



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation

CSO Informational Study RFP

The Erb Family Foundation's ("Foundation") mission is to advance an environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant metropolitan Detroit and a flourishing Great Lakes ecosystem. The Foundation is committed to Great Lakes water quality, and the elimination of Combined Sewer Overflows into the Detroit River is one area of our strategy.

DWSD has significantly reduced CSOs over the past several years through new infrastructure and is making further strides through its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit and improved practices and policies. The new GLWA Wastewater Masterplan includes CSO reduction in its regional framework for improving water quality. The Long Term CSO Control Plan will provide further specifics.

To inform our foundation's strategies on how to most cost effectively reduce CSOs, the Erb Family Foundation wishes to retain a water resources engineering firm to study data readily available from DWSD, GLWA, and possibly other sources¹ (we are not commissioning engineering designs, modeling, or special calculations) to address the following questions:

1. What are the primary sources of the remaining untreated and treated CSO discharge events in the Detroit River system?
2. How do GLWA and DWSD plan to eliminate the remaining CSOs? Is that their intent and what are their respective plans and timelines for eliminating CSOs?
3. What is the relative contribution of untreated CSOs v. treated CSOs? (hereafter, our references to CSOs refers to both where relevant)
4. What are the barriers to eliminating CSOs by 2040? To reducing CSOs by half by 2030? What are the approximate costs?
5. What are the top ten to twenty projects that would most cost-effectively eliminate CSOs by 2040? Cut them in half by 2030?
6. How much CSO reduction could be achieved through efforts to address unutilized capacity in the system?

¹ The University of Michigan Water Center, Wayne State University Healthy Urban Waters Center, and others have conducted research on CSOs with funding from the Foundation.

7. How do GLWA and DWSD plans address inflow and infiltration and how will that impact CSOs? How many gallons of drinking water are leaking from pipes and potentially infiltrating the sanitary and stormwater sewer systems?
8. How many gallons of stormwater need to be removed from the system to eliminate CSOs? Is there a role for GSI and if so what and with what economic assumptions?
9. How do DWSD and GLWA plans account for the impact of climate change on CSOs over the next 20 years?
10. Is there real time data related to capacity utilization in the whole system? Can CSO information and data be made available to the public in real time? Are there gaps in knowledge where system-side data analytics and methods be helpful to solving this challenge?

Keep in mind that the Erb Family Foundation is interested in Great Lakes water quality and we would like the questions answered from that perspective. We are interested in the permit as it might drive CSO reduction only; our questions are not geared toward permit compliance or improving local water quality or land use.

The successful engineering firm² will complete this work no later than October 1, 2021. Deliverables will be a final report and slide presentation on or before October 1, 2021, with a draft report submitted 2 weeks in advance of the final report for review and input by the Foundation.

To respond to this RFP send a written proposal to: Neil Hawkins, President, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation at nhawkins@erbff.org no later than March 1, 2021. The proposal should be no more than 10 pages and include qualifications of the firm, proposed methodology, questions to be answered, potential data and information sources, detailed timeline and fees. Append CVs for research team members (not counted towards the 10 page limit).

² We will not consider firms currently involved with engineering the regional GLWA system or the DWSD system.