

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 171-E

Capacity Building for Rural Resource Management Implementation

Category: E. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy

Total Project Budget: \$ 655,424

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2018 to June 2021

Summary:

We will implement a community engagement strategy that will enable state agencies to better implement natural resource management strategies in rural areas with authentic rural support for those strategies.

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Sponsoring Organization: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

map of Minnesota Economic Development regions

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



PROJECT TITLE: Capacity Building for Rural Resource Management Implementation

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will use our pioneering civic engagement model to implement rural priorities and solutions to key challenges for Minnesota’s natural resources through a process that will generate authentic rural support for implementation. We will share these findings with policy makers and the nine state agencies that make up the Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

On many of Minnesota’s key issues, particularly around natural resources, there is a unique complexity that guides rural resource management – often exclusive from urban processes for managing the same resources. Our rural citizens are tied closely to the state’s natural resources both economically and culturally. Yet, too often, rural communities are pressed to respond to new policies related to natural resources – often opposing those policies – rather than at the table helping to create those policies from the beginning. Minnesota is facing major changes to ensure the protection of our water, land and air for generations to come. And there is growing action to transition toward more renewable, locally-produced energy. It is critical that rural-based priorities be identified and conveyed in the development of future policy on the state’s natural resources.

For two years, IATP and the Jefferson Center – a civic engagement focused nonprofit and our partner in facilitation – have been conducting the Rural Climate Dialogues. Each 3-day dialogue is preceded by months of stakeholder engagement and identifying local experts to present testimony on community-identified issues. In September of 2016, we held a statewide convening of rural dialogue participants in St. Paul to connect them with state agency staff who provided a statewide context and resources for achieving their common goals in becoming climate resilient communities. Both the rural participants and state agency staff identified a gap in providing rural specific resources to meet the goals of Minnesota’s Climate Action Plan.

This project will hold modified, natural resource specific, dialogues within each of MN’s 10 non-Metro Economic Development Regions, over two years. Each dialogue of rural citizens will identify top natural resource challenges for the regions and concrete action steps. Representatives from each dialogue will present the findings to EQB members as well as policymakers with a goal of integrating these priorities into the development and implementation of natural resource-focused policy in the state. The EQB, component agencies and state legislators will also have an ongoing base of rural dialogue participants and a successfully demonstrated process for future natural resource based policy development.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Rural Dialogues. Budget: \$350,000

We will conduct 10 3-day dialogues using the IATP/Jefferson Center model, one in each of Minnesota’s non-metro economic development regions.

Tasks: Identify key region-specific issues and stakeholders through research and community engagement.

Identify and engage issue experts inside and outside of each region.

Solicit dialogue participants and promote dialogue in community and media.

Upon dialogue completion, produce a report of the dialogue findings.

Goal: Participants and the broader community are empowered to engage with government in crafting rural-specific natural resource policy.

Evaluation: Pre and post dialogue surveys will be taken to measure participant change in opinion, and willingness to further engage.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Participants will emerge from dialogue with agreed upon, actionable, region-specific solutions for natural resource protection and development.	07/01/2020
2. Reports of key findings, solutions, and action steps will be made available to the public.	07/01/2020

Activity 2: Policymaker and agency staff engagement Budget: \$50,000

We will hold follow-up meetings and events with relevant state agency staff and legislators to share the findings of the dialogues.

Tasks: Identify overarching issues that emerge among the regions.

Identify relevant policymakers and agency staff to address findings of the dialogues.

Connect dialogue participants with officials in small group and larger forum settings as appropriate.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2018 Main Proposal
Project Title: Capacity Building for Rural Resource Management Implementation

Develop a shared understanding between all parties of potential public policy implementation to address identified findings.

Goal: Policymakers and community members share an understanding of the solutions available to meet their regions’ natural resource needs.

Evaluation: Meetings will be tracked and meeting notes will be included in all necessary reporting.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. ~30 follow-up meetings will be conducted for participants to share findings with policy makers and agency staff. (~3 per region)	01/01/2021
2. Key findings that require legislative action will be identified and communicated to relevant parties with sample bill language prior to 2021 legislative session. (While we will make the sample language available, we will not lobby for it with any funds distributed for this project)	01/01/2021
3. Sub-state level policy recommendations will be developed for implementation on a rolling basis	07/01/2021

Activity 3: Best practices for ongoing success

Budget: \$100,000

We will create a Minnesota specific training manual for agency and local government staff [BL1] to conduct rural engagement on natural resource based issues.

Tasks: Survey EQB component agencies’ and select local government officials’ capacity for rural engagement.

Integrate current agency capacity into IATP/Jeff Ctr. Model.

Compile best practices and desired outcomes into training manual for agency staff

Host series of training events to familiarize staff with the manual and process.

Goal: Our process for rural civic engagement is carried out by public officials beyond the period of the grant.

Evaluation:

Outcome	Completion Date
1. At least 45 government staff have expanded capacity for rural civic engagement (2 training sessions x ~15 participants)	07/01/2021
2. The training manual will be put online on a public facing website and hard copies will be distributed to relevant agency staff and public officials.	07/01/2021

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

IATP’s rural strategies team will lead this project. Anna Claussen is the Director of Rural Strategies, and has been IATP’s lead on our rural civic engagement work. She will oversee this project. Jim Kleinschmit is an advisor to IATP with over 20 years’ experience in rural development work. Tara Ritter is a program associate who is an expert in rural natural resource management. Ben Lilliston directs IATP’s Climate and Agriculture programs, under which this project falls. An additional part-time coordinator for the team will be hired as well.

We work in partnership with staff from the Jefferson Center, Kyle Bozentko, Andrew Rockway, and Camille Morse Nicholson are all facilitators of the Citizen Jury method on which our model is based.

IATP will administer all funds and contract with the Jefferson Center for their services. No public-sector partners will receive funds from this project. We anticipate no additional funding for this project.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The long-term strategy of this project is to create a self-perpetuating, ongoing process for state agencies to engage rural people in developing community priorities related to the environment and natural resources. The project would build local capacity to address complex resource management issues, including water quality, land use and preservation, and any other contentious issue that requires a rural specific solution to meet statewide goals.

C. Timeline Requirements

Using the full three years available for completion of LCCMR grants will enable us to be fully exhaustive in our approach to engaging stakeholders, working in a statewide context, and putting forth quality and detail in our reporting. We are confident we can achieve high levels of quality in our work within the 36-month timeline.

2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: *Identifying rural priorities for Minnesota's natural resources*

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2018 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

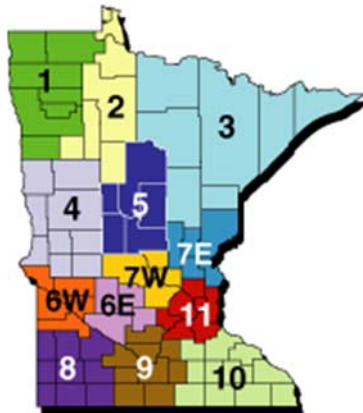
(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If budget item row is not applicable put "N/A" or delete it. All of "Other Funds" section must be filled out.)

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
Anna Claussen, Project Director (80% salary, 20% benefits) .5fte for 3 years.	\$ 122,850
Tara Ritter, Program Associate (80% salary, 20% benefits) .3fte for 3 years.	\$ 68,040
Ben Lilliston, Program Director (80% salary, 20% benefits) .1fte for 3 years.	\$ 30,996
Josh Wise, Communications Director (80% salary, 20% benefits) .1fte for 3 years.	\$ 26,838
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	
Jim Kleinschmit, Rural Development consultant	\$ 21,500
Jefferson Center (Hourly at \$50/hr)	\$ 180,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: <i>In this column, list out general descriptions of item(s) or item type(s) and their purpose - one row per item/item type.</i>	
Office Space pro-rata allocation per staff ftes	\$ 30,000
Printing and Copying	\$ 5,000
Computers/Internet/Phone for general use pro-rata allocation per staff ftes	\$ 5,200
Dialogue space rental (10 events x ~1500 per event)	\$ 15,000
Meals at dialogue (6 meals event x 30 eaters x \$10/person)	\$ 1,800
Stipend for dialogue participants (\$150 per person per day x 3 days x 20 people x 10 meetings. This allows us to have a representative sample of the community and ensures participants are indeed able to participate.)	\$ 90,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): <i>In this column, indicate proposed number of acres and name of organization or entity who will hold title.</i>	\$ -
Travel:	
Lodging and meals for 6 staff @ 3 visits per dialogue location @120/day per person x 2 day average trip.	\$ 43,200
Mileage: ~30,000 miles over 3 years at 50 cents/miles staff and contractors at 30 trips (3 per site) x 2 vehicles.	\$ 15,000
Additional Budget Items	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 655,424

