Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2026-519

Staff Lead: Noah Fribley

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: May 21, 2026

Project Title: Classrooms to Careers: Expanding Environmental STEM Pathways

Project Budget: $763,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kelsey Boeff

Organization: Science Museum of Minnesota

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 17, 2026

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2029

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2029

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2026, Chp. 104, Sec. 2, Subd. 05hh

Appropriation Language: $763,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Science Museum of Minnesota to provide hands-on research experiences and mentorship for high school youth and professional development for high school teachers to strengthen environmental STEM education and expose students to STEM career opportunities.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2029

Narrative

Project Summary: "Classrooms to Careers" will strengthen STEM career pathways across Minnesota. This will be accomplished through both hands-on experiences for high school youth and professional development for high school teachers.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Minnesota's environmental challenges, from water quality management to soil nutrient depletion, require a scientifically literate population capable of understanding and addressing these complex issues. However, access to environmental STEM education remains uneven across the state, with significant barriers for both students and teachers.

Students from low-income, and historically underrepresented communities are capable and equal learners to their peers, yet they often face obstacles to meaningful STEM engagement and career pathways, including limited resources, fewer STEM mentors, and limited access to field-based experiences. Similarly, many educators in these communities struggle to deliver high-quality instruction in environmental science that fosters student engagement. Without hands-on opportunities, teachers may struggle to inspire their students to pursue STEM careers.

"Classrooms to Careers" will create accessible, field-based research experiences and professional development opportunities for both students and teachers. Through providing collaborative learning spaces where teachers and students engage together in authentic field research experiences, educators will be equipped with the tools to enhance their teaching and ignite student interest in STEM. Additionally, by engaging with scientists and professionals in environmental fields, students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue STEM careers and become environmental stewards.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

"Classrooms to Careers" will strengthen STEM pathways across Minnesota by providing high school students, from backgrounds underrepresented in STEM careers, the chance to collaborate with scientists on environmental research, while offering teachers an opportunity to create inquiry-based modules for their classrooms.

The student component builds upon a successful STEM career pathways program for high school students at the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM). Students from SMM's Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC) will work alongside scientists from SMM's St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) and regional STEM professionals on environmental field and laboratory research. Previous SCWRS/KAYSC programming has shown success from building long-term relationships with small cohorts of students; this project will continue with that model.

To expand our impact, teachers will participate in professional development through SMM's IDEAL Center, creating teaching modules to use in their schools. Teachers will also participate in environmental research with their youth counterparts, creating a unique opportunity for teachers to learn alongside youth.

In collaboration with universities and STEM professionals (our Community Network of Support), the program will provide mentorship and career exploration for both youth and teachers. Teachers will use these connections to help strengthen STEM pathways for Minnesota's youth.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Several SMM departments will collaborate to align with LCCMR's priorities for Education. The SCWRS specializes in environmental research; the KAYSC provides out-of-school programming for underserved youth; the IDEAL Center focuses on teacher training and inclusive STEM practices; Museum Access and Equity builds connections to external partners; and Evaluation and Research provides a formal program evaluation. Specifically, we will:

-Increase student engagement in environmental science through hands-on, real-world research.

-Improve teacher capacity to design and implement research-based STEM modules.

-Model/Establish collaborative relationships between students and educators in scientific inquiry.
-Expand youth access to STEM career pathways through mentorship/professional networking.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Engaging Youth in Real-World Scientific Investigations: Data Collection, Analysis, and Building a Professional Network

