











## Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

### PROJECT MANAGER SHANNON J. FISHER

#### MINNESOTA RIVER BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; MSU-MANKATO WATER RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR; ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Dr. Fisher received his B.S. (1994) from Northland College and his M.S. (1996) and Ph.D. (1999) from South Dakota State University. He was an Environmental Review Ecologist and Fisheries Biologist for the MN DNR for 5 years before becoming the Executive Director for the Minnesota River Board (MRB) in April 2005. In addition to his MRB duties, he serves as the Executive Director of the MSU-Mankato Water Resources Center (WRC) and as an Associate Professor of Biology at MSU-Mankato, teaching Lake Ecology, Fisheries Biology, Research Methods, and Fisheries Assessment and Ecology.

In his collective capacity, Dr. Fisher provides administrative support to the WRC/MRB staff, leads a delegation of local officials working to improve water quality in the Minnesota River Basin, advises student researchers, maintains stakeholder relations, instructs courses, coordinates conferences, and lobbies policymakers. These activities focus on the MRB/WRC mission to collect and disseminate water quality, watershed, and aquatic ecology information – with an emphasis on engaging students and educating our regional community. Dr. Fisher’s research interests include water quality impacts on stream and lake biota, riverine and fisheries ecology, impaired waters restoration, agricultural drainage, and shallow lakes management. Dr. Fisher is pleased to be involved with undergraduate and graduate students to prepare them for future positions in watershed, fisheries, and water quality work – in collaboration with the Department s of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Geography, and Civil Engineering.

The Minnesota River Board, under the direction of Dr. Fisher, serves as the fiscal and coordinating agent on an existing Conservation Innovation Grant valued at \$1 million (federal cash) with an additional \$1 million in local cash and in-kind services to establish the Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM). CMM is an innovative approach to addressing water quality challenges by using market-drive alternatives of ecosystem services and credit trading to support conservation. This effort works with productive lands initiatives and targets best management practices that have faced limited adoption traditional delivery methods. Director Fisher is also responsible for Section 319 projects entitled “Evaluation of Nutrient and Bacterial Transport from Manure Applied Lands” and “Evaluation of Artificial Drainage Roles in Altering Hydrology.”

**MRB Mission and Overview:** The Minnesota River Board is a joint powers organization comprised of counties within the Minnesota River Basin and was created in 1995. The MRB mission is to provide leadership, build partnerships and support efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin. It accomplishes this mission with the belief that preservation and restoration of the Minnesota River can only be achieved by a cooperative effort between citizens and all levels of government and businesses. The goal is to bring to fruition substantive restoration and preservation of the Minnesota river’s recreation, habitat and scenic beauty by leveraging existing resources at the local, state and federal levels. The MRB works in close collaboration with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The MRB has been active in the development of market-driven alternatives and innovative options for increasing the implementation rates of BMPs.