V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g., bonding, other grants) secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional in-kind service(s) secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each type of service, list type of service(s), estimated value, and indicate whether it is secured or pending. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: <i>Specify dollar amount and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Indicate the status of the funds.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Other Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured but to be expended prior to July 1, 2018, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds and dollar amount.</i>	\$ -	



Economic Development Regions	
EDR 01 Northwest	Kittson County Marshall County Norman County Pennington County Polk County Red Lake County Roseau County
EDR 02 Headwaters	Beltrami County Clearwater County Hubbard County Lake of the Woods County Mahnommen County
EDR 03 Arrowhead	Aitkin County Carlton County Cook County Itasca County Koochiching County Lake County St. Louis County
EDR 04 West Central	Becker County Clay County Douglas County Grant County Otter Tail County Pope County Stevens County Traverse County Wilkin County
EDR 05 North Central	Cass County Crow Wing County Morrison County Todd County Wadena County
EDR 06E Southwest Central	Kandiyohi County McLeod County Meeker County Renville County

EDR 06W Upper Minnesota Valley	Big Stone County Chippewa County Lac qui Parle County Swift County Yellow Medicine County
EDR 07E East Central	Chisago County Isanti County Kanabec County Mille Lacs County Pine County
EDR 07W Central	Benton County Sherburne County Stearns County Wright County
EDR 08 Southwest	Cottonwood County Jackson County Lincoln County Lyon County Murray County Nobles County Pipestone County Redwood County Rock County
EDR 09 South Central	Blue Earth County Brown County Faribault County Le Sueur County Martin County Nicollet County Sibley County Waseca County Watsonwan County
EDR10 Southeast	Dodge County Fillmore County Freeborn County Goodhue County Houston County Mower County Olmsted County Rice County Steele County Wabasha County Winona County
EDR 11 7 County Twin Cities	Anoka County Carver County Dakota County Hennepin County Ramsey County Scott County Washington County

Anna Claussen, Project Manager

As the Director of Rural Strategies at IATP, Anna Claussen focuses on the creation and retention of natural and social wealth within rural communities in order to improve the quality of life for all residents. Of particular interest is the impact of extreme weather and changing climate on rural communities and the opportunities for an emerging bio-based economy that can produce clean food, energy and materials. A landscape architect by training, Anna bridges years of practice in urban design and planning with a life deeply rooted on a Minnesota family farm. Previously, Anna has focused on creating resilient communities through the creation of alternative land-use plans, regional greenway studies, city comprehensive plans, and park and trail system plans for communities across Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. Anna is a coordinator of the Minnesota Green Chemistry Forum, and is IATP's staff member overseeing the Working Landscape Certification program. Anna has a bachelor's degree in geography and studio arts from Gustavus Adolphus College and a master's degree in landscape architecture from the College of Design at the University of Minnesota.

The Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy

Based in Minneapolis, MN, with offices in Washington, DC and Berlin, Germany, IATP is committed to advancing policy solutions—locally and globally—to some of the world's most complex problems in order to promote resilient food, farm and trade systems. We are proud to be part of a thriving community of analysts, farmers, organizers and activists who fight tirelessly to make public policy more fair and just—from our headquarters in Minnesota to the largest urban cities in the U.S. and abroad. For over 30 years, IATP has worked for agriculture and trade policies that are good for farmers, ecosystems, and social justice.