

**Alaska Clean Water Action (ACWA) Grant Application
Fiscal Year 2004**

*Macdonald
FIS L Clear Wasilla
Mc Roberts*

1. Project Title: Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District Watershed Development Project
--

2. Type of ACWA Project: (select one)	
	<u>Recovery of Polluted Waters</u> (This category includes projects that will restore ACWA priority waters. Actions may include, but are not limited to: assessment, development, or implementation of Watershed Restoration Plan or a Total Maximum Daily Load, monitoring, outreach/education, bank restoration, or public outreach.)
xxx	<u>Protection and Restoration of Waters or Aquatic Habitat</u> (This category includes projects that protect priority waters at risk. Actions may include, but are not limited to: assessment, development of protection plans, monitoring, restoration efforts, education, and public outreach targeted at protection and restoration.)
	<u>Stewardship of Alaska's Water or Aquatic Habitat</u> (This category provides baseline stewardship of Alaska's waters and develops guidelines for future actions to protect water quality. Projects may be specific to a waterbody or statewide in nature. Stewardship projects can include but are not limited to: outreach/education, development of best management practices, and development of application tools.)
	<u>Data Collection</u> (This category includes projects on impacted waterbodies where agencies lack data needed to evaluate the problems, track trends, determine solutions for restoring polluted waters, or determine effectiveness of protection and restoration measures.)

3. Project Duration
Start Date: July 1, 2003
End Date: June 30, 2004

4. Applicant
Name of Organization: Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District
Address
Street1: 1700 East Bogard Road
Street2: Suite 203
City: Wasilla State: AK Zip Code: 99654
Project Contact(may be different than person authorized to sign): Glenda Smith
Title: Watershed Project Coordinator
Phone: (907) 373-6495 x111
Fax: (907) 373-7192
E-mail: wswcd@alaska.net
IRS ID# or Non-Profit #: 92-0131670
I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of the applicant.
Signature of Person Authorized to Sign: <i>Dick Zobel</i>
Printed Name and Title: Dick Zobel, Project Manager
Date: 04/11/03

RECEIVED

APR 14 2003
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ANCHORAGE

If Yes:

10 a) What is its location and ACWA priority? (please provide latitude/longitude, or township and range or hydrologic unit code).			
Waterbody name:		Little Susitna River, Cottonwood Creek, Meadow Creek, Fish Creek, McRoberts Creek, Bodenber Creek, Wasilla Creek, Chena Slough, and Noyes Slough	
Latitude:	Longitude:	Hydrologic Unit Code; 19020505, 19020402, 19040506 http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm	
Township	Range	Section	
<p>Appendix C is a preliminary list of medium and high priority ACWA waters. It can be used as a guide for grant applications. These waters are currently being ranked using the final ACWA ranking methodology. If the water you are proposing to work on under your grant proposal is not shown in Appendix C, then an ACWA waterbody Nomination Form in Appendix D must be completed.</p> <p>These nomination forms should be completed using the DEC Web site; or if that is not possible, by hard copy with the grant application.</p> <p><i>Evaluation Criteria (max. 10 points): Is this an ACWA priority waterbody? 10 points if a high, 5 if a medium, 2 if a low. If waterbody is not included in Appendix C, is completed Nomination Form Attached? If no, award 0 points. If yes and there is enough information to make a determination, award 10 points if a high, 5 if a medium, 2 if a low. If there is not enough information to rank the waterbody, 2 points.</i></p>			

If No:

10 b) Will this project address a non-waterbody specific ACWA priority?	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check all that apply:				
Project is primarily watershed education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Measuring Success of Stewardship/Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Protocol Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Best Management Effectiveness Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATV use education/outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ranking of waters using the ACWA ranking method	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Evaluation Criteria (max 10 points): 1) Is this project an ACWA priority?(up to 5 points), 2) How effective will this project be at addressing the ACWA priority(up to 5 points)</i>				

11. Project Need and Benefits: (Why is this project needed? Describe the problem or issue this project is designed to address. Describe how this project complements existing projects or programs. Describe how this project addresses an ACWA priority.) [300 Words Maximum]

