



An Equal Opportunity Employer

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November 21, 2018

Set 1

TO: All Potential Respondents
RFP 001-19, Gully Branch Upland Restoration Project
FROM: Christy Aulicino, Procurement Specialist 2
SUBJECT: Response to Questions

QUESTION 1: Are we able to submit multiple options on how to accomplish this project within our response?

ANSWER: Yes, the Respondent is free to present multiple approaches as alternatives to any aspect of this project within their response. If there are cost differences, those should be indicated in the Cost section of the response.

QUESTION 2: How much are the Construction documents for this project and who should the check be made too?

ANSWER: As noted in Section 1.4 of the RFP, all documents associated with this RFP are available for review and may be downloaded from the District's website at: www.WaterMatters.org/procurement and at: www.demandstar.com. There is no cost associated with downloading documents from the District's website. DemandStar does charge for use of their website. The Respondent would need to request cost information from DemandStar.

QUESTION 3: Please provide a map of ditches that will potentially need to be filled or blocked.

ANSWER: Please see Figure 8, Ditch Filling Requirements provided in Addendum #1.

QUESTION 4: If prescribed burning is the responsibility of Hillsborough County, please provide insurance that the contractor will be able to rely on County staff for timely burns as part of the overall plan. Or provide alternate options should the County not be able to burn as requested.

ANSWER: Neither the District nor the County can provide an insurance policy guaranteeing the County will burn timely. As noted in Subsection 3.5.3 the County will conduct prescribed burns as deemed necessary by the County. Subsection 3.3.1.1.5 states that the Contractor will not be permitted to conduct prescribed burns. Should the Respondent wish to propose prescribed burn timeframes and/or additional options in their response, they are free to offer alternative options.

QUESTION 5: **As discussed during the site visit, feral hogs can be a big factor for a project of this nature. Will the awarded contractor have access to the sites to use firearms for hog control 24/7? If not, please provide an alternate option to address potential feral hog damage that will likely occur throughout seeding and maintenance periods (maybe a contingency “per acre” line item for feral hog damage repair and re-seed).**

ANSWER: Firearm use by the Contractor is strictly prohibited on the Project Site. Per Subsection 3.5.4, the County will conduct feral hog control for the Project Site. Throughout Part 3 of the RFP provides details regarding feral hog requirements throughout the process. Should the Respondent wish to propose additional feral hog control options in their response, they are free to offer alternative options.

QUESTION 6: **The site manager indicated there is an FWC contract in place through summer of 2019 for Unit B. Please confirm there will be no additional herbicide operations by county staff or other contractors within these areas beyond summer of 2019.**

ANSWER: It is anticipated that there will be no additional herbicide treatments conducted on Site B after September 2019.

QUESTION 7: **Concerning the bid bond. It's 5% bond to be included with the response and 100% of the bid if awarded the contract? I see sample bond forms in the RFP but is this just for reference since the bond company has their own? Just wanted to be sure those forms didn't need to be filled out.**

ANSWER: The Bid Bond form is a required document with your response for 5% of the bid amount. The Performance, Payment and Guarantee Bond is a sample document should the awarded Contractor need a sample and will be for 100% of the contract amount.

QUESTION 8: **Are there any herbicide spraying records of the site?**

ANSWER: Please see Figure 9, Project Site Treatment History provided in Addendum #1.

QUESTION 9: Can you verify something on Attachment 3, page 59 for me? It states: “The Respondent may insert in the space provided below the sites(s) for the performance of work done in connection with this specific project.” Are they asking for the Gully Branch site address or past project site addresses where we’ve been certified drug-free? If it’s the Gully Branch address, will the Mandatory Site Visit address suffice or does each site (A,B,C) have a separate addresses and need to be listed separately?

ANSWER: The address requested on the form is the Project Site for this proposal. The address provided for the Site Visit is the official address for the District’s property.

QUESTION 10: Do you have access to a digital file with the 1938 aerial photo of Gully branch?

ANSWER: This portion of Hillsborough County is located in Township 32, Range 20, Sections 14, 15, and 22. Please see Figure 10, 1938 Gully Branch Map 32-20-11-12-13-14 and Figure 11, 1938 Gully Branch Map 32-20-15-16-21-21-22 Provided in Addendum #1. These figures provide details regarding two 1938 aerials showing these three sections. Gully Branch Creek can be used as a reference point (see Section 14 aerial), as well as open water wetlands and emergent wetland systems (when comparing to current aerial photos).

QUESTION 11: Our bonding company has informed us that the reading on the RFP is asking for a performance bond for seven years at 100% of the bid. Is this correct? I realize it’s our problem, but they are not wanting to write a maintenance bond for that long at that percentage. The initial bid bond is not an issue at all but are we reading the wording correctly on the performance?

ANSWER: Yes, that is correct. Per Section 4.3, Bonding Requirements, the Contractor, at the Contractor’s expense, will provide the District with a suitable Performance, Payment and Guarantee Bond for the total contract amount as security. Additionally, if the Project is completed in phases, the District reserves the right to negotiate the release of bond amounts allocable to a completed phase, less any ongoing maintenance for such phase.

QUESTION 12: Is it possible to drop the requirement of a bid bond and performance bond for the Gully Branch project since this project is not a construction project?

ANSWER: No, the District will not remove the bid or performance bond requirements.

QUESTION 13: Would the District or Hillsborough County consider fencing to exclude the hogs since it is in the interest of the long-term success of the project?

Hogs are already heavily drawn to the site. In our experience a main cause for failure of large portions of a native groundcover seeding project is repeated disturbance by hogs. The area is surrounded by heavy woods where hogs can have shelter and come to feed on disturbed soils. The site preparation loosens the soil and makes it very attractive to hog feeding. Once an area is used by hogs they will feed in that area again and again after the area is repaired and reseeded.

ANSWER: Neither the District nor the County will be responsible for installing fencing. The Respondent is free to propose whatever means they feel is necessary to ensure the success of the Project.

QUESTION 14: My bonding agent is giving us a hard time bonding for 7 years. He is saying that the wording in the RFP is impossible to bond. My question is how long does the District hold the performance bond and can it be released after completion of different stages?

ANSWER: Please see the response to question #11

QUESTION 15: ...since it's been 7 days since the prebid meeting and we only have 10 days to ask questions and we haven't heard anything, will there be an extension?

ANSWER: No, the District will not extend the date of the opening for this RFP at this time. If you have follow-up questions after the release of this Question and Answer Set, you may submit them, and it will be at the discretion of the District if we decide to post an additional Question and Answer Set.

QUESTION 16: Is it possible to get the high res file for the aerial map so we can enlarge it?

ANSWER: Please see Figure 12, High-Resolution Gully Branch Map, Figure 13, Gully Branch High-Resolution Map with Approximate Boundary Polygons and Figure 14, Gully Branch GIS Data Files provided in Addendum #1. These figures provide two jpg files which should provide a high-resolution aerial map of the Gully Branch Site. Additionally, the aerial files have been copied as MrSID files and zipped into a folder which can be viewed in ARCMAP. If you don't have the ability to open and view a MrSID file, then we suggest you go to Google Earth and view the Gully Branch Site. The fallow farm field shapes are distinctive enough that one could find them easily by first searching for Wimauma, Florida.