

**The Water Economics, Policy and
Governance Network - Canadian Water
Network**

**CALL FOR RESEARCH
PROJECTS/PROPOSALS**

***“Research That Contributes To The Vitality And Sustainability Of The
Canadian Economy Through Enhanced Management And Governance
Of Canada's Waters”***

(Deadline for Proposal Submission, March 1, 2013)

The Water Economics, Policy and Governance Network (WEPGN), www.brocku.ca/wepgn, in collaboration with the Canadian Water Network (CWN), is currently soliciting Proposals for Research Projects.

The Call For Proposals

The current call for research proposals seeks to support research projects from teams that may be comprised of one or more researchers, along with research partners. (See SSHRC definition of partners, [www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx - a13](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx-a13)). The total amount of funding available for this “Call” is \$100,000 per year for two years (2013-2015).

Potential applicants are advised to review current research being undertaken by WEPGN members under the five research themes of:

- Role of Water in the Economy,
- Institution and Governance,
- Information and Decision-Making,
- Water Policy and Science,
- Survey Techniques and Methods.

More information on WEPGN’s research themes and existing projects is available at www.brocku.ca/wepgn.

To be eligible for this call, research proposals must do the following:

- Address the goals of SSHRC’s Partnership Grants program (http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/partnership_grants_loi-bourses_partenariat_li-eng.aspx)
- Contribute to WEPGN’s goals (www.brocku.ca/wepgn)
- Contribute to Partner goals and objectives.
- Demonstrate Partner support. Applicants must include at least one non-academic research partner who supports the project’s goals and pledges cash and/or in-kind contributions representing a minimum of 35 % of requested research funds.

Project duration may be between 12 to 24 months. The anticipated project start date is April 15, 2013 and the latest project end date is March 31, 2015.

Project Budget

WEPGN will consider proposals for research projects with budgets up to a maximum of \$25,000 annually.

Eligible expenses include:

- Student, research assistant and/or postdoctoral wages
- Travel and accommodations for research team members and project partners to the annual WEPGN workshop, as well as for participation at academic conferences
- Printing/communications expenses
- Materials and supplies directly related to research
- Field work, where necessary

Eligibility to Receive WEPGN Funds

As a condition of the funding, only the following persons can receive research funds from WEPGN as part of this proposal: any person employed or otherwise given academic status by a university, post- secondary educational institution, hospital, institute or other organization eligible to receive research funds from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Please go to the **SSHRC website** (www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/index-eng.aspx) for a complete explanation of eligibility.

Although only researchers meeting the SSHRC eligibility criteria may receive funds directly from WEPGN, projects are encouraged to include additional researchers and project collaborators if they can be supported by non-WEPGN funding through matching or leveraged funding generated by project teams.

Deadline for Submission

Proposals must be submitted by email to diane.dupont@brocku.ca no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time March 1, 2013. Confirmation of receipt of proposals will be sent within 72 hours. If a confirmation is not received, contact Diane Dupont at diane.dupont@brocku.ca or by telephone at 905-688-5550 x3129.

Important Dates

Milestone	Deadline
Proposal Submission Deadline	March 1, 2013
Funding Decision Notification	April 1, 2013
Project Duration (maximum)	April 2013 — March 2015

Background

In May 2012, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) awarded Brock University a Partnership Grant to support the establishment of the Water Economics, Policy and Governance Network (WEPGN). The overall objective of WEPGN is to carry out research that

contributes to the vitality and sustainability of the Canadian economy through enhanced management and governance of Canada's waters.

WEPGN's goals are to:

- Create a vibrant and multidisciplinary network of Partnerships amongst researchers, government agencies and community groups.
- Provide Insight by mobilizing knowledge from social sciences perspectives to improve our understanding of water's role in Canadian society and economy.
- Strengthen Connections by facilitating a multidirectional flow of knowledge amongst researchers and partners to promote more efficient and sustainable water management.
- Provide high-quality Training experiences for students and practitioners with interests in water policy decision-making and management.

