**Project manager qualifications and organization description**:

Dr. Gretchen Hansen will serve as the project manager and lead PI of the proposed work. Dr. Hansen is an assistant professor in the University of Minnesota Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology and will serve as the primary advisor to the graduate student working on this project. Dr. Hansen has a Ph.D. in limnology and marine science and M.Sc. in Fisheries and Wildlife. She has spent the past decade working at the interface of science and policy in understanding ecosystem changes affecting Midwestern lakes. As a leading researcher working to understand drivers of trends in Midwestern fish habitat and populations, Dr. Hansen has worked on the effects of climate change, watershed land use, and water clarity on water quality and fish. She currently serves as project manager for a collaborative multi-agency team on a MAISRC project studying the impacts of zebra mussels and spiny water flea on the food webs of Minnesota’s largest walleye lakes. Many of her research projects bring together experts in fisheries management, ecosystem dynamics, and computer science to address real-world management problems with cutting-edge science solutions. Dr. Hansen has a strong publication track record and a commitment to communicating effectively with stakeholders using multiple media, including online, interactive data visualization tools.

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is the state’s land-grant university and one of the most prestigious public research universities in the nation. The research mission of the University is to seek new knowledge that can change how we all work and live. We apply our research and expertise to meet the needs of Minnesota, our nation, and the world through partnerships in addressing society’s most pressing issues.

Within the University of Minnesota, faculty, staff, and students of Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology work on applied and fundamental problems related natural resource management and conservation. The mission of FWCB is to foster a high-quality natural environment by contributing to the management, protection, and sustainable use of fisheries and wildlife resources through teaching, research, and outreach. Our goals are to respond to societal needs for information and education pertaining to the conservation of our natural resources and to ensure excellent teaching, research, and outreach programs.