Activity Budget: $348,632

Activity Description:
Youth will actively engage in hands-on environmental research with SCWRS scientists as mentors, gaining experience in field and laboratory work. Participants will have access to a wealth of datasets from previously funded LCCMR projects, including aquatic invasive species research (2020-06g, 2023-04k), and water quality assessments (2022-04l). These datasets offer rich opportunities for analysis and the development of new research questions, allowing students to apply scientific concepts to real-world environmental challenges.
Each year, 12 participants from the KAYSC will be part of the youth crew, spending an average of two days per month from January through May working with SCWRS mentors on activities such as: sediment coring at a local lake, core processing at the Continental Scientific Drilling facility at the University of Minnesota, learning about data analysis, engagement with STEM professionals (see attached letters of support), and touring a local college or watershed district. In June, the program will culminate in a week-long immersive learning experience at the SCWRS, where participants will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the program. During this hands-on experience, students will engage in both field and laboratory work, taking part in real-world scientific investigations and data collection.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Select the first Youth cohort for participation in the program.	October 31, 2026
Train first Youth cohort in environmental data collection and analysis techniques.	June 30, 2027
First youth cohort participates in a week-long experience at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station.	June 30, 2027
First youth cohort completes initial IDEAL Center workshop with first teacher cohort.	June 30, 2027
Select the second youth cohort for participation in the program.	October 31, 2027
Train second youth cohort in environmental data collection and analysis techniques.	June 30, 2028
Second youth cohort participates in a week-long experience at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station.	June 30, 2028
Second youth cohort completes initial IDEAL Center workshop with second teacher cohort.	June 30, 2028
Select the third youth cohort for participation in the program.	October 31, 2028
Train third youth cohort in environmental data collection and analysis techniques	June 30, 2029
Third youth cohort participates in a week-long experience at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station.	June 30, 2029

Activity 2: Professional Development for Teachers: Collaborative Field Experiences and Inquiry-Based STEM Module Development

Activity Budget: $283,592

Activity Description:
Educators will take part in research experiences alongside the youth, engaging directly with the content as learners themselves. This immersive experience will provide teachers with the opportunity to gain new insights and perspectives, enabling them to learn from the students while reinforcing the importance of experiential learning. By participating in these activities together, both students and educators will build stronger connections to the material and to each other, enhancing the overall impact of the program.
There will be two teacher cohorts during the project, each will run from June through May (average teacher commitment of nine days/year). Eight teachers will be recruited for each cohort; we will utilize SMM's high school

connections throughout Minnesota to advertise broadly. Teacher workshops and activities will be guided by SMM's IDEAL Center and will include learning about SCWRS research alongside the youth as well as focused time with IDEAL Center staff to develop classroom modules. Using results from previous and ongoing LCCMR-funded projects, educators will create modules on topics such as water quality analysis, sediment cores to study environmental change, and climate impacts. At the end of each cohort, all SMM staff will remain available to assist teachers with classroom implementation as needed.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Select first cohort of teachers for participation in the program.	April 30, 2027
First teacher cohort completes initial IDEAL Center workshop with youth cohort	June 30, 2027
Select second cohort of teachers for participation in the program.	April 30, 2028
First teacher cohort conducts PD workshops and field experiences to develop teaching modules in STEM	May 31, 2028
Second teacher cohort completes initial IDEAL Center workshop with youth cohort	June 30, 2028
Second teacher cohort conducts PD workshops and field experiences to develop teaching	May 31, 2029

Activity 3: Youth and Teacher Outreach: Strengthening STEM Pathways via Tabling, Networking, and Program Evaluation