WEPGN is currently comprised of 20 researchers, mostly from Canada, and approximately 35 partner organizations that include government agencies (at the municipal, provincial and federal levels), First Nations communities, research institutes, and industry groups. The research being undertaken by WEPGN members has been grouped into five research themes: Role of Water in the Economy, Institution and Governance, Information and Decision-Making, Water Policy and Science, and Survey Techniques and Methods. More information on WEPGN's research themes and activities is available at <website>.

The Canadian Water Network (CWN) <http://www.cwn-rce.ca>, is a federally-supported Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) dedicated to elevating the quality and effectiveness of research support for decisions dealing with critical issues of water management. CWN works closely with regulators, practitioners and industry representatives in the area of water management to identify key shared research and knowledge needs to achieve implementation of innovative management and technology options. CWN is a WEPGN partner. CWN believes that WEPGN will be able to accelerate the ability of CWN to deliver on its mandate of supporting improved decision making in relation to water management for the socioeconomic benefit of Canada. In order to directly support WEPGN, CWN has allocated research funding to this research call to support research activities identified by WEPGN in areas of defined mutual interest for water policy, governance or economics. The core areas of research activity identified by WEPGN contribute directly to CWN's overall goals and all declared theme areas have the potential to achieve desired outcomes in these areas.

Proposal Guidelines

1. Deadlines

The deadline for submitting proposals is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 1, 2013.

2. Forms

a) Email forms

The proposal involves two forms, which should be submitted by email to

1. WEPGNC1: Proposal Information Form (word document)
One copy of this form must be completed.
2. WEPGNC1: Budget, Applicants, HQP, Partners (excel spreadsheet)

One copy of this form must be completed.

b) Signature Forms

The following forms require signatures. Signed forms must be submitted in one of the following ways:

- faxed to WEPGN (care of Diane Dupont) at 905 688 6388;
- couriered/mailed to WEPGN, c/o Brock University, 500 Glenridge Ave. St. Catharines, ON, L2S 3A1; or scanned and emailed to diane.dupont@brocku.ca.

3. WEPGNC1: Applicant Signature Form

The applicant must sign one copy of this form. In the case of co-applicants, each co-applicant must sign a separate copy of this form.

c) Additional Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents must be submitted in one of the following ways:

- faxed to WEPGN (care of Diane Dupont) at 905 688 6388;
- couriered/mailed to WEPGN, c/o Brock University, 500 Glenridge Ave. St. Catharines, ON, L2S 3A1; or scanned and emailed to diane.dupont@brocku.ca

4. SSHRC CVs for each funded applicant/co-applicant listed in the “Applicant-Co-applicants” tab of the WEPGNC1: Budget, Applicants, HQP, Partners form

5. Letters of support from partners contributing either cash or in-kind support are mandatory. Additional letters of in-kind support or contributions may also be provided where deemed helpful to corroborating key statements of value, user interest, or unique contributions, as outlined in the main proposal. Please ensure that all letters of support clearly indicate the proposal title in the subject line.

Only proposals submitted using the designated WEPGN forms above will be considered. Additional information submitted outside of the forms will not be considered in the proposal review.

3. Budget, Applicant(s), HQP, and Partners Form

The following sections are included in the form WEPGN Budget, Applicants, HQP, Partners. **Note that the form contains four tabs that must be completed.**

Budget

Enter the requested information and any appropriate notes. The budget must be consistent with the work proposed and be realistic for the work proposed.

Applicant(s)

Enter amounts for each applicant who will receive WEPGN funding as part of the project if funded.

Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)

Enter the name, role, and affiliation for all HQP. If the name of the person is not yet known, enter TBD (to be decided).

Partners

Enter the requested information for all partners, including the names of intended partner organizations, a brief description of the nature of their contribution, and their cash, cash equivalent, or in-kind contributions.

Requirement for Partner Participation

This research call has a formal requirement for partner support to the project in the form of either cash, cash- equivalent (e.g. payroll infrastructure) or in-kind (e.g. contribution of time and professional input from salaried staff) contributions. These must be a minimum of 35% of the funding requested from WEPGN.

Where partners have expressed the desire and willingness to support the proposed project (cash, cash-equivalent or in-kind contributions), signed letters indicating this willingness should be included in the project proposal.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the WEPGN Research Management Committee (RMC) according to the following criteria with weights identified for each component:

1. Overall Fit with Scope of the Call (25%)

The Proposal contributes to achieving WEPGN's goals, particularly that of broadening and strengthening the Network via the inclusion of new researchers and partners and to supporting, and to achieving SSHRC Partnership Grant objectives. Preference will be given to research proposals that bring new researchers and partners to WEPGN and to projects that support the continued development of the Network.

2. Targeting of Outcomes and Demonstrated Partner Relevance (25%)

The Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of how the outcomes of the proposed research project will directly address partner needs.

3. Scientific Excellence of the Research (15%)

The proposed research plan and methodology demonstrates the appropriate use and/or application of innovative/state-of-the-art research/analysis and scientific excellence in the overall approach.

4. Strength and Excellence of the Project Team (15%)

The proposed research team (including extended project partnerships) demonstrates the necessary excellence and breadth of experience and skill sets to conduct the work.

5. Development of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) (5%)

The project offers opportunities for students or others to obtain training and partner interactions that will contribute to broadening the experience and capacity of those involved in the project.

6. Project Management Capacity (5%)

The project indicates a clear plan and capacity to manage the various complementary

elements of the project and ensure the project proceeds on time and on budget and achieves the key milestones.

7. Appropriateness of Budget (10%)

The budget request is appropriate to the proposed scope and intended outcomes and effectively leverages existing partner resources to demonstrate a clear ability to support the planned work and achieve specified outcomes.

Project Reporting Requirements:

Successful projects will be required to reports over the life of the project. These reports will include:

1. **Annual report.** The research team will submit an annual report detailing the academic outputs, as well as outputs and outcomes for project partners in a format that will be specified by the WEGPN Board.
2. **Final report.** One month after the project end date, the research team will be required to submit a final project report detailing the academic outputs, as well as outputs and outcomes for project partners in a format which will be specified by the WEPGN Board.
3. **SSHRC reporting.** An essential and important component of WEPGN's commitment to SSHRC is the provision of a variety of reports. These reports are used to determine whether grants are being used for the intended purpose, the role and contributions of partners and to monitor progress against objectives. As such, an obligation for all researchers receiving WEPGN funds is to provide the required information about their project during and after project completion so that WEPGN can satisfy its reporting obligations to SSHRC.

Other reporting requirements may be added by the Network.

Other Project Requirements

All funded projects will be reviewed on an annual basis and continued funding will be contingent upon acceptable progress towards identified outcomes. Researchers are expected to work collaboratively with other members of WEPGN and attend the annual WEPGN meetings (in person or via teleconference) at the outset of their projects and at regular intervals during their funded research programs. The first such meeting will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in conjunction with the Canadian Water Resources Association meetings (May 26-30, 2013).

Form

Only Proposals submitted using the Proposals Form will be considered. Carefully read the instructions included on the Form, and complete it as directed. Descriptive sections of the Proposal form have space limits; fields expand only up to the specified word count. Tables or figures may be used if desired, but must be legible and accommodated within the page limit. Proponents may copy and paste text into the form, but text must be in an easily legible, minimum 11-point, font. The form

can be found at: www.cwn-rce.ca and www.brocku.ca/wepgn.

Inquiries and Assistance

For inquiries and assistance on application materials, please contact Diane Dupont at diane.dupont@brocku.ca or at 905 688 5550 x 3129.