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Questions Posed to the Highlands Council
by Potential Respondents to the Request for Proposals to
Develop a Regional Interactive
Environmental Resource Inventory ("ERI")
February 21, 2019

Question #1:

Who developed the existing Regional Interactive Map and Credit Estimator Applications?

Response #1:

The Regional Interactive Map and Credit Estimator applications were developed by Highlands Council GIS staff. Outside consulting services currently provide ongoing maintenance and updates.

Question #2:

For the Interactive ERI, does the Highlands Council have a preferred platform (i.e. Esri ArcGIS Online, Open Source, other)?

Response #2:

There is no particular platform that is preferred by the Highlands Council.

Question #3:

Can the Highlands Council define the meaning of "ability to add and remove datasets" listed in section 2I? Is it defined as turning on or off datasets or the ability to add a new dataset that is not included in the application's table of contents?

Response #3:

The Highlands Council wishes to have the ability to add/remove/update datasets as needed from within the application without the need for outside consulting services on an ongoing basis.

Question #4:

Is it a requirement for users to login and have access to their municipality via a named user?

Response #4:

No, the Interactive ERI will be publically accessible with no login required. However, it is expected that municipal users would have unique URLs and a customized interface. See the response to Q6 below.

Question #5:

Under 2C, the RFP states: "*The interactive ERI shall be designed to calculate datasets upon request at the parcel, multiple parcel, municipal, county, watershed (HUC14 and HUC11) and Highland region levels*". Can you please defined the terms "calculate datasets"?

Response #5:

Ideally, the application should be able to process user requests and produce results at the parcel, municipal, county and watershed levels, using the most up-to-date live data available. For example, if NJDEP makes an update to a data layer, this data layer should be seamlessly incorporated into the interactive ERI application, rather than using preprocessed data tables to provide these results. The Highlands Council recognizes that this type of processing may not be realistic due to the amount of time required for "on-the-fly" processing for certain geographic areas, such as the entire region and certain datasets that are static, and would look to the Consultant for guidance on what is realistic in processing data "real time" while keeping the user experience and budget in mind. The Highlands Council is open to the Consultant's recommended approach to best accomplish this objective.

Question #6:

Under 2D, the RFP states: "*Each of the municipalities located within the Highlands region shall be supplied with a customized interactive map portal with its own unique URL that can be accessed by end users free of charge.*" Is it the intent that each municipality would be provided its own application or a single application that "zooms" to the municipal extent, similar to a bookmark?

Response #6:

Municipalities would use a single application that zooms to the municipal extent, however each municipality would also have a unique URL and customized design. The intent is to provide each municipality with an individualized user experience, including a splash page and the ability to visualize non-spatial data. However, the Highlands Council is open to other options that would return the same user experience.

Question #7:

Under E-6, the RFP states: *"The ability to derive attribute table reports from single and multiple parcels. This functionality extends to creating summarized reports of all spatial, tabular and graphical data in a municipality, county, watershed (HUC14 and HUC11) and at the scale of the entire Highlands region."* Is it envisioned that the reports list selected attributes from the datasets with a map or will a spatial analysis need to be performed to generate a new dataset? Are there any examples of existing reports?

Response #7:

Reports should list the selected attributes with the appropriate values, based on the selected feature(s). A spatial analysis will be needed to avoid using pre-processed data; however, it is not a requirement that new permanent data needs to be created. The Highlands Council is open to other ideas on how to accomplish this objective.

Question #8:

The RFP states in Scope of Services (II) Part D:
D. Each of the municipalities located within the Highlands region shall be supplied with a customized interactive map portal with its own unique URL that can be accessed by end users free of charge.

What is meant by **customized interactive map portal**? Is it just a specific URL for each municipality that zooms to that municipality?

Response #8:

See the response to Q6 above.

Question #9:

The RFP states in Scope of Services (II) Part I:
I. The Highlands Council shall retain the ability to add and remove datasets from the ERI interactive map.

Is this a functionality to be built into the application? It seems the requirement is for NJ Highlands staff to be able to choose which layers are visible in the application.

Response #9:

See the response to Q3 above.

Question #10:

The RFP states in Scope of Services (II) Part E, 5:
5. Provide linked metadata for each layer within the application.

Will NJ Highlands provide all metadata to be linked?

Response #10:

The Highlands Council will provide metadata for datasets where the Council is the steward. The Consultant is expected to provide metadata for datasets originating from other sources.

Complete RFP can be found at the link below:
www.nj.gov/njhighlands/news/rfps/eri/eri_rfp.pdf