

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 089-C

Demonstration Water Quality Protection Practices on Zumbro River

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 413,934

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

Summary:

To achieve increased water quality through the application of agricultural and urban BMPs in the Zumbro Watershed by increasing public understanding, connection, and engagement, to the watershed water quality issues.

Name: Lawrence Svien

Sponsoring Organization: Zumbro Watershed Partnership

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Location

Region: Southeast

County Name: Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha

City / Township:

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

Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund 2013-14 Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: Demonstration Water Quality Protection Practices on Zumbro River

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Problem: The Zumbro River Watershed in Southeast Minnesota covers a diverse environmentally sensitive landscape that is typical of rivers in the SE MN. The health of the watershed is challenged by urban and rural development, agricultural practices that can be environmentally damaging and lack of general awareness for need for stewardship of the river. The river is not seen as the asset that it is.

Need: Because 98% of the Zumbro River Watershed is privately owned, citizens need to connect with the river and understand its value and importance in order to champion the implementation of water protection practices appropriate to the watershed's differing landscape conditions.

Project Goal: To achieve increased water quality conservation practices in the Zumbro River Watershed through public understanding of, connection to, engagement with, and awareness of, the watershed water quality issues and the agricultural and urban Best Management Practices that address those issues.

Strategy: Create water quality educational learning stations in public places in the watershed that rural and urban landowners and land users visit so that they will identify and be motivated to apply agricultural and urban Best Management Practices. Building on the processes developed in an on-going prototype project now focusing on two sites, ten additional existing public sites, such as parks, school grounds, scientific and natural areas, and flood buyout property will be selected and enhanced by adding environmental demonstrations that promote:

- Water quality protection practices,
- Flood prevention, and
- Control of invasive aquatic species.

From the headwaters to its mouth at the Mississippi River, the network of sites will tell the watershed's environmental story and promote water stewardship through awareness of appropriate, effective clean-water practices while encouraging civic engagement and recreational use. The sites will be chosen in frequently-visited public areas easily accessible to the public, public officials, educational groups, fishermen, canoeists, and boaters, where people enjoy fishing, boating, picnicking, observing nature, etc. Sites in small to large communities to be selected range in annual visitor s: 5,000 to 200,000.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Publicly Engaged Process to Select Sites

Budget: \$15,000

Site selection and project sustainability: A key component of this project will be engaging local communities in the process of identifying and planning the sites so they embrace long-term ownership of the site in their community. We will host at least two watershed-wide public meetings to receive comments on the proposed sites. Sites will then be evaluated based on the potential to protect the watershed and provide ecological, educational and recreational benefits that will encourage on-going community support. The sites will be in parks, trailheads, canoe launches, fishing piers etc.

Initial Screening: We will identify potential sites using a collaborative outreach process used in the prototype project (2012-13). Sites will be on existing public lands illustrating our diverse landscape, environmental challenges that offer the potential to illustrate water protection practices including:

- Restored wetlands that provide ecological services,
- Rural and urban soil and water conservation practices, such as grassland buffers,
- Managed woodlands and pastures that promote infiltration,
- Groundwater protection practices for fractured limestone (karst) geology,
- Restored trout streams that provide improved habitat and public access, and
- Flood plains with significance for stream habitat and water quality.

(See the map for potential locations of the above sites)

Outcomes	Completion Date
Engagement of local citizens and identification of potential sites for evaluation	April 2015
Analysis of public responses and evaluation of the potential sites	June 2015
Ten sites selected for design and building	June 2015

Activity 2: Publicly Engaged Process to Program & Design 10 Sites

Budget: \$132,562

Each selected site will be programmed and designed using a publicly engaged design process for each site. Community meetings will solicit input on the site design. Educational infrastructure (permanent on-the-ground water quality demonstrations, signage, and kiosk designs) will interpret the significance of the water quality technique to the site and within the watershed.

Outcome	Completion Date
Ten sites designed & community educated (funding for programming and design of recreation and education infrastructure plus mileage for site visits, engagement of local communities, and project management)	December 2015

Activity 3: Build 10 Sites, Create Educational Maps, & Disseminate Maps

Budget: \$276,372

The Conservation Corps of Minnesota and/or community groups will build sites according to their design. Printed and digital maps unique to each site that interpret each site and its significance to the watershed's water quality will be distributed at each site and across the watershed via partner websites and in hard copy to appropriate government agencies, educational, community, and recreational institutions.

Outcome	Completion Date
Ten sites built (funding for labor and materials plus mileage, construction observation, engagement of local communities, and project management)	October 2016
Maps for public use (funding for development of site maps, a watershed-wide map, printing and distribution of 1,000 copies of each map)	October 2016

Activity 4: Evaluation

Budget: \$12,432

Evaluation will center on community engagement based on visitor counts and site maintenance and management plans and counts of people involved in site selection, programming each site, site design, building the design, the use of the sites for educational venues, and the distribution of educational maps.

