

# Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force Meeting

April 22, 2020

By WebEx conference



# Agenda

9am-1pm

- Welcome and introduction
- Updates to HAB Resource Guide
- Discussion of initial recommendations and next steps
- Action items for next meeting
- Closing remarks



# FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE TECHNICAL REPORTS

## Resource Guide for Public Health Response to Harmful Algal Blooms in Florida

Based on Recommendations of the  
Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force Public Health Technical Panel



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission



FWRI Technical Report TR-14

2009

- Convened HAB Task Force Public Health Technical Panel in 2004 with approval of FWRI Director
- Support addressing 2c of Task Force statute
- Hosted two workshops Sept 2005 and Aug 2006 with over 90 participants
- Identified information and resource needs to develop local response capacity for county public health departments to HABs
- 2009 published resource guide Update
- 2019 – requests for updated resource guide from agencies, public, and other stakeholders
- Update will support Task Force consensus recommendations
- Online technical report model for “living” resource guide with annual chapter updates
- Authors will be reaching out to potential contributors/respective agencies and authorities



# HAB Task Force

## Where are we?

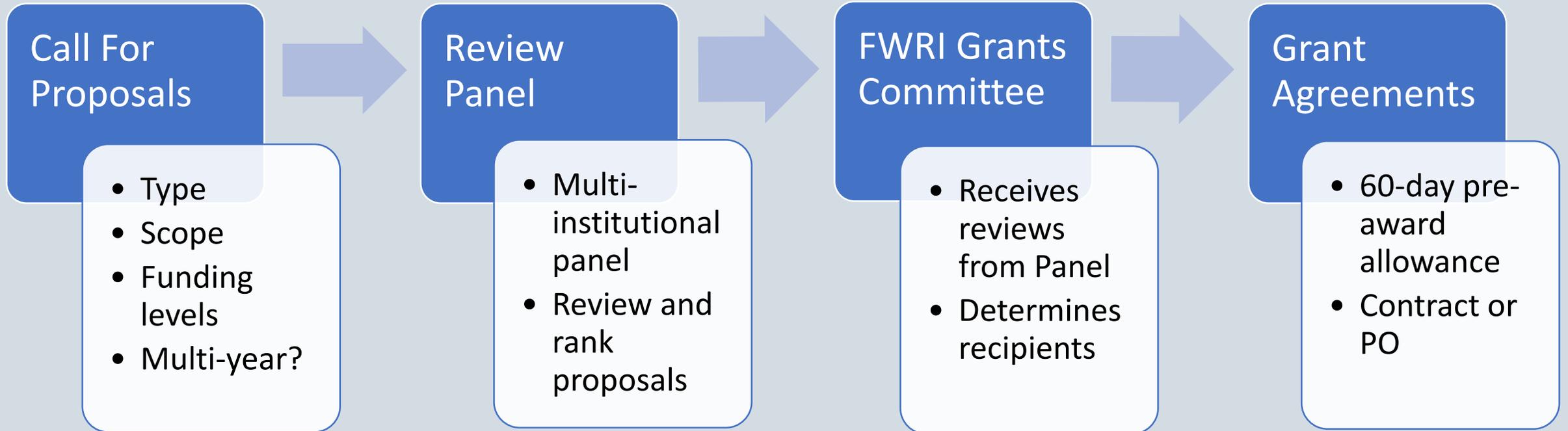
- Initial recommendations
- Pending state budget for 2020-21
  - Enhances Florida's Cooperative HAB Monitoring Program
  - Provides continued support for HAB Task Force

## What are our next steps?

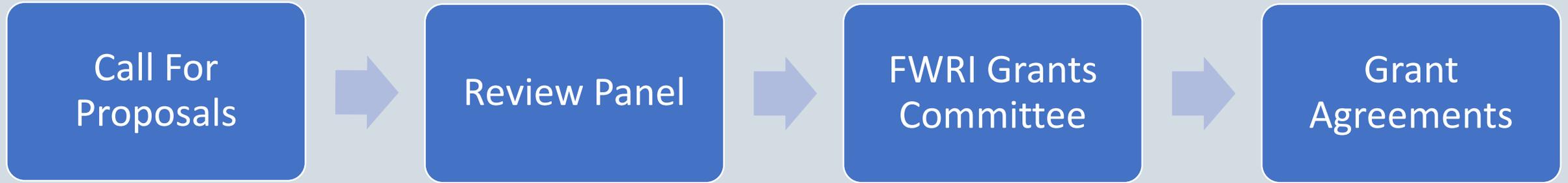
- Initiate discussion of recommendations
- Determine where we can make the most difference
- How to apply HAB Grant funds



