

Monitoring Guidelines

Florida has enhanced state and local capacity for public boating access through various funding sources including state and federal grant funds. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a responsibility to track and monitor the status of grant activity and items purchased to ensure compliance with applicable Natural Resource Damage Assessment Florida Trustee Implementation Group (FL TIG) grant guidance and statutory regulations. The monitoring process is designed to assess a Grantee/Recipient or Sub-Recipient's (hereafter collectively referred to as Recipient) compliance with applicable state and federal guidelines.

Monitoring is accomplished utilizing various methods including desk monitoring and on-site visits. There are two primary areas reviewed during monitoring activities – financial and programmatic monitoring. Financial monitoring is the review of records associated with the purchase and disposition of property, projects and contracts. Programmatic monitoring is the observation of project construction, protocols and other associated records. Various levels of financial and programmatic review may be accomplished during this process.

Desk monitoring is the review of projects, financial activity and technical assistance between FWC and the applicant via e-mail and telephone or other electronic means. On-site monitoring are actual visits to the Recipient agencies by FWC representatives who examine records, procedures and projects.

No Conflict of Interest:

Grant Managers shall complete the Agency 'No Conflict of Interest' form at the time they are assigned/assume responsibility for an agreement. If a conflict exists, the Grant Manager shall notify their immediate supervisor at the earliest opportunity. The supervisor is responsible to reassign the Agreement or coordinate with leadership and/or Legal to determine the appropriate resolution.

Frequency of annual monitoring activity:

Each year the FWC will conduct monitoring based on a "Risk Assessment". The risk assessment tool is used to help in determining the priority of Recipients that should be reviewed and the level of monitoring that should be performed. It is important to note that although a given grant may be closed, it is still subject to either desk or on-site monitoring for a five (5) year period following closure.

Areas that will be examined may include:

- Management and administrative procedures;
- Grant folder maintenance;
- Accounting system;
- Program for obsolescence;
- Status of expenditures;
- Status of planning, design and engineering activity;
- Anticipated projected completion;
- Difficulties encountered in completing projects;
- Agency NEPA/Section 7/EHP compliance documentation;
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO Status);
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Status);
- Procurement Policy
- Procurement documents
- Subcontractor agreements if applicable

FWC may request additional monitoring/information if the activity, or lack thereof, generates questions from the FL TIG, or FWC leadership. The method of gathering this information will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Desk monitoring is an on-going process. Recipients will be required to participate in desk top monitoring as determined by FWC. This contact will provide an opportunity to identify the need for technical assistance (TA) and/or a site visit if FWC determines that a Recipient is having difficulty completing their project.

As difficulties/deficiencies are identified, the respective Recipient will be notified by the program office via email. Information will include the Recipient agency name, year and project description and the nature of the issue in question. Many of the issues that arise may be resolved at the Recipient level. Issues that require further TA will be assisted by FWC grant program staff. Examples of TA include but are not limited to:

- Eligibility of items or services
- Coordination and partnership with other agencies
- Record Keeping
- Reporting Requirements
- Documentation in support of a Request for Reimbursement

On-Site Monitoring will be conducted by FWC or designated personnel. On-Site Monitoring visits will be scheduled in advance with the Recipient agency Point of Contact (POC) designated in the funding agreement.

FWC will also conduct coordinated financial and grant file monitoring. Subject matter experts from other agencies within the region or state may be called upon to assist in the form of a peer review as needed.

On-Site Monitoring Protocol:

On-Site Monitoring Visits will begin with those Recipients that are currently spending or have completed spending for that federal fiscal year (FFY) or state fiscal year (SFY), as applicable. Site visits may be combined when geographically convenient. There is a financial/programmatic on-site monitoring checklist to assist in the completion of all required tasks.

Site Visit Preparation:

A letter will be sent to the Recipient agency POC outlining the date, time and purpose of the site visit before the planned arrival date.

The appointment should be confirmed with the Recipient in writing (email is acceptable) and documented in the Recipient folder.

The physical location of the project if located at an alternate site should be confirmed with a representative from that location and the address should be documented in the Recipient folder before the site visit.

On-Site Monitoring Visit:

Once FWC personnel have arrived at the site, an orientation conference will be conducted. During this time, the purpose of the site visit and the items FWC intends to examine will be identified. All objectives of the site visit will be explained at this time.

FWC personnel will review all files and supporting documentation. Once the supporting documentation has been reviewed, a tour/visual/spot inspection of the project site will be conducted.

All project deliverables selected for review should be visually inspected whenever possible. Acknowledgement of project funding should be placed in a prominent location in accordance with applicable agreement provisions. Photographs should be taken of the project site, signage and any other relevant activity.

If a project deliverable is not available at the time of the site visit, the appropriate documentation must be provided to account for the project progress.

Other programmatic issues can be discussed at this time such as missing quarterly project progress reports, payment/voucher /reimbursement, etc.

Post Monitoring Visit:

FWC personnel will review the on-site monitoring documents and backup documentation as a team and discuss the events of the on-site monitoring.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the site visit, a post monitoring letter will be generated and sent to the Recipient explaining any issues and corrective actions required or recommendations. Should no issues or findings be identified, a post monitoring letter to that effect will be generated and sent to the Recipient. The Recipient will correct all deficiencies or submit a Corrective Action Plan within forty-five (45) calendar days of the monitoring letter date. Noncompliance on behalf of Recipients is resolved by FWC management under the terms of the Recipient Agreement.

The On-Site Monitoring report and all backup documentation will then be included in the Recipient's file.