

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 091-C**

Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 99,672.46

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

**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

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_____ 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

#### Project Title: Citizen Input on Silica Sand Mining

**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

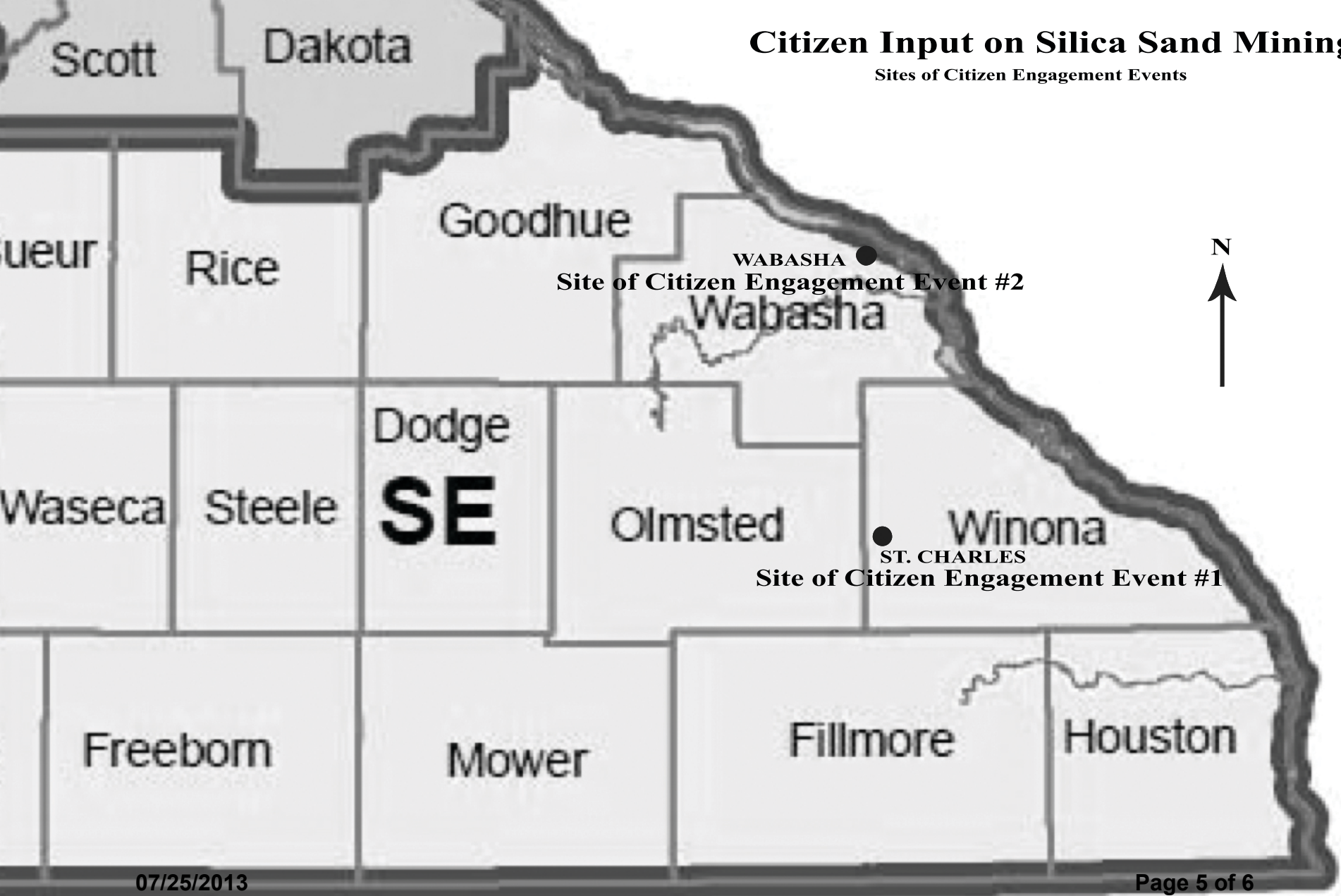
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>						<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Project FTE</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	
Project Manager	Kyle Bozentko	#REF!	\$6,000	20.88%	\$11,692	
Process Designer	Larry Pennings	\$50,000	\$6,000	10.05%	\$5,631	
Project	Dawn Dettinge	\$41,000	\$6,000	12.69%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

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>						<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>							
	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Panelists</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Days</b>			
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



**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.