# FWRI Grants Program (FWC Grants Program, FAC Rule 68-1.003)



# FWRI Grants Program



## HAB Task Force role:

1. Determine scope of Call for Proposals i.e., identify priorities for funding
2. Comment on review criteria
3. Recommend external reviewers including one HABTF member to serve as reviewer

## FWRI role:

1. Manage call for proposals
  - April-May
2. Coordinate external reviews
  - May-Jun
3. FWRI Grants Committee makes final determination of awards
  - June
4. Manage funding contracts
  - July 1, 2020-

# Grant Types

**1. General.** Because of the diversity of the FWRI's programs and activities, grants may be available for projects in a broadly defined area where specific information required by the FWRI has not been fully identified, and any potential and eligible applicant for the grant program may submit proposals.

**2. Targeted.** Because of the nature of a project, a grant may be targeted to a specific pre-qualified applicant that possesses the specialized knowledge, skills and capabilities required to perform the scope of the work.

**3. Limited Request For Proposals.** Grants may be available for projects for which the most likely applicant has not been already identified, but for which specific detailed qualifications or knowledge are required. In such cases, the FWRI will issue a Limited Request for Proposals (LRFP) to solicit proposals from pre-qualified applicants. The FWRI Grants Committee shall determine which pre-qualified applicants will be notified based on previous experience and input from Commission staff. Pre-qualified applicants will be notified of LRFPs that fall within their area of expertise or specialty.

# Consensus Document Recommendations

## Public Health

1. The DOH should identify specific research needs regarding the short-term and long-term health impacts from exposures to brevetoxins (via dermal contact, ingestion, or inhalation) and prioritize research projects and epidemiological studies that address these needs.
2. DOH, with professional health associations, should develop a more aggressive training program for the state's health care professionals to improve diagnosis and reporting of HAB-related illnesses.

## Communications

3. FWC and DEP, working together with DOH, DACS, and other state partners and stakeholders, should establish a working group representing scientists, resource managers, and communications specialists to 1) review current communication and outreach strategies and tools that address red tides; 2) conduct focus groups and social science studies to identify information needed by the public and the most effective models for messaging and disseminations; 3) develop a plan to accurately and appropriately communicate risks, hazards, and other key information to all stakeholders during red tides; 4) create a long-term educational campaign that engenders a better-informed public across all age groups and demographics; and 5) establish and maintain a repository of shared resources to promote accurate and consistent messaging.
4. DEP and FWC, along with other partners involved in response to red tide, should build on the "Protecting Florida Together" water quality dashboard and continue the ongoing effort to provide the public with a single web-based portal for timely information on the multiple HABs that affect Florida, as well as develop a data portal to be shared among state agencies and partners addressing water quality.

## Management and Response

5. FWC and DEP, working together with DOH, DACS, and other state partners and stakeholders, should review current practices and develop a comprehensive, statewide response plan that 1) incorporates a tiered approach for routine and event-driven monitoring; 2) identifies triggers for actions; 3) outlines a coordinated, interagency strategy for communication during emergencies; and 4) includes a best practice guide for local communities that defines roles and responsibilities.
6. FWC should work with the US IOOS Regional Associations to design and develop a robust, statewide, integrated coastal and ocean monitoring system that incorporates emerging technologies to expand multiparameter observations with an emphasis on new sensors for HAB cells and toxins in air and water.
7. DEP should provide clear guidance for developing, testing, and applying technologies for the mitigation and control of algal blooms. Guidelines should outline benchmarks that will streamline permitting and facilitate implementation of effective and efficient projects. This program also should address permitting requirements for large-scale efforts to control blooms, including those that are classed as an emergency or fall outside state waters.
8. FWC and DEP, working together with DOH, DACS, Department of Economic Opportunity, other partners, and relevant stakeholders, should engage with health and economic specialists to assess and guide development of tools and metrics to estimate the broad economic impacts of red tides from year to year.

## Research

9. FWC, with existing and new partners, should establish and sustain cross-shelf (coastal and offshore) surveys until our understanding of the factors that initiate red tides and control bloom dynamics is sufficient to develop effective management.
10. FWC, with existing and new partners, should identify projects that address multiple stakeholder needs by developing a suite of models to better predict short-term (days) and long-term (seasonal) bloom dynamics, onshore and inland transport of brevetoxins in air, and the roles of nutrient inputs and climate change in exacerbating *K. brevis* blooms and their impacts.
11. FWC, with existing and new partners, should identify projects that will improve or develop and implement capabilities for real-time detection of *K. brevis* in water and brevetoxins in both water and air.
12. The Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development and other partners should receive sustained funding to test strategies and approaches for mitigating and controlling blooms at multiple spatial scales.