

On Oct 21, 2019, at 8:35 AM, Mark Abbott <mark@asc.gov> wrote:

Jim,

I have had the opportunity to review TAF's FY20 grant proposal and thought I would share a few initial observations for you and the Board ahead of this afternoon's Briefing.

In general, TAF does a good job of describing the core functions of the AQB and ASB that the grant supports. However, I have a number of questions that TAF will need to address. I will not provide detail here, but they involve how staff salaries are presented, the indirect cost rates being applied, and missing information on the consultants, contractors and subgrants described in the proposal.

The proposal also raised a number of additional questions such as:

1. Staffing for the Boards appears to be 1 full-time person or equivalent shared between the two Boards. Is that sufficient? Are there other staff that work directly with the Boards? If so, this detail should be in the proposal.
2. PAREA is discussed as an ancillary activity of the Board. If this is an activity that AQB spends time on, I would expect to see a project plan/timeline and estimates for the project.
3. ASC provides consulting payments to AQB/ASC Board members. We should understand what, besides attending meetings, the deliverables and work hours are for the Board members. Also, when Board members are hired as consultants to provide additional support to their Boards, they should be named in the proposal along with their credentials and experience related to the consulting tasks.
4. The investigator training proposal has per participant costs coming in between \$2,400 and \$3,300. It would be good to know, beyond a participant survey, how effective the courses are.
5. TAF discusses a number of projects that support the Boards and appraisal industry in general that are not part of the budget request. The ASC should know the source of funds being used to pay for these activities. If the activities are being supported by funds earned from the sale of USPAP, which is developed and maintained using federal funds, then we would expect to see an outline of proposed activities and budget detailed in the proposal.

I will be covering most of these and other issues with TAF directly as we work to finalize the scope and budget for their proposed activities. The Briefing today may also clarify many of these questions. I'm available as needed to discuss these and other topics related to the proposal.

Best,

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