

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 201-F

Project Title:

Promoting Responsible Water Ecology among Minnesota Schools

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

F. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$35,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, 2010 - 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

As school districts develop water sensitive facilities, ten pilot districts will create model learning connections with eco-enhancements. Enhanced physical environments and environmental education will become mutually supportive.

Name: Bruce Bomier

Sponsoring Organization: South Central Service Cooperative

Address: 2829 Verndale Ave, Ste 4
Anoka MN 55303

Telephone Number: (763) 753-9713

Email: bbomier@envrc.org

Fax: (763) 753-0135

Web Address: www.mnscsc.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Promoting Responsible Water Ecology Among Minnesota Schools

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The nearly 3,000 school buildings in Minnesota are going through ecological facilities enhancements. These changes involve the use of recyclable graywater, monitoring the safety of potable drinking water, and general activities that would reduce the use of water resources such as changing to low flow shower heads and the containment of rainwater/snow melt. Most of Minnesota's schools were either built or remodeled following WWII and the architectural pattern followed was insensitive to eco-systems in general but water ecology in particular. That is being changed as facilities are upgraded. Similarly, since 2004, Minnesota schools have been encouraged to follow state guidelines for environmental education. The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Series II, published January 2, 2008 by the Department of Education, encourages real world connections with eco-systems and environments. This education project seeks to blend in the ecological enhancements made to school facility and the environmental educational experience.

The ten participating school districts each are committed to having an inter-disciplinary team within the district to develop educational experiences that will connect with the facility enhancement. The environment in which the students are educated will become a living lesson in environmental responsibility, particularly involving water ecology.

The districts represent each region in Minnesota and a variety of district sizes. The commonality among the districts is a commitment to being a part of responsible environmental action relative to their facilities and their students.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: The Development and implementation of a model environmental education approach, which blends with responsible water ecology programming within the facilities.

Budget: \$ 35,000

The interaction of the ten participating districts will create a model environmental approach that is supported through the environmental enhancements to the facilities, especially regarding water ecology. The enhancements will also be better understood and supported by the students, faculty, and community. The result is the development of a model set of exercises and programming.

Deliverable

Completion Date

1. Representatives from the ten districts will attend a two-day seminar focusing on the design of curriculum and exercises that blend into water ecology programming in the districts. **2 Months**

2. Teams in each of the ten districts will be selected and develop a meeting schedule including video-conferencing among district teams. **3 months**
3. At least ten meetings will be held with the formation of sub-committees and the development of draft materials and exercises. **9 months**
4. A model set of K-12 support material, exercises and curriculum options will be completed and distributed to the participating districts and other interested districts. **1 Year**
5. A report authored by the South Central Service Cooperative will be published and made available to other schools through key educational institutions to include the Minnesota School Board Association, and professional associations that deal with both environmental education and facilities management. **1 Year**

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The South Central Service Cooperative, which has experience both with educational and environmental facility management, will coordinate the project. The center will maintain a video-connection with each of the ten districts and other districts that may wish to participate or observe the program. Bruce Bomier, who serves as the Board Chair of the non-profit Environmental Resource Council, and has worked with the Service Cooperative and seven of the school districts over 20-years, will manage the project. The ten participating districts include: Crookston, Duluth, Cambridge-Isanti, St. Francis, Stillwater, Anoka-Hennepin, Montevideo, Lakeville, St Peter, and Austin. All educational programming will be consistent with State Department of Education guidelines regarding science and environmental education.

B. Timeline Requirements

Each of the ten districts involved in this process have already been asked to organize information regarding their ecological water control systems and to identify participants from the district. Within the first two months of the project, representatives from the districts will attend a seminar/conference on the project. Within the second month, video conferencing formats and meeting agendas will be established. At least ten meetings will be held among the participants over the net nine months. A model program and final report will be completed and distributed at the end of the year.

C. Long-Term Strategy

Environmental actions and education will be blended in a mutually supportive pilot program which can be shared throughout the state through existing educational organizations.

