

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Development of an Organizational Design/Strategic Action Plan for the Jordan Lake One Water Coalition

RFQ Issue Date: September 16, 2024

**Proposal Due Date: October 4th, 2024
and time: 5:00 pm (EST)**

RFQ Contact: Hope Stuart, Piedmont Triad Regional Council,
Regional Planning

Email: hstuart@ptrc.org

Phone: 336-904-0300 X 3011

Request for Qualifications

Jordan Lake One Water Coalition Organizational Design/Strategic Action Plan

Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) is incorporated as a North Carolina nonprofit corporation seeking to shape water policy in the Jordan Lake Watershed through a flexible framework and a broader range of management options than traditional regulatory models. JLOW offers a path to finding solutions with a triple-bottom-line business case, helping to assure that money spent in the watershed will achieve more per dollar than the traditional regulatory model while also building community resilience and more public support and satisfaction at all levels.

Background

The Jordan Lake Watershed encompasses 10 counties, 27 municipalities, and nearly 700,000 water customers. Since 1982 when Jordan Lake was first impounded, the lake has experienced water quality problems. As the population continues to grow in the watershed, water quality and water supply challenges continue to increase.

Jordan Lake One Water was formed out of conversations between the Triangle J Council of Governments, now known as Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC), and stakeholders representing local government, conservation groups, water utilities, agricultural and private industry stakeholders seeking to work together to improve water quality in the Jordan Lake Watershed.

Interest was so high that a JLOW Advisory Committee was formed to develop a preliminary work plan, completed in 2019 with the input of stakeholders defining how JLOW should monitor, evaluate, and quantify benefits of integrated water management efforts, and how a JLOW organization should be financed and governed.

In 2020, the JLOW Advisory Committee, North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NCDWR), and numerous stakeholders collaborated to develop a recommended One Water framework for the Jordan Lake watershed as part of the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Rules Re-adoption process.

Jordan Lake One Water is composed of local governments, conservation groups, universities, water utilities, agriculture, state agencies, and private industry stakeholders seeking to include all those interested in realizing watershed-wide environmental, societal, and economic benefits, while sharing the costs of water quality and quantity improvements.

JLOW Goals:

Goal 1 (Environmental) – To improve the hydrological and ecological function of the Haw River and Jordan Lake watershed.

Goal 2 (Societal) – To enhance the health, vitality, and well-being of all residents and communities within the Jordan Lake watershed.

Goal 3 (Economic) – To foster a robust, prosperous, and viable economy in the Jordan Lake watershed.

Two recommendations were put forth by the original Stakeholder Group:

1. Form a transitional Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) organization
2. Co-develop a framework for collaboration between Jordan Lake One Water and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to address regulatory concerns, including nutrient requirements.

In 2023, the group received official 501(c)3 status, adopted a set of bylaws, and established a board of directors in response to recommendation #1. The Board of Directors meets bi-monthly and convenes an annual meeting each October. The Board has also established several sub-committees, including the Strategic Plan Workgroup which is issuing this Request for Information.

The Central Pines Regional Council and Piedmont Triad Regional Council have been co-administrators of JLOW since inception, but as membership grows and the work of the organization increases, JLOW needs to develop an organizational plan separate from the regional councils.

This Request for Qualifications

We are seeking guidance in developing an organizational strategic action plan that includes a series of major tasks to support the implementation of our vision. Specific components of the plan may include, but are not limited to,

- hiring an executive director,
- developing a short- and long-term strategic plan,
- planning a realistic budget/fundraising plan,
- internal stakeholder interviews and/or workshops, and
- identifying essential organizational functions that integrate with the technical, triple bottom line foundation of our organization,
- becoming a compliance association.

There is an available \$20,000 budget for the above plan. JLOW will need to have, in place a strategy for reviewing grant proposals and allocating funds. What do we need to do, in what order/sequence, to be prepared?

Qualifications Statement Review

The selected contractor will be evaluated on experience and expertise in nonprofit management, especially those nonprofits that are composed of state/local governments, non-profits agencies, and private citizens. Consideration will be given based to individuals familiar with North Carolina government regulations; with knowledge of water quality issues considered a plus.

Schedule

RFQ Issued	September 16, 2024
1 Hour Info Session: ZOOM	September 24, 2024: 3-4pm https://ptrc-org.zoom.us/j/89410759205
Proposal Due Date	October 4, 2024
Proposal Review	October 8-14, 2024
Short List selected (notification)	October 15, 2024
Oral Presentations/Interviews conducted*	October 25, 2024
Selection Notification	November 1, 2024
Contract Signed	November 28, 2024
Contract Executed by all parties	December 11, 2024

*Only with top selected candidates.

Responses

To apply, please send a maximum 4-page proposal detailing

- 1) How you/your organization would work with our Strategic Plan Workgroup to meet our requirements.
 - a. Please estimate the number of meetings with the full workgroup and individual members you will need;
 - b. other information sources you may require;
 - c. and any other expectations you would have for engagement.
- 2) Proposals shall include pricing for the scope of work, specific plans for providing the proposed service and a timeline.
- 3) Please make sure to include a description of your qualifications and
- 4) Provide 3-4 references not counted toward the maximum page limit.

Completed responses shall be emailed to:

Hope Stuart, Environmental Planner

Piedmont Triad Regional Council

hstuart@ptrc.org by 5:00pm on October 4th, 2024