EPA Region 6 Allocation of Tribal CWA Section 106 Funds

EPA Region 6

Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting

December 2, 2021

CWA Section 106 Basics

- Supports Tribal water pollution control programs
- Region 6 issues an annual Request for Applications (RFA)
- Base funding amount = $65,000
- Variable funding = amounts awarded over the $65,000 level
- Stand-alone Section 106 grants have a 5% match requirement
- Tribes must have Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State (TAS) for the CWA Section 106 program to apply for these funds

Current Region 6 Allocation Process

Technical Review of Workplans

Merit Review of Applications: Tribal water grant project officers meet to review grant applications and budgets

Final Offers

Application Merit Review

Factors Considered:

- Tribe’s proposed work plan and budget
- Review of work plan elements
- Funding amount requested
- Previous CWA Section 106 awards to the tribe
- Tribe’s ability to meet grant requirements
- Tribe’s past performance with CWA Section 106 grants

Recent Questions

What are the factors in deciding on funding offer amounts?

How can a tribe increase its funding and expand its program over time?

How are the workplans evaluated?

There is a perception that funding offers are not consistent

Document Internal Reviews

- EPA Region 6 will document factors in the review in a worksheet
- No scoring – not a competition
- Intended to show all elements considered in arriving at the offer amount
- EPA Region 6 will attach the worksheet to the CWA Section 106 Request for Applications (RFA)

Proposed Review Worksheet

EPA REGION 6 REVIEW WORKSHEET FOR FY 2022 TRIBAL 106 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applicant Name: _____

Requested CWA Section 106 Funding Amount: _____

Reviewer: _____

Date of Review: _____

WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES

Element	Included in work plan?	Comments
Water Quality Monitoring – number of parameters monitored		
Frequency of sampling and number of sites sampled		
Assessment of water monitoring data		
Fish Sampling		
Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling		
Active water quality standards program, including 401 certification		
Participation in the ATTAINS pilot		
At least one outreach event related to surface water quality topics for the tribe per year		

What's in the Worksheet?

General overview of items covered

This is not a comprehensive list

Technical Factors

- Water quality monitoring – number and types of parameters monitored
- Frequency of sampling and number of sites sampled
- Assessment of water monitoring data
- Fish Sampling
- Benthic macroinvertebrate sampling
- Other work plan activities

Technical Factors, continued

Active water quality standards program, including 401 certification

Participation in the ATTAINS pilot

At least one outreach event related to surface water quality for the tribe per year

Work Plan Structure

Includes reference to EPA Strategic Plan

Includes outputs, outcomes

Work plan has specific deliverables with time frames to accomplish them

Other Factors – Grantee Performance

- Tribe submits required reports on time
- Tribe uploads data to WQX
- Tribe draws down grant funds in a timely manner
- Tribe does not have high unliquidated obligations (unspent grant funds)

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