

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COMPETITIVE SEALED
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Amendment No. 4

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services-Western Mississippi
Sound**

This Amendment No. 4 (Amendment) hereby amends or modifies the RFP released on January 25, 2021, by making the following changes (changes that include additions are denoted by being bolded and underlined, and deletions are denoted by being bolded and stricken through):

Pre-submittal Conference Transcript is attached to this Amendment No. 4 as Exhibit A, and is hereby incorporated in the RFP through this Amendment No. 4.

In accordance with Section V(J) of the RFP, offeror must acknowledge receipt of any Amendment issued in relation to this RFP by signing and returning the Amendment with its proposal. Such acknowledgement must be received by MDEQ by the time and at the place specified for receipt of offers. Any documentation submitted under this Section is not included in the thirty (30) page limit of the proposal.

By signing this Amendment No. 4, offeror acknowledges receipt of this Amendment No. 4, and that the provisions of said Amendment No. 4 have been noted and that its proposal is being offered in compliance therewith.

Offeror's Name: _____

Signature: _____

By (Print Name): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMPETITIVE SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pre-submittal Conference Transcript RFP for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services-Western Mississippi Sound

This document serves as the written recordation of the orally/visually recorded Pre-submittal Conference that occurred on February 8, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. CST (“transcript”). This transcript is being provided in accordance with Sections 3-202.07 and 3-203.08 of the Public Procurement Review Board’s Office of Personal Contract Review Rules and Regulations (“Regulations”), which states that “[o]nce the conference is over, the Chief Procurement Officer shall put the recordings from the conference and the Question and Answer document from the conference in writing and send them as an Amendment to all known prospective bidders who received the [RFP] and post them on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the soliciting agency's website.” MDEQ previously provided, in Amendment No. 2, the Question and Answer (Response to Inquiries No. 1) document.

PLEASE NOTE: Although this transcript is being included as an amendment in accordance with Sections 3-202.07, 3-203.08, 2-202.08.1, and 2-203.09 of the Regulations, **this document is NOT amending the RFP, nor any of the previously issued Amendments.** All previously issued Amendments and the RFP control over this written version of the Pre-submittal Conference webinar. In the event of any conflict between the RFP, Amendment No.1, Amendment No. 2, Amendment No. 3, and this Amendment No. 4, the RFP, as amended by Amendment Nos. 1-3, shall govern. All defined terms in this Amendment No. 4 not herein defined shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the RFP.

The bolded language in the below transcript is not a portrayal of what has been said on the Pre-submittal conference call/webinar, it is additional information included in the transcript and is provided to indicate to the reader: 1) who is speaking and 2) what is occurring during the Pre-submittal Conference.

The audio recording of the Pre-submittal Conference is available at the following link: [Oyster Pilot Benthic Mapping RFP Recording](#).

[Due to technical errors, the following is the transcript of the Pre-submittal Meeting Webinar, which occurred prior to recording FEBRUARY 8, 2021, 11:23 A.M. CST]

Melanie Green (Procurement Officer, MDEQ): Hey. This is Melanie Green, the procurement officer for this solicitation. I apologize for the delay in getting started. We were having some technical difficulties with the webinar. This is the pre-submittal meeting for MDEQ’s Request for Proposals for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services for the Western Mississippi Sound. We will

do a role call to see who we have on the webinar. Again, I'm Melanie Green with MDEQ. Who else do we have on with MDEQ?

Alina Young (Interim Program Manager, NFWF): Alina Young, MDEQ, Interim Program Manager for NFWF.

Melanie: Who do we have with Covington Civil & Environmental?

Dr. Robert Kroger (Chief Science Officer, Covington Civil & Environmental): Robbie Kroger.

Melanie: Robbie, can you please make sure the webinar is being recorded?

[FEBRUARY 8, 2021, 11:23 A.M. CST - START OF ORAL RECORDING/WEBINAR]

Robbie Kroger: It's being recorded now Mel.

Melanie Green: Okay, I'll just do a roll call of the ones I can see on the webinar and then we'll give everybody else an opportunity. Tim McClinton?

Tim McClinton (attendee): Here. This is Tim McClinton from David Evans and Associates.

Melanie: David Hericks? I hope I'm saying that correctly.

James Stribling (attendee): Melanie, you're uh a little uh you need some uh [incoherent speech].

David Hericks (attendee): Um this is David Hericks from Tetra Tech.

Melanie Green: Okay, I'm going to switch over to my phone while we continue to do the roll call. Um James Stribling?

James Stribling (attendee): Uh yes, James Stribling from Tetra Tech.

Melanie: Hey, James. Robert Feldpausch?

Robert Feldpausch (attendee): Yes, Robert Feldpausch with Tetra Tech. Good Morning.

Melanie: Good Morning. Ryan Tice? I can't hear you Ryan. But Ryan is with TICE Engineering. Robert Collaroe?

Robert Collaroe (attendee): Yeah, Hi. I'm Robert Collaroe with Morgan & Eklund CSA Ocean Sciences.

