

# **DEQ** 2022 319 Application Form - Mini-grant Programs

# **General Information**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*REVISED 10/22/2021\*\*\*\*\*\*

Project Name			
Sponsor Name			
Registered with the S	Secretary of State?	Regis	tered with SAM?
Duns #		Does your organization have lia	ability insurance?
Primary Contact —		Signatory	
·		Tial -	
		Addrocs	
City —		de State	Zip Code
•		Dhana Numbar	
Email Address		Email Address	
Signature		Signature	
Technical and Admin	istrative Qualifications		
Past Projects			
Project Name	Grant or Contract Amount	Funding Entity (entity name/program, contact person, phone, email)	Completion Date

# **Budget**

319 Funding Non-Federal Federal Other Total Request Match Match Funding Cost Program Development, Marketing and Solicitation (Includes development and deployment of application process, marketing the program to the target

Mini-grant Oversight (Includes management, oversight and evaluation of all mini-grant contracts and associated deliverables. May also include correspondence, site visits, training, and problem resolution.)

audience, receipt and evaluation of project proposals, and writing and executing mini-grant contracts.)

Program Evaluation (Includes evaluation of the impact of individual mini-grants and the program as a whole on nonpoint source pollution. For on-the-ground projects designed to address nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment, task may include gathering information necessary for DEQ to evaluate pollutant load reductions achieved from project implementation.)

Project Administration (Includes annual, semi-annual and final reporting, submitting payment requests, incidental office expenses, transportation and audiovisual costs.)

Other (specify)

Other (specify)

Non-federal Federal Match Letter of Support Match Source (cash and in-kind) (cash and in-kind) Secured? Attached?

# **Program Description** Describe the types of projects or activities you will fund. How much money will each mini-grant recipient receive?

(provide a range or an exact dollar amount) How many mini-grants will you distribute? Page 4

# **Target Audience**

Who is the target audience (potential recipients) for the mini-grant program?
Describe the target audience's potential to have meaningful impact on NPS pollution.
How will you market the program to the target audience?

Is there adequate interest to ensure full use of requested funding within a 3-year period? Please explain.
Are there other, similar grant programs available to potential recipients, and if so, how will your program fill a unique niche?
How will the program increase local capacity or interest for addressing NPS pollution?
How will the program create <b>long-lasting change</b> in social norms or attitudes toward addressing NPS pollution?

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Program Implementation and Evaluation
Describe the application submittal, evaluation and contracting processes you will use.
Describe the project oversight you will provide to mini-grant recipients.

List the metrics you will use to quantify the effects of individual mini-grant projects or activities.	
List the metrics you will use for evaluating the effectiveness of your mini-grant program as a whole.	
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# **Community Participation and Support**

Support Attached? Partner Role

Letter of

**Other Supporters** 

Letter of Support Entity Attached?

# **Bigger Picture Considerations**

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Environmental Justice (EJ)
Will the program encourage participation from historically underserved populations (e.g. minority populations, people with disabilities)? Explain.
Will the program build capacity for addressing NPS pollution in Montana communities east of the continental divide?
Explain.
Will the program help communities affected by legacy sources of pollution (e.g. communities with superfund sites or impacts from abandoned mine lands)? Explain.

Climate Change
Will the program encourage efforts to improve climate change resilience? Explain.
Impacts on Downstream Communities
Will the program encourage protection of drinking water sources? Explain.
Will the program encourage cooperation between permitted point source dischargers and managers of NPS pollution
on efforts to improve water quality? Explain.

# **Additional Attachments**

Additional Attachments
Attach additional items that could help reviewers better understand your project. Items could include site photos, design drawings, site evaluations, permits, etc. Please be conscious of reviewers' time, as they may not have time to read lengthy studies and reports. List all additional attachments below.
Additional information that could assist reviewers in evaluating the project's potential impact on NPS pollution.

