

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 149-CH**

Middle Fork Crow River: Appreciate, Clean, Learn, Connect

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**Category:** H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

**Sub-Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 12,968

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2023 (4 yrs)

**Summary:**

We will develop and carry out 3 annual events for 3 years aimed at connecting 1,050 people through paddling, cleaning up, and studying the Middle Fork Crow River.

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**Name:** Margaret Johnson

**Sponsoring Organization:** Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District

**Title:** Administrator

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** 189 County Rd 8 NE  
Spicer MN 56288

**Telephone Number:** (320) 796-0888

**Email** margaret@mfcrow.org

**Web Address** mfcrow.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Central

**County Name:** Kandiyohi, Meeker, Pope, Stearns

**City / Township:** Spicer, New London

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The visual shows a series of 3 pictures which consist of people paddling on the crow river, cleaning up the river and doing a study on the river.

_____ 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?			



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2019 Main Proposal Template**

**PROJECT TITLE: Middle Fork Crow River: Appreciate, Clean, Learn, Connect**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District has a unique opportunity to educate people and reach citizens from both within and outside of the watershed. The Middle fork has a 4 mile stretch of river that has remained relatively undisturbed located in the heart of Ag country that provides us with a unique opportunity to show people how the river looked and behaved prior to all the ditching, channelizing, and draining that has happened throughout the watershed. The overall Goal of this project is to improve water quality. By connecting people to and educating people about the water resources in the Middle Fork Watershed we will promote and develop a resource ethic that will influence decisions across the watershed. This will be accomplished through a series of 3 events that will take place on the Middle Fork Crow River that consist of Paddle the Crow, Clean up the Crow, and Learn from the Crow events. After attending the events people will have been able to experience the Crow River from the water, help the river by cleaning up various stretches of the river, and learn about the life that needs the river to survive. Water quality starts and ends with people and that is why it is so important that we get people on the water to realize what an amazing resource it is.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Paddle the Crow**

Host 3 Paddle the Crow events over three years. During the Paddle the Crow we will have a fleet of canoes, including one voyager canoe that can hold up to 20 people, paddle a beginner friendly portion of the Middle Fork Crow River. We will use this as an opportunity to educate 150 or more citizens on water quality and water resources in our area including how to identify erosion and other potential threats to water quality i.e. Aquatic Invasive Species. Exposing new paddlers to the Middle Fork in a safe and controlled environment where we can teach them navigation, paddle technique, safety, and river etiquette will hopefully start people off on the right foot when enjoying our natural resources. This will also allow the development of a network of citizens united around the Middle Fork Crow River providing the district an avenue for future engagement. People will be presented with a survey before and after to gauge effectiveness of the education and event in general.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$4436.05**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Paddle the Crow Days 3 consecutive years starting in 2020	6-29-22
2. 150 people educated and paddling on the water	6-29-22
3. Short film on Paddling days	7-29-22

**Activity 2: Clean up the Crow**

Host 3 River Clean up Days over 3 years. This activity has a twofold benefit one we are helping clean up the river and areas along the river that would likely contribute pollution to the river. Through this activity we would also be using the time together to talk to people about the importance of these resources and other ways we can take care of them. The idea with this is after we get people out for the paddle and connected with the resource, those same people will be much more likely to come and volunteer on the clean up day. People will be presented with a survey to gauge effectiveness of the education and event in general before and after each clean up.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$3386.05**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Clean up days 3 consecutive years starting in 2020	9-20-22



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2019 Main Proposal Template**

2. 400-1200 pounds of garbage cleaned up from the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed	9-20-22
3. 60-100 people participating in education and cleanup activities	9-20-22

**Activity 3: Learn from the Crow**

Host 3 Community Macroinvertebrates Classes over three years. People will be exposed to all the life that is right in the waters at their feet. In this class people will make connections between their actions and the health of our waters. By looking at the biology in the river one can make inferences about the quality of the water and use that information to compare it to other waters in the area. This activity will empower people to do their own citizen science and evaluate the waters wherever they live. The macroinvertebrate investigation kits developed for this activity will also be used in other education events hosted by the District. These will be very useful tools for many years. People will be presented with a survey to gauge effectiveness of the education and event in general before and after each class.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$5146.05**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Macroinvertebrate Class 3 consecutive years starting in 2020	8-11-22
2. 60-100 people educated and connecting to their local waters	8-11-22
3. 6 sets of pond study materials that could be used again in the future	8-11-20