This project continues work begun by Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD) through the Little Susitna River and Cottonwood Creek Watershed Project. One goal is to sustain critical citizen volunteer monitoring along high priority water bodies to work toward our five years of baseline data. We have shared expertise with Upper Susitna SWCD and that program is now prepared to stand-alone, reflecting the success of soil and water conservation districts working together through memorandums of understanding (MOU). WSWCD will continue to provide scientific and technical expertise to the Palmer SWCD through a recently established MOU. All three areas in Palmer have considerable local interest and are on or will be nominated for the ACWA priority list. Much interest has been expressed regarding Big Lake, a major recreational destination in all seasons. This project adds monitoring sites on Meadow Creek and Fish Creek, which flow into and out of Big Lake and an educational program and restoration with a local school. Our program complements the existing regional programs by providing creek/river monitoring in Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It complements ADEC strategy by working with other SWCDs in a cooperative manner to provide scientific water-quality based programs to ACWA ranked water bodies and provides monitoring where it is otherwise not available. As SWCDs are statewide, this project will

form another SWCD partnership. In the WSWCD area we will take the next step to add biological monitoring as well as obtaining and deploying Hobo meters on Cottonwood Creek to assess what appears to be a trend in upper limits of normal temperatures on an anadromous stream. WSWCD plans to obtain and deploy Hydrolab minisonde instrumentation to obtain data, improve quality assurance, and substantiate precision and accuracy of personnel and volunteers on a more routine basis.

Evaluation Criteria (max 10 points): 1) Is project need clearly demonstrated? 2) Does this project address the necessary next step for the waterbody or priority issue? 3) Does the project fulfill a need that would otherwise go unfulfilled? 4) Will the project meet the needs identified?

12. Project Objective: *What are the project objectives? Describe how your project will lead to the 1) recovery of polluted water, 2) protection and restoration of waters or aquatic habitat at risk, 3) stewardship, 4) data collection or 5) meet other non-waterbody specific ACWA priorities. Describe how your project will address the need identified above and which of the state's non-point source, coastal zone management, etc. strategies will be addressed. The strategies can be viewed at:*

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ENV.CONSERV/dawq/nps/319pn.htm>

<http://www.gov.state.ak.us/dgc/ACMPGrants/EGS/EGPdwld.htm>

How will you measure the success of your project and how well you have met your objectives?) [300 Words Maximum]

Our objectives are:

1. Continuation of citizens' environmental monitoring program measuring chemical parameters. Addition of biological parameter measurements.
2. Capacity building and expansion of partnerships between SWCDs, schools, other agencies, and community governments with clean water education, stewardship/conservation education, and capacity building with our volunteers and the community at large.

Success of project objectives will be measured by:

1. Involvement, growth, and strength of partnerships.
2. Attendance and participation in workshops.
3. Number of citizens attending public educational presentations.
4. Number of volunteers participating in biological assessment training.
5. Number of citizens participating in chemical water quality monitoring training.
6. Updated QAPP and SOPs.
7. Analysis of data from Hobo instrumentation.
8. Precision and accuracy of quality assurance of personnel and monitors with data loggers.
9. Number of hits on web site and water quality/monitoring information available.
10. Number of citizens attending watershed tour.
11. Number of students and parents participating in classroom and restoration project.

Evaluation Criteria (max 10 points): How well does the project meet ACWA objectives? How well do the objectives meet the need? Are the objectives achievable? How well do the objectives meet agency strategies?

13. Project Description or Workplan: Describe what methodology will be used to manage and implement the overall project. Describe the project from start to finish, including the tasks involved to complete the project. [500 Words Maximum]

For each task include:

- a. Description of the task
- b. Who will complete the task (contractors, employees, or volunteers)
- c. When will the task be started and completed
- d. Describe any products (e.g. number of people trained) and deliverables (e.g. reports) of the task. Describe work products and deliverables to be produced during the grant period. An example deliverable is a field sampling plan or a quality assurance project plan. If this is an ongoing project, then please detail the accomplishments to date and the current sources of funding. If you are applying to conduct water quality sampling or monitoring, a quality assurance project plan must be submitted and approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation before sampling may occur. For details on a quality assurance project plan see www.state.ak.us/dec/dawq/datamonitor/documents/qaelements.htm
- e. The estimated budget for the task (note: the budgets for all the tasks should total the same as the overall project budget in item 19.)
- f. If this is an ongoing project, describe your plans for continuing financial and administrative support including operational costs, monitoring, equipment replacement, etc.

