Q&A From Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting

Q: You say you want to keep adding and adding to the project, does that mean that once you are done with this phase you are going to have to wait for results to start the next phase?

A: No. If we have enough participating property owners where we feel we can put together plans for a phase 2, we can submit it to DEP right now and go. We don’t need to get the USACE amended as the permit covers everything in the project area defined in the permit.

Q: Will there be a follow up RFP process for additional phases?

A: No. This solicitation is not just for the award of the initial 2.4 acres outlined in Phase 1. The intent is that the additional work will flow though the contract for Phase 1, where contractors will provide a price that has unit rates for mobilization, rocks, reef modules, etc. we may issue an additional task order once Phase 2 layout is set. This is not just for the award for the 2.4 acres, which is the minimum. The maximum amount of reef is up to 20 acres.

Q: What is the likelihood that you will get funding for the rest of the 17.5 acres?

A: The funding has already been approved by NFWF, with a stated goal of 20 acres of constructed reef. Cost of construction will be the limiting factor. When this project was budgeted, it was a number of years ago, a lot of inflation, and other economic factors; it depends on how far the dollars go. NFWF has already approved the project for 20 acres. If it turns out the first 2.5 acres takes up half the budget then we probably won’t be able to do the 20 acres.

Q: Is there a path in the permit where you can disturb some seagrasses to get in and install?

A: No. Disturbances to seagrasses will require mitigation. If seagrasses are disturbed during construction, the state and federal environmental regulatory agencies may require mitigation. If you think your planned construction approach may require mitigation, please propose a mitigation strategy in your proposal. As far as your means and methods, it is up to the contractor to determine how they will work in respects to the seagrass beds.

Q: TCC – Our domes have been permitted by USACE and FDEP, do not have a hole on top, but have to have to be covered on the bottom. We also seed our domes - what do you think about that?

A: Please see the plans and technical specifications for more details. In general, we want the hole on top and around the sides, but not on the bottom. The hole on the top should be the same size as the holes around the sides. We are not expecting to pre-seed our domes with oysters. We may seed the reefs with oysters/spat after the reefs are installed, but that will be completed outside of the scope of this solicitation. Regardless, even if the reefs are not seeded, we are seeing great recruitment in the project area.

Q: Has there been any geotechnical information collected from the project site to inform which product will best be supported by the seafloor? Settling is a concern.

A: Yes, some geotechnical sampling has been completed, but mainly to determine the sediment type, which we have confirmed is primarily sand. If major settling of reef materials is observed during monitoring, the adaptive management plan is to install additional materials to compensate for the settling at the unit cost that the contractor provided. The geotechnical report will be provided.

A: We have core samples from top 18 inches. The composition is nearly all sand.

There may be some settling but at the end of the project, if we notice major settling, we can tap into the adaptive management budget to pay for the installation of more material to compensate for the settling at the unit cost that you provide.

Q: Can we wrap the entire area in a turbidity curtain and leave it there for the duration of the project?

A: Yes. As long as the turbidity curtain is maintained according to the permit conditions and not causing damage to the project site. Please see the technical specifications for more details.

Q: Are there requirements for safety? EMR gradings, proper insurance?

A: Although these requirements are not fully specified, they are very important to the project team and this solicitation. We expect that all required and appropriate safety policies and insurance will be met by all submitting contractors. Please address these in your submittal under “Qualifications & Experience.”

Q: What is the budget or preliminary estimate for this reef work?

A: Our funder, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, has approved roughly ten million dollars for the construction of reefs and marsh. We are looking to stretch the funding out to include as much marsh and reef as possible.

Q: When would you perform the planting of Phase 1 marsh.

A: We have planting scheduled to the first quarter of 2023. This date may be delayed to accommodate the construction of the reef. We anticipate completion of the reef construction prior to initiation of the planting to allow the shoreline to return to equilibrium before planting occurs.

Q: Would planting and reef install overlap?

A: Planting and reef install would not overlap. Planting will not occur until the construction contractor’s work has been signed off and demobilization has occurred for a given segment of the project area.

Q: What is the expectation for a warranty in terms of construction?

A: We are not holding contractors to oyster recruitment or shoreline protection. We are expecting that rock sizes meet specifications. Contractors must install materials as specified, where specified, and in accordance with the USACE and FDEP permits.

Q: Does the winning bidder have to go with a specific company for the reef modules?

A: No, as long as the modules meet the specifications of those approved in our permits. The weights and dimensions are important. See the plans and specifications for more details.

Q: Are you conducting water quality monitoring in the project area?

A: We are not; ANERR monitors areas throughout the bay. During construction the contractor will need to have a turbidity meter on hand so that you know when it is safe to remove your turbidity curtains.

Q: Is FDOT aware of this project?

A: Yes. We have been in contact with FDOT for the last three years. We will provide our contact at District 3 for the right-of-way agent that will be handling the permitting for this project.

Q: How will you measure the units of stone (tons)?

A: Truck or barge tickets.

Q: What unit weight is used in the calculation of estimated tonnage that has been provided?

A: Two tons per cubic yard were assumed for the number of tons required. We anticipate the need to fill 2,604 cubic yards with material, so tonnage should be adjusted to meet the required fill volumes.

Q: Are you looking for Florida Limestone?

A: We are looking for something much denser than what you would find in Florida. See the Technical Specifications for more details about the required type of rocks. We expect that it would likely be limestone or granite sourced from somewhere north of Florida. Recycled concrete may be considered, as long as it is processed to meet all technical specifications and permit requirements.