

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Project Title:****ENRTF ID: 145-CH**

River Watch on the Minnesota River

**Category:** H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding**Sub-Category:** C. Environmental Education**Total Project Budget:** \$ 100,000**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)**Summary:**

This project continues and expands the high school team-based water quality monitoring project in the Minnesota River basin through which data is collected by students and submitted to MPCA.

**Name:** Ted Suss**Sponsoring Organization:** Friends of Mississippi River**Job Title:** Executive Director**Department:****Address:** 6601 Auto Club Road

Bloomington MN 55438

**Telephone Number:** (507) 828-3377**Email:** tedsuss@gmail.com**Web Address:** <http://www.friendsmnvalley.org>**Location:****Region:** Metro, Southwest**County Name:** Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dakota, Hennepin, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lyon, Martin, Nicollet, Otter Tail, Redwood, Renville, Scott, Sibley, Swift, Yellow Medicine**City / Township:** Blommington**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The attached map shows the location of the schools already participating in River Watch on the Minnesota river

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



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2020 Main Proposal Template**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The River Watch program is a high school team-based program, the 2018-2019 school year is the second year of the program, through which each team conducts water quality monitoring at 3-5 sites on the main channel or a tributary river or stream of the Minnesota River.

Water is monitored for nitrates, dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, clarity, bacteria, sediment content, and flow levels will also be recorded and data reported to the MNPCA.

This project is a continuation of a River Watch program Friends of the Minnesota Valley launched with six high school based teams during the 2017-2018 school year and continued with 14 teams during the 2018-2019 school year. These Classroom-based teams typically include 20 to 30 students.

A major outcome of the River Watch program is building a stronger public awareness and public support for river water quality improvement and associated land management improvement that is essential if the Minnesota River water quality and sediment issues are to be successfully addressed. The River Watch program is modeled after the highly successful River Watch program operated by the International Water Institute on the Red River.

Another outcome is to provide a hands-on learning experience for students that will lead them to a greater understanding and appreciation of water quality and related issues and provide them with technical knowledge and skills.

**Overall GOALS**

One: Conduct monthly water quality monitoring using PCA protocols and report the data to MNPCA to enable state and local units of government to make data drive decisions to improve water quality and reduce sediment transfer. Program will be expanded to gathering other environmental data such as macro invertebrate counting.

Two: Increase the amount of reliable water quality data to policy makers and the public.

Three: Engage student teams and the public in a water quality and related improvement projects in their area.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1 Title: Recruit Teams and Train Team Leaders**

**Description:** Recruit teams until the target of 20 High School based teams is reached, identify a team leader, and train the team leaders to oversee team water quality monitoring efforts and other activities.

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$5,000

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Remainder of 20 teams recruited for the 2019-2020 school year 14 teams active in 2018-2019 (Classroom-based teams are 20 to 30 students - averaging 23 students)	August 1, 2019
2. 2018-2019 Team Leader training provided including refresher training for returning team leaders	August 15, 2019

**ACTIVITY 2: Title: Purchase consumable materials and supplies as needed**

**Description:** Purchase YSI Sonde calibration chemicals and other consumable supplies

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$5,000



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2020 Main Proposal Template**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Needed chemicals are on hand to conduct monitoring	June 30, 2022

**Activity 3: Title: Plan and conduct monthly water quality monitoring and reporting at three or more locations per team.**

**Description:** River Watch Coordinator will work with each team to identify 2-3 monitoring sites, plan the schedule of monitoring, accompany teams on monitoring trips, and assure data submission to MPCA.

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$80,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Monitoring sites for 20 teams are selected, mapped and necessary approvals secured	August 2021
2. Monitoring by all 20 teams conducted up to monthly at 2-3 sites per team.	Ongoing until June 2022
3. Collected data submitted to MPCA	Ongoing until June 2022
4. Each team will identify additional projects such as macroinvertebrate counting and complete additional projects.	Ongoing until June 2022

**Activity 4: Title: Plan and convene two annual Minnesota River Basin Wide Forums**

**Description:** Convene two annual forums at which each team will present its experiences, report their data, and share data analysis. All state and local water quality policy makers and all other elected officials will be invited along with news media.

