



Clean Water Management Trust Fund

Innovative Stormwater Application Rating System

General Statute 143B-135(b) states that the fund may develop guidelines in addition to the minimum criteria for awarding grants. To assist with the allocation of grant funds, the following rating system was approved by the full CWMTF Board at their meeting on February 10, 2014, revised June 5, 2018.

Rating Overview – The major components of the rating system are listed below:

Section I. Merit of the project's objectives (35%)

- A. Proposal addresses aspect(s) of stormwater management that would be advanced by successful completion of the project
- B. Proposal discusses how current practices are inadequate or need improvement
- C. Proposal provides related experiences or research that indicates the proposed project type is a worthwhile undertaking.

Section II. Completeness and clarity of the project description and the project's outputs (15%)

- A. Purpose and Goals
- B. Approach (work tasks)
- C. Output of the Project, measures of success, and the basis for evaluating success
- D. Long term care and operation

Section III. Potential for the project's results to be applied broadly (20%)

- A. The project proposal indicates how the results and corresponding advanced or improved stormwater management practices could and should be applied broadly.
- B. Activities that would be conducted, as a part of the project scope, to encourage broad application of the project results.

Section IV. Applicant's commitment to the project (10%)

- A. Project timeline and readiness to begin work
- B. Project budget/cost proposal and status of resources

Section V. Matching Resources (20%)

Ratings Details

Section I. Merit of the project's objectives (Max. 35 points)

This section evaluates the extent to which the proposal demonstrates how the project would improve or protect water quality at the project site and how it would contribute to achieving CWMTF's goal of advancing stormwater-management practices for water quality.

A. Proposal addresses aspect(s) of stormwater management that would be advanced by successful completion of the project (Max. 25 points)

- 1. Project brings something new or different to practices in stormwater management (10 points)
- 2. Project builds on experience or current practices (8 points)
- 3. Project advances practices in stormwater management regionally and/or statewide (7 points)

B. Proposal discusses how current practices are inadequate or need improvement (Max. 6 points) The discussion should include but does not have to be limited to the following:

1. Water-quality benefits and reduction of surface water pollution (2 points)
2. Preserving natural hydrologic connections and relationships (1 point)
3. Water-quantity/water-supply benefits (1 point)
4. Cost savings, including avoided costs and enhanced values (1 point)
5. Social and aesthetic benefits (1 point)

C. Proposal provides related experiences or research that indicates the proposed project type is a worthwhile undertaking and the proposal should include references to technical papers, articles, etc. that describe the context of the proposed project (max 4 points)

Section II. Completeness and clarity of the project description and the project's outputs (Max. 15 points)

This section is an evaluation of the extent to which the proposal clearly provides a complete and thorough project design and demonstrates clear connections and logic between the project components.

A. Purpose and Goals (Max. 5 points)

The proposal provides a clear description of the project's purpose and goals.

B. Approach (work tasks) (Max. 4 points)

The proposal includes a clear and detailed description of the work tasks that will be included in the project work to achieve purposes and goals. The following work tasks should be included, or an explanation must be provided concerning why the task is not part of the project:

- Project planning.
- Design & permitting.
- Access/easement acquisition.
- Construction.
- Dissemination of findings to the appropriate potential users.

C. Output of the Project, measures of success, and the basis for evaluating success (Max. 4 points) The plan should ensure that the monitoring and data collection methods are effective and appropriate. The data to be collected must be representative, accurate, and appropriate for evaluating performance and evaluating the success of the practices using statistical or other scientifically defensible methods.

D. Long term care and operation (Max. 2 points) [Note: To avoid penalizing projects that are "NA", award 2 points.]

For projects with BMPs and other features or devices that will operate indefinitely, the proposal should include a plan that addresses the following:

- Ongoing functional operation & maintenance (O&M): The plan addresses O&M both during the term of a CWMTF grant contract and long term thereafter such that the BMP feature or device continues to function as intended in its design. Ideally, design plans and specifications would address O&M.
- Managing residual materials, long term, that will or might be generated as a result of constructing, operating, and/or maintaining the feature or device.
- Physical and legal access to the project location.
- Roles and responsibilities of parties involved with O&M.
- Ongoing desirable aesthetic & safe conditions.

Section III. Potential for the project's results to be applied broadly (Max. 20 points)

This section evaluates the extent to which the proposal demonstrates how the project's results can be applied broadly; the activities that can be conducted to encourage broad application; and the organizations that would conduct the activities.

A. The project proposal indicates how the results and corresponding advanced or improved stormwater management practices could and should be applied broadly. (Max. 13 points)

1. Innovative methods could be applied very broadly across NC. (13 points)
2. Innovative methods could be applied across a region of NC, such as the coast or piedmont or mountains. (10 points)
3. Innovative methods could be applied across NC but may be significantly limited in the number of opportunities for usage due to aesthetics, size, etc. (10 points)
4. Innovative methods would be limited to a narrow range of applications in one region of NC. (7 points)

B. Activities that would be conducted, as a part of the project scope, to encourage broad application of the project results (Max. 7 points)

Points will only be awarded for activities that will be completed as part of the project scope. The activities will be required to be documented and included in the project final report as part of the project closeout to receive final payment.

1. Presentation of findings at technical conferences, workshops, or similar appropriate professional/trade forums (2 points)
2. Submittal of an article of publishable quality to a professional/trade journal for publication (2 points)
3. Efforts to remove institutional impediments to broad application. (2 points)
4. Posting information on educational signage, websites, databases, and listservs (1 point)

Section IV. Applicant's commitment to the project (Max. 10 points)

This section evaluates the extent to which the applicant is ready to begin work and is prepared to provide the resources (e.g. funds, services, equipment, and access to land) needed to implement the project.

A. Project Timeline and Readiness to Begin Work (Max. 5 points)

Proposed schedule for conducting the project that includes a chart or a graphic that shows the planned timing, duration of each task relative to a projected start date, and the timing relationships among the tasks; and an accompanying narrative that summarizes the timeline and identifies circumstances or conditions that could delay project completion.

1. Applicant has completed the preliminary work phase (e.g. design, outreach to landowners or regulatory approval agency, obtained permits) (5 points)
2. Applicant has already done significant preliminary planning and/or design work (3 points)
3. Applicant has not done any work yet but will be ready to begin work on the project promptly upon execution of a grant contract (1 point)
4. There may be significant delays with getting started (0 points)

B. Project Budget/Cost Proposal and Status of Resources (Max. 5 points)

Status of match resources (e.g., matching funds, personnel, services, equipment, access to land) needed to implement the project:

1. Portion of the proposed matching resources that are already available and committed to the project:
Points Score = % Committed x 0.05

Section V. Matching Resources (Max. 20 points)

Matching resources will be given a value based on the percentage and source of match. Any fraction in the final total will be rounded up.

1. Cash, non-profit & private funds, bargain sale and donated easements = % of total x 0.22
2. Federal and local government funds = % of total x 0.18
3. Other State funds = % of total x 0.14

Section V example: In this example, the request is for \$40K from CWMTF with matching resources coming in the form of cash from a land trust and bargain sale from the landowner (\$30K), and from a Federal grant (\$30K):

<u>Match source</u>	<u>Match (%)</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Cash / non-profit / private funds/ bargain sale / donated easements	30%	x 0.22	6.6
2. Federal / local government funds	30%	x 0.18	5.4
Other State funds	0%	x 0.14	0
			Total = 12.0