

# ***NFWF Program Update and 2016 Plan***

***Chesapeake Bay Program  
Management Board  
Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016***

***Jake Reilly  
Director, Chesapeake Bay Programs  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation***



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# My Objectives

- *Refresh the Management Board on how NFWF supports the CBP partnership*
- *Identify upcoming opportunities for financial, technical, and networking support available to state and local partners through NFWF*
- *Solicit Management Board feedback on overall program priorities, opportunities, and direction*



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## Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

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*A public-private funding partnership, administered by NFWF, with significant foundational funding from EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, that supports the CBP partnership through:*

- *Grants for restoration implementation*
- *Technical assistance grants and other tools and resources for local communities*
- *Networking and information-sharing opportunities amongst watershed partners*

*Awarded more than \$12 million in Federal and private funding for projects in 2015 alone*

# Grants for Restoration Implementation

- **Goal:** Provide financial assistance for on-the-ground watershed restoration and protection actions
- **Programs:** Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (INSR), Small Watershed Grants (SWG)
- **Timing:** RFP released in March, applications due mid-May

Program	INSR	SWG
<b>Program Priority</b>	“Innovative” approaches to nutrient and sediment reduction	Chesapeake Watershed Agreement goals
<b>Outcome</b>	Measurable water quality improvement	Contribution to watershed agreement goals
<b>Eligibility</b>	State and local governments, non-profits, educational institutions, Indian tribes	Local governments, non-profits, K-12 educational institutions, Indian tribes
<b>Award Range</b>	\$200,000 – 500,000	\$20,000 – 200,000
<b>Match Requirement</b>	At least 1:1, Equal to total grant request	One-third of total grant request
<b>2016 Funding</b>	~ \$12 million	

\* Details tentative, pending partnership feedback



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# Grants for Restoration Implementation (cont.)

- *Formal role for CBP partnership in grants review process, upcoming in May-June 2016*
  - ***Jurisdiction Liaisons*** ensure consistency with state WIPs and priorities
  - ***GIT Liaisons*** prioritize alignment with management strategies
  - ***CAC and LGAC Liaisons*** represent stakeholder priorities
- *Implementation outcomes (e.g. acres) transmitted to states for annual WIP reporting purposes, August 2016*
- *Ongoing opportunity to refine and refresh annual RFP priorities*
- *Currently drafting 2016 RFP, welcoming CBP partnership input*



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# Grants for Technical Assistance

- **Goal:** *Provide local governments and watershed partners with access to project-specific technical services related to watershed restoration and protection efforts*
- **Program:** *Technical Capacity Grants Program*
- **Award Range:** *Up to \$50,000*
- **Timing:** *Full RFP released January 2016, various application and award windows based on local project needs:*
  - **Agriculture** – *Applications accepted February 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup>*
  - **Restoration/Stewardship** – *Applications accepted May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>*
  - **Stormwater** – *Applications accepted August 30<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>*
- **Note:** *NFWF-Approved Technical Assistance Providers apply on behalf of eligible entities, including local governments, conservation districts, and nonprofits*



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## Other Technical Assistance Tools and Resources

- ***On-the-ground liaison*** provides field-level support to potential partners for identifying high-value projects, assembling appropriate partnerships to ensure success, and ensuring that projects are informed by the successes and failures of others who have undertaken similar work
- ***Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center:*** Web-based training program for elected officials, inter-departmental municipal staff, and stakeholders to gain the necessary skill sets and information that can be used to create and enhance effective stormwater programs



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# Support for Networking and Information Sharing

- **Goal:** *Facilitate networking opportunities for grantees and partners to transfer knowledge, inform policy development, and develop new projects*
- **Watershed and regional partner forums**, including Chesapeake Watershed Forum, ForumPlus
- **Watershed Network** supports remote collaboration amongst partners
- **Sector-specific annual roundtables**, including Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum, Baywide Stormwater Partnership Retreats, and Local Government Forum
- **Project Spotlight Webinars** showcasing 2-3 NFWF-funded projects discussing a common theme or priority
- **Media relations support** to advance NFWF and grantee storytelling of restoration successes



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# Other Tools and Resources

- [nfwf.org/chesapeake](http://nfwf.org/chesapeake)
- ***NFWF Grants Library*** – NFWF database of prior funded projects
- ***Interactive Project Map*** – NFWF map of prior funded projects
- ***ChesapeakeBay.net database*** – Add'l metadata on funded projects, including scope, abstract, etc.
- ***Monitoring and Assessment Tool*** – In-progress, web-based project management, load reduction, and reporting tool



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# Other Ongoing NFWF-Supported Projects

- *Capacity Assessment for Agricultural Technical Assistance*
- *2015 RCPP project for dairy and livestock landscapes*
- *U.S. Army Corps Chesapeake Bay Watershed Assessment*
- *Third-party evaluation of INSR Program*



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# ***Third-Party Evaluation of NFWF's INSR Grants Program***

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# Program Background

- *Targeted Watershed Grants Program implemented under CWA 104(b)(3), aimed at research and demonstration related to water quality improvement*
- *TWG Adopted by Congress and morphed into INSR beginning in 2008, emphasizing applied, innovative approaches to NPS reduction*
- *NFWF successfully competed to manage the INSR grants program in 2008, continued management through subsequent open competitions*
- *Awarded more than \$60M\* to more than 200 separate projects since 2008, leveraged by an additional \$95M in local match*
  - *~\$50M in EPA funds, \$10M in NFWF funds*



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# INSR Program Objectives

1. *Accelerate nutrient and sediment reductions with innovative\*, sustainable, and cost-effective approaches;*
  - (a) *New technologies or techniques for reducing nonpoint nutrient/sediment loads to the Bay, and/or*
  - (b) *Sustainable improvements in removal efficiencies and/or cost-effectiveness of current approaches*
2. *Actively transfer and disseminate the lessons learned from the subawarded projects to the larger Bay region community; and*
3. *Work to institutionalize the continued and expanded implementation of innovative nutrient and sediment reduction practices and approaches within the existing and emerging pollutant sectors.*



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# Program Impact

- *Awarded more than \$60M to more than 200 individual projects since 2008, leveraged by an additional \$95M in local match*
- *Significant aggregate water quality impact: 13M lb. N, 3.8M lb. P, and 669M lb. S avoided annually*
- *Supported demonstration, data collection, and scale up for:*
  - *New technologies: manure-to-energy, bioreactors, P extraction systems, alternative soil media*
  - *Alternative restoration approaches: regenerative stormwater conveyance, ultra-urban stream restoration, variable width buffers, flexible fencing*
  - *Program and policy innovations: “Buffer Bonus”, nutrient trading, oyster crediting, homeowner incentive programs, cross-sector initiatives*



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# Impetus for Evaluation

- *Sufficient corpus of awards and data to support a valid evaluation, maturation of prior innovations*
- *New long-term award for continued NFWF program management through 2020*
- *Opportunities for program refinement in advance of 2017 Midpoint Assessment*



- *NFWF, CBP, and EPA staff convened in summer 2015 to scope overarching evaluation questions*



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# Primary Evaluation Questions

1. *How have the practices and approaches developed through INSR grants contributed to modeled reductions in sediment and nutrient pollution and monitored improvements in water quality? Which practices and approaches have been most effective at reducing nutrient and sediment pollution? Which practices and approaches have been most innovative?*

# Primary Evaluation Questions

2. *To what extent has information about the practices and approaches developed through INSR grants been shared with the broader Chesapeake Bay community and to what extent have those practices and approaches been adopted by others in the Chesapeake Bay watershed?*



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# Primary Evaluation Questions

3. *Has clustering projects in targeted sub-watersheds resulted in greater water quality improvements and increased adoption of innovative practices than distributing projects more broadly throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed?*



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# Evaluation Team

- *Selected through competitive solicitation administered in summer and fall 2015*
- *Led by Dantzker Consulting, Arlington, VA*
- *Multidisciplinary team includes experts in natural resource policy and management, stream ecology, soil science, program evaluation, and sociology*
- *Supported by in-house NFWF science and evaluation staff serving as liaison between NFWF program staff, EPA, CBP partners*



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# Evaluation Approach (Simplified!)

- *Initial review of NFWF data and documentation for subawarded projects, supported by expert elicitation, to identify relative “effectiveness” and “innovation” of funded projects*
- *Document review, online surveys of INSR and non-INSR grantees, and in-depth interviews with selected INSR and non-INSR grantees to evaluate relative diffusion of supported innovations*
- *Coordination with CBP, EPA, USGS to assess modeled and measured water quality improvements associated with funded projects, detect increased implementation associated with supported innovations, and identify spatial characteristics of diffusion*



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# Anticipated Timeline

- *Fall 2015 – Project kick-off and initial planning*
- *Winter 2016 – Document review and content analysis, water quality data analysis and reconciliation, expert elicitation, design of interview and survey instruments*
- *Spring 2016 – Interview and survey implementation and data analysis Water quality data analysis and expert elicitation*
- *Summer 2016 – Data integration and visualization, integrated evaluation and decision analysis*
- *Winter 2016 – Finalize evaluation and communicate results*



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