



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

303 E Hwy 20
Valentine, NE 69201

Phone: (402) 376-3241
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Date: August 19, 2020

To: Prospective Consultant

From: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

RE: Request for Proposals – Development WFPO Watershed Plans – Environmental Assessments for – Cherry County Watersheds A, B, and E in Cherry County, Nebraska.

The Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD) is accepting proposals for the following projects:

Development WFPO Watershed Plans – Environmental Assessments for – Cherry County Watersheds A, B, and E in Cherry County, Nebraska.

Deadline: September 9, 2020 @ 11:59 AM Central Time

Contact: Zachery Peterson, Assistant Office Manager
Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
303 E. HWY 20., Valentine, NE 69201

Prospective consulting firms may approach this project in any manner they see fit, provided that the core components of this request for proposals are met. Consulting firms may form teaming arrangements, but the submissions must come from a single firm. Project information, scope of work, and submission requirements are detailed below. If interested in one or multiple Cherry County watersheds, please submit separate proposals for each Watershed.

Project Objective:

The MNNRD is seeking an engineering firm to develop approved Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Plans – Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the Cherry County Watersheds A, B, and E (See Appendix below) in Cherry County, Nebraska. The purpose of this Watershed Planning effort is to address resources concerns related to watershed protection, water management, water quality management, and public fish/wildlife habitat. The project's goal is to establish a recommended plan through an assessment of alternatives supported by public engagement and sponsor participation that follows the NEPA process. The project is needed to address stream degradation, bank erosion, inundated hay meadows, calving areas, and infrastructure associated with excessive flows.

This effort will result in an approved PL-566 Plan-EA that will guide the Sponsor on where to most effectively locate structural and non-structural projects to achieve flood prevention, watershed protection, and groundwater recharge goals for the watershed. Projects may include but are not limited to, stream restorations, water management, small or large dams, structures for retiming of flows,

watershed BMPs. The plan will be created based upon NRCS's Title 390 National Watershed Program Manual.

Project Background:

The MNNRD is a local government entity, located in the Sandhills of north central Nebraska. Some of MNNRD's responsibilities include the following:

1. Flood prevention and control.
2. Erosion prevention and control.
3. Development and management of fish and wildlife habitat.
4. Development and management of recreational facilities.
5. Development, management, utilization and conservation of groundwater and surface water.

The proposed Cherry County Watersheds A, B, and E in Cherry County, Nebraska planning area covers a total of 569,774 acres; Cherry County Watershed A at 244,216 acres, Cherry County Watershed B at 181,793 acres, and Cherry County Watershed E at 143,765 acres.

There are several communities (Valentine, Crookston, Kilgore, Nenzel, Cody, and Merriman) associated with the three Watershed planning areas. This effort will result in approved PL-566 Plans – EA's that will guide the Sponsor on where to most effectively locate structural and non-structural projects to achieve watershed protection, water management, water quality management, and public fish/wildlife habitat. Projects may include but are not limited to, stream restorations, water management, small or large dams, structures for retiming of flows, watershed BMPs. The plan will be created based upon NRCS's Title 390 National Watershed Program Manual.

Scope of Work:

The primary components of the plan will include the following tasks:

Task 1: Identify Problems, Opportunities and Concerns

This task will involve development of the Plan of Work and a public participation plan along with agency scoping meetings and two open house meetings to obtain public feedback on water resource concerns to be addressed in the plan.

Task 2: Determine Objectives

This task includes writing the purpose and need statement and establishing a plan outline. Includes correspondence and review with NRCS State Office staff. Ensuring the path forward is complete and compliant with Title 130 National Watershed Program Manual requirements.

Task 3: Inventory Resources

Includes data gathering, watershed site tour, formulation of feasible alternatives, economic and social assessment, cultural resource assessment, and geologic and engineering assessment. Preparing and sending letters/notifications to agencies and the public.

Task 4: Analyze Resource Data

This task includes an analysis of all collected resources through statistics, maps, hydrogeology, understanding of MNNRD's Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) goals and other similar water management objectives. Information will be used to support establishment of a list of initial alternatives.

Task 5: Formulate Alternatives

A list of initial alternatives, including no action, will be established, and discussed with MNNRD and other key stakeholders. Establishment (or updating existing) hydrology and hydraulics model and use of LiDAR to guide design.

Task 6: Evaluate Alternatives

This task includes an alternatives assessment using an alternative screening assessment such as an evaluation matrix. A list of evaluation criteria will be used such as technical feasibility, social acceptance, financial, etc. to evaluate and score alternatives. Includes site selection, planning level design of preferred alternatives and initial benefit-cost assessment (BCA).

Task 7: Plan Development/Make Decisions

Includes drafting the plan document and completing all reviews with the Nebraska State NRCS Office and other resource agencies participating in the NEPA process. Includes approximately 30% design of the preferred alternatives, cost estimating, summary of permitting needs, data gaps and completion of the BCA. Includes compiling and addressing all responses and input. Completing the final plan and working through the review process with the National Water Management Center. Printing and delivering appropriate hard and electronic copies after successful National Programmatic Review.

Submission Requirements:

The following shall be included in the submission (Not to exceed 25 single sided pages):

- Cover letter,
- Relevant project experience and qualifications of the firm(s) and individuals involved in this project,
- List of similar completed projects,
- Project understanding and proposed approach,
- Proposed project schedule,
- At least two project references relating to relevant experience provided in submission,
- Statement of availability and ability to complete the proposed work,
- Outside consultants and/or associates that maybe involved,
- Conflict of interest statement addressing if any potential real or perceived conflict of interest exists between this project and other past or ongoing projects,
- Total cost of the project and breakdown of cost by task listed in the scope of work,
- Description of Insurance,
- Any other relevant experience.

Selection:

Proposals will be reviewed, and the award made to the proposal that conforms to the minimum specifications outlined in this solicitation and provides the most value to the MNNRD. The MNNRD may require an interview with top candidates. The MNNRD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Questions and Contact Information:

For questions regarding the information contained in this RFP call or email:

Zachery Peterson, Assist/Office Manager or Chandler Schmidt, Watershed Coordinator

zpeterson@mnnrd.org

cschmidt@mnnrd.org

402-376-3241

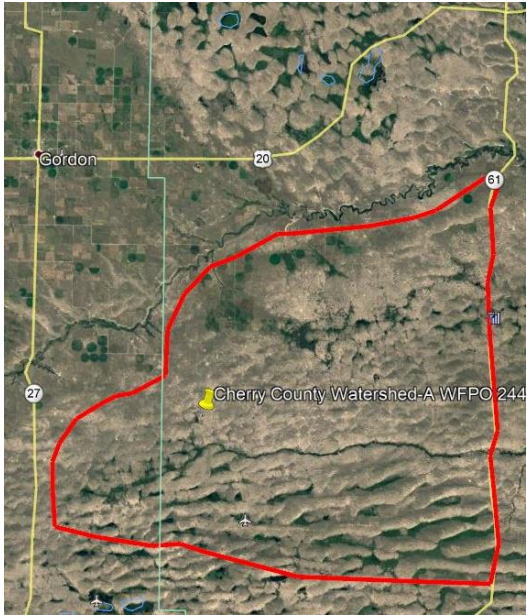
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All Submissions will be accepted until 11:59 AM Central Time on Wednesday September 9, 2020:

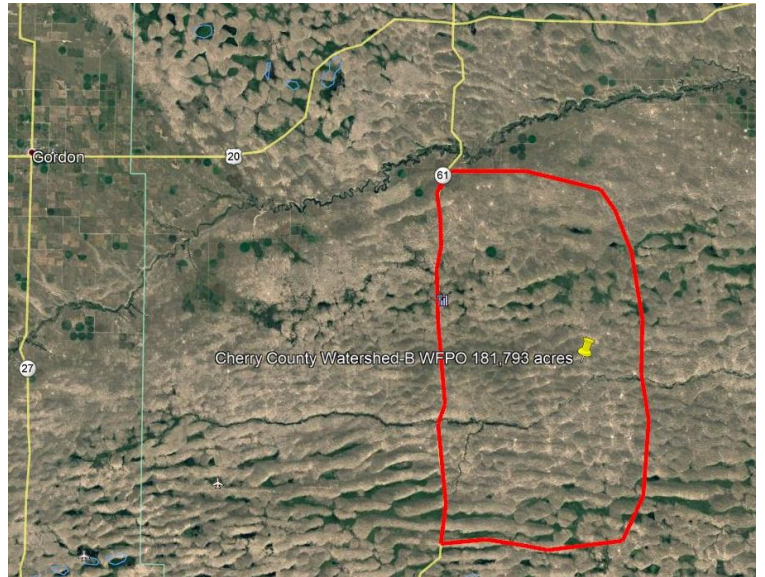
An electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted in PDF format to Zachery Peterson at zpeterson@mnnrd.org and three hard copy proposals must be postmarked no later September 9, 2020 must be mailed to MNNRD. Late proposals will not be eligible for consideration. Proposals exceeding typical email size restrictions must provide an ftp link to obtain proposal.

Appendix

Watershed A



Watershed B



Watershed E

