

GLRCGP LOI – Weak vs Strong Examples (Aligned to LOI Questions)

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Use in training to show what reviewers reward vs reject.

Brief Description of the Project

Weak Example

We want to improve the environment and make the community healthier by doing restoration work.

Strong Example

This project will install green infrastructure at priority runoff entry points and restore 14 acres of riparian habitat along the XYZ tributary to Lake Erie, reducing runoff-driven pollution and improving habitat connectivity while expanding equitable community access and stewardship.

Problem Statement

Weak Example

Stormwater and invasive species are problems in the Great Lakes and we need to address them.

Strong Example

In the XYZ watershed, untreated stormwater runoff from increased impervious surfaces enters the tributary during rain events, accelerating erosion and transporting nutrients and sediment to Lake Erie. Invasive riparian plants further destabilize banks and reduce habitat quality, degrading nearshore conditions and limiting safe recreation for nearby residents.

Impact Statement

Weak Example

Strong Example

This project will help water quality and benefit residents.

The project will reduce an estimated 1.8 million gallons of stormwater runoff annually, stabilize 1.6 miles of streambank, and restore 14 acres of habitat—directly advancing GLRI measures related to runoff reduction, stream restoration, and invasive species control. Benefits will be sustained through a funded maintenance plan and stewardship agreements.

GLRI Alignment (Themes/Goals)

Weak Example

Our project aligns with GLRI because it helps the Great Lakes.

Strong Example

The project aligns with GLRI Action Plan priorities by reducing nonpoint source pollution through stormwater interception and treatment, restoring riparian habitat that supports native species, and mitigating invasive species that impair ecosystem function. Activities are designed to produce quantifiable GLRI measures of progress.

Community-Led Approach

Weak Example

We will talk to the community about the project and get feedback.

Strong Example

Community partners and residents co-designed project priorities through listening sessions and site walks, which directly informed site selection, access improvements, and stewardship strategies. A community advisory group will meet quarterly, and partner stipends are budgeted for outreach, translation, and stewardship coordination.

Workplan Tasks/Deliverables

Weak Example

We will do planning, then implement, then report.

Strong Example

Task 1 (Months 1–4): Final design/permitting; deliverables include approved plans and permits. Task 2 (Months 5–12): GI installation; deliverables include installed bioswales/rain gardens and as-builts. Task 3 (Months 6–14): Habitat restoration; deliverables include invasive control and native plant installation. Task 4 (Months 2–18): Engagement/stewardship; deliverables include meetings and volunteer events.

Project Readiness

Weak Example

We are ready to start soon and will get permits as needed.

Strong Example

Concept designs and site assessments are complete; permitting is in progress with approvals anticipated by Month 3. Project manager is assigned, procurement is scheduled for Months 2–5, and partners have confirmed roles and cost estimates.

Engagement Strategy

Weak Example

We will share updates on social media and have meetings.

Strong Example

Engagement is resourced and tailored: bilingual community meetings and SMS/email updates monthly; bi-weekly implementation check-ins with partners during construction; quarterly briefings and site tours for elected officials; and quarterly updates through watershed coalitions and local media.

Area of Work and Direct Impact

Weak Example

The project area is near the river and will improve the habitat.

Strong Example

The project area includes degraded riparian edges and runoff entry points along the XYZ tributary within the ABC watershed, adjacent to residential neighborhoods and public access points. Work will reduce bank erosion and runoff impacts, restore native vegetation, and improve tributary-to-nearshore habitat conditions that influence Lake Erie water quality.

Partners

Weak Example

We have several partners that support the project.

Strong Example

Partners are material and budgeted: the municipal stormwater division supports design/permitting and long-term maintenance; a community-based organization leads outreach and stewardship with funded capacity; a restoration contractor implements GI and habitat work; and a university partner supports monitoring and reporting.