Outcome	Completion Date
Number of community people engaged in each phase of the project.	October 2016

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners receiving ENRTF money:

- **UM Center for Changing Landscapes** Mary Vogel, Co-Director and staff: site selection, site and map design, construction observation
- **Conservation Corp of Minnesota** Youth corps volunteers and young adult corps: coordination and construction of infrastructure

Partners receiving ENRTF money and providing in-kind:

- **Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.** Lawrence Svien, Executive Director & Kevin Strauss, Education Coordinator: project coordination, site selection, community outreach, education planning
- **UM Soil, Water, & Climate** Dr. David Mulla (in-kind) and graduate students (paid): ecological evaluation of sites
- **UM Extension** Doug Malchow, Watershed Educator: site selection, education planning (mileage only)
- **UM Extension SE Regional Partnership** Erin Meier, Executive Director: site selection, community outreach (mileage only paid)

Partners not receiving ENRTF money:

- **DNR** Craig Blommer: site selection, design consultation
- **Hiawatha Trout Unlimited** site selection, design consultation

B. Timeline Requirements: The time allotted reflects two building seasons after selection and design. **C.**

Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs: The Zumbro Watershed Partnership, UM Extension and other educational efforts will use the map and ten sites as outdoor classrooms to promote water quality stewardship in the watershed. Although no additional sites are anticipated at this time, telling the watershed story may be enhanced by adding future sites

Detail Budget 2014-16

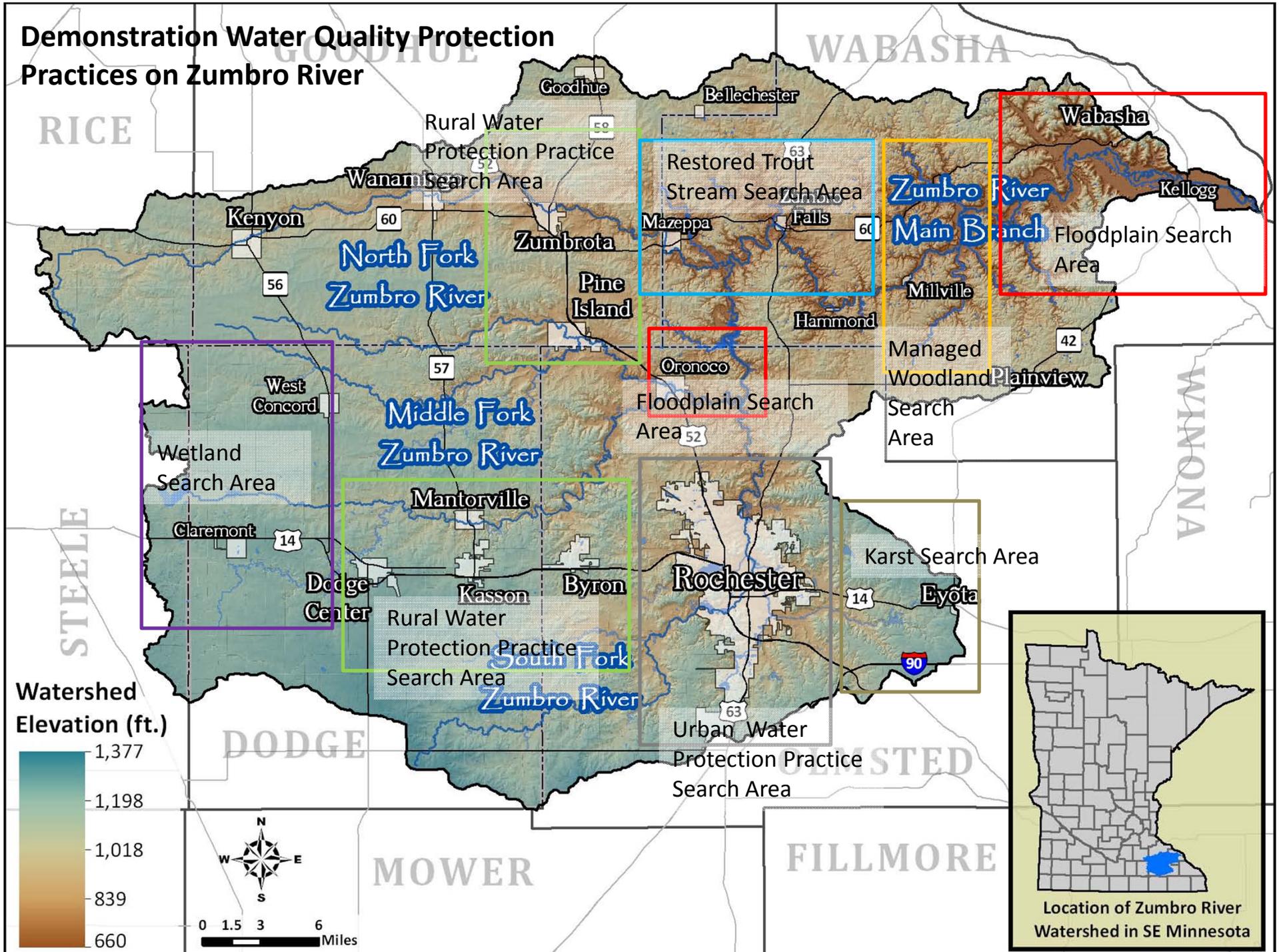
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2.3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ -
Zumbro Watershed Partnership Coordinator - Project coordination and facilitation, ___ FTE 92% Salary 8% benefits for 2.3 years	\$ 51,450
Zumbro Watershed Partnership Education Coordinator - Community outreach, site selection and education planning, .2 FTE 92% Salary 8% Benefits for 2.3 years	\$ 24,710
University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes Co-Director - Team leader for design, construction plans and construction observation for 10 sites, 500 hours @ \$54.42/hr (\$50.86 salary; \$3.56 benefits)	\$ 27,210
University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes Research/Outreach Staff - Design and construction plans and construction observation, 2229 hours @ \$38.08/hr (\$28.00 salary; \$10.08 benefits)	\$ 84,880
Contracts:	\$ -
Conservation Corps of Minnesota - Site construction 3,125 hours @ \$16/hr for youth corps volunteers; 2,272 hours @ \$22/hr for young adult corps	\$ 99,984
University of Minnesota Soil, Water & Climate - Graduate student assistance in ecological evaluation of sites 200 hours @ \$25/hr (\$20.37 salary; \$4.63 benefits)	\$ 5,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Construction materials such as rock, vegetation, wood, signage (\$10k per site)	\$ 100,000
Printing (design drawings, maps for public meetings and instructional drawings for construction crews; 1,000 copies of each site map and the watershed-wide map; large maps and other public meeting materials)	\$ 9,000
Travel:	\$ -
Mileage - \$6,000 for ZWP, UM Extension and UM SE Regional Development Partnership staff (~60 miles per site x .55/mile x 5 community meetings per site x 10 sites plus \$350 for site selection and project management meetings each); \$5,700 for UM Center for Changing Landscapes (~190 miles per site visit @ .55/mile x 5 trips per site x 10 sites plus 5 additional meetings for construction design and observation)	\$ 11,700
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 413,934

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ 44,019	
University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership: staff and board time for site selection, community outreach (\$10,000)		
University of Minnesota Extension: staff time for site selection, community outreach, education planning and implementation, educational field days (\$20,000)		
Zumbro Watershed Partnership: staff and board time for education implementation and public events (\$9,000)		
Department of Natural Resources: staff time for site selection and design consultation where appropriate (\$3,000)		
University of Minnesota Soil, Water and Climate: Dr. David Mulla's assistance with ecological evaluation of sites, .01 FTE (\$2,019 = \$1,485 salary; \$534 benefits)		
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): \$150,000 in 2011 for Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization project (M.L. 2011. First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d)	\$ 149,000	Unspent
Funding History: Funding is being sought from the SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Experiment in Rural Cooperation for a prototype recreational learning site in the Zumbro to be selected/designed prior to the beginning of this project.	\$ 15,000	

Demonstration Water Quality Protection Practices on Zumbro River



PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS & ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Demonstration Water Quality Protection Practices on Zumbro River

Project Manager Qualifications

The project manager for the “Demonstration Water Quality Protection Practices on Zumbro River” proposal will be Lawrence Svien, Executive Director for the Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP). Lawrence holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science in Geographic Information Science from Penn State University. Lawrence has worked for the ZWP since May of 2012, administratively supporting the Board, supervising staff and volunteers, coordinating member and partner activities, and managing the day to day business of the Partnership including ongoing grants. Lawrence is administering numerous grants for the ZWP, including \$25,000 and \$76,000 Surface Water Assessment Grants, and \$82,000 Nutrient Pollutant Load Monitoring grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), two McKnight Foundation grants totaling \$130,000, and a \$140,000 contract with the MPCA to write the Zumbro turbidity Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan and update the Zumbro River Watershed Management Plan. Lawrence is also the Project Manager on a current ENRTF project, *Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization* (M.L. 2011. First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d. Lawrence’s experience administering grants includes managing budgets, compiling reports, and facilitating partner and community meetings. Lawrence previous employment with USDA NRCS had him managing a \$4.5M EQIP and WHIP budget across 14 counties in the SE.

Description of Organization

Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) organization created to serve as a catalyst for interaction between watershed citizens and natural resource professionals. The ZWP is a member driven organization, working across jurisdictional boundaries to achieve the goal of protecting and restoring the natural resources and social benefits of a healthy watershed. The mission of the ZWP is “To promote the protection and improvement of the Zumbro River Watershed.”

The ZWP Board of Directors is composed of 25 members. Each of the six counties in the watershed are represented by an appointed County Commissioner and a Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor; the remaining 13 positions are held by citizen directors elected for three-year terms. Currently, the ZWP employs two part-time staff and one contract vendor.

In 2007, ZWP prepared the first comprehensive watershed management plan for the 910,337-acre Zumbro River Watershed, which serves as the framework for prioritizing projects and funding. The management plan was recently updated and revised and approved by the ZWP board in May, 2013. The Zumbro Watershed Partnership is serving as the cataliste and coordination in the One Watershed, One Plan initiative by BWSR and MPCA. ZWP’s funding currently comes from a combination of membership dues, business donations, and state and foundational grants for specific projects.