

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 034-B

Watershed Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota's Water

Category: B. Water Resources

Total Project Budget: \$ 129,300

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 Years, July 2014 - June 2017

Summary:

This pilot study will calculate complete water budgets for two counties in Minnesota. Those water budgets can be used for proactive groundwater management in areas considered for mining development.

Name: David Lorenz

Sponsoring Organization: U.S. Geological Survey

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Goodhue, St. Louis

City / Township:

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



PROJECT TITLE: Watershed Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota’s Water

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Responsible groundwater management requires knowledge the water budget. The water budget is the quantity of water that is flowing through the hydrologic system as well as the amount of groundwater in aquifers (storage). We often have a good idea of groundwater storage (from a county atlas, for example); we have good knowledge of surface-water flow (from USGS and DNR streamflow gages); but we seldom know groundwater flow. This project will tie together those pieces of information.

The objective of the proposed pilot study is to calculate the water budgets, including the groundwater flow component, for selected watersheds in St. Louis and Goodhue counties. The goal of the proposed project is to provide information for proactive water management in two areas undergoing mining exploration.

Water budgets would be computed primarily using soil-water-balance (SWB). A current USGS project that uses SWB calculates only recharge for the state; the proposed project would extend those computations to include calibrated evapotranspiration and runoff, giving the water balance. Other data inputs into the watershed water budgets would include data from the USGS synthetic hydrograph project to help understand and map general flowpaths from surficial aquifers to streams.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Estimate groundwater contribution to streamflow **Budget: \$33,500**

The groundwater contribution to streamflow throughout each area will be estimated from the relations among low streamflows, landscape characteristics, and climate identified in the synthetic hydrograph project.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Spatial distribution of the average amount of groundwater discharge to rivers.	06/30/2015
2. Identify landscape characteristics that explain the spatial distribution of groundwater discharge to streams.	06/30/2015

Activity 2: Estimate groundwater recharge for each area **Budget: \$28,800**

Calculate recharge in each area using commonly available GIS data layers and climatological data. The GIS data includes land use and land cover, surface water flow direction, hydrologic soil group, and available soil-water capacity. The climatological data includes precipitation and air temperature.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Compile and produce GIS and climatological datasets.	12/31/2014
2. Calculate groundwater recharge and produce preliminary distribution maps.	12/31/2015

Budget: \$67,000

Activity 3: Analysis and map production

Integrate the results from activities 1 and 2 to reconcile differences and calculate all components of the surface- and groundwater budgets in the watersheds.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Compile water-use data.	12/31/2014



2. Produce final distribution maps.	12/31/2016
3. Produce map reports	06/30/2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Because this project relies on current projects within the USGS, in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, all work will be done by the USGS. The project team will consist of

- Dave Lorenz, principal investigator and surface-water specialist;
- Erik Smith, groundwater hydrologist and SWB expert;
- Tim Cowdery, groundwater hydrologist;
- Christiana Czuba, surface-water hydrologist; and
- Chris Sanocki, GIS specialist.

B. Timeline Requirements

The proposed project will start on July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2017, with the publication of a USGS Scientific Investigations Map and the corresponding GIS data. The project timeline is described in section II and no other conditions or stages are required for this project.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The proposed study will help water managers to proactively manage water in the targeted counties and watersheds. It is intended as a pilot study that would eventually cover the state of Minnesota. The groundwater flow and budget information from this study would help fill data needs hindering effective groundwater management. The information is critical to produce an accurate understanding of groundwater flow and levels and flows throughout a watershed. The results from each watershed budget analysis would be presented in a map report that documents the methods and data and an associated GIS dataset. The GIS dataset could be used for any future studies.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Watershed Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota's Water

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

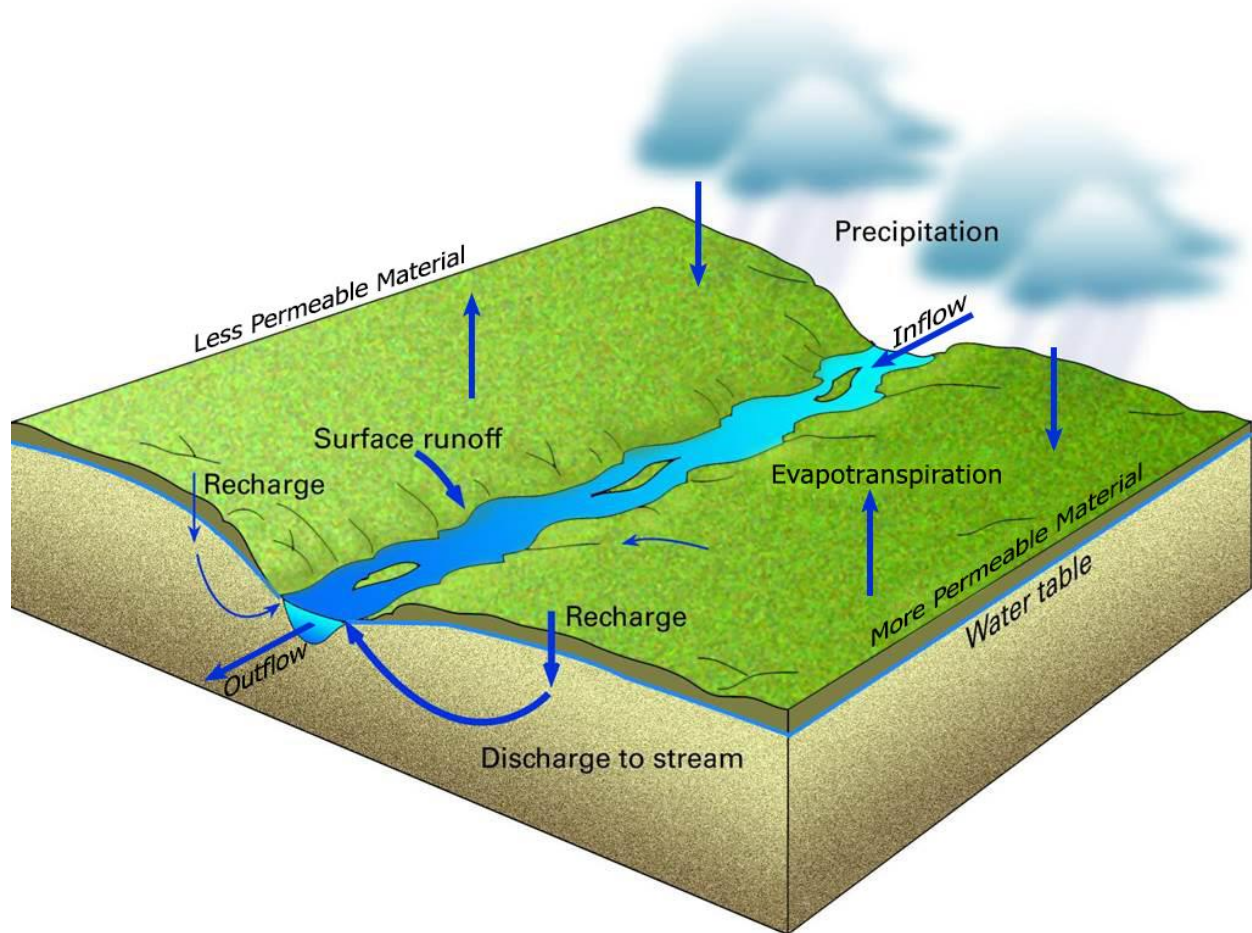
BUDGET ITEM Note USGS personnel includes only salary and benefits	AMOUNT	
Personnel: Dave Lorenz, surface-water specialist (4.5 weeks oversight and Activity 3)	\$	13,500
Personnel: Erik Smith, groundwater hydrologist (11 weeks Activity 2)	\$	26,400
Personnel: Tim Cowdery, groundwater hydrologist (4 weeks Activity 1 + 9 weeks Activity 3)	\$	31,200
Personnel: Christian Czuba, surface-water hydrologist (4 weeks Activity 1 + 10.5 weeks Act. 3)	\$	34,800
Personnel: Chris Sanocki, GIS specialist (4 weeks Activity 1 + 4 weeks Activity 3)	\$	19,200
Personnel: Administrative staff (2 weeks to prepare and administer budgets)	\$	4,200
Contracts: none	\$	-
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: none	\$	-
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): none	\$	-
Travel: none	\$	-
Additional Budget Items: none	\$	-
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$	129,300

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: none	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: USGS Cooperative Water Program (33% of total)	\$ 63,700	<i>Secured</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: This project will rely heavily on 2 current projects being conducted by the USGS--the SWB recharge project and the synthetic hydrograph project.	\$ 500,000	<i>Secured</i>
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): none	\$ -	
Funding History: none	\$ -	

Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota's Water—Supplemental Graphics

The image below presents the basic concepts of the water budget for any particular area within a watershed. The overall water budget consists of inputs; precipitation and inflow, which is zero for headwaters; and outputs, losses from evaporation and outflow. The critical components for managing water use are the internal flows, surface runoff and recharge that eventually discharges to the stream. Landscape differences are highlighted in the graphics below—the recharge is larger and the surface runoff is smaller in the more permeable material than in the less permeable material. This pilot study would help to quantify the internal flow so that water use could be more sustainably and proactively managed than knowing only that we can extract more water from more permeable material than from less permeable material.



Principal Investigator Qualifications – David Lorenz

David Lorenz is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Mounds View, Minnesota. He currently serves as Surface Water Specialist for the Water Science Center in Minnesota and as Technical Lead for R support within the Water Mission Area of the USGS. His background is in Civil Engineering with a strong emphasis in statistical analysis.

Since starting with the USGS in the early 1980s, David Lorenz has been involved in several state-wide hydrological analysis studies. Those studies include a low-flow study in 1987; three regional flood-frequency studies in 1987, 1997, and 2009; and a groundwater recharge map in 2007. He has also been involved in local studies such as a groundwater-surface water interaction study in the Glacial Ridge area in northwestern Minnesota and Red River and Upper Mississippi River National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program studies.