2021 Request for Pre-Proposals in Water Research

The Oklahoma Water Resources Center (OWRC) is seeking research pre-proposals to address current water resources issues in the State of Oklahoma. This annual competition for researchers at any institute of higher education in Oklahoma is made possible through the Water Resources Research Institute 104(b) Program. The aim of these grants is to stimulate water-related research relevant to Oklahoma to the point where a highly competitive external proposal can be developed.

The OWRC will accept any pre-proposal related to Oklahoma water resources issues, but will give priority to proposals that address water quality and human health, watershed and ecosystem function, and water scarcity and availability (see below for more specifics on funding priorities).

**Eligibility:** In order to achieve our goal of promoting Workforce Development and Water Literacy, preference may be given to younger researchers and/or projects supporting or engaging multiple students.

**Funding:** We anticipate funding two-three faculty projects (for up to $25,000 each) and two-three graduate student projects (for up to $5,000 each).

- Funding is contingent upon funds being provided by the U.S. Geological Survey 104(b) Program. Funds will be administered through the Oklahoma Water Resources Center.
- Applicants must provide a 2:1 match in non-federal funds. All indirect costs (F&A) must be waived, but may be counted as match. Salaries, benefits, and other project-related expenses covered by other state sources may also be counted as match. Matching funds for student researcher projects can be provided by the faculty sponsor.
- Student funds may support a new project or supplement an existing research project, allowing for additional supplies and materials, data collection, and/or travel. **Student pre-proposals should be written by the student** under the direction of a faculty sponsor. If selected, the faculty sponsor will serve as the principle investigator.

**Timing:** If funding is available, grants will support one-year projects. The project year extends from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. **Project extensions are no longer allowed by USGS for this program.**

**Process:** The application process begins with pre-proposals. Multiple pre-proposals representing distinct research projects from the same researcher are welcome. Our Water Research Advisory Board will meet during the summer to select a subset of projects to continue in the competition based on the pre-proposal’s quality and potential to address research priorities.

**Content:** The online application form for pre-proposals include project title; research priority addressed; problem statement; project objectives; methods; expected outcomes; list and rank of project personnel; number of students supported; and amount of funds anticipated to be requested. To access the online application form, please visit our website at [http://water.okstate.edu/forms/water-research-form/submission-form](http://water.okstate.edu/forms/water-research-form/submission-form).

**Deadline:** Complete the online application form by **Friday, June 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** Pre-proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed.

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**Research Priorities:**

1. **Water Quality and Human Health**
   a. Decrease incidence and severity of harmful algal bloom (HAB) events
   b. Minimize human health risks from traditional, legacy, and emerging water contaminants

2. **Watershed and Ecosystem Function**
   a. Conduct science and outreach to improve/maintain condition of watershed and ecosystem functions to assure provision of ecosystem services.

3. **Water Scarcity and Availability**
   a. Quantify agricultural water needs and opportunities for conservation and efficiency
   b. Improve understanding of groundwater resources, including recharge, to achieve effective management and governance.
   c. Provide solutions, resources, and tools to mitigate competing uses for variable surface water supplies.
   d. Develop knowledge to manage drought risk and climate variability.
   e. Advance science, outreach, and education to meet energy, food, and water needs.