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Crow River Organization of Water</b>	<b>Program Managers</b>	<b>Local Water Resource Professionals</b>	<b>Clean up the Crow Partners</b>

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

These activities provide valuable opportunities to engage people on multiple fronts including but not limited to natural resource appreciation, resource maintenance, and natural resource stewardship in general. By developing these activities and promoting them throughout the proposed three years we would be setting up the district for success in carrying out these independent of external funding in the future. The cost and coordination time will likely come down as we get better at hosting the events and people become more interested in participating potentially providing a revenue source allowing sustainable implementation of the activities into the future. Another aspect to these activities is that there has been increased concern for recreation in the area with a growing tourism economy, so these kinds of things should only increase in popularity in the area and the District wants to be there to start people out on the right path. These activities are consistent with the goals and objectives in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District's Watershed Management Plan and thus will be continued into the future.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

From July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to September 20<sup>th</sup> 2021. Activity development will be taking place. After each activity survey results will be analyzed and used to develop the next year's event. With the goal of having a well-developed activity after 3 years.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title:**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 4 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Coordinator No. of hours 216 @ Hourly rate \$46.65 The 216 hours will be the hours used to host and coordinate the 9 events that will be hosted over 3 years.	\$ 10,076.40
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Canoe Rental 150 people @ \$7/ person this rental will be through Prairie Wood Environmental Learning Center. They are the only entity in the area that has the equipment necessary for the paddle day and they supply staff as well.	\$ 1,050.00
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> 6 macroinvertebrate kits (\$1760)	\$ 1,760.00
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> 150 miles @ .545 cents / mile	\$ 81.75
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 12,968.15</b>

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

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Supplies for Clean up the Crow (Gloves \$300, Garbage Bags \$42, T-shirts \$150).	\$ 492	
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Other Funding History:</b>	\$ -	

# Appreciate the Crow



## Clean up the Crow



## Learn From the Crow



## ***Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District***

### ***Organization Description***

#### **Background**

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District is a special purpose unit of government that was established by citizen's petition in April 2005. The District exists for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed. The District consists of a board of five Managers from three of the four counties in the watershed. Because only a very small portion of the watershed lies in Pope County, there is no board member from that county. Board members are appointed by County Commissioners and serve three year terms.

#### **Location**

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed drains a 271 square mile area. The river begins in Stearns County in the Belgrade area and flows southward through northeast Kandiyohi County. As the river flows south it passes through the City of New London and enters Green Lake in Spicer. After the river outlets from Green Lake, it flows eastward. Water runoff from the City of Atwater and Diamond Lake enter the Middle Fork Crow River just before it crosses the Meeker County line. The river joins the North Fork Crow River just east of Manannah. The North Fork Crow River eventually enters the Mississippi near Dayton.

#### **Funding**

Base funding for the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District (MFCRWD) comes from an annual levy of \$250,000 assessed among each property owners in the watershed. We also actively pursue grant opportunities to expand our efforts without increasing costs to the property owners in the District. Since 2005, the MFCRWD has secured \$2,639,070 in grant funds with a \$1,494,199 match from the District.

### ***Project Manager Qualifications***

#### **Margaret Johnson**

##### **Experience**

Administrator, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, Spicer, MN 2012 - 2018

Hydrologic Technician, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, Spicer, MN

Resource Technician, Heron Lake Watershed District, Heron Lake, MN

Graduate Assistant, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN

Master of Science, Environmental Studies, Policy and Planning, Bemidji State University

Advanced training in Geographic Information Systems

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

International Field Seminar in China: Land Use and Water Issues

Minor in Geographic Information Systems

High School Diploma, New York Mills High School

##### **Current Grants Administered**

- Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network:
- Diamond Lake TMDL Implementation Projects grant
- Middle Fork Crow Watershed Restoration Loan Program
- Developed Partners Expanded Resources Accomplishment
- Integrated Water Quality Analysis for Targeted Priority Practices
- Intensive Watershed Monitoring: Surface Water Assessment
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy