

**National Center for Ecologically Sustainable Water Management and Conservation (Center) Supplemental Questions regarding Center Business Plan and Center Governance based on Applicant prior Responses to Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**I. Supplemental Background and Assumptions Followed by Questions**

**II. In-Person Meeting Schedule**

**III. What's Next?**

**I. Supplemental Questions Background Followed by Questions re: Building the Relationship between the Center's Executive Governing Board (EGB) & Host Institution**

Please email us your institution's responses to the following questions by **no later than August 11, 2025 (5pm PT)**. The responses will assist our legal team to further develop and refine potential legal and governance models for the Center and its companion Business Plan.

The responses will also assist the EGB in preparing for our in-person discussions and site inspections specific to each of your institutions.

Shortly prior to the site visits we may also share additional follow-up questions, not requiring any advance written response, but meant to guide our in-person discussions.

In your institution's responses to each question below, please consider the following assumptions and relevant information previously included in the Mar. 7, 2025 Center RFP document and your institution's proposal. Please also indicate whether your institution is flexible as to the approaches outlined in in these supplemental questions; or, specify your alternative preferences and reasoning.

**Working Assumptions Specific to the Supplemental Questions below\*:**

- The Center will be formed as a nonprofit corporation that applies to the IRS for 501(c)(3) designation and houses the operations, or a portion of the operations, of the Center through an agreement with the [Instream Flow Council](#) (IFC) and [American Fisheries Society](#) (AFS).

- A contract or memorandum of understanding will be established between the EGB and the Host institution for the Host to provide physical space and administrative and other Center services.

- The Center will maintain some level of independence from the institution itself.

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**\*Note:** We are willing to consider other recommendations for structure, and value your institution's experiences and suggestions with similar arrangements including the advantages and disadvantages associated with each

## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS: Aug. 11 Deadline**

Please include the question followed by your institution's response.

1. Is your institution amenable to this general structure? If not, what are the institution's core expectations or requirements with respect to structuring the relationship between the Center and the institution?
2. Does your institution vision the Center being integrated into and operated as a program of an existing department, unit, or program? If so, how? If not, then how does the institution view the Center's operational structure?
3. What are your institution's expectations regarding which entity/ies will employ staff performing services on behalf of the Center?
4. Is it your institution's assumption that grants, donations, and services fees generated by the Center's activities would be directed to, and belong to your institution, or to the Center as a separate legal entity which is not integrated into your institution's finances?
5. What are your institution's expectations regarding reporting relationships and lines of authority among the Center leaders, IFC/AFS Executive Governing Board, and existing institutional leadership?

## **II. In-Person Meeting Schedule and Agenda**

The EGB's proposed in-person schedule has been confirmed by each of the Host applicants. Thank you for your timely responses and coordinating with one another.

### **Site Visits Schedule:**

Michigan State University: Sept. 9 (if needed, early AM on 10th)

University of Alabama: Sept. 11 (if needed, early AM on 12th)

Oregon State University: Oct. 14 (if needed, early AM on 15th)

University of Idaho: Oct. 16 (if needed, early AM on 17th)

### **Meeting Agenda Queries Response**

A subset of hosts have offered to collaborate with other hosts or independently send us their preliminary suggestions for the onsite meeting agenda topics specific to their institution for our consideration. We welcome and thank you for the offers. Please email us your institution specific agenda topic and site visit suggestions (regardless of whether you select to coordinate with one another) **no later than July 31, 2025 (5pm PT)**; or, inform us you won't be sending agenda and site suggestions. Thank you.

### **III. What's Next?**

As noted in prior correspondence, Christopher Estes, Chair of the both the EGB & Instream Flow and Water Level Conservation (IFWLC) Center Project Steering Committee (SC), will contact each of you individually by email on Friday (or early next week) to schedule calls related to additional planning and local logistics specific to each institution.

The EGB and SC look forward to the site visits and follow-up after.

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[IFC-AFS](#) Instream Flow & Water Level Conservation (IFWLC) [Project](#) Steering Committee (SC) for the [National Center for Ecologically Sustainable Water Conservation & Management](#) (Center)

**PLEASE ADD OUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO YOUR SAFE SENDERS CONTACTS**

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\*Requests meriting replies will be provided within 3 business days