

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 099-C

Race 2 Reduce-Water Conservation for Youth

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 262,920

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, July 2017 - June 2018

Summary:

Race 2 Reduce will reduce personal water use for youth by 20% over a 3 year period. Students will become educated citizens and stewards of water resources.

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Ramsey

City / Township: White Bear Lake

Alternate Text for Visual:

The attached visual shows the area encompassed by District 621

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



PROJECT TITLE: Water Conservation

I. PROJECT STATEMENT LCCMR GRANT Proposal

H2O for Life seeks support to expand Race 2 Reduce (R2R) a water conservation program, targeted for 8300 youth and 600 teachers in the White Bear Lake Area Schools. R2R educates youth to reduce personal water use, and develop an understanding of the importance of protecting our water resources. When completed it will be a replicable model that may be adopted by school districts across Minnesota. R2R engages youth to reduce personal water use and become water stewards who protect and advocate for water resources for future generations.

Race 2 Reduce will provide a streamlined implementation of educational materials that will build awareness and knowledge for youth in grades K-12 about the importance of water resources; and will provide lessons and actions, that will lead to behavior change. R2R has aligned water conservation educational materials in grade levels 3-5 this year, and will complete alignment for grades K-2 by June 2017. By 2017-18 when grant funds are available, we will be able to complete alignment for grades 6-12.

By packaging easy to use and effective lesson plans that include measurement and evaluation and making them available on an online platform, teachers will be able to implement materials within classrooms without the need to be a “science” expert or the need for additional training.

Water conservation materials that are embedded in every grade over time will lead to awareness and behavior change. R2R will provide turn-key materials, easy to use and implement that build on prior knowledge from the previous year. At the secondary level, focus is on project-based learning designed to provide education with service action to positively impact the local community. The expected outcome is that students will reduce their daily water use behaviors, and become leaders of change for the future.

Historically, youth education is an effective tool that drives long term community behavioral change. Students carry learning home to their families. (Ex: Smoking, drug and seat belt campaigns focused on youth) Schools along with families and community buy-in are the necessary partners to achieve sustainable behavior change.

Race 2 Reduce programming will develop students who are prepared to participate in community decision-making and actions that will protect and conserve our water resources.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Water Conservation resources*

Budget: \$191,670

Current water conservation educational materials will be aligned to standards and implemented for all grade levels 6-12. Lead teachers will work with Project Coordinators from District 621 and R2R.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Alignment of educational water conservation materials for grades 6-12 (4000 youth) will lead to a reduction of personal water use by students who will bring lessons learned home to families. A team of lead teachers will work with project managers from R2R and WBLAS. Lead teachers will provide “train the trainer” sessions for their schools prior to implementation of materials.</i>	<i>June, 2018</i>
<i>2. After school programming will provide service learning projects that have positive impact on the local community through measureable action plans and collection of data. (Ex: construction of rain gardens, riparian walls, water monitoring, PSA’s developed by youth and more) After school advisors will be trained, and R2R will provide action plans for clubs and after school programs.</i>	<i>June, 2018</i>

Activity 2: *Online learning modules*

Budget: \$46,250



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) LCCMR

2017 Main Proposal

Project Title: Water Conservation Curriculum Alignment K-12

Water conservation educational modules will be provided through an easy-to-use and accessible online format. Materials will be available free to all school districts/educators across the state of Minnesota and nation. The platform will be housed on H2O for Life’s website and managed by H2O for Life upon project completion

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. K-12 Conservation of water materials will be aligned to standards will be free and available for access on an online Platform hosted by H2O for Life.</i>	<i>Ongoing-June 2018</i>
<i>2. Schools in White Bear Lake and across Minnesota will embed and implement educational water conservation materials across grade levels that will change the way Minnesotans view water use for the future.</i>	<i>June 2018 and forward</i>

Activity 3: Program Evaluation

Budget: \$25,000

A contracted evaluation firm will evaluate the overall Race 2 Reduce program to ensure that program goals are met. Measurement and evaluation tools for each lesson will be available for teachers and students

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Grades 6-12 Evaluation and Measurement program developed by Improve Group or other educational consulting firm. Online surveys and data collection will be available to assure that collection of data is easy for students and teachers and will be easily analyzed for impact.</i>	<i>June, 2018</i>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

H2O for Life, a Minnesota based International non-profit, is collaborating with the White Bear Lake Area School District to continue a current 2 year project in progress with funds provided by the MN State Legislature. During school years 2015-16 and 2016-17 Race 2 Reduce, a program concept developed by H2O for Life is developing a water conservation and water protection program using already available water conservation educational materials that will be aligned and implemented by grade level to develop a program with consistent goals for K-12 classrooms. An online platform will be free and available to share with schools and educators across Minnesota. Water education materials developed this year for a “Water Week” in White Bear Schools will be introduced statewide to all elementary schools for the Governor’s Water Action Week, April 19-22, 2016.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Education of a nation about a resource as important as water cannot be left to chance. It is apparent that we cannot continue to use water in the future as we do today if it is to be sustainable. To change our water behavior, we must have a systematic approach to learning that builds on prior knowledge from year to year. Youth must be part of the solution. R2R will provide a systematic approach focused on reducing water use and development of stewards for protection of our water resources.