# **Letters Of Support**

# GALLATIN RIVER

### Gallatin River Task Force

Physical:
Market Place UNIT 6
Big Sky, MT 59716
406.993.2519
gallatinrivertaskforce.org

Correspondence:
PO Box 160513
Big Sky, MT 59716
headwaters@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Mark Ockey Watershed Protection Bureau P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620

October 25, 2021

RE: Letter of support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council

Dear Mr. Ockey,

I am writing on behalf of the Gallatin River Task Force in support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) 319 grant application to provide cost share to organizations hosting Big Sky Watershed Corps Members. We have participated in the Big Sky Watershed Corps program for over ten years, and we have always provided nonfederal match funding for Watershed Fund support for both hosting a member and for project funding,

The cost-share funding support has been critical for us to host a full-time Big Sky Watershed Corps Member. This additional capacity has allowed us to move forward monitoring and restoration projects in the Upper Gallatin to address nonpoint source pollution. Most recently, our Big Sky Watershed Corps Member, Jessica Olson, secured funding, and assisted in design, planning and implementation of a restoration project on the Middle Fork, which is impaired for nutrients, sediment, and E.Coli. Jessica was key to the success of this project completed in October.

We are grateful of your past support of this impactful program and urge you to continue support again this year,

Sincerely,

Kristin Gardner, PhD

Chief Executive and Science Officer



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

1101 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Helena, MT 59601 www.macdnet.org; 406-443-5711

October 12, 2021

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Mark Ockey 1520 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Helena, MT 59601

Re: Montana Watershed Coordination Council 319 Funding Application

Dear Mark:

On behalf of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), formally Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, I am writing to extend our support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) application for 319 funding to support Big Sky Watershed Corp (BSWC) host sites. MWCC has been a valued partner and an essential resource for the watershed community, as well as conservation districts across the state.

MWCC has been an integral partner in the success of the BSWC program, and that is a direct result of the funding and support that they provide to BSWC host sites through the 319 funding they secure. These funds help build capacity in organizations that desperately need it, allowing them to successfully implement Watershed Restoration Plans for their area and complete projects they would not otherwise be able to accomplish.

The BSWC host site support provided through these funds allows watershed organizations and conservation districts to implement projects that effectively mitigate nonpoint source pollution, increase capacity and training for technical assistance, and expand their reach and opportunity for future project development.

MACD supports MWCC's application as it will provide essential funding to organizations that support conservation on the ground and protect Montana's watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration of MWCC's application.

Sincerely,

Melissa Downing

M. Downing

MACD Operations and Partnerships Manager



206 N. Grand Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715 • PH:406.587.4475 • www.mtcorps.org

October 21, 2021

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Mark Ockey

Watershed Protection Bureau

P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620

Re: Montana Watershed Coordination Council 319 Funding Application

Dear Mark,

I am writing on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) to express my full support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) and their local 319 funding request. MWCC provides a vital service to Montana's watersheds and local communities and is a key partner in successfully implementing the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) program. Their community-based initiatives are incredibly effective and efficient and they are unwavering in their efforts to be inclusive and thoughtful in every enterprise they undertake.

319 funding provided by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and administered by MWCC has played a substantial role in the success of partner organizations and ultimately the success of our BSWC AmeriCorps members. In providing this funding MWCC has not only been able to successfully meet its mission, but has also provided invaluable resources to local Montana watersheds and communities resulting in a measurable and lasting on-the-ground impact that will benefit future generations. The projects implemented as a result of the funding were efficient and effective in mitigating nonpoint source pollution, the professional development opportunities were highly revered and impactful and the cost share support allowed small, yet ever important, watershed organizations to better establish a community presence, build capacity and greatly improve Montana's most precious resource, water. MWCC provides essential capacity in efforts to improve Montana's watersheds and we are incredibly fortunate to partner with them in implementing the BSWC program.

MWCC has formed sustainable and resilient partnerships and has led the way in creating new and innovative approaches to properly address critical watershed related issues.

Montanans will all greatly benefit from the services of MWCC and I strongly urge you to award full funding support to the organization.

Best Regards,

Bryan N. Wilson

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**Director-Individual Placement Programs** 

Montana Conservation Corps Office- (406).587.4475 x107

Email- bryan@mtcorps.org

# **Supplemental Information**

# 2020 By the Numbers

- ✓ Total Funds Awarded: \$215,400
  - Capacity Support: \$78,000
  - Project Support: \$136,000
  - Professional Development Support: \$1,400
- ✓ Additional Funds Leveraged: \$682,000
- ✓ Organizations
  Supported: 28
- ✓ Number of Awards: 45













# MWCC SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION The Watershed Fund

The MWCC Watershed Fund provides direct support to our community-based partners for capacity-building, professional development, and on-the-ground projects. In 2020, the Watershed Fund distributed more than \$215,000 in support to 28 watershed conservation partners statewide. This investment allowed our partners to leverage an additional \$682,000 in funding from other sources.

# The two primary goals of the Watershed Fund are:

- Increase the capacity of local communities to advance community-based, locally led conservation using the Watershed Approach to conservation
- Provide a model for streamlining, consolidating, and leveraging resources for locally led conservation statewide

## Initiatives supported by the Fund in 2020 include:

- Landowner outreach to develop stronger relationships and conservation projects
- Baseline capacity needs such as developing budgets, strategic planning, and board development
- Streamside revegetation and restoration projects
- Improvements to stream crossings and fish passage
- Soil moisture management and soil health
- Increasing drought resilience
- Hosting Big Sky Watershed Corps AmeriCorps members to build capacity for outreach, education, and on-the-ground projects. (See Page 9 for more on the BSWC Program.)









# 95 3.294 8.096 208.5

Conservation Practices Implemented Stakeholders Engaged Acres Made More Resilient Stream and Lakeshore Miles Improved



# **BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS**

# **Building the Next Generation** of Conservation Leaders

Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) is an AmeriCorps service program that places young professionals with local watershed partners to make a measurable difference in conservation across the state. Now in its 10th year, the BSWC program is jointly administered by MWCC, the Montana Conservation Corps, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana.

Since 2011, BSWC has engaged 222 members who have contributed nearly 380,000 hours of

conservation service. Dozens of members have gone on to work for local watershed conservation organizations, as well as state, federal, and tribal agencies working on natural resource issues in Montana, expanding the program's benefits to the next generation of conservation leaders.

BSWC members lead and support a wide array of conservation efforts, including:

- Preventing the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species
- School- and community-based conservation education programs
- Leading and recruiting volunteers
- Grant writing and management
- Increasing access to markets for local agricultural producers
- Riparian and upland restoration projects
- Monitoring for water quality, water quantity, stormwater runoff, salinity, and other key watershed health factors
- Maintenance and monitoring of past restoration projects to ensure project success



**2020 BSWC** 



# 2022 BSWC 319 Host Site Cost Share Support Request for Proposals

The MWCC <u>Watershed Fund</u> has funding to help local watershed organizations implement DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plans (WRPs) by hosting a <u>Big Sky Watershed Corps</u> (BSWC) member in 2022. A total of \$30,000 is available. Up to \$6,000 may be awarded to each qualifying organization to help offset the \$12,250 cost share payment for hosting a BSWC member. Award decisions will be based in part on what percentage of the member's time will be dedicated to implementing DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plans and to reducing and preventing nonpoint source pollution. There is a non-federal, 1:1 match requirement that can be met through cash or in-kind contributions.

Proposals are due by 5 pm on Friday, August 6, 2022. Details on how to apply are below. Funding decisions will be made August 20, 2021, so applicants will know whether they have received funding prior to the BSWC Program Host Site Application deadline on Friday, September 3.

# The purpose of this funding opportunity is to:

- Provide local watershed organizations with the resources necessary to implement DEQaccepted WRPs and reduce nonpoint source pollution in their watersheds.
- Increase the capacity of local watershed communities to achieve long-term conservation goals related to improving water quality.
- Build the next generation of conservation leaders in Montana.

