

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 092-C3+4

Project Title: Score Your Shore: Citizens Assessing and Protecting Shoreland

Category: C3+4. Technical Assistance and Community-Based Planning

Total Project Budget: \$ 81,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Trained lake associations will use the Score Your Shore tool to identify priority shoreland restoration sites, increase knowledge of natural shoreline benefits, encourage good stewardship practices, and take restoration action.

Name: Molly Zins

Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Waters

Address: 720 W St Germaine, Ste 143
St. Cloud MN 56301

Telephone Number: 218-851-2980

Email: mollyz@minnesotawaters.org

Web Address: www.minnesotawaters.org

Location

Region: NW, NE, Central

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), Red River Valley (251A)

County Name: Becker, Crow Wing, Douglas, Itasca

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Score Your Shore: Citizens Assessing Shoreline Habitat

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Minnesota Waters will train 40-60 lake associations in Minnesota's Northwest, Central, and Northeast regions to use an innovative new tool designed by the DNR to identify priority shoreland restoration sites. By using the Score Your Shore tool and participating in the Minnesota Waters training program, shoreland owners will increase their knowledge of natural shoreline benefits, implement shoreland restorations on their property, and model good stewardship practices to their neighbors. Restoring developed shoreland to a naturally vegetated state reduces the amount of polluted runoff entering the lake and increases healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.

The DNR has created a user-friendly Score Your Shore tool that non-professionals can use to assess habitat conditions of developed riparian sites. This standardized protocol is designed for use by shoreline property owners to self-assess habitat and stewardship on their land and adjacent public aquatic areas. Score Your Shore may also be used by organizations, such as lake associations, to assess multiple sites on a particular lake. This protocol provides an objective and systematic method to assess the type, quantity and quality of the existing shoreline habitat.

The goal of this project is to teach citizens how to increase the amount of developed shoreland restored to a naturally vegetated state, which will reduce pollutant loading into Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Minnesota Waters will accomplish this goal by training lake associations to assess the condition of developed shoreline using the Score Your Shore tool, and work with selected groups to formulate targeted action plans to increase habitat health and improve their score. Social science on shoreline buffers has demonstrated that training and support increases citizen engagement in effective shoreline best management practices.

Using existing materials and programs, including DNR's Shoreland Habitat Program, and University of Minnesota's Extension's Shoreland Education Program, MN Waters will guide citizen groups toward shoreland improvement project implementation. Participants who complete this training program will be well-positioned to receive funding assistance for project implementation from DNR's Shoreland Restoration grant program, Minnesota Waters' Conservation Partnership grant program, and Initiative Foundation's Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership program.

This project combines the technical expertise of DNR staff, the outreach and training expertise of Minnesota Waters, and Minnesota Waters' statewide network of lake associations to promote the use of the Score Your Shore tool and train citizens how to use it.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Implement training workshops Budget: \$32,400

Materials developed for a hands-on workshop that trains lake associations how to use the Score Your Shore tool and how their shoreline management affects water quality. Promote workshops to lake association members of MN Waters. Schedule at least eight regional Score Your Shore workshops, serving multiple lake associations. Hold training workshops. Follow up support will be provided to lake associations positioned to begin shoreland action planning.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. MN Waters trainers trained by DNR to teach citizens to use tool	November 2011

2. Materials developed for workshops	March 2012
3. Program promoted through MN Waters communications	Sept-Apr 2011-12
4. Eight training workshops held per year	May-July 2012/2013
5. 40-60 Lake associations trained	May-July 2012/2013
6. Shoreland properties evaluated to identify priority project targets	July-Sept 2012/2013
7. Follow-up support provided; action planning meetings scheduled	Jun-Sept 2012/2013

Activity 2: Turning Tool Results in to Targeted Project Plans Budget: \$ 48,600

Participants that completed the Score Your Shore training and evaluated properties on their lake will receive training and support from Minnesota Waters to: interpret their evaluation scores; determine appropriate action steps to improve their score; plan and schedule high-impact shoreland restoration projects; include tool results and action plans in their lake management plans; engage volunteers and raise funds to accomplish their projects; and communicate project plans and results to their community. Fifteen to twenty meetings will be held to help these groups get ready for action on their lakes.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Lake Associations trained to turn Tool results into action plans. 15-20 meetings held.	Sept-Jun 2012/2013
2. 15-20 citizen-lead action plans created to increase shoreland habitat score, including plans for volunteer recruitment, project funding, and outreach & education about project to community	Sept-Jun 2012/2014
3. Incorporation of tool results and action plans into lake management plans and local award programs that recognize excellent lakeshore stewardship	Sept-Jun 2012/2014

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Minnesota Waters will lead the project including promotion; coordinating and producing workshops; providing follow up support to participants, and program evaluation

MN DNR staff (Donna Perleberg, and Paul Radomski) will provide the Score Your Shore tool and user manual, ongoing technical support, and will train MN Waters staff on use of the tool (in-kind).

MN DNR Shoreland Habitat Program (John Hiebert) will provide technical and training assistance throughout the project, as well as in-kind financial support of potential restoration projects (in-kind).

Lake Association volunteers in the identified regions will help promote use of the Score Your Shore tool and will implement shoreland restoration projects. (In kind)

Initiative Foundation, (Don Hickman, Senior Project Manager), outreach, lake management plan support (in-kind).

B. Timeline Requirements

During 2011 MW staff will develop workshop materials and focus on refining the Score Your Shore training process, Score Your Shore Training Workshops and resulting shoreland action planning will occur during 2012, 2013, & early 2014. This is a three-year project ending on June 30, 2014.

Personnel and staff time will vary depending on the project phase.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

Successful implementation of DNR's Score Your Shore tool, and appropriate training and support of resulting lakeshore restoration or protection projects, will increase citizens' knowledge of how shoreland practices impact water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. After this pilot project, future funding will be sought to expand the program to other areas across the state. This project is based on the need identified by the Shoreland Rules Update Project (Minnesota Rule 6120).

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

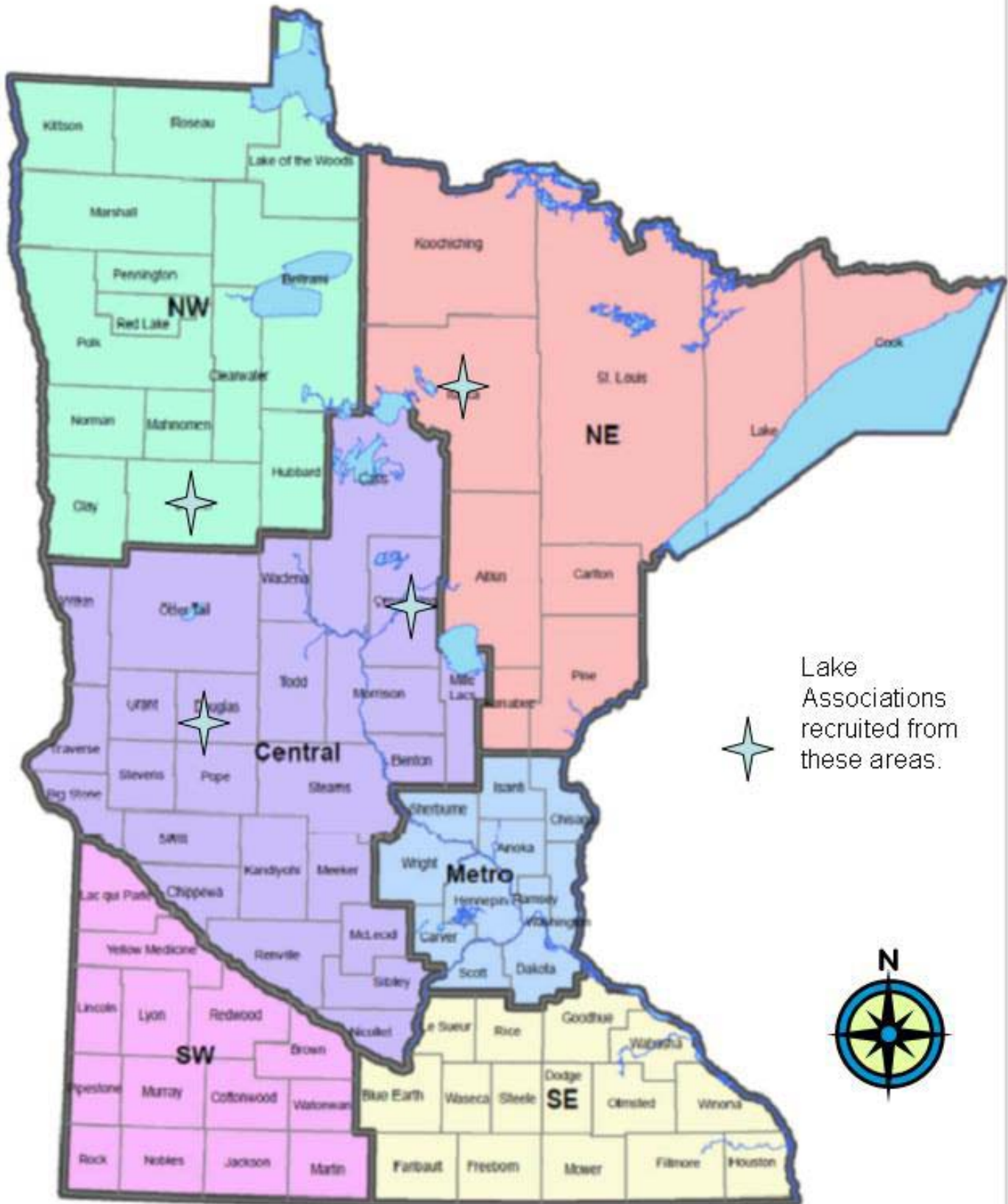
IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET Three years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u> (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	
Program Manager: <i>Manage and Implement project. (.25 FTE for 30 months. 83%Salary, 17% benefits.)</i>	\$ 45,675
Program Coordinator: <i>Assist Manager, help present workshops. (.25 FTE for 10 months. 83% salary, 17% benefits.)</i>	\$ 15,575
Contracts:	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Score Your Shore workshop materials: manuals \$20 ea. 20 per training=\$3200, Topographic maps \$5 ea. for 60 lake association= \$300, Misc. handouts \$55/workshop= \$400 Targeted Project Plan meetings: Lake Habitat Stewardship forms, Next Steps Guidebook, Lake Management Shoreland Action Plan (\$200/workshop)	\$ 6,920
Travel: Travel for 2 MW staff to 8 Training workshops, 15 Targeted Project Planning meetings. Hotel and meals for overnight stays. Roughly 400 miles roundtrip for each workshop/meeting at \$.50/mile	\$ 11,120
Additional Budget Items: Venue cost for 23 training workshops & meetings	\$ 1,710
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 81,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>DNR staff time to review materials, train MW staff on correct use of the tool, advise on shoreland restoration projects. (80 hrs at \$40/hr) Lake Association members time to create shoreland action plans and implement projects. (20 lake association members, 30 hrs each at \$21/hr)</i>	\$17,400.00	

Minnesota (by geographic region)



Organization Description

Minnesota Waters is a statewide 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering citizens to protect and improve our lakes and rivers. We believe the most effective water stewards and advocates are those who live near, recreate on, and enjoy the resource as the core of their local community.

Mission

The mission of Minnesota Waters is to promote responsible stewardship of our water resources by engaging citizens, local and state policymakers, and other partners in the protection and restoration of Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

Vision

Minnesota Waters envisions an engaged citizenry working to protect and restore Minnesota's irreplaceable natural assets—our clean and healthy lakes and streams—for current and future generations.

Minnesota Waters Programs

To achieve our vision, Minnesota Waters provides ***training, connections,*** and ***support*** to help citizen volunteers turn concern into action. We provide ***training*** in water quality monitoring, building effective citizen groups, creating a lake/river management plan, and influencing public policy. We provide ***connections*** among citizen groups, agencies, funders and decision-makers through workshops, regional summits, a bi-annual statewide conference, and our website. We provide ***support*** by administering small project grants and offering toll-free phone assistance, how-to guides, fact sheets, and informational print and e-mail newsletters. We also represent the concerns of citizen-led lake, stream and watershed associations by ***advocating on statewide initiatives*** such as the Shoreland Rules update, the Star Lakes and Rivers program development, the Dock Rules update and state-level clean water funding.

Project Manager Qualifications

Molly Zins is a Program Director at Minnesota Waters and will serve as the project manager. Since joining Minnesota Waters almost six years ago, Molly has worked with hundreds of lake and river associations across the state to assist their efforts in grassroots organizing to strengthen their organizational capacity and to impact local policy for effective lake and stream protection. During her time with Minnesota Waters, Molly has developed educational workshops and resources, facilitated community sessions and provided ongoing consultation for citizen-led groups working on lake and stream protection. Over the past two years, Molly also served as Minnesota Waters' representative on the Statewide External Advisory Committee for the DNR Shoreland Rule update. During this time, Molly engaged citizen leaders across the state in the shoreland rule process through coordinating presentations, providing updates and calls to action during the public comment phases.

Molly earned her Master's Degree in Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Molly has several years of experience in community education and organizing for conservation through working as the Community Liaison for the St. Croix Tribe of Ojibwe, as an Environmental Science high school teacher in Belize, and through leading wilderness education courses for youth at risk. Molly earned her Bachelor's Degree from the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University in Environmental History.