



FY2024 West Virginia Water Research Institute 104(b) Request for Pre-Proposals
Application Deadline: February 20, 2024, 11:59 PM

OVERVIEW:

The West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) at West Virginia University invites research pre-proposals aimed at addressing contemporary water resources challenges within the state. This annual competition, conducted through the Water Resources Research Institute 104(b) Program, is designed for in-state researchers. The primary objective of these grants is to catalyze water-related research pertinent to West Virginia, with the ultimate goal of fostering the development of highly competitive external proposals.

FUNDING:

The projects require a cost share of one non-federal dollar for every federal dollar (1:1 ratio). Indirect costs are not supported by the sponsor but may be counted as part of the state/local match. Equipment purchases are not normally supported with federal dollars. Through this solicitation, we anticipate funding 2-3 projects. The maximum funding request is \$50,000 per proposal.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility for application extends to any investigator holding principal investigator (PI) status at a higher learning institution in West Virginia. Each applicant is allowed to serve as the principal investigator for only one proposal in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP), while there is no limitation on participation as a co-PI on multiple proposals. Preference will be notably given to investigators in the early stages of their careers. Additionally, it is anticipated that each proposal will include support for graduate and/or undergraduate students as an integral component.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The application deadline for West Virginia pre-proposals is 11:59 PM, Friday, February 20. Pre-proposal decisions and an invitation to submit a full proposal will be announced in March. WVWRI will work with investigators to complete a full proposal following guidelines released by USGS in March. WVWRI will compile multiple proposals for submission to USGS via the WVU Office of Sponsored Programs in late April. Funding is anticipated to begin on September 1, 2024, and projects must end on August 31, 2025 (extensions beyond the end of August 31, 2025, will NOT be granted).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Pre-proposals under this announcement will be accepted only through the WVWRI Email: wvwri@mail.wvu.edu. Pre-proposals submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

PRE-PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

Each pre-proposal shall consist of the following elements:

1. **Cover Page.** (See Appendix A)
2. **Main Body.** (Proposed Work). This document shall not exceed 2 single-spaced pages using a 12-point font. The description shall include:

- a. **Objectives of the project.** Include a statement of the state water problem and benefits of the project. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how the information will be transferred.
- b. **Methodology.** Describe the methods you will use to achieve the outlined objectives.
- c. **Technical merit.** Show by literature citations and communication the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or ongoing work on the same topic.
- d. **Budget Breakdown.** (See Appendix B) A formal budget is not required at the pre-proposal stage. However, an estimate of major project expenses is helpful in the evaluation.
- e. **Investigator's Qualifications.** Include the resume(s) of the principal investigator(s). No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS:

Pre-proposals that meet the requirements of this Announcement will be evaluated by the West Virginia Advisory Committee for Water Research - composed of the Institute director, scientists, and federal and state agency employees experienced in water resources research. Pre-proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- State benefit (relevance)
- Technical merit (scientifically sound, innovative)
- Investigator (early in career, cognizant of previous work)
- Feasibility (methods and budget)

RESEARCH AREAS:

The WVWRI will accept any pre-proposal related to West Virginia water resources issues but expects to give priority to proposals that address the following:

- Biological Recovery Downstream of Watershed Scale Treatment:
 - Utilize existing data on fish and macroinvertebrates to assess existing treatment success, or
 - Collaborate with WVWRI to assess watersheds earmarked for watershed-scale treatment during the development phase.
- Evaluation of TMDL vs NPDES Approaches for Watershed Scale Remediation.
- Examination of Mine Pools in the Monongahela River Basin.
- Identification of Policy Options Proven to Protect Water Resources with Applicability to WV.

If applicable, projects should incorporate water equity, environmental justice, and socioeconomic factors in water issues. This includes identifying disparities, developing tools for water quality improvement, evaluating environmental justice, and providing scientific insights for underserved communities.

INQUIRIES:

If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity, please contact Melissa O'Neal (melissa.oneal@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-7006).

Although Congress has not yet finalized the appropriation process for this fiscal year's program, this call for proposals must be made at this time in order to meet expected program deadlines. As noted earlier, WVWRI will work with investigators to complete a full proposal in March-April for submission to WVU OSP in late April. No Cost Extensions are not permitted. Project timelines are September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025.

Appendix A – Cover Page

Please fill in the relevant project information

Title	<i>Concise, but descriptive.</i>
Project Type	<i>Choose from the following: Research, Information Transfer, Education, Information Management System, Education or Other (please specify).</i>
WRRRI Science Priorities	<i>Choose from Appendix C the one science priority that most closely applies.</i>
Start Date	<i>Enter the actual beginning date for the project. Projects are expected to start on September 1, 2024.</i>
End Date	<i>Enter the estimated end date for the project. Project expected end date is August 31, 2025.</i>
Principal Investigator(s)	<i>Provide name, academic rank, department and university, email address and phone number of the principal investigators.</i>
Abstract	<i>Provide a brief (300 word) description of the problem, methods, and objectives.</i>
Keywords	<i>Choose a maximum of three keywords from the provided list (Appendix C), with the most preferred keywords first.</i>

Appendix B – Pre-proposal Budget Breakdown

Cost Category	Federal \$	Non-Federal \$	Total \$
SALARIES AND WAGES			
Principal Investigator(s)			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Others			
Total Salaries and Wages			
FRINGE BENEFITS			
Principal Investigator(s)			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Others			
Total Fringe Benefits			
TUITION			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Total Tuition			
DIRECT COSTS			
Supplies			
Equipment			
Services or Consultants			
Travel			
Other Direct Costs			
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect cost on on-federal share			
Indirect cost on non-federal share			
Total Estimated Costs			

Appendix C – FOCUS CATEGORIES

Keywords	Science Priority
ACID DEPOSITION	Water Scarcity and Availability
AGRICULTURE	Water-Related Hazards and Climate Variability
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES	Water Quality
CONSERVATION	Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics
DROUGHT	Water Technology and Innovation
ECOLOGY	Workforce Development and Water Literacy
ECONOMICS	Watershed and Ecosystem Function
EDUCATION	
FLOODS	
GEOMORPOLOGICAL PROCESSES	
GEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES	
GROUNDWATER	
HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY	
HYDROLOGY	
INVASIVE SPECIES	
IRRIGATION	
LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY	
MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING	
METHODS	
MODELS	
NITRATE CONTAMINATION	
NON POINT POLLUTION	
NUTRIENTS	
RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES	
RECREATION	
SEDIMENTS	
SOLUTE TRANSPORT	
SURFACE WATER	
TOXIC SUBSTANCES	
TREATMENT	
WASTEWATER	
WATER QUALITY	
WATER QUANTITY	
WATER SUPPLY	
WETLANDS	