Objective 1: Collect baseline water quality data in specified areas. Implement biological site monitoring.

Task 1: Continuation of Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) on existing sites and add 5 new sites, two sites on water bodies on Tier I 303(d) list.

Start/End Date: 7/01/2003 – 6/30/2004

Description: Wasilla SWCD will continue coordination with regional groups to support stream/creek monitoring for ACWA priority water bodies. Maintain supply of reagents and equipment to support 14 current monitoring kits and replace Hanna meters with HI98129.

Product: Data for 13 current Wasilla and Palmer monitoring sites, 12 new water monitoring kits, 2 new monitoring sites for the Big Lake area, 1 new monitoring site in Palmer, and 4 sites with a new MOU partner. (Estimated budget: \$26,418)

Task 2: Implementation of biological assessment in Wasilla and Palmer SWCDs.

Start/End Date: 7/01/2003 – 6/30/2004

Description: WSWCD will coordinate with ENRI to provide volunteer biological assessment training to volunteers currently monitoring for chemical water parameters.

Product: 1 volunteer biological assessment training with 6 trained volunteers, biological data for 4 sites, 2 new biological monitoring kits. (Estimated budget: \$3,320)

Task 3: Enter and evaluate water-monitoring data.

Start/end Date: 7/01/2003 – 6/30/2004

Description: Enter chemical water quality monitoring data into database at least once per month. Enter biological data when component is available. Provide and update data on the web. Prepare quarterly and annual reports and make information available to other agencies and organizations.

Product: Data entered into water monitoring database, quarterly reports, annual water quality report, and updated web site. (Estimated budget: \$5,100)

Task 4: Coordinate volunteer training.

Start/End Date: 8/01/2003 – 6/30/04

Description: Plan, advertise, and conduct fall and spring water monitoring certification (Phases I through III) and a fall or spring re-certification training for volunteers previously trained. Plan and conduct training or recertification for Phase V in late fall. Coordinate training with PSWCD and new partner for those SWCD sites.

Product: 6 training sessions; 1 training with 3 level 5 trainers; 4 training sessions with 20 new Phase III citizen volunteer monitors; 1 training with recertification of 10 volunteers; up-to-date volunteer records using NRCS Earth Team forms and standard CEMP forms. (Estimated budget \$12,850)

Task 5: Update QAPP and SOPs for monitoring program.

Start/End Date: 7/01/2003 – 6/15/2004

Description: QAPP changes with the addition of standard operating procedures for new equipment, program objectives, monitoring parameters, etc., including Hobo instrumentation and data loggers.

Product: Updated QAPP and SOPs. (Estimated budget \$1500)

Task 6: Obtain and deploy Hobo temperature loggers in Cottonwood Creek.

Start/End Date: 07/01/03 - 06/30/04

Description: WSWCD personnel will deploy and retrieve water temperature data from Hobo temperature loggers between July 2003 and September 2003 and again between May 2004 and June 2004.

Product: Deploy 3 Hobo temperature loggers. Data to analyze possible upward temperature trend in Cottonwood Creek. Report from data. (Estimated budget \$2050)

Objective 2: Maintain and strengthen cooperative agreements for citizen-lead volunteer monitoring and stewardship.

Task 7: Participate in and support efforts of water quality monitoring programs.

Start/End Date: 7/1/2003 – 6/30/2004

Description: The project coordinator and/or other WSWCD personnel will attend workshops and conferences and provide presentations on project accomplishments and goals, such as but not limited to ANROE, Alaska Forum on the Environment, regional CEMP events, AWRA conferences, NRCS, cooperative extension, chambers of commerce, local city councils, community councils, and/or AACD meetings.

Product: Reports of local and area-wide activities and accomplishments will be printed in WSWCD newsletters and updated on web site. Training offered through WSWCD to enhance education, awareness, and community stewardship and volunteer efforts. Networking and capacity building with program presentations as appropriate. (Estimated budget \$11,170)

Task 8: Provide training and technical support.

Start/End Date: 7/01/03 – 6/30/04

Description: WSWCD will work with new partner groups to provide QAPP, volunteer training manual, standard operating procedures, and field procedures; facilitate training for new volunteer monitors and volunteer leaders from partner groups; provide technical consultation on volunteer management, site selection, equipment maintenance, and data management; produce and distribute water quality monitoring information reports.

Product: Support of MOU agreements with SWCD partners, expansion of volunteer training program, targeted ACWA water body stewardship education, obtain monitoring data on two water bodies on 303(d)

list. (Estimated budget \$5710)

Task 9: Obtain and deploy 2 Hydrolab Minisonde data loggers.

Start/End Date: 7/01/03 – 6/30/04

Description: Obtain and deploy data loggers at various monitoring sites to provide scientific data and quality assurance splits of personnel and volunteers in a routine fashion. Monitor for pH, DO, and temperature.

Product: 2 Hydrolab minisonde loggers deployed. Data for active sites that are without a volunteer. Scientifically defensible quality assurance reports. (Estimated budget \$8675)

Task 10: Partnership with UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

Start/End Date: 7/01/03 - 6/30/04

Description: Access to lab for professional assistance in standards preparation as well as professional advice/assistance from TAC member on instrumentation and calibration.

Product: Cost effective supplies, professional assistance in adherence to calibration SOPs, and working partnership between UAF and WSWCD. (Estimated budget \$1200)

Task 11: Continue public awareness and involvement through the Wasilla SWCD web site.

Start/End Date: 7/01/03 – 6/30/04

Description: The district web site will include selected watersheds, this project, and the way people can become involved will be updated at least monthly. Pictures will be included as available. The site will also include links to other informative sites.

Product: Continuously available information and calendar regarding monitoring information, number of hits on web sites, and quarterly report. (Estimated budget \$3850)

Task 12: Water quality monitoring brochure.

Start/End Date: 10/01/03 - 12/30/03

Description: WSWCD will prepare a brochure outlining monitoring program accomplishments, ongoing tasks, and detail how to be involved. Brochure would be available at chambers of commerce, city and borough offices, libraries, and other facilities allowing placement.

Product: 1000 copies of water-quality monitoring brochure. (Estimated budget \$6250)

Task 13: Prepare and conduct a community workshop on watershed issues.

Start/End Date: 11/15/03 – 5/30/2004

Description: Wasilla SWCD will coordinate with City of Wasilla to conduct a one-day workshop focusing on water quality and stewardship issues, as well as available education resources. Local agency personnel, city officials, and community members at large will be invited through newsletters and other advertising.

Product: Community capacity building. Report and program evaluation. Solicitation for new volunteers. (Estimated budget \$4172)

Task 14: Conduct watershed tour.

Start/End Date: 5/01/04 - 6/30/04

Description: Wasilla SWCD will plan, advertise, and coordinate a workshop/tour of critical habitat areas within the Cottonwood Creek watershed. Tour will stop at specific sites where local landowners and/or agency representatives will discuss some aspect of the water body particular to that site. Hands on activities are planned and packets of information will be distributed to each participant.

Product: Workshop agenda and information packet, community and/or agency capacity building, and public outreach. (Estimated budget \$4050)

Task 15: Stream team training for teachers.

Start/End Date: 7/01/03 – 6/30/04

Description: Coordination with ENRI to provide a 12-hour stream team training for local area teachers to provide training in macroinvertebrate sampling, chemical monitoring, and habitat assessment aligned with student performance standards. Assist teachers with site selection and provide sampling equipment on a check out basis.

Product: Teacher training, 8 trained educators, and 2 sites for macroinvertebrate sampling at an educational level. (Estimated budget \$4200)

Task 16: Partnership capacity building and water monitoring outreach presentation at Alaska State Fair in Palmer.

Start/End Date: 8/1/03 – 9/02/03

Description: Provide and maintain a booth at the fairgrounds facility for partners to showcase past, present, and current projects, watershed brochure, water monitoring brochure, and have sign-up sheet to recruit volunteers. The fair has previously provided the largest number of volunteers. Space would be available for presentation materials from AACD, PSWCD, WSWCD, and other partners as requested.

Product: Volunteers for monitoring classes, distribution of watershed brochure, distribution of water monitoring brochure, community education, and involvement of WSWCD volunteers. (Estimated budget \$8200)

Task 17: Community and school education through partnership with Midnight Sun Family Learning Center.

Start/End Date: 9/2/03 – 6/30/04

Description: Partner with Midnight Sun charter school and present outdoor science education, chemical and biological monitoring, and restoration project for mixed age group classroom including 2nd through 8th grade. Coordinate and present classroom curricula regarding conservation, watersheds, chemical and biological monitoring, and habitat restoration. Coordinate and conduct field science in chemical and biological monitoring, willow collection, and site restoration.

Product: 20 students and parent participants, 20 lineal feet of restoration, 1 teacher trained in stream team and chemical monitoring for educational level, and community capacity building in watershed stewardship. (Estimated budget \$10,755)

Evaluation Criteria (max 25 points): 1) Does the project have all the components necessary to meet the need and objectives described under number [12] 2) Are the products appropriate for the tasks described? Is there a net environmental benefit? (up to 10 points) 3) Is the project designed so that achievement of the objectives can be measured (e.g. will there be a measurable pollutant load reduction, acres of wetlands restored, lineal feet of riverbank habitat improved, change in concentration of contaminants, improvements in biological diversity and health?) (up to 10 points) 4) Do the tasks, as designed, seem reasonable according to the budget and timeline proposed? (up to 5 points).

14. Organization and Project Manager Experience: (a. Please describe the organization that would be receiving the grant, and why it would be the appropriate entity to undertake this project. Include examples of similar projects managed by this organization. b) Describe the experience managing similar projects, qualifications, and technical abilities of the project manager or for the proposed project manager criteria if one has not been selected). [300 Words Maximum]

Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the state of Alaska under A.S. 41.10. The district has been providing technical assistance, education, and planning for water quality and conservation practices since 1947. Wasilla SWCD develops and carries out natural resource conservation programs, primarily through partnerships with DNR and NRCS. Wasilla SWCD has been administering and performing 319 project services since FY2000. To date, WSWCD has trained 55 volunteers and obtained monitoring data for 13 active sites. Dick Zobel, project manager for Wasilla SWCD, has managed the last two years of the 319 grant program. Mr. Zobel is a retired state employee and has serviced on the Wasilla SWCD board for 27 years as well as serving on the Alaska SWCD board.

Evaluation Criteria (max. 10 points): 1) Project-specific strengths of the organization and experience of the organization in implementing this type of project (up to 5 points). 2) Relevant experience and success of the project manager in managing similar projects (up to 5 points).

15. Partnerships and Community Support: (Please describe any partnerships that have been formed to implement this project. Briefly describe the tasks will be accomplished by which organizations, what each partner will be responsible for, and why they are suited for accomplishing the task. Describe the community support for this project. Has the project been discussed with the local community, a planning board, other governmental or tribal organization, non-governmental organizations such as non-profits or businesses? Provide indications of your partner's support i.e. commitment to funding, providing in-kind services, letters of support or government action/recognition [please list them here and submit copies with the hardcopy of your application]) [300 Words Maximum]

Organizations/partners responsible for tasks are listed in tasks under project description. Solicitation has been made to partner with groups that will assist in best management practices for project administration. Capacity building during this project will involve more community, business, and agency members. Matching funds (in-kind) are provided by working agreements and local volunteers.

Working agreements at this time include:

Cook Inlet Keepers, Anchorage Waterways Council, ENRI, NRCS
Palmer and Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Letters of support include:

RC&D, NRCS, City of Wasilla, ENRI, AACD, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District,
Chena Slough Neighborhood Committee, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District

Evaluation Criteria (max 10 points): 1) Are the appropriate partners included on the project? Experience of the partners in implementing their role in the project (up to 5 points), 2) Public or community support as demonstrated by letters, resolutions, etc. Are there matching funds or in-kind services from the community. (up to 5 points)

16. Outreach: (Describe your audience. How will the project inform and involve them? What are your communication objectives? Describe your outreach plan.) [150 Words Maximum]

Outreach plan includes community workshops, advertising, brochure development, presentations, and training for SWCDs, local agencies and government, teachers and students, and community members. Stewardship and monitor training inform our audience of the nature of watersheds and the importance of conservation practices to continue healthy water supplies for flora, fauna, food and drinking water supplies, wildlife observation, and other types of recreation. Training and restoration with the schools provide an opportunity for parents and students to develop understanding of and participate in hands-on conservation practices.