



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7423 (NER - NRSCRA)
Ohio River Trail

OCT 31 2012

Dr. Vincent Troia
Ohio River Trail Council
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue
Monaca, PA 15061

Dear Dr. Troia:

Congratulations! The National Park Service's "Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program" (RTCA) is very pleased to announce an award of a third year of technical planning assistance to the Ohio River Trails. Thanks for your excellent application and inviting our continuing participation with your effort. We are proud to be able to provide support to your effort.

Our assistance will be guided by a work plan that we jointly create at the beginning of each year. The work plan will be based on the project goals noted in your application letter, including assistance with the Ohio River Water Trail map/guide development, startup of a Youth Paddling Program, fundraising, and implementing the FHWA-TCSP grant for land trail development.

Peggy Pings will be the RTCA project manager for your project and can be reached at 304-293-7528 or mpings@wvu.edu. Our assistance will be provided during the 2013 federal fiscal year, which began October 1, 2012, and ends September 30, 2013.

We consider our working relationship to be a partnership in which we work with you, not for you (as a consultant might). NPS technical assistance is represented by the time and resources our staff invest in each project. As RTCA staff members, we manage several projects concurrently throughout the year. In striving to meet the collective needs of all our partners, we will be as flexible as possible in meeting your own project needs. We will contact you soon to discuss your project and the timing for start-up meetings.

In return for NPS technical assistance, we ask the following of you and your project partners during our work together:

- At the start of the fiscal year, work with us to develop an annual work plan that identifies specific roles and tasks for project partners, public involvement and specific RTCA assistance;

- Identify and commit significant time and resources (financial, in-kind, overhead, etc.), along with other project partners, to match our assistance;
- Acknowledge and credit National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance in press releases, promotional materials, trailhead and welcoming signs, maps, and publications such as newsletters, surveys, brochures, and final planning documents;
- Provide copies of print and media news to our staff; and
- Provide copies of the final planning document and/or other project documents to our staff.

We encourage you and your partners to use the value of our technical assistance to leverage additional project resources and as a match for non-federal grants.

RTCA recognizes that community-driven planning projects that involve significant public outreach take time. If your project goals and outcomes are not realized this fiscal year, you may request another year of NPS assistance by submitting an "Application for Continued Assistance" by August 1, 2013. We typically provide assistance to a project for up to a total of two years.

In 2011, our partners across the country created over 1,900 miles of trails, conserved more than 33,000 acres of open space, and protected more than 1,900 miles of rivers. Congress measures our program's success by looking at the tangible, on-the-ground results (miles and acres) our partners have achieved five years after we complete our technical assistance. Keeping an on-going record of your project successes will help all of us report good results, especially as there are often changes in staff over time.

We look forward to a successful year of collaboration with you and your project partners. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 215-597-6477 or david_a_lange@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



David A. Lange, Program Leader
River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

cc:

Peggy Pings