

## **Coastal and Estuarine Land Acquisition Conservation Program; Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Grant Solicitation and Publication of the Final Pennsylvania Coastal and Estuarine Land Acquisition Plan**

The Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is soliciting land acquisition grant proposals to submit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP).

This solicitation is for preliminary candidate proposals and is for funding awards under NOAA's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 Funding cycle.

CELCP places an emphasis on "ecologically valuable" lands. The geographic areas covered by CELCP are the designated Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Watershed, select Chesapeake Bay watersheds and the Lake Erie Coastal Zone Watershed. Grant applications may be made for the purchase of land acquisitions or interests; these may be in fee-simple title or as conservation easements. A major condition of the CELCP Program is that the title or easement must be held by a governmental/public entity. Further, grant awards must be matched dollar-for-dollar (may include in-kind match but not other Federal funds) and are capped at \$3 million each (Federal share). Land trusts may hold sub-easements for management and stewardship on CELCP-funded properties and may assist in the development of proposals, but they may not hold title to any property acquired with CELCP funds.

Each coastal state may nominate up to three candidate projects to NOAA for this national, competitive process. The Department will select the three Pennsylvania candidate projects for submission to NOAA by employing the guidelines issued by the federal agency. NOAA will develop a ranked list of projects eligible for funding. Once NOAA receives final appropriations from the United States Congress, the agency will make final determinations as to which projects are selected for funding within amounts available. Federal funding awards, based upon the final CELCP funding appropriated, are expected to be made between June 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012.

The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Announcement, Federal Register Notice, Description and Scope of Work Formats and CELCP Checklist will be listed on the Department's website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/river/grants/celcp/celcp.htm>. These materials contain detailed information about the grant application submission and review process. Applications should follow the format listed in the FFO. The FFO Announcement also contains several links to the NOAA CELCP website for further explanations of program requirements and additional guidance. In addition, the website contains the Pennsylvania CELC plan, as reference for applicants submitting proposals. Applicants should closely review the *Federal Register* notice, FFO and Pennsylvania CELC plan to understand eligibility requirements, ranking criteria and the types of acquisition projects the program may fund.

Proposals must be submitted no later than March 1, 2011, to J. Samantha Burton, Department of Environmental Protection, Water Planning Office, P. O. Box 2063, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, and must include the following:

1. A Project Description/Scope of Work;
2. Project Budget and Justification of Proposed Costs;
3. Project Checklist;
4. Project Location and Site Maps

Additionally, applicants may submit supplemental materials listed in the federal announcement, such as a copy of a property appraisal, title opinion, or evidence of a willing seller.

For additional information, contact Chris Linn at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), (215) 238-2873, [clinn@dvrpc.org](mailto:clinn@dvrpc.org); contact Julia Donahue at the Erie County Planning Department, 814-451-6018, [jmcconnaughey@eriecountygov.org](mailto:jmcconnaughey@eriecountygov.org); or J. Samantha Burton at the Department's Water Planning Office, (717) 772-5635, [jenburton@state.pa.us](mailto:jenburton@state.pa.us).