Project Title: **ENRTF ID:**   133-C

Race 2 Reduce: A Minnesota Water Resource Education Curriculum

Category: C. Environmental Education

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: $ 205,670

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

Summary:

Race 2 Reduce, a water resource education curriculum, seeks funding to complete modules that teaches students about water resources and empowers them to take action through advocacy and civic engagement.

Name: Judy   Onufer

Sponsoring Organization: H2O for Life

Title: Education Project Manager

Department:

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           White Bear Lake   MN   55110

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township: White Bear Lake and additional schools statewide, tbd

Alternate Text for Visual:

Five images are provided of students engaged in Race 2 Reduce program activities and student advocacy work.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____%
	_____ If under $200,000, waive presentation?		

PROJECT TITLE: Race 2 Reduce: A Minnesota Water Resource Education Curriculum

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Water resource quality, protection and conservation are recognized issues in White Bear Lake and many other cities and communities throughout the state of Minnesota. While efforts to address these issues have been put forth by government agencies and organizations, we strongly believe that the most powerful agents of change in our future is our youth. Race 2 Reduce focuses on empowering youth with knowledge and advocacy skills to be the agents of change in communities throughout our state. White Bear Lake Area Schools and Race 2 Reduce partnered together to create a water resource education curriculum that integrates academic standards to engage students civically through authentic connections within their community, state and world. The Race 2 Reduce curriculum is interdisciplinary and thematic to build knowledge in the realms of awareness, impact and advocacy. In the 2017-2018 school year, White Bear Lake Schools is undergoing full K-5 Race 2 Reduce implementation throughout White Bear School district. Race 2 Reduce is seeking funding to complete the vertically articulated curriculum through the middle school level and to meet the needs of our youngest learners in early childhood. The sustainability of the Race 2 Reduce curriculum is met by providing students with water resource education aligned with state standards and embedded in grade levels, rather than written simply as an enrichment add-on. For example, in second and fifth grade, students use comprehension strategies to identify cause and effect of water issues in communities, apply citizen advocacy skills to communicate water issues using persuasive text to convince others to take action and make a difference in their community. The aim of Race 2 Reduce is to develop students' skills to think critically, be creative with possible solutions, collaborate and communicate for water resource protection now and in the future. The goals of developing and implementing the Race 2 Reduce curriculum is achieved through design teams and staff development that focus on increasing instructional capacity to ensure sustainability.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Curriculum development of Race 2 Reduce modules for grades Pre-K, 7 and 8
ENRTF BUDGET: $32,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Curriculum modules for Grades Pre-K, 7 and 8 will be drafted and piloted. 3 units will be drafted, one per grade. Each will be piloted in one class by a design team member. A report will be submitted to the managing partners including metrics on student assessments for standards achievement.	June 2020

Activity 2: Curriculum implementation of Race 2 Reduce modules for grade Pre-K through grade 8
ENRTF BUDGET: $107,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Previously created modules for K-5 and newly drafted Pre-K and grade 7-8 modules will be fully implemented district wide in the White Bear Lake Area School District through professional development and classroom coaching support. Implementation will be monitored and tracked by the managing partners.	June 2021

Activity 3: Statewide dissemination of the Race 2 Reduce curriculum modules.
ENRTF BUDGET: $51,570

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Curriculum modules and lesson plans will be revised to include supporting materials and enrichment for other regions of MN beyond the White Bear Lake region.	June 2020

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2. Web-based enhanced access to Race 2 Reduce curriculum will be incorporated within the H2O for Life website platform.	June 2020
3. Creation of opportunities for students to share experiences of advocacy and engagement through web-based collaboration across geographic boundaries.	June 2021

Activity 4: Green Infrastructure Service Learning Experiences.
ENRTF BUDGET: $15,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1.Race 2 Reduce curriculum will be expanded to incorporate service learning opportunities in support of the primary mission of water conservation and resource protection education.	June 2021

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Judyth Onufer	Education Project Manager	H2O for Life	Race 2 Reduce project oversight and management
Kim Rasch	Race 2 Reduce Coordinator	White Bear Lake Area Schools	Race 2 Reduce curriculum development and implementation management

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Additional School Districts that potentially adopt this curriculum would not receive ENRTF funding.	n/a	n/a	n/a

IV.   LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Upon completion of the design and implementation phase of this project, the Race 2 Reduce curriculum will be fully embedded in the K-8 program district wide in White Bear Lake, impacting 8800 students, which will serve as an exemplar for other districts. The program is fully self-sustainable with the complete standards-aligned curriculum available on a web-based platform. H2O for Life will host the curriculum on its primary website and will be responsible for its maintenance and utilization by districts other than White Bear Lake. The broader impact has the potential to positively affect water quality through student led advocacy through the state.

V.   TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:

It is anticipated that this project will be complete by June 2021. The work described in this proposal is the 4th and final phase of a curriculum development project begun in the 2015-2016 school year, currently in its 3rd phase of design and implementation.