Activity Budget: $130,776

Activity Description:
Youth will develop important science communication skills by creating and hosting tabling activities in the Science Museum of Minnesota galleries. These opportunities will allow youth to translate their program experiences into hands-on engagement for museum visitors, fostering confidence while inspiring others to explore STEM. Additionally, both teachers and youth will have the opportunity to present their work at the SCWRS annual Research Rendezvous, gaining professional exposure and expanding their networks within the environmental field. These outreach activities provide teachers with direct insight into the scientific questions that resonate with the next generation of Minnesotans.
To ensure long-term impact and equity, evaluation work will be integrated throughout the program, culminating in yearly evaluation reports with a primary focus on youth programming. The reports will track the effectiveness of STEM pathways and the strength of mentorship based on direct participant feedback. These reports will provide a record of program success and serve as a vital tool for iterative improvement. These annual assessments will allow the team to refine activities and program structures between cohorts, ensuring the experience remains high-quality and responsive to participant needs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
First youth cohort will have multiple engagements with Community Network of Support for STEM collaborations	June 30, 2027
Year 1 evaluation summary	October 31, 2027
Second youth cohort will have multiple engagements with Community Network of Support for STEM collaborations	June 30, 2028
Year 2 evaluation summary	October 31, 2028
Third Youth cohort will have multiple engagements with Community Network of Support for STEM collaborations	June 30, 2029
Facilitate participant presentations through tabling events and presentations at the Research Rendezvous.	June 30, 2029
Incorporate new outreach activities into SCWRS events with the public	June 30, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Joy Ramstack Hobbs	Science Museum of Minnesota	Expert in applied environmental research, she will provide guidance on student-led investigations and scientific inquiry methods and assist with development of modules for the teachers. She will oversee coordination and logistics between all SMM departments, youth crews, teachers, and external mentors.	Yes
Tulani Jwacu	Science Museum of Minnesota	Experienced youth mentor and program coordinator, who will support student engagement, mentorship, and career exploration at the Science Museum of Minnesota (Kitty Anderson Youth Science Center).	Yes
Rich Pennington	Science Museum of Minnesota	Experienced youth mentor and program coordinator, who will support student engagement, mentorship, and career exploration at the Science Museum of Minnesota (Kitty Anderson Youth Science Center).	Yes
Aki Shibata	Science Museum of Minnesota	A leader in DEI and inclusive education at the Science Museum of Minnesota (IDEAL Center) and will develop and deliver Youth and Teacher workshops.	Yes
Evelyn Christian Ronning	Science Museum of Minnesota	An expert in education assessment and program evaluation. She will oversee data collection, instrument development, data analysis & reporting for both youth and teacher cohorts across 3 years of the project	Yes
Robby Callahan Schreiber	Science Museum of Minnesota	Will support teacher recruitment, help strengthen ties between teacher and youth portions of the program, and participate in big-picture planning.	Yes
Lienne Sethna	Science Museum of Minnesota	Apply experiences as a field researcher to plan and execute coring trip each year and participate as a mentor.	Yes
Kevin Theissen	University of St. Thomas	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes
Ben Maas	Metro State University	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes
Jill Coleman Wasik	University of Wisconsin River Falls	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes
Andrew Haveles	University of Wisconsin River Falls	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes
Louisa Bradtmiller	Macalester College	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes
Kelly MacGregor	Macalester College	Mentor to Youth and Teacher cohorts (see letter of support in attachments). Time will be reimbursed hourly via contract.	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.
Findings from Classrooms to Careers will be shared through multiple channels to maximize participation, awareness, and long-term impact. Three key participant groups—youth, teachers, and SCWRS staff—were intentionally engaged to ensure the program's benefits extend well beyond the grant period. A Community Network of Support, created for both students and teachers, will foster ongoing communication and personal connections that encourage pursuit of STEM career pathways. Teacher-developed curriculum modules will be integrated into classroom instruction, providing future students with access to LCCMR-funded research and data while inspiring continued interest in STEM fields. The St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) will also incorporate modules showcasing past LCCMR-supported environmental research into public outreach activities.
To sustain these efforts, the mentorship structures and educational materials will be embedded within institutional

partnerships, leveraging the Science Museum of Minnesota's established programming and networks. Research data and related educational resources will be disseminated at professional conferences, through educator networks, and in other targeted forums, ensuring lasting benefits for both the scientific and educational communities.
All outreach materials, presentations, and publications will prominently acknowledge the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and will be made available in accessible formats so Minnesotans can see the work being accomplished with their support.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Findings from "Classrooms to Careers" will be implemented through long-term mentorship opportunities for students, reinforcing career pathways. Additionally, the teacher-developed modules will be integrated into classrooms, encouraging students to pursue STEM careers. The SCWRS will incorporate their modules, highlighting past LCCMR environmental research, into outreach activities.
Ongoing efforts will be sustained through institutional partnerships, leveraging SMM programming and external funding. Future grants, school district collaborations, and industry sponsorships will support expansion. Research data will be shared through professional conferences and educator networks, ensuring continued impact beyond the project timeline. In all cases, LCCMR (ENRTF) will be prominently acknowledged.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Invasive Didymosphenia Threatens North Shore Streams	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 06g	$197,000
Salt Threatens Minnesota Water Quality and Fisheries	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 04l	$1,228,000
Didymo II – The North Shore Threat Continues	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 04k	$394,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount
Personnel								
Kelsey Boeff, Project Manager, Laboratory Manager St. Croix Watershed Research Station, SMM		Project Manager; Will work with project leaders from each SMM department on big picture planning, will coordinate St. Croix Watershed Research Station staff and oversee, develop, and execute the research experience for the youth.			24%	0.36		$30,321
Joy Hobbs, Senior Scientist, SMM		Will oversee all logistics and planning for the youth and teacher participants, including coordination between various SMM departments working on the project (St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Youth Science Center, IDEAL Center, Evaluations). Will participate in leadership meetings and big-picture planning.			24%	1.44		$158,652
Lienne Sethna, Assistant Scientist, SMM		Will serve as an SMM youth mentor and will plan and execute the sediment coring field work each year.			24%	0.21		$18,515
SMM Laboratory Technicians, 2 positions		Will serve as youth mentors and help plan and execute research activities.			24%	0.33		$18,640
Thulani Jwacu, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC) Director, SMM		Will participate in the project leadership and big-picture planning, will ensure that all youth programming aligns with the KAYSC's STEM Justice Framework and overall vision for youth engagement.			24%	0.3		$41,524

