**Project title: Driving Conservation Behavior for Mussels and Water Quality**

**PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**: Dr. Emily Kalnicky, Evaluation and Research Specialist at Minnesota Zoo and University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment (IonE) Fellow, will serve as project manager for the proposed work. Kalnicky’s lifelong career interest and passion for developing programming and research focused on connecting youth and adults to nature began more than 20 years ago as a volunteer at the Henry Vilas Zoo in her hometown of Madison, WI. She holds a doctorate in ecology from Utah State University, a master’s in natural resources and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and bachelor of science degrees in zoology, psychology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Kalnicky is an ecologist with extensive experience using a social-ecological systems, environmental, and conservation psychology approach to better understand pressing environmental concerns including fostering environmentally responsible behavior, invasive species management, and species conservation. Kalnicky has spent her career in a variety of museum contexts directing education and research programs, including her current position at Minnesota Zoo where she oversees all social science research and evaluation efforts. Kalnicky is the recipient of numerous research grants, awards, and scholarships to support her work and she has published her work in a variety of peer-reviewed scientific journals.  She is an experienced public speaker and has presented her research to a variety of scientific and non-scientific audiences.

For the proposed project, Kalnicky will serve as Project Manager, where she will oversee all project planning, development, and implementation. She will provide scientific guidance, manage the competitive bid professional service contract, manage budgets, prepare reports and prepare any resultant peer-reviewed publications.

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**:  **Minnesota Zoological Garden**

The Minnesota Zoo is a unique state agency.  Established in 1978 to provide Minnesota residents and guests with an opportunity to experience animals from the exotic to the familiar in natural habitats, today the Zoo is one of the State’s premier cultural, educational and conservation institutions.

The Minnesota Zoo’s mission is ***to connect people, animals and the natural world to save wildlife.***  With 1.3 million guests a year, over 2.7 million website hits annually and state-wide outreach programs reaching thousands more, the Zoo is in an excellent position to strengthen Minnesotans’ awareness and understanding of our State’s commitment to wildlife, science and conservation.  The Zoo is the State’s largest environmental educator with more than 500,000 participants in Zoo education programs.

The Minnesota Zoo is also a leader in conservation – directing efforts and partnering with others on a variety of conservation programs at the Zoo, in Minnesota and across the globe.  Over the past seven years, the Zoo has enhanced its efforts to focus on Minnesota wildlife and habitats, including projects to conserve Minnesota’s native moose, bison, mussels, turtles, and prairie butterflies.  Advancing the science of wildlife conservation is an important part of the Zoo’s work, as evidenced by the Zoo’s research on wildlife behavior, ecology, genetics, disease, and conservation techniques.

The Zoo has a proven record of using its resources efficiently and effectively, ***matching*** the State’s investment with private funds and earned income.