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$10,000

1. Convene 2020-2021 school year annual River Watch Forum	June 2021
2. Convene 2021-2022 school year annual River Watch Forum	June 2022

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:**

**Minnesota Izaak Walton League**

**Izaak Walton League of America**

**Minnesota Valley Chapter Izaak Walton League**

**Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University - Mankato**

**Minnesota River Congress**

**Numerous (Up to 20) School Districts**

**Minnesota DNR**

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

Friends of the Minnesota Valley is committed to support the River Watch program by providing office space, office equipment and support, project administration and oversight. Allocation of Friends of the Minnesota Valley administrative staff time to this project will be set at \$10,000 per year.

A request is pending to the Minnesota Legislature for ongoing long term funding for River Watch, The Red River-River Watch program receives a significant appropriation/MPCA grant, far greater than the amount requested at this time of LCCMR. Although several Minnesota River basin legislators have warmly received this funding request, this funding request **will not be approved** for the 2020-2021 biennium because the request was not initiated in time to be included in an agency budget request. Long term, legislative approval of a River Watch funding request is quite likely.

ENRTF funding for another two year cycle is essential to keep the program operating.

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet  
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Ted L. Suss

Project Title: River Watch on the Minnesota River

Organization: Friends of the Minnesota Valley

Project Budget: \$100,000

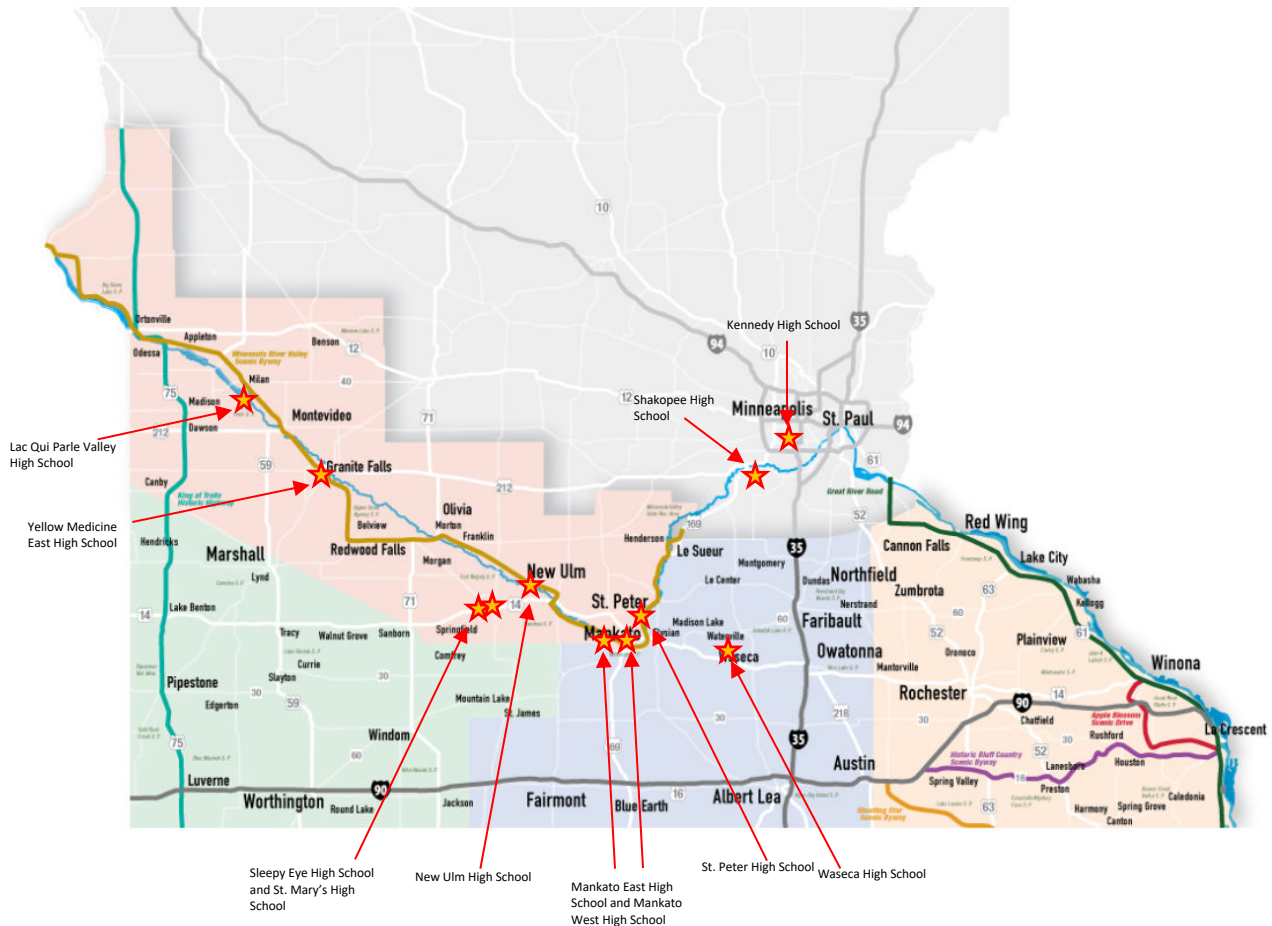
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years Completion June 30 2022