### Eligibility

Local watershed organizations are eligible to apply for this funding if they plan to host a BSWC member for 2022 and if that member will spend 25% or more of their time on WRP implementation related to preventing or reducing nonpoint source pollution. The greater the amount of time a member will spend on these activities, the greater the amount of funding the host site is eligible for. Federal agencies, state agencies, and for-profit entities are not eligible.

### Requirements

BSWC members supported with this funding will be required to submit one interim and one final report on their WRP-implementation activities, in early June 2022 and early November 2022, respectively. Reporting will be based on the work plan you outline in your online proposal form. (Details below.) There is a non-federal, 1:1 match requirement that can be met through cash or in-kind contributions.



# **Qualifying Activities**

Activities that qualify for this funding are those that implement a DEQ-accepted WRP, help to reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution, and employ the <u>Watershed Approach</u> to conservation. Qualifying activities include, but are not limited to:

- Work on restoration and pollution-prevention projects
- Post-restoration maintenance and monitoring
- Monitoring under a DEQ-approved Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Community outreach
- Volunteer recruitment, management, and retention
- Education
- Creation of education and outreach materials

### The following activities do not qualify for this funding:

- Establishing or updating WRPs
- Monitoring not called for in a DEQ-approved Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Work on aspects of a WRP that do not prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution

### **How to Apply**

Proposals are due by 5 pm on Friday, August 6, 2022. They must be submitted via <a href="this online">this word document</a> should not be used to apply for funding. If at all possible, the person who submits your proposal should be the person who will be working most closely with the BSWC member. In most cases, this will be the proposed host site supervisor.

Please use your organization's existing <u>Submittable account</u> to fill out the online proposal form. If you do not yet have a Submittable account, please set one up under your organization's name, not under your personal name. If you're new to Submittable, here's a link explaining <u>how to get started as a submitter.</u>

Funding decisions will be made by the end of August, so applicants will know whether they have received funding prior to the BSWC Program Host Site Application deadline on Friday, September 3.

MWCC will announce in February or March 2022 an additional funding opportunity for specific, BSWC member-led, on-the-ground projects to reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution. Up to \$10,000 may be awarded for these competitive grants, and a total of \$25,000 will be



available. These project grants must be distinct from activities funded by host site cost share support dollars.

For more information, contact MWCC Watershed Programs Coordinator Terri Nichols at <a href="mailto:terri@mtwatersheds.org">terri@mtwatersheds.org</a> or (406) 210.1217.

# **Questions in the Online Proposal Form**

- 1. Proposed Host Site Organization
- 2. Name of Proposed BSWC Host Site Supervisor
- 3. Organization Tax ID Number
- 4. Proposed Host Site Supervisor Phone Number
- 5. Proposed Host Site Supervisor Email Address
- 6. Name of Task 1
  - a. A brief title for the first WRP-implementation Task the BSWC member will work on.
- 7. WRP Section and Page Number Task 1 Will Help Implement
- 8. Percentage of member time to be spent on Task 1
- 9. Task 1 Activities 400-word limit
  - a. Bulleted list of activities the BSWC member will work on to accomplish this Task, including dates and locations of any specific events, where applicable.
- 10. Task 1 Deliverables 300-word limit
  - a. Specific, quantifiable deliverables you expect as part of your member's activities under this task. Examples may include Number of Plantings, Feet of Fencing, Stream and Lakeshore Miles Improved, Number of Stakeholders Engaged, Number of Events Hosted, Number of Students Reached, Number of Volunteers Recruited, Number of Newsletters Produced, etc.
- 11. Name of Task 2 ... opportunity to add up to 5 tasks total, using the same format as for Task 1 above.
- 12. How much cost share funding are you requesting?
- 13. Briefly describe how you expect a BSWC Member to increase your organization's capacity to implement your WRP and reduce nonpoint source pollution. 300-word limit
- 14. (Optional) Describe any additional benefits you anticipate from hosting a BSWC member. 300-word limit



# Opportunity for Big Sky Watershed Corps Projects to Reduce and Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution 2021 Request for Proposals

The MWCC Watershed Fund has funding to assist watershed organizations currently hosting BSWC members with implementing nonpoint source pollution-reduction projects impacting water bodies listed as impaired on Montana's 2018 List of Impaired Waters and outlined in a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP). Projects occurring on or along tributaries of impaired water bodies are also eligible if the proposed project addresses a pollutant listed as an impairment for the downstream water body. The organization's current BSWC member must submit the proposal for funding, play a lead role in implementing the project, and complete interim and final project reports. **Proposals are due by 5 pm on Monday, March 15.** Details on how to apply are below.

Up to \$15,000 may be awarded to each recipient, but MWCC recommends limiting requests to \$10,000. A total of \$30,000 is available for 2021. There is a 60:40 non-federal match requirement that can be met through state, local, and private dollars or through state, local, and private in-kind contributions. To come up with your match requirement, use this formula: (319 funds requested/0.6) - 319 funds requested = minimum match requirement. Project dollars are awarded on a reimbursement basis, with reimbursement occurring after receipt of interim and final reports in July and November 2021. Projects must be completed within a seven-month timeline (April through October 2021).

# **Purpose**

The purpose of these dollars is to help watershed organizations accomplish on-the-ground work to reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution as outlined in their local WRPs. An additional purpose is to support projects that align with local watershed priorities and measurably improve local resources. **This funding cannot be used for education or outreach.** It must be spent towards directly reducing nonpoint source pollution.

# **Who Qualifies for Support?**

To qualify, an organization must be hosting a BSWC member for 2021 and implementing a DEQ-approved Watershed Restoration Plan with the member's help.

# What Is Required of Members Who Receive Funding?

Members who receive funding will be expected to report to MWCC on project implementation and deliverables; how the project is building host site capacity and BSWC member skills; and how the member and/or host site plan to use the project in future outreach and communications. There is no monitoring requirement for funded projects.

Projects supported under this funding must secure an agreement between the watershed organization and the landowner on whose property the project is occurring – regardless of whether that landowner is a private individual, organization, or government entity. Landowner agreements shall address operation and maintenance of the project as well as site access for maintenance and post-implementation monitoring. MWCC has sample landowner agreements available to use as templates if your organization does not already have a template.



Projects occurring on private lands must also provide the following information, which will be used by DEQ and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine how to reduce or eliminate any potential effects of a project on endangered species:

- 1. A description of the specific area that may be affected by the action
- 2. The current status, habitat use, and behavior of listed and proposed threatened and endangered species and status of designated and proposed critical habitat(s) in the project area. Detailed information on threatened and endangered species in specific locations can be found on the Montana Natural Heritage Program's <a href="Species Snapshot">Species Snapshot</a> website. MTNHP's <a href="Montana Field Guides">Montana Field Guides</a> provide additional information on the distribution of specific species.
- 3. A discussion of the methods used to determine the information in Item 2.

For projects that address nutrient (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) and sediment pollutants, participants must provide sufficient information to allow DEQ to estimate pollutant load reductions for the project. This includes, as applicable:

- Total acreage of the project site
- Length of streambank and width of riparian buffer treated or restored
- Slope of the project area
- Type, quantity, and location of each Best Management Practice installed
- Livestock usage (number, type, duration pre- and post-project)

Participants must also provide the following information in their reporting documents:

- A description of how the project implements specific aspect(s) of the participant's local WRP
- A basic project location map
- Number of volunteers engaged
- Watershed Fund Metrics\*
  - o Number of stakeholders engaged
  - Number of conservation practices implemented
  - Number of acres made more resilient through the conservation practices listed above
  - o Number of stream and lakeshore miles improved by the conservation practices listed above
- Additional deliverables as applicable
- Photos of project work, including matched before-and-after photos <u>taken from the same location and angle</u> each time.
- A full project budget and billing statement. MWCC will provide a template for this document.

# **Timeline**

- Monday, March 15 at 5 pm: Deadline to submit project proposals. If you would like to submit a draft for review and feedback before the final deadline, please do so by Thursday, March 4 at 7 am.
- Week of April 5: MWCC will notify applications about whether they will be receiving funding.
- Friday, July 9: Interim reporting forms due to MWCC
- Friday, November 5: Final reporting forms due to MWCC

<sup>\*</sup>Descriptions of these metrics provided in the attached "Watershed Fund Metrics" document



Project ideas. Projects must be consistent with the participant's local WRP and must address an impairment identified on <u>Montana's 2018 List of Impaired Waters</u>.

- Willow planting
- Other riparian vegetation projects
- Fencing projects
- Development of grazing plans
- Maintenance of riparian fencing and/or vegetation
- Browse protection for riparian vegetation
- Beaver mimicry and/or beaver management
- Off-stream water for livestock
- Other projects will be considered

# **How to Apply**

Submit a project proposal by March 15, 2021, at 5 pm, via the 2021 BSWC Nonpoint Source Project Support Proposal Form.\* Optionally, you may also submit a draft proposal, using the Word document\*\* attached at the bottom of this page, by Thursday, March 4, at 7 am, to receive feedback before your final proposal is due.

\*The MWCC Watershed Fund uses the online platform <u>Submittable</u> for all funding proposals, proposal reviews, and reporting. Check to see if your host site organization has an existing Submittable account that they have used to submit previous proposals to the Watershed Fund. If so, please ensure that you are logged into that same account before clicking on this link or filling out this proposal form. Also ensure that your organization's account name is the name of your organization, not the name of an individual. (You can change this in your organization's profile.) Do not create a new Submittable account or submit proposals using another account. This helps hugely with Watershed Fund tracking, and we appreciate your attention to this detail. To learn more about how to use Submittable, check out this two-minute video.

\*\*A Word document containing all questions in the online proposal form is attached to the bottom of this page for your convenience and for submitting draft proposals. However, you must submit your final proposal via Submittable.

### **Proposals must include:**

- A basic project map and location coordinates
- A description of how the project implements Best Management Practices from the participant's local WRP
- Timeline for completion
- Proposed project budget, using the BSWC Nonpoint Source Project Budget Template provided at the bottom of this page. Note that neither food nor administrative costs are covered by this funding.
- *Note:* Funding availability will depend on the total amount requested in members' proposals. If it is possible to scale your project up or down, depending on available funding, let us know in your application.



### **Review Criteria**

The MWCC Water Committee will review all applications based on the following questions:

- Proposed project implements recommendations and Best Management Practices from a local WRP.
- Project addresses an impairment identified on Montana's 2018 List of Impaired Waters.
- Project directly addresses non-point source (NPS) pollution in the watershed.
- Project provides additional natural resource or conservation benefits.
- Details of project implementation and project deliverables align with stated project goals for reducing nonpoint source pollution and providing other benefits.
- Project includes a clear plan for evaluating project effectiveness in meeting the WRP, NPS, and other outcomes.
- Project demonstrates an appropriate level of community engagement.
- Project builds the capacity of the host site to implement more NPS projects in the future and/or to meet other WRP goals.
- Role of BSWC member in the project is appropriate for both the project and for the member's professional development.
- Project partners and partner expectations are clearly defined.
- Project timeline is clear and reasonable for the success of the project.
- Project budget is clear and reasonable for the success of the project.

# **Questions?**

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Watershed Programs Coordinator Terri Nichols with project ideas and questions. Terri will also review and provide feedback on draft applications submitted by 7 am on Thursday, March 4, using the Word version of the proposal form questions provided below. Submitting a draft budget using the BSWC Nonpoint Source Project Budget Template is also strongly encouraged.

Terri Nichols terri@mtwatersheds.org (406) 210-1217