



ARPA-18

ARP Application - Jefferson County

Status: Active

Date Created: Oct 31, 2021

Applicant

Internal Section

Certification

Digital Signature

Mary Thekla Brosnan-Sell
10/25/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name

Jefferson County Water Advisory Committee

Address

P.O. Box 895

Website (if applicable)

jeffersoncountywaterwv.org

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Project Summary

1. Brief description of the proposal

Groundwater resources are vital to the rural residents of Jefferson County, and

to several public water systems which rely on groundwater as their primary water source. The County has also experienced significant economic growth and a major change in land use over the last 50 years from primarily agricultural land use in the 1970's to increasing suburban development with associated commercial and industrial growth at present. A groundwater quality assessment inclusive of anthropogenic- and bedrock sourced compounds previously omitted from earlier USGS studies in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s is being proposed to characterize the current conditions and to provide an updated baseline of groundwater resources in Jefferson County as the County plans recovery

from Covid-19 to inform decisions with independent scientific data.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

The purpose of this groundwater quality assessment is to supply Jefferson County with information to make science-based decisions on groundwater-resources quality and management as the County plans growth/recovery from the pandemic. The primary goal of this proposal is to document the current quality of groundwater on which many of the residents, farmers, and commercial and industrial facilities of Jefferson County depend on as their primary water resource. Earlier county-wide groundwater quality assessments in Jefferson County focused primarily on

the common ions and trace metals calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, chloride, fluoride, iron, and manganese, on common agricultural contaminants such as nitrate and nitrite, and on the indicator bacteria from humans and animals, fecal coliform and fecal streptococcus bacteria. This study proposes to append common household and industrial organic volatile and semi-volatile compounds and per- and polyfluoro-alkyl substances (PFAS), common triazine and glyphosate herbicides, and radon-222 to the list of constituents assessed in earlier studies.

This study will inform decision makers on Covid-19 recovery expenditures regarding:

"...necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure and in particular to: Public Health; Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities; and Infrastructure."

3. Individuals or communities served

Communities: The County of Jefferson County, WV; surrounding communities of Harpers Ferry, Bolivar, Middleway, Kearneysville (etc.); residential and commercial customers public water systems; resident, commercial and agriculture users of wells

4. How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request

The JCWAC applied for the funds in the normal Jefferson County Budgetary planning in January and February 2021 and in revenue cycle 2020 and 2019. Funds were not available (2021) to fund the study due to a budgetary shortfall of over \$3M attributed to Covid related impacts

5. Amount of funding requested

400,000

6. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

550,000

7a. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

150,000

7b. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

United States Geologic Association - Romney, WV

8. How ARP funds, if awarded, will be used

To fund:

Field inventory of prospective wells and spring sampling sites beginning NLT by October 1 of 2022 and completed by June 30th, 2023. Collection of water-quality samples will begin in July of 2023 and be completed by November of 2024. Federal fiscal year 2025 would be devoted primarily to analysis of data and preparation of a an interpretative

USGS Scientific Investigations Report to summarize the findings of the study.

9. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

Three years

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

Specific objectives of the study are to assess the quality of groundwater across the entire extent of Jefferson County by sampling 90 sites, 70 wells and 20 large springs, for a broad suite of chemical constituents to characterize the current conditions and to provide an updated baseline of groundwater resources in Jefferson County.

All 90 sites will also be sampled for PFAS compounds, which have recently been documented in groundwater in

Jefferson County, and recently determined by the U.S. EPA to be carcinogenic compounds. Results of the study will be summarized in a USGS Scientific Investigations Report, and data will be made available to the public and the cooperator via the USGS National Water Information System web interface (NWIS Web).

2. Please describe goals and expected outcomes of your proposal.

Covid enable response as a study for future resiliency: Results of this study will enable water-resource managers in Jefferson County and at the state and local level to better assess the current state of groundwater-quality within the karst and Blue ridge aquifers that are prevalent within the County, and which are especially susceptible to contamination at the land surface, and to develop strategies to better manage, utilize, and protect the resource into the future and enable scientific based decisions for optimum health outcomes.

3. Please provide your project timeline

Field inventory of prospective well and spring sampling sites will be conducted beginning in October of 2022 and completed by June 30th, 2023.

Collection of water-quality samples will begin in July of 2023 and be completed

by November of 2024. Federal fiscal year 2025 would be devoted primarily to analysis of data and preparation of a an interpretative USGS Scientific Investigations Report to summarize the findings of the study.

Task	Federal Fiscal Year and Quarter*											
	2022				2023				2024			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Compile existing data for Arc-GIS	X	X	X									
Conduct literature search	X											
Field well inventory	X	X	X									
Compile and assess well-completion reports	X	X										
Update Arc-GIS with data collected for project	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Collect groundwater-quality samples				X	X							
Analyze data collected for the project					X	X	X	X				
Prepare initial draft of investigative report						X	X		X			
Send report for colleague review									X			
Address colleague review comments/edit report										X	X	
Submit report for editorial review											X	
Send report for Director's approval											X	
Publish investigative report											X	
* Years are federal fiscal years which begin October 1 st and end September 30 th of the following calendar year. Quarters 1-4 represent Oct - Dec, Jan - Mar, Apr - Jun, and Jul - Sep.												

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

\$550000

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

USGS and Jefferson County Commission, prospective partners in the design of the study include public utilities reporting under WVDHHR SWPP requirements/

6. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

This independent study will go into the public domain. Earlier studies (as early as 1970s, 80s and 90s are utilized in the scientific and governmental areas to make informed decisions for the highest and best utilization of Jefferson County's water resources.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

Mission Statement

Provide leadership and initiative to develop and conserve water resources in Jefferson County and for localities downstream. Advise the County Commission how to protect, improve, manage and restore water resources. Cooperate with the local community, government agencies and private organizations to implement recommendations.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

1. Respond to requests from County Commission for advice on ground and surface water.
2. Be knowledgeable of local, state, and federal regulations and policies that may apply to issues.
3. Establish working relationships with local, state, and federal officials and non-governmental agencies interested in water quantity and quality.
4. Educate and expand awareness of county residents on ground and surface water issues.
5. Make recommendations to the County Commission about issues concerning ground and surface water.
6. Participate in developing an annual budget, and search for resources for funding programs and services.
7. Take an active role in maintaining a guide to resources for technical assistance to residents and businesses.

3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.

1. WV-DHHR -Water Quality Report:
2. WVDEP Signage; WVDEP Stream Partners "Friends of the Bullskin" Webpage/Video in partnership with PVAS;
3. Know your Watershed and "Water Ambassador" programs - Jefferson County Fair - promotions (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019)

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

Board - Mary Sell/Jim Cummins/Oscar Stine/Commissioner Jane Tabb Liaison and Rob Denton - non Board Member - Technical consultant

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:

Board Members Colin Stine and Jim Cummings - Initiators/planners and scientists of the JCWAC. Additional Oversight from the Board of JCWAC and Staff of the Jefferson County Commission (the JCWAC will not hold any monies) anticipated the funds will be drawn down from the JCC to the USGS based on quarterly or milestone deliverables in accordance with U.S. Treasury guidelines.

Mark Kozar and the Staff of the USGS (see Resume/CV/Publications)

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year

Uploaded by ... on

Two years of audited financial statements

Uploaded by ... on

Current operating budget

Uploaded by ... on

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant

Uploaded by ... on

7. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Jefferson County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

DHHR and WVDEP Stream Partners (Reimbursable grants - funds were deposited into Jefferson County Commission's bank account and reimbursed by JCC upon presentation of documented itemized receipts - final reports then sent to JCC/DHHR and WVDEP)

8. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

No application for funding for this project from other sources has been made at this time. It is our understanding based upon 3rd party communications that the project would be eligible for EPA State Water Revolving Funds (caveat that the JCC confirm with its counsel). Additionally It is our understanding that the USGS is not prohibited under ARPA to receive the Jefferson County's allocation to this project - reference attached further in submission.

We have applied to USGS for this funding and this is the 3rd fiscal year that they have committed the funding to this project based on a match. We have presented to the following entities for funding support: JCDA; Harpers Ferry Corporation and Shepherdstown Town Council

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Please explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request.

Due to reduction of county funds -the study was not an option for the fiscal budgetary years of 2021 and 2022. The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the ongoing requirement for local water quality assessment to ensure sustainable source of water resources for families, agriculture and commercial and industrial uses, and to intelligently plan for future resilient growth; and to ensure recovery from the pandemic does not disparately affect diverse or disadvantaged citizens of Jefferson County -

2. How will ARP funding, if awarded, aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

Jefferson County's decisions for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be informed by the USGS' independent scientific study which will be available and hosted on the USGS site for decades forward (similar to past studies and in combination therewith provide forecasting information for decision makers, developers, environmental decision makers, and endusers of water resources in Jefferson County, WV). With regard to PFAS component of the study, the JCC will have real time information, supplemented by the USGS State Study (as directed by the WV Legislature and now pending publication) concurrent to new federal rulemakings and inquiries: EPA 2022 PFAS Strategic Roadmap, of a baseline mapping of PFAS in Jefferson County, WV. [See: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>]

3. Are you requesting lost revenue due to COVID-19

Yes

If yes, please explain

Jefferson County Commission Budget Session dated (county shortfall for funding \$3M)
<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/elected-officials/county-commission/budget>

Upload supporting documentation for revenue loss

 Uploaded by ... on

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Allison Hughart, Administrative Officer, U.S. Geological Survey - Virginia and West Virginia Water Science Center, anhughart@usgs.gov (mailto:anhughart@usgs.gov), phone number 304-964-3669 -- Office of USGS Policy Analysis

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.

 Jeff Co - USGS Fees and Matching.xlsx
Uploaded by ... on Oct 31, 2021 at 8:13 pm

Attachments

 MDKozar Short Resume.doc.rtf
Uploaded by ... on Oct 31, 2021 at 8:17 pm

 JeffCo-USGS Proposal.docx
Uploaded by ... on Oct 31, 2021 at 8:17 pm

History

Date	Activity
Oct 25, 2021 at 11:27 am	Mary Sell started a draft of Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:14 pm	Mary Sell added attachment JeffCo-USGS Proposal.docx to Record ARPA-18

Date	Activity
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:16 pm	Mary Sell added attachment MDKozar Short Resume.doc.rtf to Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:17 pm	Mary Sell removed attachment MDKozar Short Resume.doc.rtf from Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:17 pm	Mary Sell removed attachment JeffCo-USGS Proposal.docx from Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:39 pm	Mary Sell submitted Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:39 pm	approval step Application Review was assigned to Michelle Gordon on Record ARPA-18
Oct 31, 2021 at 8:39 pm	changed the deadline to Nov 02, 2021 on approval step Application Review on Record ARPA-18