



CHRISTIAN COUNTY *Resource Management Department*

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Ozark, MO 65721

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January 8, 2026

MoDNR Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant

Commissioners,

Last year, the Planning Department partnered with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments in applying for a planning grant to assist in updating our stormwater management plan and to make improvements to our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. We were successful in obtaining this funding and plan to move forward in 2026.

This project will involve hiring a consultant to assist in completing this project. Attached is a copy of the RFQ which outlines the scope of work to be performed.

Several important things to note are:

1. This grant has no required match coming from the County. All expenditures will be paid out of the grant award.
2. This grant is being administered by SMOG on our behalf. There will be no funds dispersed directly to the County and no reporting required on our end.
3. SMOG will be handling the solicitation for professional services and we will provide input on the selection of the engineering firm.

I am requesting your approval of this Memorandum of Understanding which simply confirms our arrangement with SMOG and allows us to move forward.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd M. Wiesehan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Todd M Wiesehan, Director

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES:

CHRISTIAN COUNTY MS4 COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) and the County of Christian, Missouri (Christian County) request qualifications for professional engineering services to assist in updating Christian County's stormwater management plan and improving its MS4 program. Primarily, the firm will be responsible for conducting research and analysis, updating the stormwater management plan, public involvement, and updating County policy and procedure regarding stormwater management. These services are to be partially financed with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) money provided through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) in partnership with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG).

Background and Purpose

Based on the 2020 census data, Christian County's population is 88,842 with eight incorporated municipalities: Billings, Clever, Fremont Hills, Highlandville, Nixa, Ozark, Sparta, and Saddlebrook. Christian County features rolling hills as well as steep bluffs and valleys. It is also home to creeks, caves, and sinkholes. The variances of elevation throughout the county create steep slopes that can pose potential stormwater and flooding hazards. Much of Christian County is considered a sensitive karst region, with approximately 661 sinkholes recorded to-date. The four watersheds within Christian County are the Sac River, Spring River, James River, and Bulls Shoals Lake watersheds. The current Christian County Stormwater Management Plan identifies the need to coordinate the requirements of the TMDLs established for James River, though it does not specify strategies to address impaired waters in the County which may impact the James River. It is crucial to preserve and monitor watersheds to ensure that the groundwater and comprising bodies of water are not contaminated by harmful pollutants. The requested updates to the Christian County Stormwater Management Plan will include actionable strategies and specific best management practices for the County to address and prevent impaired water bodies, thereby enhancing or preserving the quality of the County's watersheds and groundwater.

The project's overall goal is to improve the plan utilized for stormwater management and to provide better staff and community resources, providing a long-term benefit to protect the key James River and White River basins. This project will allow the County to accelerate its MS4 program to identify sources of stormwater pollution, raise public awareness of the problems associated with stormwater, reduce illicit discharges and obtain tools such as GIS and enhanced mapping to help mitigate many existing stormwater issues.

Scope of Work

The selected engineering firm shall aid the County in development of an updated comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for the area to inform their efforts to address and prevent impaired waters as well as ensuring maintained compliance with the County's MS4 Permit. In general, the updated plan shall allow the County to implement identified best management practices to reduce stormwater and sediment runoff in disturbed or impacted stream habitats. The plan will feature a feasibility study for proposed water quality improvements and preliminary engineering designs may be prepared by the selected firm to assist in future plan implementation. The updated Christian County Stormwater Management Plan will specifically address Woods Fork Creek in south central Christian County, which has been identified on Missouri's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The proposed project will also aid in updating the County's stormwater system mapping, procedures for reporting and enforcing the County's stormwater ordinance, and training for staff for illicit discharge reduction. At least one public engagement event will be held to gather community feedback and input on identified areas of concern and proposed plan solutions.

The short term benefits of this project will include the development of a more comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan which will identify measures necessary to reduce the level of pollution in Woods Fork Creek and maintain Christian County's compliance with their MS4 Permit. The Plan will also provide updated data and stormwater system mapping which will support the County's stormwater management efforts for years to

come. The long term benefits of this project include the removal of Woods Fork Creek from Missouri's 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies and increased ability of the County to address other impaired water bodies located within their jurisdiction in the future. Overall, the completed project will significantly improve Christian County's ability to manage stormwater issues and maintain MS4 compliance.

