**FY2017 Review Criteria for 205(j) Grant Proposals**

Proposals will be initially screened to determine whether they meet the following qualifying grant requirements:

* Applicant is a council of governments/regional commission
* Project involves planning efforts that will contribute to improved water quality
* Project timeline takes place between January 2018 and June 2019

Proposals that do not meet these requirements will be returned to the applicant with a statement of reasons for disqualification. Those that meet these requirements will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**Review Criteria Point System**

Water Quality Merit 25

Technical Merit 15

Capability/Confidence    10

Total 50

**Water Quality Merit**

* (15 points) Proposed project effectively addresses RFP priority, need identified in a Basinwide Plan, or other need within the Division’s water quality mission as agreed by reviewers. As a reminder, RFP priorities include:
  + Development of 9-Element watershed restoration plans for 12-digit HUC or smaller watersheds (reference resources for plan development on the [319 grant program website](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/nonpoint-source-management/319-grant-program))
  + Water quality planning projects with concrete outputs such as stormwater infrastructure mapping, stormwater or other nonpoint source BMP prioritization and/or design, or watershed impairment source assessment
  + Planning projects to improve water quality regionally or statewide
  + Projects to increase knowledge sharing between COGs with and without water planning staff
* (10 points) Leverage/Progress - project capitalizes on past progress and/or brings in substantial matching funds.

**Technical Merit**

* (5 points) Proposal is complete, concise, and specific regarding how proposed deliverables will be achieved.
* (5 points) Project deliverables will clearly contribute towards improving water quality.
* (5 points) Funding request is appropriate to accomplish proposed deliverables. Budget is appropriately distributed across line items.

**Capability/Confidence in Deliverables**

* (5 points) Applicant, project partners and/or subcontractor are qualified to complete the responsibilities proposed in application. (If applicant is subcontracting project tasks, proposal should clearly outline qualifications of both applicant and subcontractor. Applicant will also be requested to share subcontract document with the 205(j) grant program.)
* (5 points) Proposal includes all partners relevant to the project, and explains the role and responsibilities of each. For example, proposals to increase knowledge-sharing between COGs should show how all named COGs will contribute to the deliverables.