

Grant Application Cover Sheet

(Does not count toward page totals)

Name of Applicant Organization: ABC Conservation District

Project Name: 5th Annual Cleanup on the Rushing River

Total Request Amount: \$2,109

Date of Submittal: February 11, 2019

Additional Project Partners: Rushing River Greenway Committee

Little Creek Area Storm Water Authority

List of Supporting Documents: Match commitment from Little Creek Area SWA

Match commitment from XYZ Local Business

Match commitment from ABC Conservation District

Support Letter from Rushing River Greenways
Committee

Audit letter from ABC Conservation District

Contact Person for Application: Bill Smith

Title and Organization: Director, ABC Conservation District

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Phone: 123-456-7890

Has the applicant been a VRSCCP grant recipient or partner in a VRSCCP grant project within the last 3 years? Yes

How many stream miles are you proposing to clean? 10 miles

What volume of trash do you expect to remove (in cubic yards)? 20 cyds

How many volunteers do you expect to recruit for the proposed event(s)? 50

Grant Application Narrative

1. Project Description

A. Project Location

The 5th Annual Cleanup on the Rushing River will take place in Littleton, MI.

CLEAN UP SITE INFORMATION:

Waterbody Name: Rushing River

Location: ABC County, between Big Highway and Largeport Township Park

Number of Proposed Clean Up Sites Per Waterbody: 3

Past Cleanup Efforts and Results: Two events have been held with great success. Over the past two years, more than 30 cu yds of trash, 30 tires and 800 lbs of steel have been taken out of the Rushing River by more than 80 volunteers.

Surrounding Environment: Surrounding environment is predominately agricultural and wooded, in many areas banks are steep. A portion of the river runs through the XYZ State Park.

B. Project Goals and Objectives

All activities will be organized by the ABC Conservation District and The Rushing River Greenways Committee (RRGC). It is our intention to clean a 10-15 mile section of the river from the Big Highway to the Largeport Township Park with approximately 50-60 volunteers. The 2018 clean-up far exceeded our expectations with the collection of 15 cu yds of trash and 500 lbs of scrap metal. We are expecting this stretch of river to have a similar amount of trash to collect. In addition to hand work for the trash collection we will be recruiting some heavy equipment owners to assist with removing larger items. In 2019, we would also like to go back to the stretch cleaned in 2017 and remove several large items that are still in the river including a fuel oil tank and a vehicle. All dead and downed woody debris will be left in its place. One dumpster will be rented and the City of Littleton will dispose of any additional waste and recyclable material. We will recycle any steel products that are collected, as well as tin, glass and plastic bottles. Tires will be piled and collected by the ABC County Mosquito Commission.

These goals will be accomplished through an organized effort between the ABC Conservation District and RRGC. Approximately 60 community members from Littleton, Smallville, Biggertown and Largeport will be recruited to assist with the effort. Volunteers will meet in the morning of the event and will be given free breakfast, instruction on safety, the importance of woody debris and recycling efforts for debris collection.

C. Organization Information

The ABC Conservation District (ABC CD) role is to provide education and outreach of protection of our natural resources through their Executive Director and various programs. The ABC CD was formed in 1947 and meets the requirements outlined for Soil Conservation Districts under Part 93 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act as required for this grant program (additional documentation can be provided upon request). The ABC CD continues to promote sustainable agriculture, groundwater protection, forestry management, and conservation technical assistance to ABC County residents.

The Conservation District has partnered with the RRGC to organize the 5th Annual Cleanup on the Rushing River. The RRGC is committed to completing water quality projects on the Rushing River and will continue to partner with other organizations to perform an annual clean-up project for the next 3-5 years.

D. Partners

The ABC County Conservation District is a member of The Rushing River Greenways Committee (RRGC) which is dedicated to "restoring crystal clear waters of the Rushing River." The organization is made up of voluntary citizens, local governments and additional resource professionals from National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, ABC Resource Conservation & Development, University of Michigan-Flint and MDEQ. The committee has been meeting and educating the local communities about their efforts for four years. RRGC has successfully published and publicized a water trail and bike trail map from Littleton to Largeport. Several thousand dollars was granted to the organization from

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MDNRE Trust Fund to install three canoe launches. A bank erosion survey was completed in 2010, to determine where stabilization efforts should be implemented in 2011 and beyond. The group was also instrumental in the Rushing River Rapid Watershed Assessment completed in 2012/2013 and is assisting current efforts for the Rushing River Watershed Plan funded in 2013. This committee is dedicated to maintaining the Rushing River as one of the least impaired systems in Michigan and will undoubtedly make this event a success.

The Little Creek Area Storm Water Authority (LCASWA) established itself as an authority under Public Act 233 of 1955 as part of that organizational process. The articles of incorporation were approved by city, county or municipality boards or councils and then published in January 2003. LCASWA is educating everyone in the ABC County Area on how to help keep our rivers and lakes cleaner. They have created a series of short articles that will provide you with information that will help keep our water resources clean.

E. Project Sustainability

The RRGCC, in partnership with the ABC CD, is committed to maintaining this clean-up project for 3-5 years minimum. The grant would fund volunteer appreciation gifts, advertising and other supplies for one year.

The fact that our volunteer base has increased each year these clean-ups have been conducted suggests that the general population is becoming more aware of the need for river clean-ups and are coming out to support the project. This is a result of our continued education at workshops and nature events.

Additional water quality improvements will be completed through bank stabilization projects, watershed plan development and promotional and educational events. The ABC CD will also continue to provide educational programs that focus on the importance of wetlands, wetland restoration and protection, groundwater/surface water quality, rain gardens, rain barrels, farm practices that help protect water quality, recycling and properly disposing of waste.