Rich Pennington, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC) High School Program Manager, SMM		Will hire and manage the youth crew manager and the youth crew; will oversee transportation arrangements for the youth, will help to ensure that programming aligns with the KAYSC's STEM Justice Framework.			24%	0.3		$26,736
Assistant Program Manager Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC), SMM		Assist the KAYSC's High School Program Manager with program logistics; will attend meetings with the KAYSC crew managers and St. Croix Watershed Research Station scientists to assist with logistics for youth activities.			24%	0.09		$6,035
Youth Crew Manager, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC), SMM		Oversee the youth crew, work with all project partners to plan youth programming in alignment with the KAYSC's STEM Justice Framework.			24%	0.39		$26,259
Youth Crew Participants, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center (KAYSC), SMM		We will aim to recruit a total of 12 youth to participate in programming each year (approximately 36 participants over the 3 years of the program). Participants are SMM employees who are part of the KAYSC.			0%	0.21		$85,415
Aki Shibata, IDEAL		Will oversee the teacher training portion of the program, will work with St. Croix Watershed Research			24%	0.18		$24,278

Center Director, SMM		Station and IDEAL Center staff to develop the teacher training programming.						
IDEAL Center Project Leads, SMM, 3 positions		Will work with the IDEAL Center Director (in consultation with St. Croix Watershed Research Station staff) to develop and deliver programming for teachers.			24%	1.5		$155,432
IDEAL Center Program Coordinator, SMM		Assist with logistics of the teacher training program.			24%	0.18		$12,791
Project Evaluator, SMM		Will conduct data collection, instrument development, data analysis and reporting for both youth and teacher cohorts across three years of the project.			24%	0.36		$27,772
							Sub Total	**$632,370**
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	We will partner with 10–12 regional environmental science professionals (college faculty and other professionals) to serve as mentors for the youth participants. These contracts assume an average of 100 hours per year, split among the group, at a rate of $75 per hour for each of the three years.		X		0.15		$22,500
TBD	Service Contract	The youth crew will be transported by bus for all off-site activities (field work, labs, college visits). The cost is based on 10 trips annually at $525 each. Transportation costs include a 5% fuel surcharge, projected to increase by 3% yearly.				0.09		$17,550
Continental Scientific Drilling Facility at the University of Minnesota	Service Contract	Each project year, the youth crew will collect a sediment core from a local lake and process the core at the Continental Scientific Drilling Facility at the University of Minnesota. These fees are for their staff to support the coring experience and for laboratory consumables during processing.				0.03		$6,182
							Sub Total	**$46,232**

Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Lab supplies for the youth participants, both personal protective gear and lab consumables.	This includes lab coats, Hach Chemical test kits, and other laboratory consumables (such as reagents, specimen cups for sediment core samples, and pipette tips).					$4,434
	Equipment	Field gear for youth for winter sediment coring.	In our previous experience working with underrepresented youth from low-income communities, we need to purchase appropriate outdoor gear for our winter coring trip (waterproof boots, snow pants, warm gloves). The cost is based on our previous experience outfitting youth for these winter field experiences. Gear will be reused each year as much as possible.					$4,500
	Tools and Supplies	Supplies for teacher training workshops, including books.	Supplies for the IDEAL Center to lead teacher training workshops, including books.					$4,000
							Sub Total	**$12,934**
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	**-**
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	**-**
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Mileage to regional sites for Evaluation staff to travel to field trip sites. Based on 11 trips per project year, an average of 25 miles per trip, at the GSA rate of $0.70 per mile for personal vehicle use.	Evaluation staff will meet up with the youth at field trip sites to evaluate their learning, mileage is requested.					$582
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	To make the program more accessible to teachers across Minnesota, those living outside the Twin Cities Metro Area will be eligible for travel reimbursement; if funds are limited, priority will be given to those	Providing travel reimbursements helps ensure that this program can attract and support teachers from across Minnesota, not just those in the Twin	X				$9,000

		traveling the farthest. This budget line is based on an estimate of three teachers per cohort residing outside the metro area. Because the exact locations of teachers are not yet known, we have made our best estimate for total reimbursement costs based on the distances teachers are likely to travel. Mileage, hotel, and meal reimbursements (only for meals not provided during programming for overnight stays) will follow GSA rates and the DNR's 'Travel Reimbursement and Documentation' guide. Teachers will submit invoices for mileage, documenting distance from residence to SMM, which we will verify with Google Maps. Providing these reimbursements is essential to ensuring the program remains accessible to teachers living outside the metro area.	Cities Metro Area, promoting equitable access and broadening the program's reach and impact.					
							Sub Total	**$9,582**
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	**-**
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Poster printing for tabling events for the youth crew.	The youth crew will present their work to public audiences at the Science Museum of Minnesota through various tabling events in the galleries throughout the year.					$609
							Sub Total	**$609**
Other Expenses								
		The food budget covers 259 meals for youth and mentor participants across approximately 18 programming days per cycle. Daily attendance will range from a minimum of 15 individuals (12 youth and 3 teachers/mentors) to a maximum of 22 (12 youth, 10 teachers/mentors). Meals will be provided either during evening session (2 hour sessions) or during weekend sessions (4 hours). All food and refreshments will be reasonable and proportionate to	Providing these meals is critical, as past experience demonstrates that this support is essential for addressing the needs of youth from low-income communities. Furthermore, shared meals are key to strengthening essential mentor-youth relationships, thereby maximizing overall program engagement. These meals will cover all					$9,405

		the events being held. Because the youth are SMM employees, the program is not restricted by specific catering guidelines. Based on previous experience, we estimate a cost of approximately $12.10 per meal.	KAYSC and SCWRS events under Activity 1.					
		Costs include breakfast and lunch for all youth and teacher participants (12 youth and 8 teachers) during the four-day IDEAL Center Workshop, as well as the four dedicated teacher training days held throughout the cycle. This budget covers 516 meals for up to 25 participants and mentors over two years. The average meal cost is set at $23.00, which aligns with the Science Museum of Minnesota's standard catering rates for professional development events within the IDEAL Center.	SMM's IDEAL Center will hold day-long workshops for the youth and teachers. In our work with youth from low-income communities, we have found that providing food for them throughout our programming is an important part of the experience. These meals will cover all IDEAL center events under Activity 1 and Activity 2.					$11,868
		Stipends of $2,500 will be provided to each teacher in the program (total of 8 teachers per cohort). While similar STEM teacher programs typically compensate participants between $200 and $375 per day, this program's rate of $278 per day for approximately 9 full days of professional development falls within that range. To ensure consistent participation, the stipend will be paid out in increments as teachers complete specific program milestones, reaching the maximum $2,500 upon full completion. We will conduct a wide, competitive recruitment process, prioritizing early-career teachers by leveraging the Science Museum of Minnesota's extensive teacher network. To promote geographical diversity, we will aim to fill at least three slots in each cohort with teachers from outside the Twin Cities metro area.	Stipends reflect the necessary commitment for teacher workshops and field experiences with youth, which will culminate in the development of classroom modules. These modules will link to the research findings of existing and completed LCCMR grants awarded to SMM and SCWRS.					$40,000
							Sub Total	**$61,273**
							Grand Total	**$763,000**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - TBD	Service Contract	We will partner with 10–12 regional environmental science professionals (college faculty and other professionals) to serve as mentors for the youth participants. These contracts assume an average of 100 hours per year, split among the group, at a rate of $75 per hour for each of the three years.	We will rely heavily on the listed project collaborators, but will also utilize a larger network of mentors established during the pilot program. All mentors will be located in the State of Minnesota, with the exception of UW-River Falls due to the strong relationships youth have developed with two of the faculty there.
Travel In Minnesota	Miles/Meals/Lodging	To make the program more accessible to teachers across Minnesota, those living outside the Twin Cities Metro Area will be eligible for travel reimbursement; if funds are limited, priority will be given to those traveling the farthest. This budget line is based on an estimate of three teachers per cohort residing outside the metro area. Because the exact locations of teachers are not yet known, we have made our best estimate for total reimbursement costs based on the distances teachers are likely to travel. Mileage, hotel, and meal reimbursements (only for meals not provided during programming for overnight stays) will follow GSA rates and the DNR's 'Travel Reimbursement and Documentation' guide. Teachers will submit invoices for mileage, documenting distance from residence to SMM, which we will verify with Google Maps. Providing these reimbursements is essential to ensuring the program remains accessible to teachers living outside the metro area.	By covering travel costs, the program reduces financial and logistical barriers, ensuring that educators from outside the Twin Cities Metro Area can take part in the training and professional development opportunities, ultimately expanding the program's reach and impact across the state.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	**-**
Non-State				
In-Kind	All indirect project costs are provided in-kind by the Science Museum of Minnesota (federal indirect rate 48.73% on all direct costs = $371,810).	In-kind contribution of indirects.	Pending	$371,810
			Non State Sub Total	**$371,810**
			Funds Total	**$371,810**

Total Project Cost: $1,134,810

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: 435b313a-511.pdf

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The image is a collage highlighting the "Classrooms to Careers" proposal, which aims to create accessible, field-based research experiences and professional development for students and teachers. This will be accomplished through hands-on scientific inquiry, the creation of inquiry-based STEM modules, and exposure to environmental careers pathways....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
FY23 Science Museum of Minnesota Form 990	4bd1fc47-54b.pdf
FY2023_SMM Financial Audit Report	78ef947d-f3a.pdf
SMM Annual Reinstatement - Nonprofit Corporation	4225ae8e-25d.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - Theissen	e402467a-cdc.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - Maas	bb0733a5-d17.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - UWRF	71965e73-7c3.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - MacGregor	eb4e7a0b-a2a.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - Bradtmiller	b052f399-533.pdf
SMM Letter of Support - President of SMM	e7f0c598-8bd.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Due to staffing changes at the Science Museum of Minnesota, three personnel positions were removed from the proposal: Director of Museum Access and Equity, Community Engagement Specialist, and Evaluation and Research Manager. To align the budget with the recommended funding level, minor adjustments were also made to personnel time, with the understanding that program development in Year 1 will require more effort than Years 2 and 3, when the program will be largely established. In addition, the number of field trips to the St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) were reduced to lower transportation costs. Activities originally planned on those days at SCWRS can also be effectively conducted at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The budget section of this proposal has been revised based on the recommendations received. These revisions primarily involve the Services and Subawards, and 'Other' budget categories. Several line items were reallocated between these sections, and additional details were added to more clearly convey how the funds will be utilized. Additionally, an adjustment was required in the budget related to the IDEAL Center workshops. It was identified that $3,000 intended to cover travel costs for teachers traveling from outside the metro area to the Science Museum of Minnesota had been included in the IDEAL Center's Subsistence (Other) budget line. To improve clarity and better align with the budget, these funds have been reallocated to the honorarium line (in the 'Other' category), which is specifically designated to support participation by teachers residing outside the metro area.

Additional details have been added to the budget and activities and milestone categories based on recommendations received to improve clarity and more effectively convey our plans in this proposal.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing $10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Joy Hobbs

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand