

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 050-B1

Project Title: Protecting Our Water- Public Boat Launch Retrofits

Total Project Budget: \$ \$115,200

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2009-June 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$100,000.00

Priority: B1. Reduce Soil Erosion

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Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Metro

Chisago, Washington

Summary: Minnesotans access our waters through public boat launches, which often impact these very resources. Partners will retrofit and demonstrate three high quality boat launches in St. Croix Basin.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-044-proposal-2009 LCCMR Boat Launch 3.doc

Project Budget: 1008-2-044-budget-2009 LCCMR Boat Launch Project Budget.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-044-qualifications-Project Manger Qualifications and Organization De

Map:

Letter of Resolution: 1008-2-044-resolution-2008 Boat Ramp Project.doc

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Protecting our Water Resources - Public Boat Launch Retrofits

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Providing public access to Minnesota's lakes and rivers for fishing and boating has been a priority of local, state and federal government agencies for much of the past century. Through this effort, Minnesotans have gained access to the majority of the state's lakes and rivers through thousands of public boat launches. Yet, these installations – although meeting the need for public access – were not often designed with an eye toward protecting the water resources on which they reside. Launch sites often form conduits for stormwater runoff, dumping sediment, oil and other pollutants from parking areas and adjacent highways directly into lakes; heavy visitation often deteriorates shoreline habitat, and these launches have served as conduits for invasive species. Rather than serving as good examples of proper shoreline management to throngs of people that use them, launches are often cited as major contributors to lake and river impairments.

Runoff and erosion from public boat launches has been identified as a major concern by Onanegozie Resource Conservation and Development in its work with watersheds and the Initiative Foundation's "Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program". In the past year our RC&D has been working with Great River Greening and others to find solutions to this problem.

During 2008, a pilot effort to characterize the status of boat launches in Washington County for retrofit design was initiated by Great River Greening, Washington Conservation District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, watershed districts and local units of government. The project concept has received considerable interest among an array of water resource agencies, filling a major unmet need in the state at present. To that end, this project proposes to extend the project to Forest Lake/Comfort Lake, Chisago City Lake Improvement District, and Washington Conservation Districts where assessments and retrofit plans will be completed for all public boat launches, and recommendations installed at 3 sites as demonstration projects. Each watershed drains into and has an impact on the impaired waters of the Lower St. Croix, a National Wild and Scenic River,

The project's goals are two-fold:

1. Assess and develop retrofit plans for all public boat launches in the project area in line with established best management practices.
2. Implement retrofit recommendations at 3 priority boat launches to serve as educational/training venues for boat launch managers while completing an important body of work.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS with ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Result 1: Completed status assessments for 17 public boat launches within Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, Chisago Lake Improvement District, and Washington Conservation District in Chisago and Washington counties, along with retrofit recommendations to correct design flaws and management practices threatening adjacent waters and shorelines.

Budget: \$8,700

Deliverables:

1. Completed assessment reports with retrofit recommendations for 17 public boat launches

Description:

Working with respective Watershed Directors, ecologists will identify threats (and their sources) to water resources stemming from design and management of boat launches, and propose solutions for protection of shoreline and water resources. BMP recommendations will be developed through:

- 1) conducting an assessment of current status/condition of boat launches relative to shoreland and critical water resources, along with identification of the sources of threats.
- 2) Proposing retrofits to existing boat launch blueprints and modifications to current management practices to address and ameliorate impacts.

Result 2: Completed retrofit installations as demonstration projects, targeting threats to shoreline and water quality at 3 boat launch sites.

