**Project Title: Networking and Economics of Soil Health– Phase I**

**Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

Jennifer Hahn, Project Manager

Jennifer Hahn as the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition Coordinator having 14 years of experience working with producers to assess and address resource concerns, has completed soil health testing for producers, been a soil scientist, resource soil scientist, soil conservation technician, a soil conservationist, and a district conservationist with NRCS. Jennifer has experience in research, providing training, education, and outreach in soil health in addition to working with farmers to analyze profitability of utilizing conservation practices. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science minoring in Soil and Water Science from the University of Minnesota. The project will be overseen by the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition and partner with Minnesota State University Mankato to complete the soil testing, working with producers to obtain the management and economic data, compile, analyze, and share the data. Producers involved in the study, Coalition members, Minnesota State University Mankato, and Jennifer Hahn will be completing the outreach and education component of the project.

Mission of the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition: Producer driven education, outreach, and adoption utilizing information exchange to promote the principles of soil health practices. The Coalition is led by the Producer Board and consists of members; only producers can be voting members, all non-producer members will be associate members and not have voting privileges. Funds will be secured from membership dues and support from agencies, organizations, and businesses. The Minnesota Soil Health Coalition will be a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization. The vision of the Coalition is producer driven support to encourage voluntary adoption of soil health principles today and for the future. The values of the Coalition are to communicate relevant soil health information consistently in a practical manner by providing information exchange, compiling, and sharing information. Provide ongoing education and outreach to assist in the improvement of water, soil, and air quality for the state. Support visual and quantifiable cropland landscape change by promoting improved resource base (regenerative/sustainable). Producer driven focus on information sharing, education, and networking to build and strengthen soil health practice application in Minnesota.

Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University, Mankato (WRC-MSU, Mankato)

In 1987 the WRC-MSU, Mankato was created to serve as a regional center for gathering, interpreting,

and distributing data of environmental significance. Faculty and students accomplish these tasks

through applied research, educational programming, technical assistance, and water resource planning.

In addition, we have GIS staff with the capacity to create sophisticated GIS analysis and maps and

3‐dimensional landscape visualization. Using the latest data, the WRC-MSU, Mankato works with

citizens within the Minnesota River Basin to enhance the quality of regional lakes, rivers, wetlands, and

groundwater.

Since its beginning, the WRC-MSU, Mankato has participated in over 100 research, educational, and

planning projects involving partnerships with dozens of public and private organizations. These projects

range from groundwater, lake assessment, and TMDL studies to citizen engagement and water quality

workshops, to the development of watershed‐based plans for surface water quality protection. Our

stability since 1987 stands as a testament to the objective and quality products we produce. Long‐term

partnerships with counties, nonprofit organizations, and state agencies have resulted in many important

and far‐ reaching land and water resource initiatives. We have a dedicated staff and look forward to

enhancing the public’s understanding and connection with water resources in the region.