Request for Collaboration for
Saw Mill Run Watershed Study, Pittsburgh, PA

For 2014, Faculty is invited to propose research and engagement activities in partnership with the Penn State Center – Engaging Pittsburgh. These projects are anticipated to be multi-year efforts.

What Is This?
Through our local partnerships, we are participating in a project to address major water quality and water quantity issues in an urban watershed named Saw Mill Run. It is a watershed that crosses numerous municipalities in Allegheny County including the City of Pittsburgh as it makes its way to the Monongahela River (see attachment).

Who May Respond to this RFP:
Faculty from any college may apply with the appropriate approvals.

Types of Projects to be supported:
Consideration will be given to projects which are site specific to the Saw Mill Run watershed in Pittsburgh, PA with regards to one or more of the following foci:

Assessment of Saw Mill Run Watershed in order to integrate:

- Impaired water (total maximum daily loads (TMDL) and water quality) – purpose is to deliver an overall plan that assesses the watershed meeting TMDL requirements with specific detailed projects that reduce the loadings as required;
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) – purpose is to review the available municipal data and reports to determine the best approach to reduce or eliminate SSO/CSO in the watershed;
- Stormwater Management – purpose to identify and analyze current stormwater facilities;
- Green Infrastructure – purpose to leverage previous information obtained in ancillary studies to investigate potential areas for and types of green infrastructure;
- Natural Channel design – purpose to assess and identify stream channel conditions;
- Sensitive receptors – purpose to delineate sensitive receptors within the watershed;
• Policy – purpose to develop recommended policies to ensure the implementation of these projects and concepts.

Development of projects shall be for implementation to enhance the development of the main corridor within the Saw Mill run watershed.

**Funding Parameters:**
Any direct costs that would be incurred in the course of the project are eligible, including time, transportation and/or materials. Proposals with matching resources are encouraged, which may include graduate assistants, student engagement support and other forms of effort. Applications across colleges will be coordinated to address formerly noted issues.

**Timeline:**
Responses to this Request for Proposal must be received by end of business day on Monday, December 2, 2013. All applicants shall be notified by the end of January 2014. Activities are expected to begin mid 2014 with a determined timeline between 2014 and 2015. Successful recipients will also be expected to work with Penn State Center staff to share their work with other faculty and interested stakeholders. The intent is to continue creating a community of interest around applied research and engaged scholarship focusing on urban watershed issues.

**Response Guidelines:**
Please submit a brief response (3 pages maximum) via email to lkv10@psu.edu. The proposal can be submitted as either a word document or pdf and must include:

• The Project name and description of the research and/or engagement activity;

• Anticipated outcomes;

• How outcomes will be measured/documented;

• The number and level of students involved, if any;

• Define public engagement, if any;

• Budget with budget narrative;

• Identification of Principal Investigator with relevant contact information.

**Questions:**
Please email Lisa Kunst Vavro, lkv10@psu.edu
Frequently asked questions

Is this RFP for Penn State faculty only (not from other Universities)?
Yes, I am assembling Penn State faculty interest. There are no other universities here who are involved as partners. There are NGOs but they will serve different roles.

Can people with “faculty” appointments such as extension associates and research associates apply, or just tenure track faculty?
Any faculty may participate.

How much is available for a typical grant (e.g., 20K? 100K? etc).
The Project Coordinators have aligned initial funding with the promise of additional funds for this comprehensive study. We are assembling what we think we need and then we go from there. At this point, believe it or not, there are no funding limits — other than reasonableness!

What is the F&A rate (does the standard overhead rate of 49% apply)?
We will likely submit one complete proposal from the Penn State Center here on behalf of all component. We will use our “off campus” rate but may be in the form of a contract and not a “real proposal submission” so, this may also impact the “overhead” issues.

Regarding the award dates, the RFP indicates that you could propose a timeline of up to 1.5 years (mid-2014 through 2015); is that right?
Yes, and there is a possibility for the activities to stretch even further. At this point the Project Coordinators are asking for a response from us by December 15. They will review all of the submissions and get back to us by end of January — then we go from there. The timeline will be determined by the project’s needs — i.e. design work early; policy, implementation, evaluation, etc. later.

Researchers will need this info for preparing a proposal according to OSP guidelines. I’m afraid that with the Dec 2 deadline and the Thanksgiving break, it may be challenging for a researcher to write a proposal and get it through their sponsored programs offices in time.
Faculty should not submit through OSP at this time. This is more a collaboration rather than a RFP at this time. You will notice that the proposal guidelines are very loose. We are trying to make it as easy as possible for faculty to become engaged if they have an interest. We will coordinate all of the bureaucratic and research issues later and after we have been asked to proceed by the Project Coordinators.