

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

LCCMR ID: 202-G

Project Title: MN DNR State Fair Fish Habitat Educational Aquariums

Category: G. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$1,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 yr, July 2011 - June 2012

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Redevelopment of the failing 40 year old DNR fish aquarium displays at the State Fair to continue to provide educational and visual experiences for 800,000 annual visitors.

Name: Jenifer Matthees

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Web Address: _____

Location

Region: Metro

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

County Name: Ramsey

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: MN DNR State Fair Fish Habitat Educational Aquariums

I. PROJECT STATEMENT –Requesting one-time funding for redevelopment of the 40 year old DNR fish aquarium displays at the Minnesota State Fair to continue to provide an opportunity for 800,000 annual visitors to view and learn about Minnesota native fishes and their aquatic habitats.

The Minnesota State Fair is the second largest state fair in the nation with greater than 1.7 million visitors per year. The fair offers an opportunity for entertainment venues, elected officials, and educational institutions to provide recreation, public discussion forums, and special learning situations for a high percentage of Minnesota's residents.

The DNR building is the most visited site on the fair grounds and is anchored by the native fish display. It is estimated that more than 800,000 people, or nearly one-half of all fair visitors, pass by the indoor aquaria, view the outdoor fish pond, and participate in aquatic education seminars provided by DNR Fisheries education specialists.

WHY -The current fish habitat displays were created in the 1970's. The interior aquaria are failing and in need of major updating to provide a healthy and easily managed site for the fair-time displays. The facilities also lack full accessibility for the fair's physically challenged visitors and better viewing for children.

GOALS and OUTCOMES- This proposal will restore and enhance the educational potential of the DNR native fish display and provide quality opportunities to learn about Minnesota fish and their habitats. The update will also address energy efficiency and water consumption. This will be accomplished by:

1. Redesigning and rebuilding the aquaria to reflect the different aquatic habitats found throughout the state.
2. Redesigning the water and physical support system to easily manage the aquaria for the health of the fish. Energy efficiency and water consumption will be addressed.
3. Re-plumbing the outdoor pond to improve water drainage and care of fish.
4. Providing an improved facility for education specialists to disseminate fisheries and aquatic habitat programming.
5. Design the aquaria and pond displays to be viewable by persons in wheelchairs and small children.

HOW - DNR Fisheries in 2005 contracted with a firm to provide concept plans that are the recommendation for this proposal. The intent is to replace the inside aquaria within the same footprint they currently occupy, but make the viewing area larger top to bottom and group tanks by habitat type. Please see attached drawing specifically created to accommodate the existing space.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Develop and execute a contract to redesign the DNR native fish aquariums
Total Budget: \$ 1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget estimates
Concept designs (past spending \$13,000)	Done 2005	(\$13,000)
DNR Management Resources development of engineering specifications, requests for construction proposals, and project oversight of engineering.	July 2011	\$75,000
Awareness, promotion and unveiling of plans including press and permanent displays for promotion of LCCMR and the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund	Aug – Sept 2011 during state fair Permanent display of funding source	\$5,000
Construction period September 2011 – Aug 2012	Aug 2012	\$920,000

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

MN DNR Management Resources – Engineering specifications and construction oversight
MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife – project oversight and input from staff who manage fish at the fair
MN DNR Graphic Department – promotional materials and graphics
Minnesota State Fair Board – supportive partner
Contractor(s) – to be determined.

B. Timeline Requirements

FY2011 would involve development of engineering plans and specifications
FY2012 would be the construction period prior to the State Fair

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The DNR is committed to providing, maintaining and managing these displays. Completion of the entire project (indoor aquariums and outdoor pond) is dependent on its estimated cost. Funding may not be sufficient to cover both the indoor display tanks and the outdoor pond renovation. Priority will be giving to completing the indoor aquaria due to the failing of the current structures and closing of multiple tanks. It is estimated that the indoor tanks would be fully covered by this budget. Because only conceptual plans have been develop, feasibility as well as engineering plans and specifications will result in improved cost estimates for the total project.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

