# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

**2020 Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**PROJECT TITLE**: UMD Boreal Observatory at Chik-Wauk on the Gunflint

# Joel Halvorson, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota Duluth

# Key Qualifications: Joel is a Science Communications Specialist, who has spent the past 30 years working in formal and informal education settings. This includes teaching, launching new museums, creating exhibits and educational programs, and nurturing partnerships between scientists and institutions. He has worked for the Science Museum of Minnesota, the new Bell Museum, and numerous national and international collaborators. He is currently working for UMD to develop new public engagement programs and strategies.

# EDUCATION:

M.A., 1992 University of St. Thomas, Learning Technology and Instructional Design

B.A., 1983. St. Olaf College, Mathematics

**Dr. Julie Ernst, College of Education and Human Service Professions, University of Minnesota Duluth**

# Key Qualifications: Julie earned her Ph.D. at the University of with an emphasis in environmental education and education research and evaluation methodology. She is a full professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her doctoral work included a focus in education research and evaluation, and she currently teaches graduate coursework in educational research, environmental education program evaluation, and quantitative statistical analysis. She has co-authored a text for environmental education program evaluation, and has conducted evaluations of NSF-, EPA- and NOAA-funded environmental education and STEM-focused projects, as well as for state and non-profit agencies and organizations.

# EDUCATION:

Ph.D., 2003 University of Florida, Environmental Education; Education Research & Evaluation

M.Ed., 1998 University of Minnesota Duluth, Environmental Education

B.A., 1995 College of St. Benedict, Education/Environmental Studies

# Dr. Marc Seigar, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota Duluth

**Key Qualifications:** Marc is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and is currently serving as an Associate Dean of the Swenson College of Science and Engineering. His research interests include Extragalactic Astrophysics, Galaxy Dynamics and Structure, Dark Matter, and Black Holes.

# Dr. Ken Gilbertson, College of Education and Human Service Professions, University of Minnesota Duluth

**Key Qualifications:** Ken is a professor and Department Head for the Center for Environmental Education. His interests include teaching outdoor and environmental education in non-formal settings, wilderness education and interpretation, resource management and planning, and sustainability of nature-based tourism in protected nature areas.

# ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

**UMD Swenson College of Science and Engineering** educates students in the natural sciences, mathematical sciences, engineering, technology, and interdisciplinary work branching into these fields. The college has more than 3,200 undergraduate and 200 graduate students. It is the largest college at UMD and the third largest in the University of Minnesota system

**UMD College of Education and Human Service Professions** prepares students for careers in industry, school and non-school educational settings, community agencies, and government. Our collective teaching, scholarship, and service supports student development as engaged citizens, reflective learners, critical thinkers, and evidence-informed practitioners in a culturally-sensitive, socially-just learning environment.

**The Gunflint Trail Historical Society**, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, operates **Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center** through a special use permit with the US Forest Service. Chik-Wauk is located 57 miles from Grand Marais, Minnesota, near the end of the Gunflint Trail. Chik-Wauk’s campus consists of a museum, nature center, historic watercraft exhibit building, a cabin replica, administration building, and 50 acres of forest on Saganaga Lake adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The facility occupies the site of a 1930s era resort and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

**Visit Cook County** is a collaboration of the existing Cook County, Minnesota community tourism associations, the Cook County Events and Visitors Bureau and the members of the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Ojibwe.