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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

## **STEWARDSHIP FUND PROGRAM**

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**1. Are there certain types of projects the MWMO is more interested in funding?**

The MWMO is particularly interested in supporting engagement or physical projects that will reach underserved populations (neighborhoods or residents not previously involved in MWMO projects) and projects located in environmentally sensitive areas as defined by the MWMO Watershed Management Plan or the MWMO Board.

**2. Can the MWMO fund projects that are affiliated with an organization if they cannot prove various nonprofit legal statuses?**

Neighborhood groups that are officially recognized by the city in which they reside may be eligible. For example, the City of Minneapolis has a list of these types of organizations. Please talk to MWMO staff if you are in a different community, or are a different type of officially recognized group, and want to clarify your eligibility.

**3. When a private party and eligible partner are applying for a grant, does it matter which entity submits the application?**

The eligible partner should complete and submit the application, listing the private party as a partner.

**4. Can applicants apply for more than one grant at a time?**

Applicants may apply for concurrent funding for projects that are unrelated to each other. Applicants may apply for funding on the same project through sequential grant cycles.

**5. Is there a cap on MWMO grant funds per project?**

A single property may be awarded the maximum amount of \$63,000. This is the equivalent of one Mini, one Planning, and one Action Grant. Applicants do not have to seek grants in this sequence or in this combination of grants types. The MWMO cannot guarantee that a property will receive up to \$63,000, as variables could change during each funding cycle that alter project funding.

**6. Can MWMO grant funds be applied retroactively to a project?**

Funding can only be used to reimburse activities that occur after the Agreement has been signed. Similarly, only matching fund activities, or in-kind services, conducted after the Agreement has been

signed can be applied to the required match. **All** expenditures towards the grant must happen **during** the contracted period.

**7. When is the money provided to the grantee?**

Mini Grant disbursement is 50% at the beginning of the Agreement and 50% upon MWMO approval of project completion. Planning and Action Grant disbursement is 25% at the beginning of the Agreement, 65% reimbursed upon completion of activities or deliverables, and the remaining 10% upon MWMO approval of project completion. Reimbursements will be contingent upon documentation of the expenditure of matching funds.

**8. Are there a defined hourly rates to record on the budget form for staff and volunteer time?**

- **To calculate staff overhead costs**, multiply staff rate/hour **by 1.2** and record the dollar amount in the budget form
- **To estimate the value of volunteer time**, use the 2013 nationally recognized hourly rate of **\$22.55 per hour**, the most current information available. Information is from:  
[http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

**9. Why does the MWMO need to know if your project will disturb contaminated soil?**

Soil contamination in urban areas is common and implementation of projects that infiltrate water will be contingent upon successful demonstration that there is no contamination of concern, remediation has occurred, or there is no potential for negative impact on surface or ground water resources.

**10. Does the MWMO require any type of permitting?**

The MWMO does not permit projects. Check in with your city regulatory department to ensure the project has proper permitting. The MWMO does have water quality standards as defined by the MWMO Watershed Management Plan which will be used as a measure of project impact. The MWMO Stewardship Fund Grants may not be used to fund projects installed solely to meet regulatory requirements. Projects may be initiated due to a regulatory requirement; however, stewardship funds may only be used to fund portions of the project that implement water quality innovations that exceed regulatory requirements or provide demonstration of new, innovative practices.

**11. What are the MWMO's expectations for grantees?**

- Meet with MWMO staff
- Attend an Orientation Meeting
- Prepare and sign MWMO Agreement
- Maintain open lines of communication
- Update MWMO about project events
- Inform the MWMO about project timeline
- Work with MWMO to problem solve issues
- Promote your project and MWMO partnership
- Stay within budgetary restrictions
- Submit timely reimbursement requests/deliverables