Project Budget

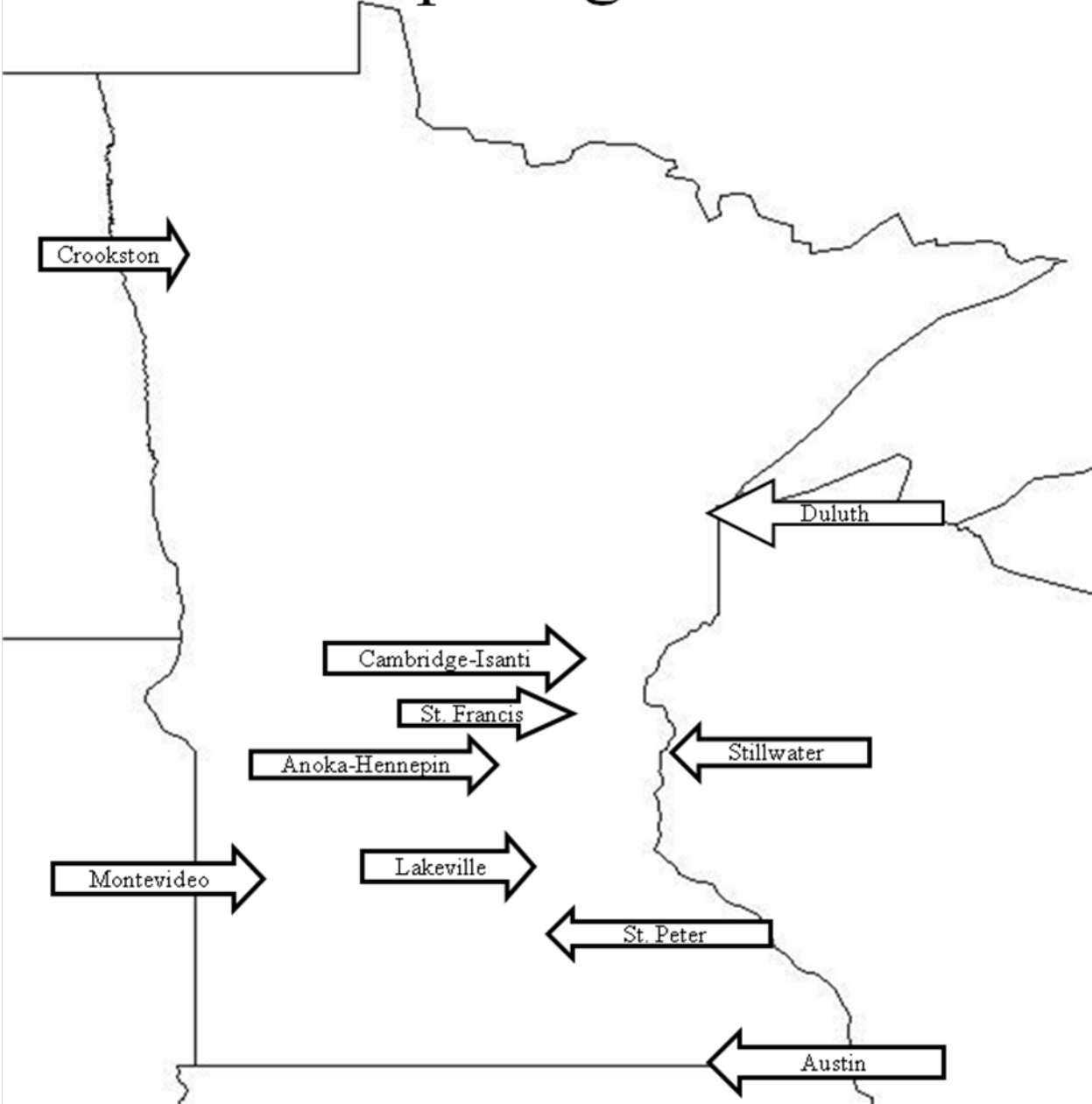
IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET: (1 Year)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel: Bruce Bomier MPH, 5% percent to manage the project. Salary and support costs are donated.	\$ -
Personnel: Glenn Morris, 5% to coordinate statewide information sharing via video-conferencing among the ten participating school districts and among all other school districts wishing information on connecting ecologically enhanced facilities with environmental educational programming. Salary only is requested.	\$ 3,500
Personnel: Jan Caven, 10% to manage and coordinate information distribution, staff the initial coordinating conference, and provide for the development and distribution of written materials. Salary only is requested.	\$ 3,500
Contracts: Ten school districts will each receive \$2,600 and will identify between 3 and 5 staff members representing environmental education, facilities maintenance, and school administration. One team member will participate in an orientation meeting and all will participate in a series of shared video conferences and individual district meetings on the design and implementation of a model program. Each district would reimburse participating employees for their time committed to the project at the districts established rates. Each district will contribute \$2,000 worth of time into the project and consequently \$4,600 worth of staff time, per district, would be committed to the project. Although each district has different rates of reimbursement this should involve approximately one hundred hours of committed time per district.	\$ 26,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	N/A
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements)	N/A
Travel: The initial meeting or conference would be held in the Twin Cities area with the five districts in the Twin Cities area traveling approximately 75 miles round-trip. The other five districts would travel an average of 300 miles. We are estimating a total mileage of 2,000 miles, including mileage for the presenters of an estimated 125 miles. We are estimating a per mileage rate of \$.40 per mile for a total mileage cost of \$800. We are allowing \$200 for condiments and printed material and \$200 per diem for the five participants from greater Minnesota.	\$ 2,000
Additional Budget Items	N/A
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 35,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period.	N/A	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period	N/A	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Each district will dedicate at least \$2,000 in volunteer and staff time toward the project. Bruce Bomier will dedicate \$3500 in management time toward the project.	\$ 23,500	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable)	N/A	
Funding History	N/A	

Participating Districts



PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

LCCMR 2010 PROPOSAL

Managing Organization:

In 1976, the State of Minnesota enacted legislation forming the South Central Service Cooperative with the mission of facilitating the purchase, management, and support of services necessary for the effective operations of school districts and other local units of government. Since that time the South Central Service Cooperative has taken a leadership role among many Minnesota school districts in supporting the development of environment, and health and safety programming. The South Central Service Cooperative also has taken a leadership role in the design of curriculum, particularly in areas of emerging concern. Always working within state guidelines both for facilities and educational services, the South Central Service Cooperative has helped and supported hundreds of Minnesota's school districts for over 25 years. In terms of financial management, it oversees insurance pools for over 300 Minnesota school districts.

Project Manager:

Since 1982, Bruce Bomier has served as a coordinator of environmental services for school districts through the South Central Service Cooperative and working with a number of other school systems and medical providers throughout the United States. He is presently the chairman of the board of the nonprofit Environmental Resource Council. He has authored several papers on environmental services and school facilities and been involved in the design of health curriculum both for educators and students. Most recently, he designed a Continuing Medical Education package for the Minnesota Medical Association to be used with physicians addressing environmental issues. He has worked with seven of the school districts involved in this project for an average of 20 years.

Bruce Bomier holds advanced degrees in Public Health/Epidemiology, provided monthly environmental commentary for Minnesota Public Radio, and served as a member of Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board under three governors, vice-chairing the EQB for five years. He is recently retired from the CEO position of the Institute for Environmental Assessment which provides environmental guidelines for medical and educational facilities throughout the Midwest. He is donating his time to this effort.