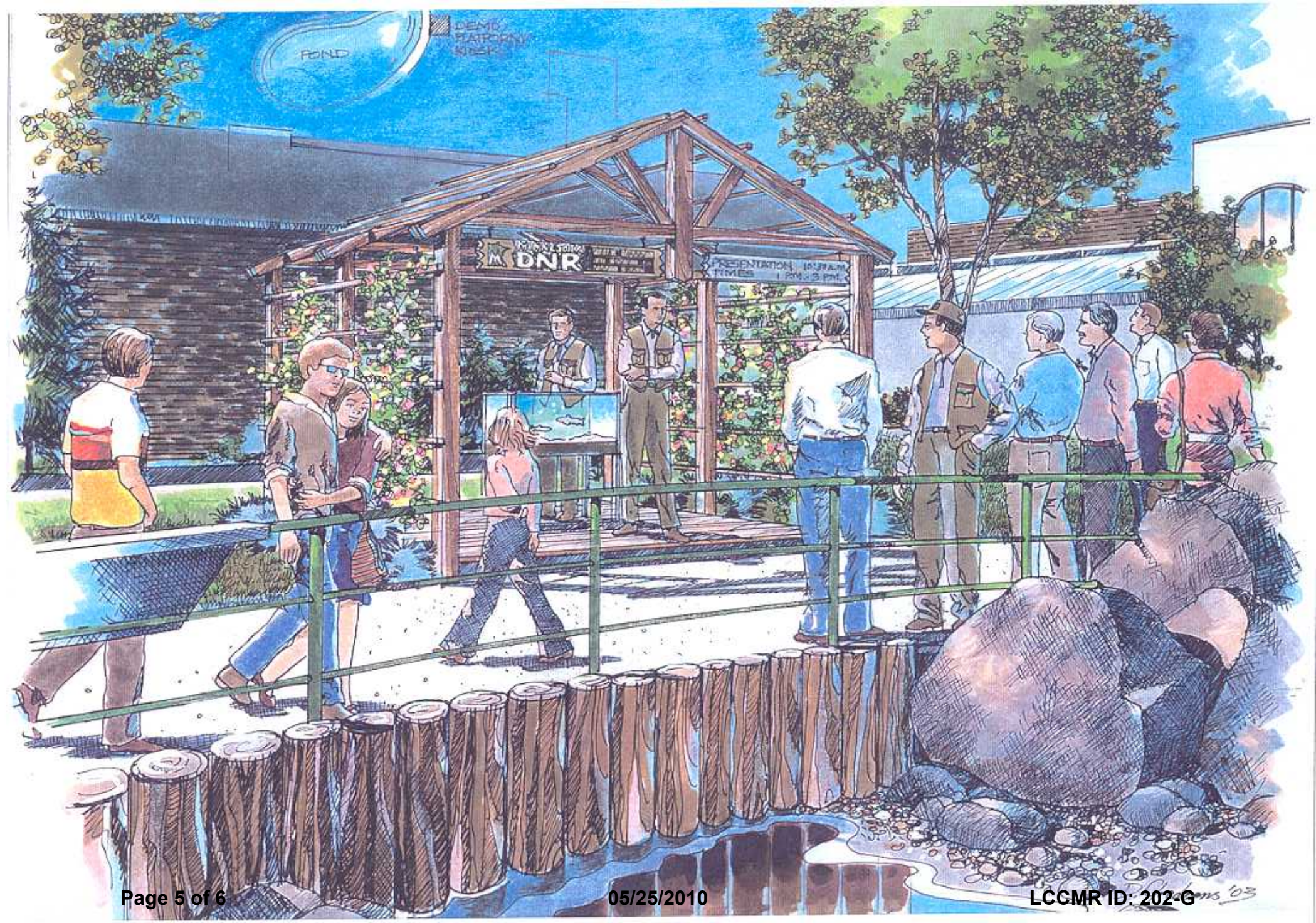
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IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: MN DNR Management Resources Engineering	\$ 75,000
Contracts: Request for Proposal - Construction and Displays	\$ 920,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Promotional Graphics	\$ 5,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 1,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Estimated shared services	\$ 23,900	Pending
Other State \$ Being Applied: Division support costs	\$ 36,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: MN State Fair Board	\$ 1,500	Pending
Funding History: concept designs completed in 2005	\$ 13,000	Done from Game and Fish Funds
Total	\$ 74,400	



PROJECT MANAGER

Jenifer Matthees

Department of Natural Resources - Outreach Section, Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Miss Matthees has worked as a program supervisor/coordinator for the Department since 2000 with budgetary responsibilities. She has received national recognition for innovation, professional leadership and material development. She has worked on various aspects of outdoor recreation participation and served on professional and department efforts in diversity, evaluation, strategic planning and leadership. She currently serves on Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Education Committee and the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Recreation Research Team. Jenifer has her MA in Business from St. Mary's University.

Engineering Oversight

Peter K. Paulson ALA, CSI

Department of Natural Resources - Principal Architect, Management Resources

Peter.Paulson@state.mn.us 651-259-5486

Mr. Paulson is a Principal Architect and lead Project Manager for design and construction of DNR architectural and interpretive projects since May, 2002. Responsibilities include professional consulting for DNR staff, project management, facility evaluation, scheduling and preparation of budget reports. Other responsibilities include creation of design and construction standards, preparing RFP's, hiring and supervising the work of consultants, review of contract documents, and coordination with other agencies and organizations. Graduate University of Minnesota School of Architecture **Registration:** Licensed Architect #20131, Minnesota (1989). Recent project experience includes: Grand Portage State Park Visitor Center, Tettegouche State Park Visitor Center, Camper Cabin design featured at the Minnesota State Fair, and State Fair Fire Tower Experience, Minnesota State Fair.

Fish Health Oversight

Donn Schrader

Department of Natural Resources - Hatchery Supervisor, Division of Fish and Wildlife

Donn.Schrader@state.mn.us

Mr. Schrader has worked for the Department since 1979. He has worked as a field technician in the metro area and as a hatchery technician in Lanesboro, MN before being appointed hatchery supervisor at the St. Paul Hatchery in 1988. Donn's duties include overseeing the hatching and distribution of walleye fry, the hatching and rearing of muskellunge and hybrid muskie, as well as the rearing of channel catfish. In addition to his hatchery duties, Donn has been responsible for the preparation and operation of the state fair fish exhibit since the middle 80's, one of the most popular exhibits at the annual event. Donn has a fisheries degree from the University of Minnesota.

ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION – DNR Mission

Our mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities. DNR's integrated resource management strategy shares stewardship responsibility with citizens and partners to manage for multiple interests.