

develop Internet resources; consultants to provide specialized expertise or to make presentations.

Allowable administrative costs would include staff salary and benefits, staff travel to project sites; office expenses, communications, and shipping. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt for all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Office of East European and NIS Affairs and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technical eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Program planning and ability to achieve objectives: Program objectives should be stated clearly and precisely and should reflect the applicant organization's experience administering Internet projects and training programs in the Russian Federation. Objectives should respond to the project activities cited in this announcement and should relate to the current state of connectivity, Internet access, and training available in libraries, universities, and NGOs in Samara Oblast. A detailed work plan should explain step by step how objectives will be achieved and include a timetable for completion of all critical technical and programmatic components of the project. The training methodology and curriculum should be discussed in detail. Responsibilities of all partners should be clearly described.

2. Institutional capacity: Proposed personnel and organizational resources must be adequate and appropriate to implement the project. The narrative must demonstrate proven ability to handle the technical and programmatic requirements of the project, including a

knowledge of useful Internet resources in English and Russian in business, law, and public administration, and to effectively coordinate logistics and project components with diverse Russian and U.S. public and private sector organizations.

3. Organization's track record: Relevant USIA and outside assessments of the organization's experience with academic exchange and training programs and Internet projects in Russia, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts.

4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed programs must demonstrate an impact on the wider community through the sharing of information and the establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. Cost-effectiveness: Overhead and program and administrative costs, including required equipment, services, connectivity, salaries, and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Preference will be given to proposals that leverage existing resources in Samara Oblast, maximize in-kind contributions and cost-sharing through other U.S. and/or Russian public and private sector partners as well as institutional direct funding contributions, and submit an administrative budget that is less than 20% of the grant amount requested from the USIA.

6. Support of diversity and pluralism: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity throughout the program.

7. Program evaluation: USIA is results-oriented. Proposals must include a plan to evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold at each public access Internet site and at the end of the project. A draft survey questionnaire plus a description of a methodology to be used to link outcomes to original project objectives is required. USIA recommends that the proposal include draft questions for focus groups for staff and end-users at the public access Internet sites.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the

right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: August 7, 1998.

James D. Whitten,

Acting Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-21792 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

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UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Angler-Access Mitigation Program Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System, Bonneville Unit, Central Utah Project

AGENCY: The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to complete several mitigation obligations that were identified as mitigation for the construction and operation of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project. As originally planned in 1965, construction of the Bonneville Unit was estimated to inundate approximately 40 miles of stream habitat and adversely impact an additional 240 miles of streams by altering stream flows. It was estimated that 73 percent of the adult trout habitat on impacted streams would be lost as a result of constructing and operating the Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System (SACS), a feature of the Bonneville Unit. To mitigate for these impacts, several mitigation obligations were identified. Although the emphasis of this Draft Environmental Assessment is achieving angler access, several other mitigation measures are addressed. The mitigation obligations that are addressed by the Proposed Action are as follows:

- The 1988 Aquatic Mitigation Plan for the Bonneville Unit identified the acquisition of 51 miles of angler access on seven impacted streams as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of SACS. Approximately 42.25 of the 51 miles identified for angler-access acquisition have already

been acquired. Under the Proposed Action, the remaining access would be acquired.

- The 1987 Wildlife Mitigation Plan for the Bonneville Unit identified measures to mitigate for impacts on terrestrial wildlife from the construction and operation of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project. The Wildlife Mitigation Plan identified the acquisition and management of 32,096 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat as mitigation. All but 388 acres has previously been acquired, primarily within or adjacent to the angler-access corridors. Under the Proposed Action, all or a portion of the remaining 388 acres of terrestrial wildlife would be acquired. In addition, the Proposed Action would establish a management direction consistent with the mitigation requirements.

- The 1987 Wetland Mitigation Plan for the Bonneville Unit identified measures to mitigate for impacts on wetlands from the construction and operation the Bonneville Unit. An analysis of wetland losses showed that the construction of Jordanelle Dam and Reservoir and associated highway relocations would result in a loss of approximately 153 acres of emergent wetlands consisting of both open meadows and shrub meadows. The Wetland Mitigation Plan for the Bonneville Unit identifies, among other things, protection and enhancement of 26.6 acres of wetlands on Currant Creek, 14.76 acres on the middle Strawberry River, and 85.1 acres on Rock Creek, within the angler-access corridors, as partial mitigation for these impacts. Under the Proposed Action, additional wetland acres would be acquired for this purpose. In addition, the management direction would be established to ensure wetland areas are managed to protect and enhance their wetland values.

DATES: Comments are most useful if received by September 8, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of the the Draft Environmental Assessment or Executive Summary can be obtained at

the address and telephone number below: Richard Mingo, Natural Resource Specialist, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 102 West 500 South, Suite 315, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-2328, Telephone: (801) 524-3146.

Dated: August 6, 1998.

Michael C. Weland,

Executive Director, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-21771 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (VACOR), authorized by 38 U.S.C., Section 3121, will be held September 23rd through 25th, 1998. The meeting will be held in room #730 at VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the Committee with current information regarding the reorganization of the VA's Health and Benefits Administrations, determine how these service-delivery changes may potentially impact on the rehabilitation of disabled veterans, and generate change recommendations, if needed, to ensure the effectiveness of the VA's programs of veteran rehabilitation. In addition, the committee will be informed of the new Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling (VR&C) Quality Assurance Program, outside contracting for rehabilitation services, and review of preliminary findings made by the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance.

The September 23rd meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Prior to a full discussion of the VR&C Quality Assurance program, the VA's Deputy

Ethics Official will assist members in completing financial disclosure forms and updating prior year form submissions. The afternoon session will focus on the reorganization of service delivery in the VA Health and Benefits Administrations. A 3:45 p.m. adjournment time is anticipated.

On September 24th, the Committee will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. and hear a presentation from the Chairman of the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Assistance Transition regarding preliminary Committee findings relative to the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling program. Following that presentation, spokespersons from the Vocational Rehabilitation & Counseling program will address the issues of outside contracting for rehabilitation services and current program activities designed to more effectively market VR&C initiatives and successes within both the VA and the community at large. A 3:45 p.m. adjournment will follow a review of implications for future program directions based on information received. The September 25th meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will focus on general Committee findings, the generation of specific recommendations for program changes, and a discussion of future meetings, potential meeting locations and future agenda topics. Adjournment will follow at approximately 12:00 noon.

All meetings will be open to the general public. Oral statements will be received by the general public on September 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Anyone having questions concerning the meeting may contact Frank J. Donlan, Counseling Psychologist, Department of Veterans Affairs, at (202) 273-7436.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-21698 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

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