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2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Race 2 Reduce: A Minnesota Water Resource Education Curriculum

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	
Personnel:	$	-
1.0 WBLAS School District Instructor as Race 2 Reduce Curriculum Coordinator	$ 74,500	47%
6 WBLAS teachers @$30/hr for 45 hours project integration	$ 8,100	5%
.75 H2O for Life Race 2 Reduce Project Manager	$ 45,000	28%
.75 H2O for Life Race 2 Reduce Project Implementer	$ 30,000	19%
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 Insurance = $5670 Insurance	$ 5,670	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	$	-
Improve Group or similar RFP to execute data collection and reporting	$ 12,000	
Bust Out Solutions website design and management	$ 24,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	$	-
Printing, instructional supplies, office supplies	$ 4,000	
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	n/a	
Travel:	$	2,400
Additional Budget Items:	$	-
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND $ REQUEST =	$	205,670

V. OTHER FUNDS

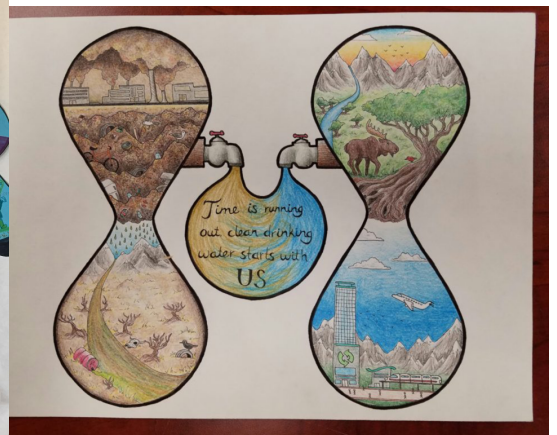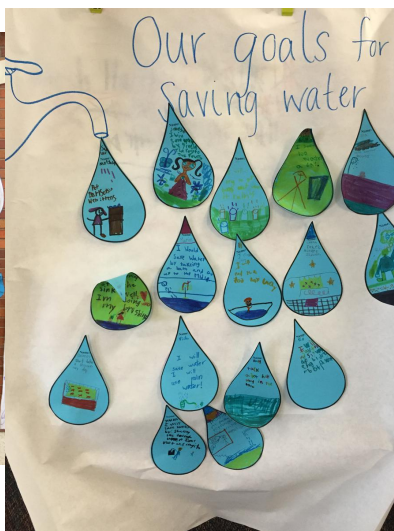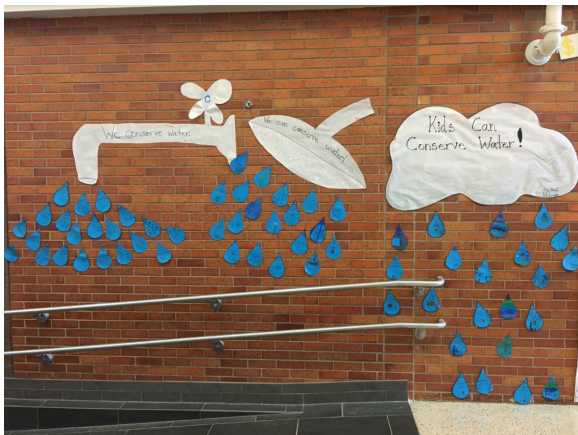| SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State $ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:		
Schulze Foundation	$ 20,000	*renewal*
Xcel Energy	$ 12,500	*renewal*
Nash Foundation	$ 4,000	*renewal*
Other State $ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	n/a	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: H2O for Life to provide additional staff support for project including website management and state wide district outreach.	$ 22,500	*secured and will be completed before period*
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	$ -	
Other Funding History: Current one year extension of the MN Legislative Grant expires June 30, 2018. WBLAS district will successfully complete implementation of K-5 water conservation curriculum embedded and with LCCMR funding will complete grade pre-K, 7 and 8	$ 246,000	*secured and will be completed before period of LCCMR grant*

RACE 2 REDUCE
BECAUSE WATER MATTERS

Empowering students to advocate for water resources

Students engaging in Race 2 Reduce activities

Student Race 2 Reduce projects

LCCMR Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

H2O for Life: H2O for Life is a non-profit and parent organization for a program titled Race 2 Reduce. Race 2 Reduce was created to complement H2O for Life's mission: students learn about the global water crisis and take action to provide water and sanitation for a school in need. Local and global water issues are interconnected, and students need to learn about water in their own back yard and around the world. Judyth Onufer is our Race 2 Reduce Project Manager for 2016-2021. She will lead the curriculum alignment and implementation support in the White Bear Lake Area Schools and will be responsible for taking the lead on web platform design as well state-wide outreach. Judy is a science education professional with more than 30 years of experience. She received her BA in Botany and EdM in Science Education from Rutgers University. She holds teaching certifications in NJ for K-12 Comprehensive Science and Secondary Biology. Additionally, she has previously been employed as a high school physics and environmental science teacher, an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and Director of Education at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in NY. Judy has the educational background and skills necessary to work collaboratively with White Bear Lake Schools and to lead teacher meetings and trainings and implementation. She and the WBLAS coordinator will work closely to be sure all timelines are met, and all teachers are receiving the support needed for a successful launch of the program.

A part-time Project Implementer will be recruited and will be under the direction of the Project Manager. Responsibilities will include coordinating outreach and training activities with schools, providing curriculum resources about water conservation and environmental stewardship, coordinating meeting schedules and communications with Race 2 Reduce design and implementation teams, and collaboration with the WBLAS Project Coordinator.

White Bear Lake Area Schools: White Bear Lake Project Coordinator will be selected from applications submitted by current White Bear Lake Area School teachers and will be a "Teacher on Special Assignment" who will lead and coordinate materials and collaboration with lead teachers and Race 2 Reduce project manager. The candidate must have a focus on environmental education, science or curriculum development as a strength and must possess the ability to work as a team member and the skills to lead implementation of lessons in classrooms across the district.