

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

LCCMR ID: 181-G

Project Title: Minnesota Citizen Leadership Training Institute for Sustainable Waters

Category: G. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$247,282

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The leadership training will equip 75 citizens with skills and capacity to be effective in community and state leadership roles to protect, improve and sustain Minnesota's waters.

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Sponsoring Organization: U of MN

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

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: Minnesota Citizen Leadership Training Institute for Sustainable Waters

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This statewide project will develop, conduct and evaluate training to equip 75-90 citizens to become leaders for change through three, yearlong, intensive leadership training programs. Increasingly complex and often controversial watershed issues, compounded with limited agency staff and resources require informed and skilled citizen leaders to support and implement policies that will protect and improve water resources. Lake residents have a long tradition of volunteering their time and talents to ensure stewardship for Minnesota lakes and rivers; however, many say they are not comfortable in a leadership role or lack leadership skills. Active and knowledgeable citizen leaders are more effective in promoting the adoption of best practices at individual, community, and county levels than either agency staff or local elected officials. Engaged and committed citizens will ensure lakes and rivers are protected and managed responsibly, because they will be personally involved in locally-driven opportunities and incentives for sustaining water resources.

Methods and materials will be customized for water resource issues, adapted from two very successful leadership training models: the University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension's *U-Lead* MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Leadership Institute (supervisor/ staff training) and the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute. As a result of the UMN program, SWCD supervisors increased their participation in active leadership positions by >10%, and increased their knowledge and leadership skills by an average of 40%. Graduates of Wisconsin's Lake Leaders Institute contributed over 23,000 volunteer hours including 80% who served on boards, 88% who worked with local organizations, and 64% who conducted workshops.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Each year of the proposed grant project, 25-30 lake and river association leaders will be recruited to participate in four face-to-face training seminars, augmented with online sessions between seminars. Each session will conclude with an evaluation; curriculum will be revised based on evaluation feedback. Participants will commit to actively participate in public processes and share their talents beyond the shores of their own lake or river to issues common across the state. They will be expected to take active roles in local watershed issues, lake associations, county coalitions, Lake Improvement Districts (LIDs), watershed management teams, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects, and statewide policy committees; the impacts of their participation will be tracked through an annual assessment.

Activity 1: Develop leadership and technical curricula.

Budget: \$90,258

Develop curricula for face-to-face training sessions and web-based modules that include ethics of lake management, lake ecology and watershed fundamentals, understanding federal/state/local policy, effective communication techniques, and human behavior and engagement.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Identify, assess and adapt existing resources and materials to create curricula for four workshops and three to four online modules.	October 2011 – June 2012
2. Revise curricula based on end of session/module evaluations and participant reviews.	October 2012 & 2013

Activity 2: Conduct leadership training.**Budget:** \$ 114,492

Recruit leadership training participants through existing networks (e.g., the U of M Shoreland Education Program and Minnesota Waters). Conduct four, yearlong training programs each training 25 – 30 participants. Establish a social networking tool (e.g., blog), so participants may communicate with peers and instructors between sessions and following training.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Launch website offering three to four online modules and social networking.	October 2011
2. Conduct four face-to-face learning sessions and three to four online modules each year. Train 25 – 30 participants each cohort year.	June 2012, 2013 & 2014

Activity 3: Evaluate impacts and effectiveness of training program.**Budget:** \$42,532

End-of-event evaluations will be conducted following each face-to-face session and online module. Summary evaluations will be conducted in years 2 and 3, to measure leadership participants' activities and impacts.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Create end-of-event evaluation tool for each session/module (applied seven times throughout each project year).	October 2011
2. Develop and implement Citizen Leader Training graduate survey to document participant activities and impacts of the leadership training.	November 2012 & 2013
3. Coordinate with partners to secure funds and resources needed for program sustainability.	June 2014

III. PROJECT STRATEGY**A. Project Team/Partners**

University of Minnesota Extension (\$210,282 grant) will lead project management and serve as fiscal agent. Responsibilities will include curricula development, participant recruitment, teaching, evaluation and reporting. Minnesota Waters (\$37,000) will provide participant recruitment, curricula development and teaching. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (in-kind) will assist with curriculum development and teaching technical content.