F. Evaluation

This event will be evaluated by the number of volunteers in attendance and by the amount of debris collected from the river. Debris collected will be reported in cubic yards and number of tires and unusual items. We will also evaluate the ability to remove large items by using equipment rather than human labor. Prizes will be given for several successes, including most debris collected, most unusual item, etc. Volunteers and partners will be asked to evaluate the event in order to improve success for the following years. Many comments from the 2018 clean-up effort will be put into action for 2019.

The second method of evaluation will occur at the end of the project when the planning committee will meet and evaluate the success of the project in its entirety. We will also use a log to measure how much debris was removed from each section of the river so that we can develop a baseline to help plan for the following year's events to judge which sections may need to be revisited again and how frequently we should target each section.

Finally, we will also use our website, Facebook page, and blog to measure the overall interest that is developing throughout the project planning, as well as volunteer interest and recruited volunteers.

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2. Work Plan

Task	Responsible Party	Time
Recruit Volunteers		10%
<i>Post on websites, place ads in local newspapers, present to area organizations, post fliers</i>	ABC Conservation District (ABC CD), Rushing River Greenways Committee (RRGC), Little Creek Area Storm Water Authority (LCASWA)	
Advertise Clean Up Workdays		10%
<i>Post on websites, place ads in local newspapers, present to area organizations, post fliers</i>	ABC CD, RRG, LCASWA	
Purchase Supplies	ABC CD, RRG	10%
Hold Clean Up Workday (Original or alternate date)		60%
<i>Coordinate Volunteers</i>	ABC CD, RRG	
<i>Arrange for food and refreshments to be ready on site at completion</i>	ABC CD, RRG	
<i>Clean 10-15 mile section of Rushing River from Big Hwy to Largeport Twp Park.</i>	ABC CD, RRG, LCASWA & Volunteers	
<i>Take photos of event</i>	ABC CD	
<i>Dispose of Trash & recyclables</i>	RRGC, City of Littleton	
Complete and Submit Final Report to include a narrative status report detailing completion of each task, photo documentation of event (with date, location, and event name), copies of any press releases and fliers, and examples of volunteer appreciation items.	ABC CD, RRG	10%
Submission of Release of Claims Statement at the end of the project	ABC CD	
Total		100%

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3. Timetable

Activity	Responsible Party	(All Dates 2019)					
		6/1-6/26	6/15-6/29	6/22-6/26	6/29	7/6	7/7-8/6
Recruit volunteers	ABC CD, RRG, LCASWA	X					
Advertise cleanup workdays	ABC CD, RRG, LCASWA		X				
Purchase supplies	ABC CD, RRG			X			
Hold 1 st cleanup workday	ABC CD, RRG				X		
Hold 2 nd cleanup workday	ABC CD, RRG					X	
Complete and submit final report	ABC CD, RRG						X

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4. Budget Information Form

Completion of the Budget Information Form is required in order to receive grant consideration. Please see the GAP for instructions on completing this form. Be sure to complete the "Match Detail" table below budget form.

There is a "built-in" calculator in the budget form below to assist with your addition. Simply replace the "0"s for each budget item you enter with the appropriate amount. Then highlight the "\$0.00" in the "Category Total" column, right click on it, and choose "update field". You can use this method to add up the subtotal for each column in each category as well. However, to enter the correct amounts in the "Grand Project Total" row, you will need to manually add each of the subtotals in each column.

Applicant's Name:	ABC Conservation District		
Project Name:	5th Annual Cleanup on the Rushing River		
Column 1 BUDGET CATEGORIES	Column 2 GRANT FUNDS	Column 3 LOCAL MATCH	Column 4 CATEGORY TOTAL
PROJECT SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, AND DISPOSAL COSTS:		<i>*Please provide match detail in chart below budget form.</i>	
Volunteer appreciation (t-shirts)	350.00	650.00	\$1,000.00
Breakfast (for est. 70 volunteers)	300.00	150.00	\$ 450.00
Gloves, bags	50.00	0	\$ 50.00
Dumpster	500.00	0	\$ 500.00
Subtotal:	\$1,200.00	\$ 800.00	\$2,000.00
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:			
Advertising	100.00	150.00	\$ 250.00
Heavy Equipment Rental	500.00	150.00	\$ 650.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
Subtotal:	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00
PROJECT EQUIPMENT:			
2 Porta Jons	200.00	0	\$ 200.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
Subtotal:	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
TRAVEL:			
190 miles x 0.58/mile:	110.00	0	\$ 110.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
	0	0	\$ 0.00
Subtotal:	\$ 110.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 110.00
VOLUNTEER LABOR:			
Volunteer Hours (100) x \$9.45 per hour:	(not eligible for grant funds)	945.00	\$ 945.00
Subtotal:	\$ 0.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 945.00
GRAND PROJECT TOTAL (add subtotals)	\$2,110.00	\$2,045.00	\$4,155.00

Grand Total Grant Funds Requested + Grand Total Local Match = Project Total

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Percent Match Calculation:	$\frac{\$2,100.00}{\$4,209.00} = 49.9\% \text{ Match}$	(must be 25% or greater)
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MATCH DETAIL

Local Match Item	Source/Provider of Match Item	Dollar Value Committed	Letter of Commitment Included?
Advertising Fees	LCASWA	\$150.00	Yes
Bagels, Juice, Water	XYZ Local Business	\$150.00	Yes
T-shirts	ABC Conservation District	\$650.00	Yes
Heavy Equipment	ABC Conservation District	\$150.00	Yes
Volunteer Labor	LCASWA, ABC Conservation District, and others	\$945.00	Yes

SAMPLE