Melanie: Hey, Robert. Randy Sunday?

Randy Sunde (attendee): Yes, Randy Sunde with Coastal Environments, Inc.

Melanie: Hey, Randy. Thanks for joining us. Richard Harrell?

Richard Harrell (attendee): Good Morning Melanie, Richard Harrell with FC&E Engineering.

Melanie: Is anyone on the call that has not announced themselves?

Keith Roberts (attendee): Yes, Keith Roberts with HydroTerra.

Melanie: Good Morning, Keith.

Keith (attendee): Good Morning.

Melanie: Anyone else? Ok, well the way we will go through the agenda is I'm gonna let Dr. Kroger give a brief presentation on the project and the scope of work and then we will move into a question-and-answer session. I'll first go over any questions that we have received in advance of this meeting, and then we'll give you an opportunity to ask questions. I will ask you to just give us a minute for me to record the question, and then allow the appropriate person to provide a response. And we'll do our best to answer any questions that you ask. If you ask a question that we can't answer on the call today, then we will evaluate the appropriate response and anything said verbally, today, that may conflict with the procurement documents, the RFP will prevail. Unless we provide an addendum or an amendment that modifies what was said, or we will also provide answers in the Response to Inquiries documents. So Robbie, I'm going to turn this over to you.

Robbie: Thanks, Mel. Now instead of doing a typical presentation, what we're gonna do is we're going to just go through the RFP that you all received. I think that is the simplest way. This project is a follow-on project from the NFWF Phase I that we undertook for oyster planning, restoration and management in the State of Mississippi. This is a follow on from that project. Under that project, we undertook some significant benthic habitat mapping of the Western Mississippi Sound oyster complex to the tune of about 14,000 acres. We believe, in terms of our oyster management strategy moving forward that there is still an area that we would like some additional benthic habitat mapping information. **(Presentation begins on screen)** Um, and so what you see on your screen right now, can everyone see my screen?

Melanie: Yes, Robbie we can see it.

Robbie: Thank you, Melanie. It's just the scope of work, essentially just to knowing that we're a little bit behind time so you guys, and you all have busy, busy calendars, really what we're interested in is a swath of benthic habitat mapping, approximately 5,800 acres. That encompasses the mouth of Bay Saint Louis between the bridges, and as you see, migrate to the West. What's important to know about this area is that the water depths obviously range from -5 to -15. We believe the water depth to be about -7 and 1/2. We have excluded the very shallow areas inside the line, as you can see here, because we know that obviously, any technology that you bring to the table will have a very limited beam width, under whatever vehicle you're using, and we all in

collaboration and co-ordination with DMR believe that this is the areas that we're interested in potentially putting some non-harvestable oysters in. As we're going through this, this RFP looks very similar to the RFP that was released earlier, late last year, in that we're looking for proposal options from you. Um, they're basically tied in with what your expertise is and what experience you bring to the table, whether that's going to be the use of in-situ surveys, autonomous vessels, traditional marine vessel surveys, or a combination thereof. Um, we would expect from you a management plan of those methodologies. That includes your QAQC, the estimated time needed to collect the data, advantages and disadvantages of your technique as compared to others and very specifically, a cost estimate of that technique. Expected deliverables are a spatial coverage of bottom types in a GIS format. We'd like a geodatabase of bathymetry rasters and obviously, some other products created by the data collection. I don't need to say everything that's on the screen, because you can read it for yourself. Um, so, in short, the last thing I will say, is that this is the last puzzle piece, from a very large oyster restoration strategy, that MDEQ has put in place that will allow us to then step into the arena for potential large, cultch restoration projects in the future. Mel, did I miss anything that you'd like me to cover?

Melanie: I don't think so, Robbie.

Robbie: I'm going to leave the map up, because I think that's probably the most important piece here. Everything else is fairly standard to what everyone else has seen from an earlier RFP that MDEQ released.

Melanie: Ok. And I have double checked. I do not have any questions for this procurement yet. So, we can go ahead and open the floor for questions. Again, if you will, say your name and your organization, and then ask your question, give me a minute to record the question, and then we'll try to provide a response. There is also a chat window at the top, a little chat box that you can select if you would like to submit your question in writing versus verbally. Either option is available.

Tim McClinton: Melanie, this is Tim with David Evans and Associates. Just one quick question, and maybe others have the same question but, can MDEQ share the shapefile of this area to help us develop our proposal.

Melanie: Robbie, I'm going to let you answer that one.

Robbie: Tim just to make sure I got that, because I had someone speaking in my ear. You want... you're asking for the shape file?

Tim McClinton: Correct is if it would be possible to share that.

Robbie: Yes if DEQ doesn't have an issue with it, we're very happy to share the shapefile.

Melanie: Ok, as long as we can attach that in the link, then I think it'd be fine to be able to share that...(mumbling)... is it usually a zip file Robbie?.

Robbie: Yeah, we can get you a download link, Melanie, and that can be added into the amendments, get downloaded.

