

Town Creek Foundation
Fund for Support of MCCC Working Groups

We are pleased to share information about an opportunity that the Town Creek Foundation has established to help support the work of the Climate Change Commission.

Through a grant to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences, Town Creek has established a fund of \$100,000 that can be used to support work that will advance the Commission's priorities by assisting the working groups in completing their work plans.

We've asked UMCES to establish the administrative and decision making infrastructure to implement this fund. It is our expectation that this will include a committee to review and make decisions on proposals that have been received, and also that UMCES will exercise administrative oversight for the work that the fund supports (e.g. contract with vendors, etc.).

Our intention is for the fund to operate in the following fashion:

- UMCES establishes a review committee to oversee the operation of the fund;
- The review committee develops a request for proposals (RFP) that provides examples of the kinds of initiatives that the fund would support and describes the submission and review process for proposals;
- The Working Group Chairs review the RFP and decide, with their working groups, whether they would want to submit proposals and, if so, what their request/s will be;
- The Commission Steering Committee endorses and submits proposals developed by the Working Groups;
- The Review Committee reviews the proposals and decides how to allocate the funds; and
- UMCES exercises administrative and logistical oversight over the work supported by the funds (e.g. contracting with vendors, etc.) and has standard grant reporting responsibilities to the Town Creek Foundation.

We've structured the fund's operations in this way in order to achieve two objectives. First, we want to insure that the funds are used for work that the Commission believes to be supportive of its priorities. This is why we would have the proposals endorsed and submitted by the Commission Steering Committee. Second, we want to insure that the funds are disbursed in a manner that comports with our own principles of good grantmaking. This is why we've asked UMCES to establish a review committee to make grant decisions.

We hope that fund will make a small contribution to advancing the important work of the Climate Commission in the 2016 – 2017 period. We would, of course, be happy to respond to any questions that anyone may have.