C. Timeline Requirements

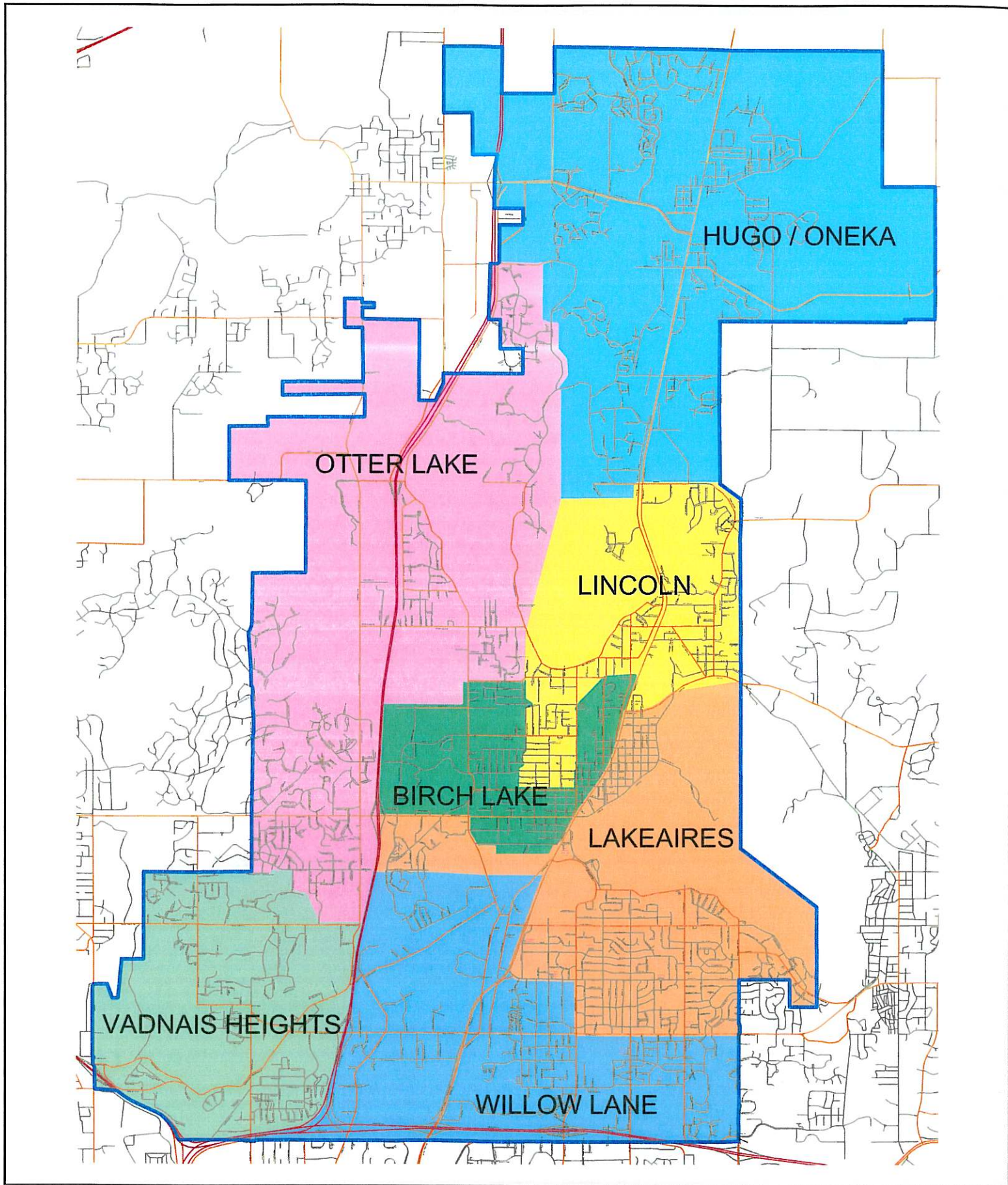
July 2017-June2018- align and implement educational water conservation materials to grades 6-12 state standards.

