet River Authority, Chairman Robert J. Nero.

The bid must be sent/delivered to:

Pawtuxet River Authority
8 Hope Furnace Road
Hope, RI 02831

and received by **5:00 PM, Tuesday, October 13, 2015.**

Bids will be opened publicly at the headquarters of the Pawtuxet River Authority, 8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831 at **5:30 PM, on October 13, 2015**

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE. Faxed statements will not be accepted. No supplemental materials will be accepted after this date.

The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject without prejudice, any or all proposals, or to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Pawtuxet River Authority.

PRE-BID MEETING

The Pawtuxet River Authority will provide any respondent, by appointment, a site meeting, to explain the project. Please call Robert J. Nero at 330-0812.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE/CRITERIA

A selection committee comprised of PRA Board Members will evaluate all bid proposals received by the deadline. The evaluation is based on a numerical score sheet. Based on the evaluation, the selection committee will select a firm.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Experience on Similar Projects | 10% |
| 2. Resources and Availability of Personnel | 15% |
| 3. Project Schedule | 15% |

4. Project Costs

60%

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 37 Chapter 14.1 of the General Laws, the Pawtuxet River Authority reserves the right to apply additional consideration to offers, and to direct awards to bidders other than the responsive bid representing the lowest price where:

1. The offer is fully responsive to the terms and conditions of the Request, and
2. The price offer is determined to be within a competitive range (not to exceed 5% higher than the lowest responsive price offer) for the product or service, and
3. The firm making the offer has been certified by the R.I. Department of Administration to be a small business concern meeting the criteria established to be considered a Minority Business Enterprise.

In a case where the awardee/Prime Contractor is not an MBE, ten percent [10%] of the dollar value of the work performed for this project shall be performed by Minority Business Enterprises where it has been determined that subcontract opportunities exist, and where certified Minority Business Enterprises are available. A contractor may count towards its MBE, DBE, or WBE goals 60% of its expenditures for materials and supplies required under a contract and obtained from an MBE, DBE, or WBE regular dealer, and 100% of such expenditures when obtained from an MBE, DBE, or WBE manufacturer. Awards of this type shall be subject to approval, by the Pawtuxet River Authority of Administration, of a Subcontracting Plan submitted by the bidder receiving the award.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions Regarding the Bid Request

All pre-bid communications regarding this bid request should be addressed to:

Robert J. Nero/Chairman
Pawtuxet River Authority
8 Hope Furnace Road
Hope, RI 02831
401-330-0812 (c)/401-615-7039 (o)
pra@pawtuxet.org