

## **Request for Seed Grant Proposals in Support of Critical Zone Science in the Susquehanna Shale Hills CZO**

The Susquehanna Shale Hills Critical Zone Observatory (SSHO) is pleased to be able to offer 1 year grants to facilitate scientific investigations within the SSHO. This program is designed to foster participation from researchers and educators who are not presently funded within the CZO – and especially from outside Penn State -- to accomplish work that complements ongoing research. We are especially interested in proposals that facilitate cross-site investigations between SSHO and other CZO programs.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. We anticipate funding 1 or more awards this year with the total award amount up to \$20K (if multiple awards are awarded, each award will be less). We seek proposals with an ecological, geophysical, or hydrological focus that further Critical Zone science in the full observatory, which includes Shale Hills and the Garner Run sandstone catena. Activities might include *i*) cross cutting projects between CZOs or *ii*) measurements that address cross cutting questions for the CZO network; or *iii*) projects that bring in a larger diversity of scientists and especially students. Please note that grants may not be used for acquisition of capital equipment. We particularly encourage seed grant proposals from undergraduate or minority-serving institutions. Grantees will be chosen by the Steering Committee with input from appropriate team members. Criteria for choosing successful proposals will include scientific soundness, novelty, record of productivity, student participation, correspondence to ongoing SSHO and CZO network activities, and significance of proposed research.

To apply, please send a proposal, with the following sections in this order, to Bradley King ([bt5004@psu.edu](mailto:bt5004@psu.edu)) and Jennifer Williams ([jzw126@psu.edu](mailto:jzw126@psu.edu)):

*Statement of Proposed Work* including answers to these questions: What work is proposed and brief description of how this fits in with previous work at the CZO or elsewhere? Why is this important? How will work be completed? When will work be completed? Where will work be completed? Who will do the work? (2 pages max)

*Proposed SSHO Interactions* including answers to these questions: How will the proposed research or education or outreach activity fit into ongoing activities at SSHO? What will the proposer need from the SSHO team (appropriate remuneration may be needed if the proposed work includes a significant time or resource commitment)? How does the proposer expect to publish their work (propose an approach toward potential co-authorship if appropriate)? How will the proposer comply with the NSF mandate to archive all samples? Does the proposer promise to put all collected data online at our CZO website? (1 page max)

*Results of prior support to work on SSHO* (if applicable): please indicate what publications have been completed or in press and what public presentations have been made. Note that normally, new grants will not be made to a repeat proposer unless publications are in press.

*Official Detailed Budget* with budget justification

*CV of proposer* (2 pages max): in NSF format

*Summary of proposer's current/pending support* (if proposer has other research support): in NSF format

*Letter(s) of support* (no more than 2) showing that the proposer has contacted appropriate researcher(s) at SSHO to ascertain how to fit into ongoing activities and how to accomplish research

*Letter of commitment* (signed by authorized official of proposer's organization)

*Current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement* (for your institution)

The period of performance for successful awardees shall be 1 year, with a recommended start date in Summer 2015 (period of performance could be extended pending approval from Penn State). **The deadline for proposal submissions will be 3/31/2015 and all submissions must be in PDF format.** Grantees are expected to abide by current agreements regarding sharing and publication of data collected in the CZO (<http://www.criticalzone.org>). The proposer should also read the Precepts of Collaboration form (url will be posted soon on our website) and, if funded will be asked to sign the document to indicate willingness to abide by our best practices of collaboration. If proposed work entails new agreements either with the DCNR or the Penn State Forest Service, the PI will be responsible for such agreements as shepherded by the Watershed Specialist or Program Coordinator. Interested parties can also contact Sue Brantley ([brantley@geosc.psu.edu](mailto:brantley@geosc.psu.edu)) directly for additional information.