2017 Detailed Project Budget LCCMR

Race 2 Reduce Water Conservation program with White Bear Lake Area Schools

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 1 Year project

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
Personnel:	\$	-
1.0 WBLAS School district Instructor as School District Race2Reduce Curriculum Coordinator-Coordinate meetings with lead teachers, work with R2R on all aspects of curriculum alignment and development training for schools. Teacher on special	\$ 95,000	30%
.2 WBLAS IT Pathways instructor will work with high school students to assist teachers in implementing lessons around water conservation and water as a critical resource. This opportunity gives high school students a voice in advocating for water conservation	\$ 20,000	30%
6 WBLAS teachers @ \$30/hr for 45 hours project integration. Attend after school meetings to develop curriculum alignment for grade levels - % fringe benefits are below-Line 13	\$ 8,100	
24 WBLAS teachers @ \$30/hr for 15 hours align and embed lessons - attend inservice training during the summer and inservice days to lead implementation in schools -% fringe benefits per district contract below Line- 13	\$ 10,800	
1.0 Race 2 Reduce Project Manager-work with WBL Program Manager and lead teachers to align and implement curriculum	\$ 52,500	11%
.25 Race 2 Reduce Website design and management-create online webplatform for R2R	\$ 13,125	11%
.25 Race 2 Reduce after school programming coordinator provided by R2R (2 hrs after	\$ 13,125	11%
Fringe benefits for the hourly rates of District Leads (6 and alignment projec teacher above \$8100, +\$10,800=\$18,900 x 30% (7.65 FICA/7.5 TRA/14.95 Health, Dental Life	\$ 5,670	
Contracted Services:		
Improve Group or similar RFP to be issued to contract services	\$ 25,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$	-
Equipment for Middle and High School programs @ 2400 per school/4 sites (estimated	\$ 9,600	
Printing, instructional supplies and office supplies	\$ 10,000	
Travel:	\$	-
Reimbursement of travel expenses as per state mileage reimbursement for WBLAS-travel for WBLAS personnel, lead teachers and Program coordinator to travel between buildings in the District to meet with teachers and attend curriculum meetings	\$ 1,200	
Reimbursement of travel expenses as per state mileage reimbursement for R2R Project Manager, and after school program coordinator-travel to team meetings and to individual schools throughout each school week for program development	\$ 900	
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =		262,920
V. OTHER FUNDS	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
SOURCE OF FUNDS	\$	-
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	NA	
McNeely Family Foundation	\$15,000	<i>pending</i>
Xcel Energy	\$20,000	<i>pending</i>
Dellwood Family Foundation	\$5,000	<i>pending</i>
Kinetico Water	\$30,000	<i>pending</i>
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	NA	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$	-
MPCA GreenCorps member	\$28,000	<i>pending</i>
Funding History:		
Current 2 year MN Legislative Grant for Race 2 Reduce expires June 30, 2016 Districts successfully will complete implementation of K-5 water conservation embedded into curriculum and with LCCMR funding will complete grades 6-12 and after school programming focused on Water.	\$150,000	<i>secured and will be completed</i>



05/07/2018

LCCMR Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

H2O for Life: H2O for Life is a non-profit and parent organization for a new program titled Race 2 Reduce. (R2R) H2O for Life's mission is to educate, engage and inspire youth to learn about the global water crisis and take local and global actions to make a difference in the world. Our primary focus over the past 9 years has been to provide funding for water, sanitation and hygiene education (WASH in Schools Initiative) for partner schools located in developing and emerging countries. U.S. schools partner with a global school partner, learn about the water crisis and create action plans to raise funds for their partner school project. We are a nationally recognized service learning organization focused on WASH in Schools through youth engagement. We have partnered with over 1000 US school partners-many who have joined us for 3-8 years, who have raised over 3 Million dollars for WASH projects. Over 350,000 youth have participated in our program.

As we develop new educational material for schools, we have realized that teachers around the country are searching for materials that connect local issues of water with global issues. This led us to develop Race 2 Reduce, a program that is focused on local water resources and the importance of protecting this precious resource for future generations. Race 2 Reduce is focused on aligning water related educational materials to state standards in grades K-12 to develop awareness and provide strategies for youth to reduce their water use. Because of our experience and success with youth and teachers over the past 9 years, we know that we will deliver a program that is embraced by teachers and has effective results.

Our Race 2 Reduce Project Manager (Abby Collins) will lead educational materials alignment development and support lesson implementation in the White Bear Lake Area Schools. She will work closely with the evaluation and measurement consulting firm that we hire, and will work closely with our website designer to develop our online web platform. She is a 2015 Graduate of the University of Minnesota with a major in Communications and Public Health. For the past year, she has been the assistant to our current Race 2 Reduce project manager and has had the opportunity to develop relationships with key teachers and administrative staff in the White Bear Lake Area Schools. She has the educational background and skills necessary to work collaboratively with White Bear Lake Schools and to lead teacher meetings, trainings and implementation. She and the WBLAS coordinator will work closely to be sure all timelines are met, and that all teachers are receiving the support needed for successful program development and implementation.