The successful firm may provide the following services including, but not limited to:

Update the existing plan:

- Analyze previous studies on sources of problems within Christian County's stormwater systems through site investigations and observation of existing conditions.
- Develop feasibility study utilizing site investigations and field observations to identify areas of poor water quality and deficient stormwater infrastructure
- Update and enhance stormwater system mapping via aerial maps, USGS maps, and provide GIS for crucial stormwater system elements
- Identification of strategies, best management practices, and/or infrastructure improvements to address known impairments (e.g. Woods Fork Creek)
- Identification of best management practices for point and nonpoint source pollution
- Recommendations and alternative solutions (with cost estimates)
- Identification of future funding mechanisms for implementation
- Preliminary engineering design (if necessary) to be used for implementation

Additional project components and MS4 compliance:

- Community engagement, including at least one public hearing
- Staff training for illicit discharge reduction
- Updating procedures for reporting and enforcing the County's stormwater ordinance
- Increase public outreach in issues regarding stormwater quality and facilitate at least one public hearing to ensure the public is informed and to provide opportunities for input. Public outreach will include efforts to educate citizens, developers, students, and contractors of the impact of stormwater pollution on the environment and how the public can help to mitigate these issues.
- Potentially reduce illicit discharges to the stormwater system through staff training, updating procedures for reporting and enforcing Christian County's stormwater ordinance, and assist in establishing penalties for offenders

In general, through the requested engineering services, the County will be able to rewrite and expand its stormwater management plan and resources. Better mapping, documented staff training and other evidence should be notable. Completion of this project should accelerate Christian County's MS4 program to identify sources of stormwater pollution, maintain compliance with the County's MS4 permit, raise public awareness of the problems associated with stormwater, reduce illicit discharges and obtain tools such as GIS and enhanced mapping to help mitigate many existing stormwater issues.

Required Information

Information provided to SMCOG and the County must include at a minimum:

1. A description of the firm including the company's size, location, nature of work performed, and the company's approach to meeting the County's needs for the project

2. The specialized experience and technical competence of the firm with respect to storm water system management improvements or related work
3. The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, prior to September 30, 2027
4. The past record of performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules
5. The firm's proximity to and familiarity with the area in which the project is located
6. References from previous clients of related work with the firm within the past five years
7. Documentation of compliance with E-Verify requirements

Submissions

The firm will be selected based on the above qualifications. SMCOG may negotiate a contract rate with the selected firm based on experience and qualifications. Through the grant funding awarded by MoDNR, \$45,000 is available for the requested contractual services. Any project costs above the funding awarded, Christian County will determine if local funds are available.

The above information must be submitted to the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments no later than DATE/TIME via email or parcel services to the addresses listed below. Physical submissions must include at least one printed copy and one digital copy provided on a USB drive.

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments

**c/o MSU-CRPM
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897**

or

email:

KelsiWalker@MissouriState.edu

For more information, please contact SMCOG's Grants and Environmental Manager, Kelsi Walker, at 417-836-3031 or KelsiWalker@MissouriState.edu

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments is an Equal Opportunity Employer and invites the submission of proposals from all qualified entities, including minority, women, and Section 3-owned firms.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered by and between the County of Christian, Missouri (Christian County) and the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) and is effective as of this 8th day of January, 2026.

WHEREAS, the SMCOG has received funding from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Program, a recipient of federal grant funding, to finance the development of an updated comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for the county, predicated upon this agreement between Christian County and SMCOG;

WHEREAS, Christian County agrees to provide the data, resources, and staff time necessary to coordinate with SMCOG to complete the Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning project;

WHEREAS, SMCOG will assist in providing data, resources, and staff time as necessary and conduct all grant financial management, procurement, administration, reporting, and closeout processes;

WHEREAS, Christian County is not required to provide cash or in-kind match for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, Christian County and the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments do hereby agree to the terms set forth in this memorandum of understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement the day and year first above written.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY:

By: [Signature] 1/8/26
Lynn Morris, Presiding Commissioner Date

By: [Signature] 1-8-2026
Bradley A. Jackson, Eastern Commissioner Date

By: [Signature] 1-8-26
Johnny Williams, Western Commissioner Date

Attest: [Signature] 1-13-26
Paula Brumfield, County Clerk Date

SMCOG:

By: [Signature] 1/13/26
Jason Ray, Executive Director Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature] 12/30/25
N. Austin Fax, Attorney at Law Date
901 E. St. Louis Street, 20th Floor
Springfield, MO 65806
Phone: 417.866.7777 Ext. 253
Fax: 417.866.1752