Budget: \$106,500

Deliverables:

1. Three completed boat launch retrofits to bring them in line with BMPs and retrofit plans
2. Installed monitoring plans at each of 3 boat launches to track design effectiveness over time and inform adaptive management of these sites
3. On-site education signage targeting users of the 3 boat launches

Description:

Restoration ecologists will work with Watershed Directors to implement proposed retrofit plans at 3 boat launches (1 in each watershed district) to abate major threats and achieve demonstrable improvements to water and shoreline resources. These may include the planting of buffer strips, stormwater diversions, shoreline plantings, rain gardens and so forth. Public dissemination of the results will occur through at least three venues: on-site signage, project sheets, and presentation at the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association annual meeting.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

Assessment and Implementation Partners – Randy Anhorn, Forest Lake/Comfort Lake Watershed District; Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District; Bud Kapell, Chisago City Lake Improvement District; Wayne Ostlie, Great River Greening

Evaluation of deliverables and assistance in BMP education/dissemination: Craig Mell, Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District; Jerry Spetzman, Chisago County Department of Water Resources and Zoning

Project manager – Dana Raines, Onanegozie RC&D (USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

B. Project Impact

The project will complete assessments on all 17 public launches in the 3 watersheds, and deliver recommendations to address management practices and design issues that are impacting shoreland and water resources. Assessments will be delivered as resources to respective Watershed Directors to inform future retrofit work and ongoing management activities. Beyond this, the project delivers conservation impact through retrofits at 3 sites (one in each county). Monitoring programs established at each site will gauge the level of impact stemming from the retrofit work. Results of the project will be tailored to reach boat launch users and the broader public via on-site signage at boat launches and other forms of communication.

C. Time

This proposal requests a 24 month time frame to accommodate assessment, implementation and dissemination of findings. The project will begin in July 2009 and be completed in June 2011.

D. Long-Term Strategy (if applicable)

We will look to expand the program regionally and across the state of Minnesota over the coming years in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Trails and Waterways Program) which will play a primary implementation role statewide. We will also develop and deliver a solid education/training curriculum targeting boat launch managers.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
Personnel:	\$ -	%
Project director (project management, reporting)	\$ 4,000	3%
Accounting Assistance and Mangement (budget accounting)	\$ 3,000	2%
Contractors:	\$ -	0%
Field technicians (crew of 3 for implementation)	\$ 4,700	0%
Restoration ecologist (assessment & supervision of implementation)	\$ 10,500	0%
Equipment/Tools:		
Acquisition (Including Easements): NA	\$ -	
Restoration: 3 Boat Launch Retrofits	\$ 90,000	
Other: Printing; Signage	\$ 2,000	
Mileage	\$ 1,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 115,200	

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (NA):	\$ -	
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: County funds; federal funds	\$ 100,000	Pending
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: NA	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Onanegozie RC&D, Soil & Water Conservation, and Watershed Districts & Lakeshore Association staff inkind	\$ 10,000	Committed
Past Spending:	\$ -	

Project Manger Qualifications and Organization Description

Onanegozie Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation owned and managed by the County Board of Commissioners, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts serving the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine. The RC&D is supported by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This year we celebrate our 40th anniversary. During this time we have implemented many projects relating to soil and water conservation. Some of our current projects include an Initiative Foundation's *Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program* in Isanti and provide technical assistance to lake associations throughout the seven county area, manage a Minnesota PCA grant for the water quality assessment of the Rum River, and work with the MN DNR Shoreland Restoration to plant five to eight demonstration projects in our area.

Dana Raines, the coordinator for Onanegozie RC&D, will work with RC&D Council to manage this project. He is employed by the NRCS and has previously worked in Redwood County and South Dakota. There he was involved with the design and implementation of practices such as shoreland buffers, grass waterways, terraces, animal waste systems and wetland restoration. Prior to working with NRCS, Dana was employed by the Virginia Tech Department of Natural Resources. In this position he served on various watershed teams and the Chesapeake Bay 2000 steering committee which developed management goals for the watershed. Other projects included planting riparian buffers, developing a "Stream Walk" program and developing a variety of water related education programs. Dana has also worked with the University of Minnesota Extension Program in Itasca County where he worked with lakeshore and river owners on a variety of shoreland restoration projects, assisted with the development and teaching of the "Forest Guidelines" relating to water quality, and assisted with projects relating to runoff from gravel pits and mines. As RC&D Coordinator, Dana assists the council in managing projects and provides technical assistance where needed to the citizens in the region.