

**Response to Questions on the
Request for Preproposals and Qualifications:
Consulting Services for Phase II of the Project
Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century**

Revised October 11, 2010

1. Is the overall scoring cumulative or does the scoring start over with the final proposal?

Response: The scoring will “start over” when evaluating the final proposals requested from finalists. The initial evaluation will focus on the proposed “approach” and the qualification/credentials of the identified project team. These criteria will remain important but the final proposal will be evaluated based upon more detailed scope and costing information, based upon the additional information to be provided to the pre-qualified firms invited to submit full proposals.

2. The RFQ does not stipulate any page size. Can 11”x 17” pages be included, and if so, will the GLC consider them to count as 2 pages or 1?

Response: Maps and graphics can be submitted on 11” x 17” pages and will only count as one page. Text should be submitted on 8.5” x 11” pages. The proposing consultants are reminded that the selection committee will be tasked with reviewing a great deal of information in a short period of time and thus will appreciate and reward brevity and clarity.

3. Who is on the selection committee?

Response: The initial evaluations will be performed by GLC/Cities Initiative staff. They will recommend to the project Executive Committee a short list of qualified firms that will be invited to submit full proposals.

4. What is the weighting of the evaluation factors?

Response: We have yet to finalize specific weighting factors. Generally, our evaluation will emphasize the qualifications of the assigned staff and the technical approach proposed. Once established internally, the specific scoring or weighting factors will be communicated to you.

5. The RFQ states “The Lead Consultant will provide the technical expertise and lead a team of experts to support this effort.” Can you expand on the role of GLC to the LC?

Response: The Lead Consultant will provide technical information while the GLC and Cities Initiative will manage all matters of policy and presenting the information to the general public and the elected and appointed officials that serve them. The Lead Consultant will provide the technical underpinnings of no fewer than three and no more than five options for physical separation of the CAWS. The Lead Consultant will NOT be asked to provide a recommended alternative.

6. Can Resumes for the Key Discipline Leaders be provided in a separate Appendix, with a 2-page limit per resume?

REVISED RESPONSE: See response to question 7 below.

7. Can the page allocation for the Statement of Qualifications, now at 20 pages, be expanded to 30, given the volume of information that is being requested.

REVISED RESPONSE: The Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative wish to clarify the requirements for submittals of preproposals and qualifications (RFPP/Q). This differs somewhat from the discussion during the October 5, 2010 conference call and the initial version of this document, but will serve as the final determination of the GLC and the Cities Initiative. Submittals should conform to directions in the original RFPP/Q, dated Sept. 23, 2010 and posted online at <http://glc.org/ans/cwsphasell.html>. Submittals may include the following:

- **Preproposal and statement of qualifications of no more than 20 pages.** This should include a one-page summary and other information, as requested in the RFPP/Q. Items 6 and 7 request names, resumes and time commitments (hours per month) of the project manager and key discipline leaders. For purposes of the 20 page statement, this may be presented as a brief, narrative overview of the background and experience of these individuals, with complete resumes included in the appendix. Other requested information should be provided within the 20 page limit.
- **Appendix of no more than 25 pages:** This may contain one or more executive summaries of relevant reports and work products and resumes of key members of the project team.

The total submittal, including the preproposal and statement of qualifications and the appendix, should not exceed 45 pages. We apologize for any confusion on this matter.

8. Can the submittal include a 5 page Executive Summary and 2 page transmittal letter; both considered to be outside of the page count for the Statement of Qualifications?

Response: No; As requested in the original request for preproposals, we ask that your submittal include a one-page summary, including name of applicant and primary point of contact; names and affiliations of project manager and key discipline leaders and brief overview of their qualifications; and brief synopsis of proposal approach and any key recommendations for achieving the project goals. This will be counted against the 20 page limit for the preproposal and statement of qualifications.

9. The Commission references the development of three options for achieving separation in paragraph 3 on page 1. On page 2 paragraph 6 under Lead Consultant Role, the GLC indicates that the Initiative is expected to fully characterize baseline conditions for current uses, quantifying the existing systems costs and benefits to stake holders. Does the Commission anticipate that the three options would be compared to baseline current and baseline future?

Response: Yes.

10. Collaboration with a wide variety of important stakeholders seems key to the development of the three options for separation. What role does the GLC envision for itself in stakeholder collaboration?

Response: GLC and Cities Initiative will coordinate all interaction with the stakeholders. The Lead Consultant will provide all technical support information but will NOT provide a recommended alternative. The Lead Consultant and – as needed – other members of the consulting team will be expected to attend meetings of the Advisory Team to receive input, make technical presentations, and answer questions. However, the GLC and Cities Initiative will coordinate these meetings and other interactions with the Advisory Committee. The details of the stakeholder outreach effort will be defined for the shortlisted firms to allow them to estimate the level of effort required.

11. With the size of the Great Lakes basin, its coastline and resident population, the scale of stakeholder involvement could be significant. What is the intended geographic extent of stakeholder involvement for this proposal, and does the GLC contemplate multiple tiers of stakeholder involvement?

Response: The project's stakeholder Advisory Committee is weighted toward the Chicago and Northwest Indiana metropolitan areas, but also includes regional interests. Currently we plan to have most of the Advisory Committee meetings in Chicago, but we may have one in another area of the region. The GLC/Cites Initiative anticipates additional forms of stakeholder outreach. We will provide guidance in the final request for proposals to assist in costing out travel requirements and associated expectations from the consulting team. The goal is to establish a balance of interests among the sectors and geographically.

12. Who is on the project's Executive Committee?

Response: The Executive Committee includes Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois; Gov. Ted Strickland of Ohio; Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago; Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids; Tim Eder of the Great Lakes Commission; and David Ullrich of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

13. What is the anticipated release date for the Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)?

Response: Our understanding is that the GLMRIS study is anticipated to be a five year, \$15 million project. However, to date the Corps has received less than 10% of this amount. It is anticipated that our study will supplement and help accelerate the Corps' work. Part of the purpose of our study is to get good, viable ideas on the table sooner than currently is expected from the Corps.

14. Will the political landscape affect the study, including upcoming elections or outcomes from ongoing litigation related to the Chicago Area Waterway System?

Response: We do not expect changes in the political landscape to have a significant effect on the study because of the importance of solving this problem to the Chicago area and to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

15. Will the foundations that are funding the project have any involvement in the selection of the consulting team or the direction of the project?

Response: The foundations will not be involved in selecting the consulting team. They have set the direction of the project based on the proposals that we submitted to them. This was reflected in the request for preproposals and qualifications.

16. Will John Goss, the new Asian carp coordinator, be involved in the project?

Response: He has been identified as a member of the project's Resource Group, but will not be involved at a staff level in carrying out the project. He will have a significant role in overall coordination of efforts related to Asian carp, and we expect to communicate and coordinate extensively with him.