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Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) Issue Area Project and Resource Needs "Snap Shot"

This Snap Shot is designed to collect brief information on the prospective projects and resource needs of the GSAA Issue Area Technical Teams to progress the GSAA Action Plan and Implementation Plan.

Issue Area: Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

Project Title: Clean Water Act Implementation Process Analysis: How are states implementing and are there opportunities for improved efficiencies?

Action to be Addressed: *CCOW 1A Implementation Step 2) Develop the ability to transfer the knowledge about modeling and process development between states to enhance the water quality improvement process; and*

Implementation Step 3) Identify and utilize resources for developing and implementing water quality improvement processes in shared watersheds that would lead to enhanced water quality on a large watershed scale.

Resources Needed: This project will require one full time equivalent for one year. This could be completed by a policy institute, research institute, or advanced student. Depending on contractor, the range of funding required to complete this project is estimated to be \$30-50k.

Expected Timescale: Once the catalogue is completed (estimated by fall 2013), the analysis should be completed within one year of start date.

Description:

Background: *The CCOW began implementation of Action CCOW 1A by forming the Watershed Improvement Working Group (WIWG) in March 2012. The WIWG began cataloguing watershed/water quality improvement processes within each state. The CCOW will continue to complete the catalogue over the summer of 2013 and have it ready for analysis by the GSAA 2013 Annual Meeting. This project will address the remaining two Implementation Steps under Action CCOW1A.*

Objectives: *Use completed catalogue of watershed/water quality processes within each state (Implementation Step CCOW 1A.1) to analyze similarities and differences of processes across states, as well as make recommendations to improve efficiencies.*

Questions to answer:

What are major similarities and differences in how states implement water quality processes (eg monitoring, permitting, and assessment programs)?

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Within similarities, are there major efficiencies that stand out as examples for other states to utilize?

Within differences, do states have the ability to change their implementation approach to become consistent across the regions?

What authorities do states have to address processes? How does this affect potential for consistency across states?

What are recommendations for states to become more efficient in implementing these processes as a region?

Recommendations would be in the form of a white paper.

Approach/Methods: Using the catalogue, research would be completed to answer the above questions. Phone and in person interviews with appropriate staff within each state and possibly federal partners may be necessary. Analysis would be done as an independent research project with scheduled reporting periods to the CCOW.

CCOW could then build upon recommendations provided as a result of this project to begin addressing other CCOW Action Items. Other IATTs could also utilize these recommendations in addressing some of their needs as identified at the May 2013 meeting. For example, implementing the Clean and Resilient Marinas Program was discussed as a priority for several IATTs and results of this project could contribute to that process.

Potential Partners: This project would require a staff person or advanced student with understanding and expertise in water quality issues including scientific knowledge and understanding of state and federal policy issues. Other partners would include state and federal agencies involved in water quality issues.

NOAA/CCEHBR

Potential Research Partners:

USC- MERM program (Masters in Environment and Resource Management)

USC- water quality students

Nicholas Institute

Duke University- Nicholas School students

Carl Vincent Institute

UGA River Basin Center

UNC Institute of Government

SC DHEC Public Health Research Consortium

Sea Grant

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