

1. Are you able to share the budget for this project?
 - a. The maximum budget for consulting services, including the development of the watershed plan and priority project design, is \$415,000. Proposals will be evaluated using a best-value approach, with award decisions based on the quality of the proposed scope and methodology as well as the competitiveness of the proposed costs.
2. The RFP does not reference the Combined Sewer System (CSS). Should the watershed plan address drainage areas both within and outside the combined sewer service area?
 - a. The focus of the Hutchinson River Watershed Plan is to identify sources of NPS pollution and solutions to mitigate these inputs.
 - b. The CSS should be considered during the planning process as a contributing source of pollution within the watershed. Drainage areas within and outside the CSS area should be included as long as their outflow is located within the watershed.
 - i. The Water Pollution Control Authority will be invited to participate in the steering committee to provide input related to their systems and help ensure consistency with the LTCP.
3. Should the watershed planning effort incorporate or align with the existing Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for combined sewer overflows? If so, how does Save the Sound intend to consider CSOs in the assessment, modeling, and planning effort?
 - a. The Hutchinson [LTCP](#) should be referenced and reviewed by the consultant along with all relevant planning and land use documents pertaining to the watershed. Project recommendations should be in line with the LTCP. The overall planning effort should be focused on identifying nonpoint source solutions within the watershed.
 - b. Details on the methodology to be employed to achieve the tasks outlined in this RFP are up to the discretion of the proponent, based on their professional knowledge of the field and their technical capabilities.
4. Should the WTM analyses incorporate or reference existing combined sewer system modeling?
 - a. Yes

5. It is difficult to estimate the level of effort for the priority design in Task 7 without having more context. Is it reasonable to assume that the design will be for either a rain garden or riparian buffer restoration as noted in the last bullet in Task 5? Or can proposers provide a fee range for Task 7?
 - a. Task 7 includes two separate design requests
 - i. 8 concept level designs are expected to be developed during the planning process and should be included in the cost for the overall plan development
 - ii. 1 additional project will be further developed – taken to 90%/permit ready designs. For this task StS has estimated a flexible budget of \$70K, but a fee range is acceptable. The fee proposed should be adjusted up or down accordingly to the complexity of the project identified for further design.
 - b. Project design does not necessarily need to be a rain garden or riparian buffer restoration; consultants are welcomed to provide suggestions that are a good fit for the plan's goals. The project specifics will be identified during the plan development.
6. For Task 7, are there any anticipated permits?
 - a. Necessary permits for implementation should be identified as part of the Task 7 priority design.
7. Should we assume that all green infrastructure recommendations must meet DEP standards for siting and design? Or is there opportunity to propose alternative approaches not currently included in DEP's standards?
 - a. Any proposed approach shall meet the minimum standards identified in the NYS stormwater manual and the NYC stormwater manual. If the consultant has creative, innovative ideas that they would like to propose that would improve the DEP standards, StS will consider these new approaches.
8. What is the anticipated project schedule, including the expected completion timeframe?
 - a. We anticipate an 18-month project timeframe, with an estimated project start in early March 2026, depending on EPA timeline for QAPP review/approval. No environmental data collection or analysis can take place until the QAPP is approved.

- b. Funding is currently contracted through December 2027 with potential to extend to December 2029 if needed.
- c. The proposal submitted by the contractor should include an anticipated project schedule based on their own staff capacity and proposed effort.