

MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PRION RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

LCCMR Emerging Issues Proposal: Chronic Wasting Disease targeted outreach engaging culturally-diverse hunting communities



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In December 2019, our team was notified that culturally-diverse hunting communities had not received critical information regarding CWD biology, management and potential human health risks. We were informed that a family in southeastern MN consumed a CWD positive deer without being informed of the current science of CWD. In response, our team mobilized and performed outreach events for both the southeast Asian and Amish hunting communities within a week of the notification. In light of the events that transpired in December, our team is requesting emergency funds to broaden our outreach campaign in these communities as well as our Tribal Nations, where CWD surveillance is soon to be launched.

Emerging Wildlife Health Issue: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious, 100% fatal neurological disease affecting wild and farmed cervids such as deer, moose, elk, caribou, and reindeer. **The success of Minnesota’s efforts to control this disease hinges on the ability of government agencies, researchers, policy makers and stakeholders to work together, particularly as this issue relates to deer hunting as a CWD management tool.**

Emergency Funds Justification:

- Special outreach efforts are needed to reach diverse stakeholders, such as our Minnesota Tribal Nations and southeast Asian and Amish communities.
- Our team has connected with these groups through grassroots efforts and is uniquely poised to engage them further for inclusive, community-based CWD management.
- The Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and our team have secured funding from US Fish and Wildlife Service to support the creation of a Tribal CWD Surveillance Network. A critical, yet unfunded need is simultaneous community engagement on Tribal Lands leading up to and during CWD surveillance in the 2020 hunting season.

Tribal CWD Surveillance Network
*Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa
Red Lake Band of Chippewa
Lower Sioux Indian Community
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community
White Earth Band of Ojibwe
University of Minnesota
1854 Treaty Authority*

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What we propose to do:

- Develop and deliver culturally-appropriate outreach materials on CWD for American Indian, southeast Asian, and Amish communities in Minnesota to extend the reach of MN DNR’s ongoing outreach efforts.
- Survey Minnesota tribal members, southeast Asian, and Amish on hunting activities and perceptions of CWD, as well as understanding of and responses to CWD management practices.
- Work with tribal natural resource managers to develop culturally-acceptable CWD management plans in conjunction with the implementation of the Tribal CWD Surveillance Network.

Deliverables:

- Summarize outreach activities conducted for each group and community shared perspectives.
- Characterize information sources, knowledge gaps, and effectiveness of outreach efforts for each group.
- Summarize survey responses from each group on activities, perceptions and responses to management practices as they pertain to CWD.
- Provide recommendations for future outreach efforts and CWD management plans.

Budget:

Item	Unit cost	Qty	Estimated cost
UMN Personnel			
Students and trainees	\$55,630	2	\$111,261
UMN Personnel - Faculty and Project staff	\$27,216	2	\$54,431
Contracts			
Tribal/Community liaisons and survey personnel	\$6,000	8	\$ 48,000
Graphical recorder	\$1,000	16	\$ 16,000
Material translation	\$2,000	1	\$ 2,000
Data entry	\$3	2000	\$ 5,000
Supplies and expenses			
Outreach materials and events*	\$470	16	\$ 7,200
MN Travel**	\$1,036	16	\$ 16,576
Survey supplies & postage	\$10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Totals			\$ 270,468

*Includes outreach materials and supplies, meeting space rentals, and catering.

**Includes lodging \$80/night and M&E at \$46/day for teams of 3, \$42/day university vehicle rental, for 2-3 meetings in tribal and Amish communities

College of Veterinary Medicine



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February 5, 2020

Becca Nash
Director, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
65 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651 296-6264

Dear Ms. Nash,

Thank you for working with our Minnesota Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO) team here at the University of Minnesota in obtaining critically needed funding to engage Minnesota Tribal, southeast Asian, and Amish communities for inclusive, community-based management of Chronic Wasting Disease in Minnesota. The MNPRO team has already connected with these groups through grassroots efforts, and Dr. Wolf has a long-standing relationship with several of the Minnesota Tribal natural resource agencies. In fact, the pressing nature of this work is based on the need to coincide community engagement and outreach with the establishment of CWD surveillance in MN Tribal communities, which is expected to commence in the 2020 hunting season. The need for this in Amish and southeast Asian communities has been realized through MNPROs recent partnership with the MN DNR on outreach events in these communities where clear understanding of CWD management and risk are lacking.

MNPRO and University of Minnesota are uniquely poised to tackle these challenges. This team has expertise in the biology and ecology of CWD, management, and social science research design. This team has strong collaborations with MN DNR and MN Tribal Nations, which will facilitate the proposed activities. The intended efforts to survey hunters and members of these diverse communities, an audience where more traditional survey methods have failed to reach, will require dedicated personnel that can engage directly with community members through special events and community networks. Thus, the connections the team already has within these communities combined with the support from the Emerging Issues Fund, will ensure the team's success. The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety will also be facilitating the project, applying their skills in science communication and outreach to tailor outreach materials to each group.

The MNPRO team is requesting from the LCCMR Emerging Issues fund \$270,468 to conduct this project over two years. This will augment approximately \$200,000 in support received from USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grants to establish and conduct CWD surveillance on MN Tribal Lands, as well as \$47,400 in dedicated funds for outreach from UMN Office of the Vice President for Research and College of Veterinary Medicine.

Thank you for the time and consideration you and your staff have given this request. Please reach out to Tiffany Wolf (612-625-0492) if questions arise or further information is needed. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Molly McCue DVM, MS, PhD, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Equine Internal Medicine
University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine