

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

LCCMR ID: 133-E

Project Title: Diseased Tree Utilization and Disposal Pilot Program

Category: E. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ \$167,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Develop a self-funding disease and insect infested tree disposal and utilization system for Sherburne County and educate landowners and public officials on forest protection strategies.

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Sponsoring Organization: Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Location

Region: Metro

Ecological Section: Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

County Name: Sherburne

City / Township: County-wide

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

PROJECT TITLE: Diseased Tree Utilization and Disposal Pilot Program

I. PROLECT STATEMENT

Sherburne County, and many other communities, continue to experience the loss of hundreds of trees each year to oak wilt and pine bark beetle. Add in the likelihood of Emerald Ash Borer infestation in the near future, losses will be in the thousands. Stockpiling without timely grinding during critical months allows the disease organisms to complete their life cycles and continue to spread.

Disease and insect-infested trees pose a threat to the healthy survivors nearby. This project proposes to address this threat by providing collection sites in the cities of Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, and Zimmerman for stockpiling dead trees, monthly grinding of the woody biomass preventing further spread of insects and disease causing organisms.

City and County workers, private landowners and commercial tree trimmers will bring dead trees to collection sites in each city for monthly grinding into chips that will either be offered as mulch or transported to an RDF as biomass.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Develop disease and insect-infested tree disposal system. **Budget: \$ 151,000**

Coordinate scheduling of contractors and haulers with assistance from the Municipal Recycling Boards representing the cities of Big Lake, Becker, Elk River, Zimmerman and Great River Energy.

Activity 2: Educating public officials and County residents on the importance of Forest Protection Strategies and timely removal of infected trees. **Budget: \$ 25,000**

Educate Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, 11 Township Boards, and 4 City Councils. Publish four quarterly news articles in the Environmental Educator newsletter which reaches 60,000 homes in the County will be devoted to Forest Protection Strategies.

Activity 3: Installation of Compost Site Access Control. **Budget: \$ 99,000**

Access control at the collections sites will provide revenue to fund operations long term. Install automated gates, cameras, and card readers at each of the 4 collection sites.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is the County-wide natural resources office and responds to local environmental concerns of private landowners and municipalities. The SWCD will work with the members of the Sherburne County Municipal Recycling Board and Great River Energy (GRE) to implement processing of diseased and infested tree material.

Sherburne SWCD Resource Conservationist: Gina Hugo

Responsibilities: Responding to tree and forest health concerns of private landowners, providing best management recommendations to mitigate disease and insect damage and spread, education to public officials on local tree and forest health issues, publication of articles on tree and forest health protection for the local environmental newspaper that reaches each of the 60,000 county residents on a quarterly basis.

In-kind Contribution: \$18,000

Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund Request: \$7,000

The Municipal Recycling Board is made up of Public Works Departments from the cities of Elk River, Zimmerman, Big Lake and Becker. Each Public Works Department operates a compost facility that accepts yard and tree trimming waste from County residents. Their responsibilities include managing incoming material and coordinating, processing, and utilization of the woody material.

City of Elk River, Public Works Supervisor: Phil Hals

In-kind Contribution: \$ 6,000 (equipment & labor) + \$ 2,750 (access control system) Total: \$ 8,750

Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund Request: \$ 18,000 (grinding of trees) + \$ 22,000 (access control)

City of Zimmerman, Public Works Supervisor: Dave Horvath

In-kind Contribution: \$ 38,280 (equipment & labor) + \$ 2,750 (access control) Total: \$ 41,030

Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund Request: \$18,000 (grinding of trees) + \$ 22,000 (access control)

City of Big Lake, Public Works Supervisor: Mike Goebel

In-kind Contribution: \$33,420 (equipment & labor) + \$ 2750 (access control) Total: \$ 36,171

Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund Request: \$18,000 (grinding of trees) + \$ 22,000 (access control)

City of Becker, Public Work Supervisor: Joe Danielson

In-kind Contribution: \$1,000 (equipment & labor) + \$ 2750 (access control) Total: \$ 3750

Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund Request: \$18,000 (grinding of trees) + \$ 22,000 (access control)

Great River Energy, Elk River Station Manager: Tim Steinbeck

Responsibilities: Coordinating delivery of processed material to RDF with processing at compost site staging areas.

B. Timeline Requirements

July 2011 – February 2012 – Sherburne SWCD Resource Conservationist will make a presentation of tree & forest health protection strategies at each of the 10 township board meetings within the county, the Board of County Commissioners, as well as to the City Councils of Elk River, Zimmerman, Big Lake and Becker.

July 2011– September 2011 – The Municipal Recycling Board, GRE representatives and Sherburne SWCD staff will meet as needed to coordinate details of project.

July 2011, October 2011, January 2012, April 2012 – Sherburne SWCD Resource Conservationist will publish articles in the Environmental Educator on tree & forest health protection.

May, June, July, August 2012 – Large woody debris will be chipped at each of the 4 compost site staging areas every month – then transported to final destination for utilization as biomass or mulch.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project will create a system of dealing with problem woody debris that will allow natural resource professionals in the Sherburne County to provide an option to landowners for slowing the spread of insect and disease. With this system in place we will be able to promote proper forest disease and insect management to owners of forested land, public officials and caretaking of specimen yard trees. Throughout the project period the education component will include a campaign to gain support to put in place user fees for the compost sites to private tree companies and landowners. It is anticipated that user fees will pay for the continuation of the project in future years. This program could serve as an example for those communities that now rely upon disposal of diseased trees in local landfills.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Diseased Tree Utilization and Disposal Pilot Project

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel: <i>Sherburne SWCD Staff (2 Resource Conservationists will promote forest protection through education to county residents and public officials)</i>	\$ 7,000
Contracts:	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: <i>Access control systems installed at four collection sites to implement long-term user fee that will fund grinding in future years</i>	\$ 88,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: <i>Cost of monthly grinding of woody material for one season while user fee system is put in place</i>	\$ 72,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 167,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Sherburne SWCD staff will perform tree inspections, and education activities.</i>	\$ 18,000	
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Public Works Departments for the Cities of Elk River, Big Lake, Becker and Zimmerman will manage incoming woody material and coordinate grinding schedule.</i>	\$ 79,000	
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Public Works Departments for the Cities of Elk River, Big Lake, Becker and Zimmerman will provide labor for portions of access control installation.</i>	\$ 11,000	
Total In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ 108,000	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Funding History: <i>Between 2001 - 2010 Grinding of woody material has been funded through an annual SCORE grant. Beginning in 2011, this will no longer be an option.</i>	\$ 411,000	no longer available

Project Manager:

The SWCD Resource Conservationist will be the project manager. She has over 10 years of experience implementing conservation practices and administering cost share programs in Sherburne County. She earned an Associates of Applied Science degree in Natural Resource Technology from Vermilion Community College. Prior to being employed by the Sherburne SWCD she completed an internship with Davey Tree Care Company in 1998 as well as an internship with the St. Louis County Land Department as a Forestry Technician in 1999.

The Resource Conservationist has acquired a proficiency in the use of GPS and ArcMap. She has used these tools to do inventories and prepare maps for individual conservation plans such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) as well as reference maps for the Sherburne County Comprehensive Water Plan.

The Resource Conservationist has extensive public speaking experience. She has conducted educational programs for high school students, grade school students, shoreland owners, contractors, master gardeners and local government officials. Power Point presentations have been developed for most programs.

Providing reference materials tailored to local resource needs has been a high priority for the Resource Conservationist. In 2007 she compiled a 65 page, spiral bound guide for identification & control of common weeds in shoreland buffer plantings and raingardens. Copies of the guide have been included in workshop materials by the U of M Extension Service and have been made available for Purchase at the Benton SWCD and the Sherburne History Center.

Relevant certifications include: Certified Forest Stewardship Plan Writer & Certified Tree Inspector (both renewed in 2009). In addition, since 2008 she has assumed responsibilities for the Sherburne County Forester.

Organization Description:

The Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District is a local unit of government organized under MN Statute 103c. with more than 65 years of experience providing technical assistance to local landowners in the conservation of our natural resources.

