**Comments for FY2016 319 Nonpoint Source Preliminary Project Proposal**

**Sponsor:** Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District

**Project Title:** Lake Helena WRP Implementation Project

**319 Request:** $187,888.00

**DEQ Prj Mgr:** Mark Ockey (406) 444-5351 mockey@mt.gov

* 319 funding is competitive this year. Your funding request needs to be adequate, but not excessive.
* Prior to filling out the Final Project Proposal form, do the following:
	+ Reread the Call For Project Proposals for FY2016, especially Attachment A – Project Scoring Sheet
	+ Reread the Instructions for Completing 319 NPS Preliminary and Final Project Proposals (the Form Instructions)
	+ Contact your DEQ Project Manager (noted above) for additional assistance
* Your Final Project Proposal must clearly demonstrate that all aspects of your project meet the following eligibility requirements:
	+ Address nonpoint source pollution
	+ Address impairments identified in Montana’s 2014 List of Impaired Waters
	+ Implement goals and objectives identified in the 2012 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan
	+ Directly implement projects or activities identified in a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)
* Proofread your Final Project Proposal. You may wish to read it out loud or ask a colleague to read it and provide comment.
* Complete all elements of the Final Project Proposal form. Pay special attention to the information requested in Section 1, as it seems to be a common source of errors. In Section 1 of the Final Project Proposal form, you do not need to include SWCDMI mini-grants in the list of open contracts.
* Section IV: Scope of Work must contain a separate task for each of the activities identified below where applicable. Attachment B of the Call For Project Proposals for FY2016 contains example template language for each of the four tasks:
	+ Monitoring – For proposals involving on-the-ground projects, monitoring should evaluate the success of the project at reducing nonpoint source pollution. For projects addressing nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment, the monitoring task must include estimation of annual pollutant load reductions. For E&O projects, monitoring should include an evaluation of the activities’ effectiveness in reaching the target audience and achieving the desired outcomes.
	+ Education and Outreach (E&O) – For proposals involving on-the-ground projects, E&O activities should be directly related to the project. To a limited extent, project sponsors may apply for funding for E&O projects that are not specifically related to an on-the-ground project, provided that the E&O projects are identified in their Watershed Restoration Plan.
	+ Operation and Maintenance, Landowner Agreements – This only applies to contracts involving on-the-ground projects. Landowner agreements must address project design and implementation, revegetation of disturbed areas, operation and maintenance (for the life of the practice), and site access.
	+ Contract Administration – Deliverables include status reports, annual reports and a final report as well as appropriate billing and contract management. The 319 funds requested for administrative activities must not exceed 10% of the total 319 funds request in your proposal; however, local match associated with administrative activities can exceed the 10% cap.
* Review all task timelines, the project milestone table, and other date-related information in the Final Project Proposal. Dates must be consistent with the anticipated 319 funding schedule. Funding is not likely to be available until late June or July, 2016, and contract work needs to be completed within 2 to 3 years.
* Remember to include all applicable attachments (see Section IV of the Final Project Proposal form).
* Late or incomplete Final Project Proposal Forms will not be considered. If you have any questions please call your DEQ Project Manager well before the Final Project Proposal due date of September 28, 2015.

*Other Comments*

* Given the previous challenges of obtaining permits and authorizations for work on Prickly Pear Creek, consider the possibility of applying for FY2016 funds for design and permitting and then coming back in a subsequent year to obtain funding for implementation.
* Your Preliminary Project Proposal indicates that the project will address sediment, nutrients, temperature, and metals. Describe the mechanism by which the project will address metals.
* What are the root causes of instability and excessive erosion within the project area? Will the proposed project address the root causes?
* Provide photos of the project site.
* Identify the interests of the landowner in seeing this project move forward. What are their goals for the riparian area and adjacent property? What do they want it to look like, and what do they want to do with it?
* Are there existing issues with downcutting and a lack of floodplain connectivity? If so, how will they affect or be addressed by the proposed project?
* Look for and identify ways in which LCCWQPD will incorporate the on-the-ground project work into the water watchers program and the watershed festival.
* Provide more specific and accurate latitude and longitude coordinates for the Tryan restoration project. In the Preliminary Project Proposal, the latitude and longitude provided identify a point in a large field, with the nearest waterbody being a drainage ditch/spring creek.
* In addition to working on Prickly Pear Creek, is the Tryan family interested in working on the drainage ditch/spring creek that runs through their property on the west side of Prickly Pear Creek?
* Provide additional details on how you will identify and prioritize projects under Task 2. Will there be a limit to the amount awarded per project? This task needs to be better defined.