

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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Project Title:

Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 99,672.46

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 Year, July 2014-June 2015

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The Jefferson Center aims to motivate conservation efforts in southeastern Minnesota by developing citizen-led information and education events related to silica sand mining development.

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Location

Region: Southeast

County Name: Wabasha, Winona

City / Township: St. Charles, Wabasha

MP: 0613-2-150-proposa

Budget: 0613-2-150-bud

Qual: 0613-2-150-qualifi

Map: 0613-2-150-map-C

Resolution: 0613-2-15

List:

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



PROJECT TITLE: Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

With the demand for Silica Sand increasing, Minnesota is at a critical juncture where important decisions with long lasting environmental and economic impacts will be made. The state has already allocated funds to examine the impact on silica sand mining (e.g. the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and Goodhue County have both commissioned studies), yet little has been done to inform and include local populations in decision-making processes over frac sand mining. Without data-driven, defensible decisions understood by the wider community, this issue will continue to divide communities and make policy decisions difficult to implement.

Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining will result in the St. Charles and Wabasha areas having a framework for evaluating the opportunities and potential drawbacks of silica sand mining in southeast Minnesota. The project will directly result in improved communication between policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public regarding conservation efforts and options surrounding silica sand mining leading to easier implementation of policies. More generally, the project will model civil, citizen inclusive debate surrounding divisive environmental and economic policies.

The Jefferson Center will draw on its 40 years of expertise in citizen engagement to bridge the divide between policymakers and local residents resulting in better policy and better educated citizens. In running two, three-day civic engagement events known as Citizens Juries (one event in St. Charles, one event in Wabasha), the staff of the Jefferson Center will: 1) enlist the participation of 24 randomly selected citizens; 2) secure participation of experts and policymakers on both sides of the frac sand mining debate to provide balanced background *from and for* local communities about the potential environmental and economic tradeoffs associated with silica sand mining; 3) arrange a space for informed deliberation and citizen-led recommendation writing on policy options related to silica sand mining; 4) publish and distribute citizen recommendations to every household in the respective communities while working with local media to advance continued informed dialogue on silica sand mining. The civic engagement events will be bookended with pre and post surveys to provide policy makers with a snapshot of the broader public attitudes.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Development and Facilitation of Citizen Jury Events

Budget: \$ 53,981

Civic Engagement will consist of two (2) Citizens Juries (one in St. Charles, one in Wabasha) consisting of randomly selected panels of citizens residing within those geographic areas. Panelists will evaluate expert testimony from advocates on a broad range of perspectives on silica sand mining. The panelists will deliberate to identify recommendations on local and state regulatory powers, landowner rights and economic concerns related to mining expansion. The result will be a report, written by the citizen-panelists, to explain the options to their neighbors. Prior to the event, the Jefferson Center will conduct a survey measuring baseline attitudes related to silica sand mining.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Three day Citizens Jury event held in St. Charles	January 2015
2. Three day Citizens Jury event held in Wabasha	May 2015
3. Pre-Event Survey	December 2014



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2014 Main Proposal

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Activity 2: Publication of Citizens’ Recommendations

Budget: \$ 45,693

Citizen recommendations on silica sand mining expansion gathered by the panelists, along with their summary report, will be compiled into a briefing packet for policy makers, local news media, and mailed to every household in the affected communities. The Jefferson Center will concurrently run a post-event public awareness survey measuring public attitudes on silica sand mining and analyzing any change from the baseline attitudes measured in Activity 1.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Increase in the number of Minnesotans aware of challenges and options related to expansion of silica sand mining (measured by pre and post event surveys)	June 2015
2. Provide policymakers, stakeholders and agency officials with an understanding of policy options favored by the microcosm of residents in each community	June 2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Receiving ENRTF Funds

- Jefferson Center staff will research, network, and implement Citizen Jury events and will design and analyze survey results. The Jefferson Center has nearly 40 years experience designing and implementing civic engagement events on issues ranging from Agricultural Effects on Water Quality to Healthcare Reform. Due to the small number of Jefferson Center staff, Co-Directors Larry Pennings and Kyle Bozentko will serve as Project Designer and Project Manager, respectively. Dawn Dettinger will serve as Project Coordinator.
- The project will enlist professional moderators to facilitate a civil, informed discussion on silica sand mining.
- The project will also require a mailing and survey company for participant selection as well as pre and post event surveys.

Resources from other sources

- Dovetail Partners will provide research and project development assistance in an advisory role. Dovetail has expertise in providing authoritative information about the impacts and trade-offs of environmental decisions such as consumption choices, land usage and policy alternatives.

B. Timeline Requirements

No unique timeline requirements—project to be completed within 12 months of fund distribution.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project will serve as a methodological decision-making framework and data-driven informational resource for Minnesota communities facing complex natural resource development opportunities. Future project could apply the tools developed through this initiative to build long-lasting, citizen-led policy recommendations and planning strategies.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 1 year

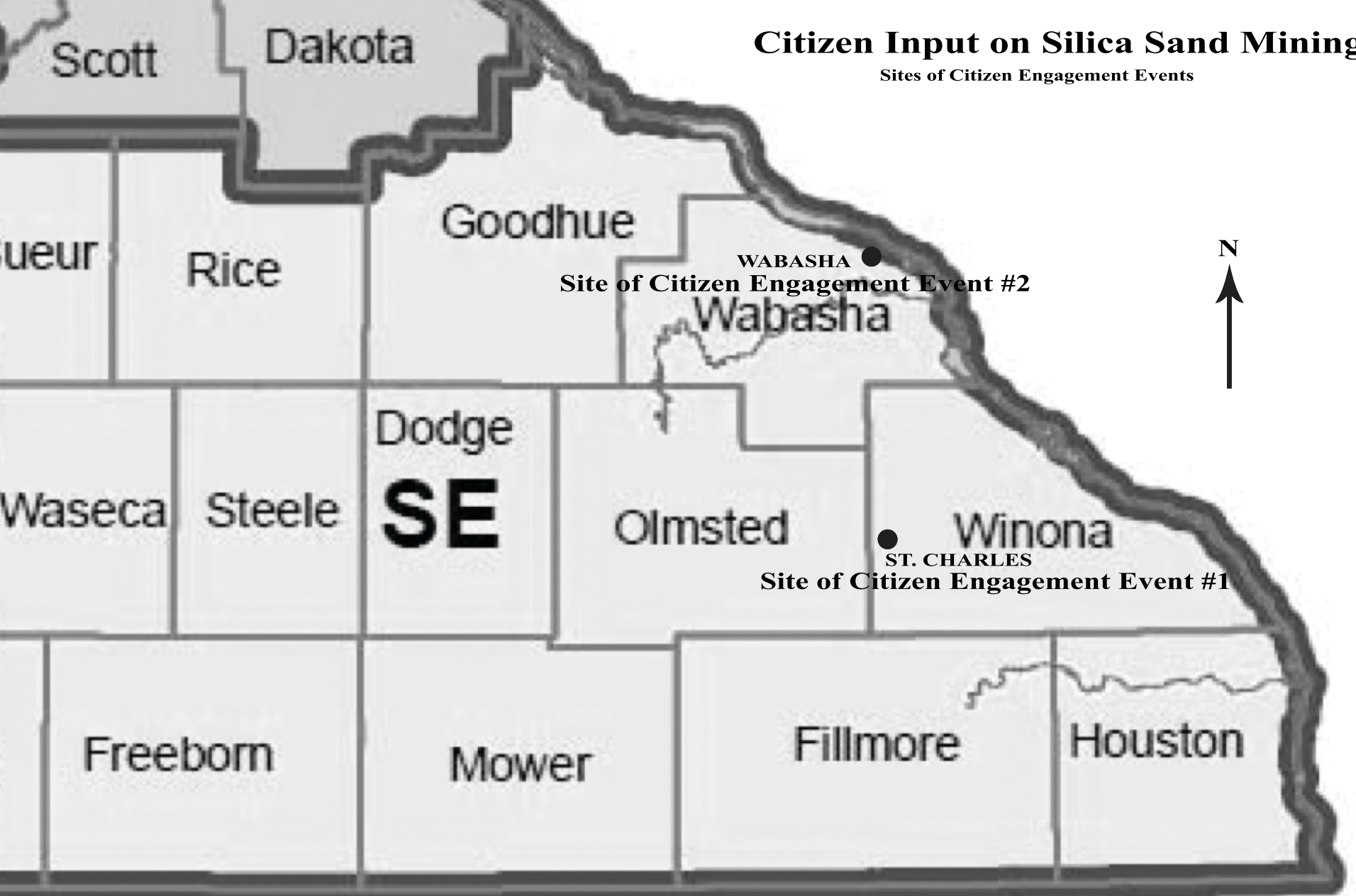
BUDGET ITEM						AMOUNT
Personnel:	Name	Annual	Benefits	Project FTE	Subtotal	
Project Manager	Kyle Bozentko	#REF!	\$6,000	20.88%	\$11,692	
Process Designer	Larry Pennings	\$50,000	\$6,000	10.05%	\$5,631	
Project	Dawn Dettinge	\$41,000	\$6,000	12.69%	\$5,965	\$ 23,288.46
Contractors:		Rate	Quantity	Hours	Estimate	
	Moderation	\$120	2	144	\$17,280	
	Survey Company		2 Surveys		\$40,000	
	Mailing Company	Sample & Mailing for Panelist Enlistment			\$7,000	\$ 64,280.00
Travel:						
	Staff Travel to Events	Milage	Cars	Rate	Subtotal	
	St. Charles	202	2	0.5	\$202	
	Wabasha	152	2	0.5	\$152	\$ 354.00
Additional Budget Items:					Subtotal	
	Venue Rental for Citizen Jury				\$7,850	
	Publication of Citizen Jury Results	Number	Printing	Postage		
		2600	\$2,600.00	\$1,300.00	\$3,900.00	\$ 11,750.00
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =						\$ 99,672.46

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS						AMOUNT	Status
In-kind Services During Project Period:							
	Rate	Panelists	Events	Days			
Panelist Stipends	\$150/day	24	2	3	\$21,600.00		
Alternate Panelist	\$150/day	3	2	1	\$900.00		
				Event Supplies	\$2,800.00		
				Staff Lodging	\$3,600.00	\$28,900.00	Pending

Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

Sites of Citizen Engagement Events



WABASHA
Site of Citizen Engagement Event #2

ST. CHARLES
Site of Citizen Engagement Event #1



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Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description

The Jefferson Center is a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1973. Our mission is to strengthen democracy by improving civil discourse and advancing informed, citizen-led solutions to complex public policy issues. We do this by providing tools and process with a strong emphasis on the Citizens Jury process, that enable an informed, fair and representative voice of the people to be developed and included in the decision making process. Citizens Juries have been conducted at city, county, regional, state and federal levels addressing a wide range of topics including global warming, agricultural effects on water quality, and hog farming.

Kyle Bozentko, *Co-Director* – Kyle brings a decade of political strategy and public policy experience to building collaborative partnerships, and developing and implementing successful projects. He works with media partners, community leaders, partner organizations, policy experts, and participants to maximize project impact. In this project Kyle will apply his managerial and relational expertise to networking with stakeholders and community members on both sides of the frac sand mining debate, bringing them into the conversation so that the community can benefit from balanced, thoughtful citizen engagement.