



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-069

Proposal Title: Fostering Local Leaders for Water Stewardship in Minnesota

Project Manager Information

Name: Seth Thompson

Organization: Freshwater Society

Office Telephone: (651) 313-5804

Email: sthompson@freshwater.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: We will implement a statewide environmental leadership development program that educates and equips people with requisite knowledge, resources, and skills to lead community action for water health.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$880,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Water is a central part of the Minnesotan identity. Yet while we value water, Minnesotans face challenges in protecting and preserving our water. These threats are regional and need to be met regionally, from the rise of aquatic invasive species to the worsening water quality driven by contaminants. Compounding these threats that many Minnesotans have become disconnected from water systems in their community. With so much going on in the world, it's easy to understand why water -- which seems to be plentiful in Minnesota -- isn't top of mind for everyone. However, it is vital for people to understand how water flows around us, our impact on water, and what we must do to protect it. Ensuring access to clean water for all Minnesotans in the future requires powerful collective action, from individual residents to large government agencies. Though society has become increasingly disconnected from our collective water systems, Freshwater is committed to reversing this trend and reconnecting people to the water that gives us life.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This proposal will enhance Minnesotans' connections to water by offering location-specific water-based environmental education to over 20,000 Minnesotans. Building on a decade of success in training and certifying over 500 Minnesota Water Stewards (MWS) in water science, community engagement, and taking water action, we propose expanding the MWS program, specifically focusing on creating new customizable learning opportunities that directly align with local community needs and broadening participation and cultural relevance as we extend the footprint of the program across Minnesota. The goal of MWS is to increase individual and community understanding and action for effective water practices in their communities and beyond. We want people to realize and embrace the power that lies within themselves and communities to positively impact water, understanding that this is not only the responsibility of "professionals" or the government. Many Stewards have gone on to work in water careers or serve on local leadership boards. If we want healthy waterways to be around for generations to come, we all have a role to play as thoughtful and active water stewards. It's through education, and acting on that education, that people begin to see themselves as changemakers.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project will directly support 200 Minnesotans as they develop the mindset, skills, and behaviors to effectively become leaders within their community to protect and preserve Minnesota's water. Through supported action steps, these leaders will provide education and awareness building experiences for 20,000 people across Minnesota and make significant contributions to water preservation efforts. This project will bring MWS statewide, building on the grassroots movement that has now certified more than 500 Stewards who have reached over 65,000 people and volunteered more than 21,000 hours of their time.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Convene Minnesota Communities to Support Local Leadership for Water Action

Activity Budget: \$535,000

Activity Description:

Freshwater is responding to the need for convening regionally around water issues with a series of workshops where participants explore pressing regional issues and initiate solution-focused next steps. Local teams, facilitated by Freshwater, will design, plan, and host four regional workshops, ensuring regional water issues and actions are reflected. The four workshops will cover North Central Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Central Minnesota, and Northeastern Minnesota. We have secured partnerships with regional partners Northern Water Land Trust (NWLT) and Clean River Partners to host the first two workshops and will identify two additional local partners for workshops in the Northeast region and central Minnesota to align with unique water issues in those places.

MWS is also developing programming that's widely available across the state. The online curriculum, two in-person trainings, and monthly check-ins build a solid foundation of scientific knowledge, relationships, and ongoing support for leadership. Anyone interested in stepping up to protect and improve water can apply to the program, complete the online course, and act. All stewards will be invited to the annual Confluence meeting, which will provide opportunities to connect across water issues and geographies to promote idea sharing and develop statewide Steward community.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Host First Regional State of Water Workshops in North Central with NWLT | September 30, 2026 |
| Host Second Regional State of Water Workshop in Southern MN with Clean River Partners | December 31, 2026 |
| Provide Customized Training for first round of 50 Program Participants | June 30, 2027 |
| Host Third Regional State of Water Workshops in Central MN (partner TBD) | September 30, 2027 |
| Host Confluence Gathering | October 31, 2027 |
| Host Fourth Regional State of Water Workshop in Northeastern (partner TBD) | December 31, 2027 |
| Provide Customized Training for second round of 50 Program Participants | June 30, 2028 |

Activity 2: Provide Specialized Experiences for Regional Water Issues

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

In addition to geographic program expansion, the new customizable framework of MWS programming will allow regions to focus on their priority issues by offering an opportunity to deepen learning experiences aligned to regional water priorities. This approach is both flexible and adaptable to emerging water issues. We will build out these specializations so they can be stacked with the foundational MWS experience to provide Stewards with a variety of paths they can pursue to deepen their training around issues that engage their skills and passions. Based on early engagement and feedback, we will prioritize development of specializations in three areas:

- 1) Art for Water provides foundational science and engagement strategies, amplifying the power of art to communicate and inspire around water issues.
- 2) Private wells will provide peer-to-peer leadership training for private well owners in support of expanding private well testing efforts and supporting community action in response to the results
- 3) Shoreline development focuses on increasing the implementation of natural shorelines by supporting shoreline owners and shoreline developers in developing their understanding of natural shoreline benefits.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Complete design of Art for Water action steps | December 31, 2026 |
| Complete private well action step design | December 31, 2027 |
| Complete shoreline development action step design | June 30, 2028 |

Activity 3: Develop Minnesota Water Stewards Pathways for Teachers and Students**Activity Budget:** \$215,000**Activity Description:**

There is a growing body of compelling evidence that suggests early development of a strong environmental identity is important for supporting positive environmental behaviors throughout life. To better position MWS to empower environmental changemakers earlier in their life, and to grow awareness of water careers, we will create new MWS leadership development pathways for teachers and students.

Minnesota Youth Water Stewardship programming will emphasize early leadership development for students (both K-12 and post-secondary) and provide support for young Minnesotans as they develop agency and their abilities to support clean water. Students will engage in inquiry-based water education with the opportunity to translate their learning into an action project. Similarly, Minnesota Water Steward Educators programming will engage teachers from formal and informal learning spaces, equipping educator leaders to craft experiences that inspire students with opportunities to practice water stewardship. By leveraging partnerships with both out-of-school and in-school science programs (see letters of support) these new offerings will support the development of the next generation of water advocates. Teachers will participate in water-themed workshops and receive sustained support during the school year through a professional learning community framework.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Recruit first cohort of 10 steward educators | December 31, 2026 |
| Certify first cohort of 20 youth stewards | December 31, 2026 |
| Complete first steward educator workshop | July 31, 2027 |
| Recruit second cohort of 20 steward educators | September 30, 2027 |
| Certify second cohort of 40 youth stewards | May 31, 2028 |
| Complete second steward educator workshop | June 30, 2028 |

Activity 4: Broaden Cultural Relevancy of Minnesota Water Stewards**Activity Budget:** \$115,000**Activity Description:**

Water holds deep cultural meaning in Minnesota communities (including ethnic and geopolitical cultural groups). However, much of the work in water resource management and education has not fully embraced the power of combining these various cultural perspectives in a holistic approach to water. For example, water policy largely draws on western science, missing important perspectives from Indigenous science knowledge. Similarly, water education in urban settings often fails to consider the cultural perspectives of rural areas. To ensure that the MWS program is culturally supportive of all Minnesotans, we will collaborate with communities to co-create culturally relevant learning experiences. Initially centering Indigenous community perspectives, we will co-design and pilot culturally-sustaining, intergenerational Water Stewards programming for 10 Indigenous elders and 20 youth. Through experiential, place-based

design, we will explore ~6-10 watersheds to identify sites and waterways, knowledge/stories and activities of importance to local tribes and complete a community mapping project to promote Indigenous reconnection and stewardship of Minnesota waters. We will then assess and adapt as we continue to engage new community partners, weaving their cultural perspectives into the program. Additionally, through this process we will build a community advisory team to ensure program offerings are responsive to Minnesota’s diverse communities.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Engage with potential advisory board members | December 31, 2026 |
| Finalize community advisory board (6 members) | January 31, 2027 |
| Recruitment for pilot cohort with Indigenous stewards | January 31, 2027 |
| Complete co-design of multigenerational program structure | May 31, 2027 |
| Complete community mapping action project with first cohort | May 31, 2028 |

Project Partners and Collaborators

| Name | Organization | Role | Receiving Funds |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Abby Moore | Mississippi Watershed Management Organization | MWMO will provide support and collaborative leadership as a trusted long-time partner of the Minnesota Water Stewards program. They will provide direct support for the development and expansion of Art for Water programming. | No |
| Angie Hong | Washington Conservation District | WCD supports Minnesota Water Steward action steps as well as development of the Minnesota Youth Water Stewards programming. | No |
| Hillary Barron | Bemidji State University | Dr. Barron is an assistant professor at BSU with expertise in culturally responsive teaching practices. Dr. Barron will provide subject matter expertise during the development of the Minnesota Water Steward Educators programming and advise on cultural responsiveness of the programming. | Yes |
| Katie Johnston-Goodstar | University of Minnesota-Twin Cities | Dr. Johnston-Goodstar will provide expertise in youth development and culturally sustaining practices for the project. Dr. Johnston-Goodstar will co-lead activity 4, supporting the development of a multigenerational steward experience that specifically emphasizes Indigenous water knowledge. | Yes |
| David Grack | Jeffers Foundation | David Grack will serve as the primary point of contact for the Jeffers Foundation, who will partner with Freshwater in developing a water-based teacher workshop within the Minnesota Water Steward Educators programming. Jeffers will support recruitment and workshop implementation. | Yes |
| Annie Knight | Northern Waters Land Trust | Northern Waters Land Trust will serve as the lead community partner for the proposed State of Water workshop and Steward cohort in north central Minnesota. | Yes |
| Jennifer Tonko | Clean River Partners | Clean River Partners will serve as the lead community partner for the proposed State of Water workshop and Steward cohort in southern MN | Yes |
| Ben Kusch | TriDistrict CAPS | TriDistrict Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) program will provide a framework for piloting the Minnesota Youth Water Stewards Programming with high school students through an existing career readiness initiative for Inver Grove Heights, South Saint Paul, and West Saint Paul. | Yes |

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Minnesota Water Stewards are empowered leaders that translate their training into high impact activities throughout their community, and across the state. In this manner, program impacts are distributed and implemented by Stewards through their action steps and sustained action to protect and preserve Minnesota's water.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Seth Thompson

Job Title: Programs Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Seth K. Thompson is the Programs Director for Freshwater and brings over a decade of experience in implementing public engagement and outreach programs to the team. He previously ran the Public Engagement team in the College of Biological sciences where he oversaw the design and delivery of programming that served over 10,000 Minnesotans a year. He has extensive experience in grants management and program design, particularly related to work in public education and K-12 programming. He has extensive experience working with K-12 teachers, having provided professional development programming for over 75 teacher partners and maintains strong connections with K-12

teachers and administrators across the Twin Cities. At Freshwater, he provides programmatic support and leadership for the community engagement and education efforts, including the Minnesota Water Stewards program, Adopt-a-River program, and Water Workforce Pathways program.

Thompson also has an extensive scholarly record in the fields of aquatic ecology and STEM equity, with more than 15 peer-reviewed publications across the two spaces.

Organization: Freshwater Society

Organization Description:

Freshwater is a trusted science and education organization based in Minnesota working for clean and reliable water in our region. Founded in 1968 by community members who decided to act when they discovered water quality issues on Lake Minnetonka, we became the first freshwater biology research lab in North America. Over the last fifty years, the organization has shifted from an emphasis on primary research to incorporate more education and policy advocacy. Ensuring access to clean water for all Minnesotans in the future requires powerful collective action, from individual residents to government agencies. Collective action and sound physical science continue to be at the heart of our work. Freshwater takes a comprehensive look at water and recognizes the need for multiple approaches to empower people to protect it. Freshwater understands that to truly reach people, we have to meet people where they are and listen to their needs, rather than impose our own. To that end, we believe strongly that people who will be impacted by a decision need to be involved in naming the problem being addressed, and in crafting the solution.

Budget Summary

| Category / Name | Subcategory or Type | Description | Purpose | Gen. Ineligible | % Benefits | # FTE | Classified Staff? | \$ Amount |
|---|---------------------|---|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| Programs Director-Thompson | | Project lead and primary contact for all project activities. | | | 35% | 0.2 | | \$35,000 |
| Program Manager | | The program manager will oversee the day-to-day operations of the proposed work as the lead in the statewide expansion efforts | | | 20% | 1 | | \$90,000 |
| Program Coordinator | | The program coordinator will provide supplementary support for project tasks, including facilitation support for in person workshop deliveries, communications support, and partner engagement support. | | | 20% | 0.2 | | \$15,000 |
| Project Specialist | | The project specialist will take primary responsibility for implementation of tasks associated with each of the project milestones. This role will serve across all activity functions and receive direct guidance from the Project lead to ensure that all milestones and tasks are completed on time. | | | 20% | 2 | | \$128,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$268,000 |
| Contracts and Services | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Waters Land Trust | Subaward | Northern Waters Land Trust will serve as the local lead for the North Central State of Water Workshop and support recruitment of a cohort of new stewards from the region | | | | 0.16 | | \$50,000 |
| Clean Water Partners | Subaward | Clean Water Partners will serve as the local lead for the Southern Minnesota State of Water Workshop and support recruitment of a cohort of new stewards from the region. | | | | 0.16 | | \$50,000 |
| Non-profit to be identified during year 1 | Subaward | We aim to recruit a non-profit partner that will serve as the local lead for the Northeast Region State of Water Workshop and support recruitment of a cohort of new stewards from the region. | | | | 0.16 | | \$50,000 |
| Non-profit to be identified during year 1 | Subaward | We aim to recruit a non-profit partner that will serve as the local lead for the Central Region State of | | | | 0.16 | | \$50,000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|--|--|------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Water Workshop and support recruitment of a cohort of new stewards from the region. | | | | | | |
| Online learning design contract (competitive bid) | Service Contract | During the first year of the project, we will complete a competitive bidding process to select an online-learning design firm to support the redesign of Master Water Stewards curriculum in the new online format. | | | | 0 | | \$50,000 |
| Hillary Barron - Bemidji State University | Subaward | Dr. Barron will support evaluation and implementation of the Educators programming with her expertise in culturally responsive pedagogy. | | | | 0.16 | | \$25,000 |
| TriDistrict Partnership | Subaward | The TriDistrict Partnership will provide infrastructure and teacher support for the development of the Youth Steward Pilot programming through their Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) program. | | | | 0.4 | | \$50,000 |
| Jeffers Foundation | Subaward | The Jeffers Foundation will partner with Freshwater to develop and deliver new water-based teacher workshops to be integrated into their annual programming. | | | | 0 | | \$10,000 |
| Katie Johnston-Goodstar - University of Minnesota | Subaward | Dr. Johnston-Goodstar will lead the development, implementation, and evaluation of the multigenerational programming emphasizing Indigenous co-development with Elders. | | | | 0.16 | | \$25,000 |
| Language Speaker Contract | Service Contract | Language speaker to be paid hourly in support of Indigenous multigenerational programming. \$50 per hour for 100 hours. | | | | 0.05 | | \$5,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$365,000 |
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| | Tools and Supplies | Regional State of Water Workshop Expenses | Expenses associated with hosting the Regional State of Water workshops. Includes space rental fees and consumable supplies for advertising and workshop materials. \$3,500 per workshop for 4 workshops | | | | | \$14,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Confluence Annual Gathering Expenses | Expenses associated with hosting the Confluence annual gathering in 2027. | | | | | \$3,500 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|----------|
| | | | Includes space rental fees and consumable supplies for advertising and meeting materials. | | | | | |
| | Tools and Supplies | Water Steward Cohort Training Workshops | Space rental and training supplies for kick-off and final workshops for each cohort of stewards throughout the project. \$1,000 per workshop for 8 workshops during the project period. | | | | | \$10,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Food for State of Water Workshops | Provided lunch for attendees at the full day State of Water workshops. \$20 per person for 100 attendees at 4 regional workshops | X | | | | \$8,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Food for the Confluence Gathering | Dinner provided to participants in the Confluence Gathering | X | | | | \$2,500 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Communications and Recruitment Supplies | Materials and advertising costs for recruitment of new stewards | | | | | \$5,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Specialized supplies for Art for Water Cohort | Artist activities need access to specialized supplies in addition to the standard water steward training materials. We budget \$1,000 per artist for 4 artists. | | | | | \$4,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Specialized supplies for Educators | Educator activities require access to additional supplies for training materials to support their implementation of learning in their classrooms. We budget ~\$1 dollar per student and assume each educator will reach 125-150 students. | | | | | \$4,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Supplies for Monthly Watershed explorations | Consumable supplies for delivery of the monthly watershed explorations (12 total) aligned to the co-development of water stewards programming with Indigenous community members. \$1,250 per event. | | | | | \$15,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Food for monthly watershed explorations - provided lunch for ~30 participants for each event (12 total events) | Provide lunches to community members attending the watershed exploration events. | X | | | | \$7,000 |
| | Tools and Supplies | Software and Webhosting | Subscriptions to learning management system and webhosting cost for delivery of the online learning modules as part of Minnesota Water Stewards | | | | | \$10,000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$83,000 |
| Capital Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Acquisitions and Stewardship | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Travel In Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Participant Travel Support - Round trip mileage (~50 miles) and one night of lodging for 50 attendees | Travel support for stewards from around Minnesota to convene at the annual confluence gathering of stewards | | | | | \$14,500 |
| | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Employee Travel - mileage and lodging for employees to lead regional workshops. Includes mileage for roundtrip travel for 3 employees of 200 miles for 4 trips. One night of lodging for each employee at 4 regional workshops | Travel support for Freshwater staff to attend and co-lead each of the proposed Regional State of Water Workshops | | | | | \$7,000 |
| | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Mileage reimbursement for general program travel for Freshwater employees for local travel for program recruitment, partner support, etc | We estimate ~1500 miles of program travel each year | | | | | \$2,000 |
| | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Travel support for community members to ensure access to participation in the monthly co-development activities during the watershed exploration. 12 trips for 30 community members. | 12 trips for 30 community members at \$15 per trip. | | | | | \$5,500 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$29,000 |
| Travel Outside Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | Cost associated with 1 Freshwater employee to attend an appropriate conference each year | Conference attendance will be to specifically present on project findings and support dissemination of project impact | X | | | | \$5,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$5,000 |
| Printing and Publication | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|---|--|--|--|------------------|------------------|
| | Publication | Open access fees for 2 publications | Publsiing in open access format will increase the dissemination of project outcomes and allow for open sharing with all Minnesotans | | | | | \$3,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$3,000 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | | Participant Payments- Action Steps | One-time payments to each certified water steward of \$250 to support supplies for their proposed action-step projects. We plan to certify 200 new stewards through this project. | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | | Participant Payments - Artist Mentors | The Art for Water programming will include support from experienced artist mentors, who will be provided a one-time payment for their support. We budget for 4 artist mentors | | | | | \$5,000 |
| | | Participant Payments- Educator Stipends | One-time payments to educators to support their participation in programming. Cultural norms within education create an expectation of payment for participation in activities outside of school hours. We plan to train 30 educators and budget \$1,000 payments to each for their sustained participation. | | | | | \$30,000 |
| | | Participant Payments for Community Members | One-time payments for community members participating in the co-development of culturally relevant programming and sustained advising. Payments are in honor of the unique cultural knowledge that each participant will be contributing to the development of programming. Includes payments for 30 community members participating in the multigenerational program development as well as community members serving on the advisory board. | | | | | \$42,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$127,000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | | Grand Total | \$880,000 |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------|------------------|

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

| Category/Name | Subcategory or Type | Description | Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | Food for State of Water Workshops | Food is provided because participants will be participating in a full day workshop that includes schedule worktime over the lunch hour. |
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | Food for the Confluence Gathering | Dinner is provided to attendees at the annual confluence gathering because the meeting programming extends over the dinner hour. |
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | Food for monthly watershed explorations - provided lunch for ~30 participants for each event (12 total events) | Each of the watershed exploration events will be a full day of activity, including work time over the lunch hour so lunch will be provided to the community members supporting the co-development of programming. |
| Travel Outside Minnesota | Conference Registration Miles/Meals/Lodging | Cost associated with 1 Freshwater employee to attend an appropriate conference each year | Will only be used in alignment with project lead (or other staff) presenting on project outcomes at an appropriate conference. |

Non ENRTF Funds

| Category | Specific Source | Use | Status | Amount |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| State | | | | |
| | | | State Sub Total | - |
| Non-State | | | | |
| In-Kind | Mississippi Watershed Management Organization | \$1,500 in supplies provided to each of the artist for an Art of Water Cohort with MWMO. Anticipate supporting 8 artists. | Potential | \$12,000 |
| In-Kind | Unrecovered Indirect Costs | 10% de minimis indirect cost on the Modified Total Direct Costs that are unrecovered in this project. | Pending | \$37,000 |
| | | | Non State Sub Total | \$49,000 |
| | | | Funds Total | \$49,000 |

Total Project Cost: \$929,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [f6462cfd-11c.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Flyer summarizing the proposed work of the Minnesota Water Stewards expansion and the expected outcomes and impacts....

Financial Capacity

| Title | File |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Most Recent IRS 990 | 53f19bba-9b4.pdf |

Board Resolution or Letter

| Title | File |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Board Letter | 1e675eb7-9c4.pdf |

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

| Title | File |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CRP Letter of Support | f3d33cba-92a.pdf |
| Jeffers Letter of Support | 9947fe9b-6ad.pdf |
| TriDistrict Letter of Support | 3cbf9c9a-995.pdf |
| WCD Letter of Support | 5cb48ca9-de5.pdf |
| MWMO Letter of Support | ff18222f-c92.pdf |
| NWLT Letter of Support | 17674e3f-67e.pdf |

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:

Yes, Participants in Minnesota Water Stewards pay registration fees for participation in the program. These fees are used to offset the indirect (administrative) costs associated with program implementation that are not allowable for

support through the LCCMR. Registration is set at \$1,500 per participant, representing ~10% of the total program budget.

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Freshwater Staff: Chyann Mosey, Alex Van Loh, Kris Meyer, Michelle Stockness, Cathy Rucci

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