Melanie: Ok, great. Any other questions? While y'all are thinking about questions, there are a couple of things I would like to highlight based on previous proposals that have been received. I would like to highlight that the price should include an hourly rate breakdown, please. Robbie, if you could scroll to the minimum requirements section and it's the price.... you might have just passed it.... There it is. If you'll note here that you need to provide an overall budget and then provide an hourly rate breakdown. And then, also, evaluate or review the evaluation criteria related to price and make sure that the evaluation team members can evaluate your proposal based on the information in the minimum requirement in the rating factors. I will just caution you to please make sure, or please understand, that the RFP has to be reviewed in two separate... I guess there's two separate reviews. If you'll notice there on the screen, it says all information and documentation below shall be included in the separately sealed IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS envelope. So, anything related to the project plan management and the pricing information. Please make sure that you do not include any identifiable materials, your name, or anything like that in this section. The reason for that is we have to make sure that the evaluation team members do not see any identifiable information in that material, so we are having to scrub that information and redact any revealing, identifiable items. So, you would help us tremendously if you'll make sure that that information is not included in those two things. Robbie, can you scroll down just a little bit to the resources?

Robbie: I'm going to go further that this?

Melanie: I think so... Right here...A little bit further down into the evaluation criteria....Under the Pricing Information... Yes....A little bit.. Right here..the cost factors, um, the price in 3. Please make sure that you review the breakdown in all of the evaluation criteria, but specifically in the cause factors, and make sure that each question asked here, that the evaluation team member could look at your proposal and see where you answered these questions. We, additionally, we have, we do recognize that there has been delayed mail due to COVID. We actually have had proposal's be rejected because UPS or FedEx did not make the delivery before the deadline. And unfortunately, there's no exception to be able to accept a late proposal. So if y'all will, please ensure that your proposals come in at least the day before the due date. If you come in the day of the deadline, then I would highly recommend you physically bring your proposal to our office, so that we can ensure receipt. We have pushed the timeline the deadline to three p.m. to allow for, you know, delays that FedEx or UPS may have. But, just please note that they are not guaranteeing delivery, and we want as much competition on these proposals as possible. So, um, please be mindful of that. So, we've gotten a few questions. I will stop talking, and we'll go through those questions. **(reading question submitted into webinar chat box)** So, Ryan Tice with Tice engineering asked the question....Robbie, can you see the questions? Do you need me to read? Are you okay to read those?

Robbie: I can read the questions if you want me to read the questions.

Melanie: Yeah, go ahead. Thank you.

Robbie (reading question submitted into webinar chat box): So, Ryan typed the proposal states a five year contract. You anticipate multiple surveys?

Robbie (answering question): We do not anticipate multiple surveys. We anticipate one single survey. I believe we have the five-year contract in there, just in case something goes wrong, unaware wise. The survey itself, just to give us a little bit of time room. Now, I'll let you answer the five-year contract part. We're only anticipating one survey, right?

Melanie (answering question): I believe the initial time is expected to be 18 months on this one, Robbie. I'm trying to find it and then we have the option to extend up to five years, statutorily up to five years. So, we always build that in, as Robbie said, in case there are delays, the initial time is expected to be, the initial survey is expected to be within the 18 months.

Robbie (reading question submitted into webinar chat box): Second question was from James Stribling, would it be possible for us to get a copy of the Phase I report or other associated outputs?

Robbie (answering question): Really, the report of these other associated outputs from the earlier benthic habitat mapping effort are not germane, or will not have any bearing on the selection process of the proposer on this RFP.

Melanie: Are there any other questions?

Robbie: None in the chat right now. Melanie, to what date do they have an opportunity to submit questions?

Melanie: So, the deadline to submit a question is February 12th and DEQ will issue any Response to Inquiries or any Addendums / Amendments by February 16th? The response to inquiries is considered an Amendment to the procurement, um, under the PPRB. Yeah PPRB. So, we will be issuing an Amendment that includes the Response to Inquiries, and those Amendments do have to be signed and returned with the proposal. So please be mindful of that. Robbie, we have another question.

Robbie (reading question submitted into webinar chat box): Yes mam. David Hericks, Are there any required standard or mapping, (i.e.NOAA cemex)? Is there a standard id there a habitat /bottom clause types standard?

Robbie (answering question): We don't have any standards associated with this RFP. Obviously, your QAQC, and any standards are tied with the methodologies that you as a proposer, are proposing on this RFP.

Melanie: Was that a question to me Robbie?

Robbie: No, ma'am, you're good to go.

Melanie: Ok, are there any other questions? Well, just a reminder, you can e-mail any additional questions that you may have to me. My contact is in the RFP, it's mgreen@mdeq.ms.gov. I do

apologize for the delay in getting this started and thank you all so much for hanging in there until we had the webinar up and running. Again, we're recording this so we will make the transcript for this available in an Amendment as well. And thank you all for your interest in working with DEQ, and we look forward to receiving some proposals from you. Y'all have a great day.

Robbie: Thank you Mel.