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**.**