

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 196-EH

The Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

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

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

Total Project Budget: \$ 180,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)

Summary:

HRDCs project is centered around completing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Beltrami County, which encompasses the Red Lake Tribal region, and looks to foster environmental stewardship in our community.

Name: Joel Anastasio

Sponsoring Organization: Headwaters Regional Development Commission

Job Title: Environmental and Development Specialist

Department: _____

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Location:

Region: Northwest

County Name: Beltrami

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

The attached map shows the entire area where the project will be reviewing climate data and is included in the assessment

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



PROJECT TITLE: Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) is proposing a project centered around completing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Beltrami County, which encompasses the Red Lake Tribal region, and looks to foster environmental stewardship in our community. Our proposal addresses the “Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewal Energy” and “Environmental Education” priority categories determined by the LCCMR. This project will uncover community vulnerabilities by examining 7 focus areas that consist of energy, urban infrastructure, forestry and ecosystems, water quality, public health, social equity, and economic development. In addition, our local university, Bemidji State, has signed the Second Nature’s Climate Commitment and this project would help support their efforts by prioritizing community vulnerabilities. HRDC’s proposal for an assessment contains three main goals and includes: 1) improving and increasing programming in all 7 focus areas, 2) county level resiliency planning (once assessment is completed), and 3) promoting climate work beyond our county by creating a web based climate tool-kit that serves as an example for other rural Minnesota communities. The anticipated outcomes are numerous and directly affect a whole host of variables. For example, the climate assessment will triage where resources need to be directed, within each focus area, to address climate change impacts. The populations involved in our region are underserved and lack capacity to do so without additional support. Our water supplies and ecosystems are integral to our community’s health, so county processes that negatively impact those resources will be addressed and improved. Moreover, due to our location, energy usage is an enormous burden, causing increased emissions and social pressure. Our project will open the door for reducing energy usage by expanding the development of energy efficiency programs, renewables, and clean transportation. Overall, completing a vulnerability assessment allows Beltrami County the opportunity to take climate action to the next level and gives us the groundwork needed to effectively work toward a healthier environment. The Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment is vital to our area because resiliency planning has become a focus for our university and hospital, local businesses, organizations, and residents. More importantly, Beltrami County is not only an environmental justice area but a very rural community, and climate research is needed as capacity for this type of work is scarce.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Research and Compilation of Current Climate Data

Activity 1: \$161,280

Description: The research and compilation component of our proposal is the starting point to gathering climate data and other county information around the 7 focus areas, which are energy, urban infrastructure, forestry and ecosystems, water quality, public health, social equity, and economic development. Our main objective is to get a solid baseline of current and past data, so we can accurately paint a picture of the vulnerabilities but also uncover trends to show the changing landscape. We will first compile information from local city and county governments, DNR, tribal communities, hospitals, and other organizations in Beltrami County to begin framework development. Following this, we will then fill in gaps using state and federal level climate databases, climate tool-kits, and experts from Bemidji State University.

Activity 2 Title: Beltrami County Environmental Tool-Kit (Website)

Activity 2: \$ 4,500

Description: An important aspect of this proposal is the inclusion of a web-based tool-kit that will serve multiple purposes. For starters, it will track the progress of the vulnerability assessment from beginning to end so community members, organizations, and local governments, and other cities can be informed of our work. The purpose of this is to engage our county and garner support for climate resiliency. Next, the website will be a database containing information about the environmental work already completed in Beltrami County and who to contact for that specific project. Lastly, the website will be a “one-stop shop” reference for others to gather information on renewable energy, energy efficiency practices and carbon footprint, resiliency planning, funding opportunities and state programs for an array of environmental programs. We will be employing a web design intern, from Bemidji State University, and will rely on our partnership with all of our collaborators to complete this task.

Activity 3 Title: Task Force Creation and Public Engagement Meetings

Activity 3: \$9,500

Description: To ensure project effectiveness and efficiency, HRDC will conduct 5 public engagement meetings over the course of two years and create a small task force for this project. For example, we will ensure we are meeting with community partners and residents in Beltrami County, including Red Lake Tribal Nation, through public engagement meetings. This will give us a “boots-on-the-ground” account for climate change and environmental impacts and allow project feedback from our



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

community members. In addition, there will be a project task force, created at the start of the project, that is planned to be made up of one individual from each partnering organization, the project manager, and any serving interns.

Activity 4 Title: Publication of Vulnerability Assessment

Activity 4: \$4,0000

Description: The final task in our proposal involves publishing the Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Within this process, there will be multiple iterations and drafts but final review approval will come from a combination of the Project Manager, HRDC Executive Director and Board Members, and county officials. The assessment serves as the final step and completion of the entire project.

ENRTF BUDGET: Total Activity Budget: \$ 179,280

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Compile and analyze all climate and environmental data for each of the 7 focus areas, so we can uncover the vulnerabilities for Beltrami County and know what the assessment will entail. The outcome is building this awareness around what our community needs are, in relation to climate change, and having the information to create a vulnerability assessment.	12/30/2020
2. Creating a web-based tool-kit that informs the community on all levels of our environmental work but also becomes a reference to catapult environmental progress	02/28/2021
3. Creating a task force and facilitating public engagement meetings allows us to gain expert knowledge, stick to timeline projections, and ensure the community has buy-in for climate action, while having the resources to start climate resilience planning.	Task Force Completion: 09/2020 Public Engagement Meetings: 06/30/2022
4. Publication of the Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment will help the community begin resilience planning and give us a framework for prioritizing resources that address the most needed areas of climate impact.	06/30/2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

(1) Bemidji State University, (2) Sanford Heath System, (3) Red Lake Tribal Nation, (4) Beltrami County, (5) City of Bemidji, (6) Bemidji Regional Sustainability Committee, and (7) Minnesota GreenCorps Member

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The overall objective of this project is to administer a climate vulnerability assessment in Beltrami County, which is a rural community in the Northwest Region of Minnesota. Due to the remoteness and lack of capacity for projects of this nature, our area has not focused on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for our community. Our results will not only give us a resource to begin resiliency planning but gives the county the opportunity to assess what issues need the most attention and how we prioritize the resources needed. For rural communities, access to those resources are scarce and lacking so we must be diligent in making the right decision. Having a vulnerability assessment gives us the scientific backing to support allocation and climate action decisions. This project is part of a two phase work plan and intended to provide a vulnerability assessment so resiliency planning by the county and Bemidji State University can begin. Funding for the university is being established, while county level work will be in partnership with HRDC. This will require additional grant work in the future and includes keeping assessment information current. As of now, we project that updates for the vulnerability assessment will be every 5 years. This gives ample time to find funding and support from community partners. Once the assessment is complete, the capacity and financial support needed to keep information new is minimal, due to HRDC’s extensive network reach.

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

Legal Citation: *Not Applicable*

Project Manager: Joel Anastasio

Project Title: Beltrami County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Organization: Headwaters Regional Development Commission

Project Budget: \$180,000

Project Length and Completion Date: Length: 2 Years, Completion: 06/30/2022

Today's Date: 04/15/2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits): Project Manager-Joel Anastasio		\$ 115,200		\$ 115,200
<i>Project Manager: \$75 hourly, Total 1,536 hours for two years, 40% of salary and 64% of FTE. Project manager will lead the entire project from start to finish, keep activities on task, as well as be the main individual ensuring tasks are reviewed so objectives and outcomes are met. Activity 1 Budget.</i>				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Two Interns over the 2 year contract		\$ 46,080	\$ -	\$ 46,080
<i>Intern #1: \$32 hourly, Total 720 hours for two years, 100% of salary and 13% of FTE</i>				
Activity 2 Budget				
<i>Intern #2: \$32 hourly, Total 720 hours for two years, 100% of salary and 13% of FTE</i>				
Budget.				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Web tool kit program costs and presentation supplies		\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 4,500
<i>This amount pertains to program costs for creating a climate web-page and using a design program, along with the cost for hosting a web URL. Additionally, the grant will cover expenses for presentation materials such as handouts, binders, writing utensils, and poster board visual aids. This encompasses Activity 2 whole budget.</i>				
Printing: Printing presentation and meeting materials/room rentals/food for attendees		\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 4,500
<i>Cost in this category include: Printing handouts for public engagement meetings, room rental fee's for meetings with the task force members and community, and food for those events. Activity 3</i>				
Travel expenses in Minnesota: Task Force and Public Meetings and CERTs Conference		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
<i>This proposal requires 5 public engagement meetings and public meetings throughout the counties, therefore costs for gas, food, and lodging will need to be covered. There is the potential that our project could be presented at the CERTs 2020 conference, so lodging and travel costs for that event are also included. Activity 3 Budget.</i>				
Publication of final assessment and materials for producing the report		\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000
<i>Cost for printing and disbursing the final assessment report will also be covered under this grant. HRDC has done publications in the past and this amount reflects the estimate. Activity 4 Budget.</i>				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 179,280	\$ -	\$ 179,280
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT				
	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:			\$ -	\$ -
In kind: Clean Energy Resource Teams Funding		\$ 36,000	\$ -	\$ 36,000
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS				
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Beltrami Climate Vulnerability Assessment Project Scope



- * Focus Cities
- Red Lake Territory

Organization and Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager: Joel Anastasio, Environmental and Development Specialist – Holds a Masters of Energy Regulation and Law and Climate Law, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Joel joined HRDC in 2018 and has been the principal staff for the HRDC’s environmental and economic development work since he began this current position. His responsibilities include planning and environmental stewardship in clean energy, natural resource, climate resiliency, and community development for the Northwest Region. He also is responsible for connecting with the community to bring resources that encourage environmental and economic growth. In addition, in his current capacity, he oversees the NW Region for the Clean Energy Resource Teams and completes outreach, seed grant review, and project planning for renewable energy and efficiency.

Organization Description: The Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) has served the five-county Headwaters Region since its creation by the Minnesota legislature in 1971. We exist to help our communities, and our Region as a whole, be successful. This is our core mission, and core value. Everything we do is focused on creating that success. Our services and activities are a function of our skills and competencies and those needs communities have as they strive to be successful. The HRDC has a broad mission so it has the opportunity to work in a broad number of areas. Building and maintaining a strong culture and broadly embraced strategic direction requires strong facilitation and leadership skills. The HRDC is not a traditional agency. It does not have any form of legal implementation authority, as a result much of our budget is not guaranteed from year to year. In fact, the HRDC is more like a hybrid that combines the characteristics of a good business and a good public organization. As a result, the HRDC has developed an organizational culture that values strong customer relationships, leadership and civic entrepreneurship. In direct correlation, the HRDC prides itself in our work with environmental stewardship and public health and we strive to be a leader in the movement to a healthier climate.