B. Timeline Requirements

This is a three year project. Year 1 will include curricula development, a full training program and evaluation, with the first class group participating in October 2011 – June 2012. Years 2 and 3 will include curricula revision based on evaluation, a training program each year and evaluation. UMN will conduct an annual participant surveys to measure project impacts in years 2 and 3.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project will increase citizen engagement, foster peer support of citizen leaders and enhance success in Minnesota water resource policy discussions and decision-making processes. The leadership training will be financially sustainable over the long-term through agency and non-profit support (staff and technology contributions) and tuition revenues as determined by the three primary partnering agencies.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Minnesota Citizen Leadership Training Institute for Sustainable Waters

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET

3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: U of M Extension (1.) Project Manager & Water Resource Management Educator - Develop curricula, teach online & sessions, evaluate, assess impacts, report, support; 25% FTE for three years @ \$54,184 (66.7% salary, 33.3% fringe). (2.) Shoreland Educator - Develop curricula, recruit, set up logistics, teach online, evaluate, report, support; 25% FTE for three years @ \$48,225 (66.7% salary, 33.3% fringe). (3.) Water Educator - Develop curricula, teach at sessions, evaluate; 25% FTE for one year @ \$25,040, (66.7% salary, 33.3% fringe). (4.) Leadership and Civic Engagement Educator - Develop curricula, teach at sessions and online, evaluate, assess impacts; 20% FTE for three years @ \$60,833, (66.7% salary, 33.3% fringe).	\$ 188,282
Personnel: Minnesota Waters - Develop curricula, recruit, workshop logistics, evaluate, assess impacts, travel and lodging.	\$ 37,000
Contracts: website professional to adapt online resources for continuous leadership training, funded through the U of MN Extension	\$ 5,000
Facilities Rental: rental facilities for training (four face-to-face workshops for three project years)	\$ 3,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: training copies & supplies	\$ 3,000
Travel: travel & lodging for instructors to work on curricula (year one only) and provide four face-to-face trainings per project year	\$ 11,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 247,282

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: none	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: none	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: none		
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): n/a	\$ -	
Funding History: none	\$ -	

Project Manager Qualifications and Organizational Description

Eleanor Burkett EDUCATION:

1980 **Associate of Applied Science**, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN.

1983 **Bachelor of Science**, University of North Dakota, Fargo, ND.

2003 **Master of Education**, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN.

Thesis: *Understanding Human Impacts on Shoreland and Developing Programs that Promote Environmental Stewardship*

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE:

2009 – present – Associate Extension Professor, Water Resources Management, U of M Extension.

2004 – 2009 Assistant Extension Professor, Water Resources Management, U of M Extension.

2000 – 2004 – Extension Educator, Cass County Extension.

Provide educational workshops and programs on: rain garden and shoreland filter strip design, installation and maintenance with classroom and hands-on field demonstrations, and shoreland volunteer training. Implementation of erosion control demonstrations and research projects. Target audiences include landscape professionals, lake leaders, realtors, natural resource professionals, county staff and local decision makers.

Selected grant experience and my roles:

B. Liukkonen (PI). *Preventing New Introductions of Invasive Aquatic Plants from Water Gardening and Shoreline Restoration*. Researcher. Sea Grant Aquatic Nuisance Species Outreach Program. Conducted surveys and focus groups of nursery, landscape professionals and consumers to create educational materials for garden industry, Master Gardeners and educators.

J. Leinfelder and E. Burkett. *Rush Lake Research and Demonstration Project*. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Shoreland Habitat Program. Co-authored grant, facilitated project implementation, co-created outreach and monitored research. 2003 – 2006, \$45,840 awarded to Whitefish Area Property Owners Association and Rush Lake Association.

Shoreland Restoration and Education. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partnership. Assisted with grant application, and education and implementation of shoreland landscaping and rain garden demonstration projects. 2006 – 2007, \$20,000 awarded to Fifty Lakes Foundation.

Shoreland Landscaping an Education. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partnership Grant. Assisted with grant application, and provided and education and implementation of shoreland landscaping and rain garden demonstration projects. 2006 – 2007, \$20,000 awarded to Shirt Lake Association.

Shoreland Revegetation Demonstration Implementation. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (USEPA 319). Administered funds for 26 shoreland revegetation projects. 2002 – 2003, \$33,000 awarded to Mississippi Headwaters Board.

Shoreland Education. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Partnerships Program. Assisted with grant application and provided shoreland education program. 2002, \$5,000 awarded to Cass County.

Shoreland Education. McKnight Foundation. Assisted with grant application and provided shoreland education programs. 2002, \$15,000.00 awarded to Cass County.

Organizational Description – University of Minnesota Extension takes the latest research from the University labs into people's lives - where they live, work and play to address issues that are important to Minnesotans; such as, safe water, healthy food, renewable energy, indoor air quality, sustainable land use practices and more. Extension staff listens to and collaborates with individuals, organizations and communities in order to discover, develop and deliver research-based education and information that is relevant, practical and useful. Extension combines scholarship and research with local expertise and engages people; organizations and communities across Minnesota to build capacity create opportunities and solve problems. Extension is in all parts of the state <http://www.extension.umn.edu/offices/>, including urban, suburban and rural areas. Extension is a partnership <http://www.extension.umn.edu/About/partners.html>, between the University and state, federal and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public.

