



2017 Texas Water Reuse Collaborative Research Solicitation

Request for Proposals

Introduction

WateReuse Texas (WRT) is seeking proposals for funding consideration under a newly established collaborative water reuse research program. The solicitation is only open to WateReuse Texas members.

The total amount of funds available is \$50,000. WRT anticipates providing funding to 1-2 projects.

Proposals are due by June 23, 2017.

Background

The Texas section of the WateReuse Association was formed in 2005 to support the ever-increasing focus on water reuse and desalination to supplement and diversify the water supplies in Texas. WateReuse Texas strives to promote the responsible stewardship of Texas water resources through education, advocacy and research related to water reuse and desalination by supporting the efforts of the WateReuse Association.

The WRT Collaborative Research Program (CRP) is designed to encourage applied research related to all aspects of water reuse, including but not limited to water quality, operations, treatment, and public engagement. Research projects may be local or regional in nature, but the research topic should be broadly applicable to the water reuse community. Proposals for the CRP should complement ongoing research efforts being undertaken by the Texas Water Development Board, the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, the Water Research Foundation, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other related research efforts. The proposed research should not duplicate any current or pending project.

The following guidelines outline the requirements for submitting proposals under the CRP.

Collaborative Research Program Proposal Instructions

The format and content of the proposals is as follows:

1. Proposals must be submitted electronically by the due date in PDF format.
2. Proposals must be no more than five (5) pages in length, including figures, tables, and appendices. Résumés/bios (limited to one page or less per person) and lists of references are excluded from this page limit.

3. Proposals must be formatted for standard letter size paper with 1 inch margins and a font of at least 11 characters per inch.
4. Proposals must include the following:
 - a. Title
 - b. Research Objective – The research objective should be clearly identified in one or two sentences.
 - c. Technical Approach – Describe how the research will be conducted, and define the tasks necessary to accomplish the objective, and identify technical challenges associated with the work.
 - d. Project Team – Identify the key project team members and their roles.
 - e. Originality and Innovation of the Research – Briefly identify how the proposed work is unique and innovative.
 - f. Potential Relevance and Future Applications – Discuss why this work would be important to the water reuse community. Explain the potential benefits of the work, as well as the project’s potential impact on future research.
 - g. Budget – Proposals should identify the amount of WRT funds requested (not to exceed \$50,000), other funding, and in-kind support expected for the work. Proposals requiring funds in excess of the maximum allowable amount will not be considered. Projects will require matching cash funds of at least 50% of the total project costs. WRT will match only cash contributions to the CRP project, and the scope of work must be based upon the requested WRT funds and in-kind contributions. Beyond the cash match accounting for 50% of the budget, the team is welcome to provide in-kind contribution of such items as personnel costs, analytical and support services, facilities, consulting services, etc.
 - h. Schedule – A detailed task-specific schedule is not required in the proposal. However, an estimate of the project duration should be provided.

Utility Participation

WRT encourages research teams to include the participation of water and wastewater utilities, particularly those who are members of WRT, in research efforts.

Application Procedure and Deadline

Proposals must be submitted via email to Julie Nahrgang, at julie@weat.org by June 23, 2017. Proposals received after 5:00 p.m. CDT on this date will not be considered. Receipt of proposals will be acknowledged by email.

Proposal Review and Contracting Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a Review Committee, appointed by the WateReuse Texas President, and scored according to the evaluation criteria shown on the following page. The Review Committee will complete their review of the proposals by July 31, 2017.

Should WateReuse Texas elect to proceed in awarding a contract, the award will be announced by August 15, 2017. All responders will be notified of WateReuse Texas' selection decision.

WaterReuse Texas Collaborative Research Program Evaluation Criteria

Item	Criterion	Score
1	<p>Applicability of the Proposal (maximum 15 points)</p> <p>Is the proposal compelling and relevant? Is the topic broadly applicable to the water reuse community? Does the proposal complement other ongoing research, rather than duplicate?</p>	
2	<p>Presentation of the Issue and Challenge (maximum 15 points)</p> <p>Does the proposal adequately explain the issue? Does it reflect knowledge of the issue and how solving the problem will benefit the water reuse industry?</p>	
3	<p>Technical and Science-based Approach (maximum 35 points)</p> <p>Is the proposal prepared with supportive information and is it self-explanatory and clearly understandable? Is the proposed effort technically defensible? Is the approach practical? Can the project objectives be achieved in the stated time period with the allotted personnel and budget?</p>	
4	<p>Management and Communication Plans (maximum 10 points)</p> <p>a. Are the roles, responsibilities, and assignments clear? b. Do the supporting organizations on the team have complementary skills? c. Does the lead organization have adequate resources to provide the appropriate level of management, oversight, and project implementation? d. Are schedules and deliverables clearly defined?</p>	
5	<p>Budget (maximum 10 points)</p> <p>a. Is the budget reasonable and matching cash accounted for? b. Are there one or more WRT members involved? c. Has the applicant provided any in-kind services contributions to the project? d. Is the level of effort allocated to each task logical?</p>	
6	<p>Qualifications of Organization and Key Personnel (maximum 15 points)</p> <p>a. Does the lead organization have demonstrated experience and expertise in the issues and objectives discussed in the RFP? b. Do the key project personnel have experience in the proposed area of research? c. Have key personnel committed an appropriate amount of time to the project? d. Are water and wastewater agencies involved?</p>	
TOTAL SCORE		