FY20 Interagency Nonstructural Call for Proposals
Planning CoP Webinar
February 7, 2019
Q&A Session

*This webinar provided an overview of the FY20
Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Interagency
Nonstructural Call for Proposals, which was sent in
December 2018. The goal of the Interagency FPMS Call
for Proposals is to facilitate interagency flood risk
management outcomes and collaboratively leverage
multiple agency resources and authorities. The webinar
was presented by Beverley Hayes (FPMS Program
Manager) and Lisa Bourget (USACE Institute for Water Resources), who reviewed the process and schedule
for proposal submission and evaluation, offered tips and cautions, reviewed select examples, and
addressed questions.*

*The call for proposals and associated templates are available on the Silver Jackets SharePoint site:
https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/IWR/PDT/sj/ in the "FY20 Interagency NS Proposals" folder. Several
additional useful links are included in the webinar deck.*

*This summary of the Question / Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and
responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.*

Can the governmental partners named in a proposal be both federal or state agencies?

Yes, but there is a distinction between partners and beneficiaries. The beneficiary on behalf of whom
USACE can undertake work at full federal cost under FPMS must be a non-federal agency. In providing
that assistance, USACE can partner with a wide variety of other entities, including federal and state
agencies.

Based on the watershed mapping example discussed during the presentation, what is the dollar value or range of "overly expensive" when it comes to floodplain mapping?

The concern is not necessarily that a mapping effort is "overly expensive," but rather that it might be
overly detailed or cover too large a geographic area. There is no defined level of appropriate detail or
geographic area size; any questions about proposal specifics can be directed to Lisa (Elizabeth) Bourget or
sent up the Flood Plain Management Services chain in advance of submission.

Can FPMS Program funding be used to prepare the floodplain management plan that the non-federal sponsor or community is required to adopt within one year of signing the project partnership agreement (PPA) for a USACE FRM project, or is that considered to be augmentation of project funds?

Per Policy Guidance Letter No. 52, it is not appropriate to use FPMS funds to execute the work required of
a non-federal partner in accordance with the PPA.

What is the most creative or unusual project you've seen under the FPMS Program?
One very interesting project was an analysis in the State of Washington that looked at both salmon habitat and floodplain management, and attempted to identify areas where habitat concerns overlaid with floodplain management concerns. The analysis identified areas where agencies could apply a coordinated investment approach to reduce flood risk and advance habitat restoration goals.

Hypothetical scenario: a proposal which includes partner resources is approved. The federal component is all FPMS funded, but the proposal is approved (at least in part) based on the partner's pledge of local resources. Then, after USACE FPMS efforts begin and funds are expended, the partner can no longer fulfill their commitment in a timely manner. Has this happened before? What was the resolution?
Proposals typically include multiple partners, each with an estimate of the nature and approximate value of the resources (often work-in-kind) anticipated. Changes can occur, and the resolution depends on the nature of the change. Minor changes may suggest increased efforts from other partners or adjusted timelines to accommodate. If a partner with a key and unique role is unable to fulfill it, the effort may need to be re-scoped. In extreme instances, the effort might no longer be able to proceed, and unexpended USACE funds would need be returned. Minor adjustments are not uncommon; major re-scoping and revocation are rare.