**Synthesis product for Actionable Science – Anacostia River**

In this second phase, you are asked to bring together data, evidence and arguments from two or more different disciplines or domains in order to better understand and resolve the core problem. As a culminating step in this phase, please produce a White Paper to share your synthesis of ideas from the different disciplines and use this to support claims and recommendations for action. Your White Paper should include the following components:

1. Primary data or evidence from several disciplines relevant and important for addressing the core problem in the Anacostia River Case, specifically the approaches and mechanisms suggested for alleviating the problem of runoff flow into the Anacostia River.
2. A synthesis of these data, based on your own work and readings in the literature, in the form of scientific arguments: that is, with claims supported by reasoning. Use of what you learned during our site visits plus synthetic variable, graphics and data from large datasets is recommended.
3. Recommendations for actions needed to resolve the core problem.
4. Graphics and other forms of communication targeted at two audiences: a) decision makers or the general public (i.e., people with limited background in the topic), and b) scholars interested in the problem but without expertise in all of the fields involved.
5. Explanation of the limitations of the evidence you present and suggestions for improvement.

Your White Paper should address the following questions:

1. What evidence is available from all of the disciplines you considered that is salient (important and significant) to the core problem?
2. What ideas from these disciplines provide the rationale or reasoning for why this evidence is applicable to the problem?
3. What are the standards of evidence and argument from the discipline that must be met when addressing your core problem?
4. What are the limits of the evidence and arguments and how do these constrain conclusions and/or suggest needs for additional work in the area?
5. What is required to make the science and scholarship you synthesized “actionable?”
6. What do people – other scholars and non-scientists (decision makers) need to know in order to better understand and act upon the problem?

Here is the suggested White Paper Format:

**A. Introduction/Summary**

Having this at the beginning of the paper will help busy readers quickly grasp what you are trying to say. It needs only be about 2-3 sentences.

## B. Description of Problem, Need or Value

1. What are the problems, needs and/or values that justify the project?

2. Who specifically experiences this problem or need and/or supports the value?

3. What data exists that validates your perception of the problem, need or value?

4. How will the problem, need or value change through this project?

## C. Overview of the Organization

1. What is the mission and history the institution?

2. What impact have its past programs and services had?

3. What are the institution’s member qualifications to accomplish this project?

## D. Overview of Proposed Project

1. What is the basic purpose of the project?

2. Who will benefit from it? Describe the geographic area and population to be served.

3. How does this project help fulfill the institution’s mission and fit into the framework of its other programs?

4. How is this project unique? Is it similar to other programs but covers a different area? Does it employ a new approach?

5. Why does this project deserve prioritization more than others competing for attention?

6. What is the marketing mix: product, price, promotion, place and position?

### **E. Project Activities and Timeline**

1. What exactly must be done in order to achieve the desired outcomes?

2. When will this project be implemented? Will it occur over a discrete time period or be an ongoing service?

3. Who will carry out project activities? What are their qualifications?

### **F. Outcomes**

1. What immediate and long-range results are expected? Will these results help the institution and others? Change children’s lives, the Washington, DC community and the world?

2. How will the results impact your constituents or community?

3. How serious are the need and necessity for immediate action?

### **G. Evaluation**

1. By what criteria will the success or failure of this project be measured?

2. What techniques or tools will be used to evaluate?

3. Who will do the evaluation? When and how often will they do it?

4. How will evaluation results be used? Who will see evaluations?

### **H. Funding**

1. What is the anticipated total budget for this project? Give a complete budget breakdown.

2. Where will the funding come from?

**I. Conclusion and Works Cited**

Summarize the above, and include your works cited at the end.