Today's Date: April 5, 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
Amanda Wold, Project Manager, speakers at forums, assistant to accompany some teams		\$ 74,000	\$ -	\$ 74,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Consumable supplies and test chemicals		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing				
		\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota				
		\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
Other				
Facility cost including food for student participants for two forums		\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000
<b>SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Non-State: Friends of MN Valley		\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
<b>Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>
M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05e		\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 75,000

# 2019-2020 Minnesota River Watch Program



## 11 Participating Schools

1. Lac Qui Parle Valley High School
2. Yellow Medicine East High School
3. Sleepy Eye High School
4. St. Mary's High School
5. New Ulm High School
6. Mankato East High School
7. Mankato West High School
8. St. Peter High School
9. Waseca High School
10. Shakopee High School
11. Kennedy High School

Five potential additional schools for 2020 including-Lake Crystal High School, Le Sueur-Henderson High School, Redwood Area High School, Renville County West High School, and Belle Plain High School.

# Amanda J. Wold

715 E 5th St., Redwood Falls, MN 56283/ (269) 370-2352/ Amanda.wold27@gmail.com

## Summary of Qualifications

- Highly motivated, creative and versatile individual with five years of experience in public outreach, project development, project implementation, and program management.
- Experienced at building effective and productive working relationships with colleagues and organizations.
- Strong commitment to community outreach and community engagement.
- Adaptable in high-pressure and fast pace environments and able to quickly learn new tasks, concepts, and processes.
- Highly dedicated to working efficiently, completing tasks satisfactorily, and exceeding performance goals.
- Proficient in corporate foundation and government grants and proposals.

## Education

- **Northland College**, Ashland, WI  
B.S., Natural Resources: Emphasis Ecological Restoration, May 2011  
GPA 3.33

## Work Experience

- **Brown Soil and Water Conservation District: District Technician: September 2017-Present**
  - Perform technical duties relating to various Programs and Projects of the Brown SWCD including: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM); AIS Prevention Program; Soil Health/Cover Crops; Rain Gauge Program; Buffer Program; Tree Program; WRAPS Projects; DNR Well Readings; Cost-Share Programs; Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and TEP Panel; One Watershed, One Plan Projects; and Education, Promotion, and Outreach.
  - This includes but is not limited to:
    - Providing technical assistance and advice to members of the public and landowners for all conservation programs and projects in the district
    - Performing field work
    - Promoting local, state, and federal conservation programs
    - Update and maintain website and social media to provide the most up-to-date information about conservation practices and funding availability.
  - Coordinate county-wide educational efforts with the Brown 4-H and University of Minnesota Extension Coordinator
- **Lower Sioux Indian Community Office of the Environment: Environmental Specialist: September 2014-September 2017**
  - Short and long term comprehensive management planning.
  - Identifying, applying for, and managing multiple project based grants both Federal and State.
  - Collaborating with Federal, State, and Local initiatives to ensure environmental health and security.
  - Program outreach through public meetings involving multiple stakeholders.
  - Working closely with leadership and other department staff to set goals and gauge progress in working towards the community long-term strategies and objectives.
  - Manage indoor air programs through EPA funding as well as outside organizations such as the American Lung Association.
  - Ensure Underground Storage Tank federal regulations are being met and site based testing and documentation is up-to-date.
  - Work extensively with local contractors and organizations to complete environmental projects for the benefit the Community.
  - Create and implement Tribal Ordinances in conjunction with legal counsel and the Lower Sioux Police Department including: Hunting Ordinance and Burn Ordinance and burn permitting. Developing Solar Ordinance, Gathering Ordinance, and Fishing Ordinance.
- **Oconto County Land Conservation Division: Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator: January 2012-September 2014**
  - Develop, coordinate, and facilitate the county's Aquatic Invasive Species Program.
  - Administration of county's AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant.