

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-154

Proposal Title: Resurrect and Revitalize the Laurentian Environmental Center Ecosystem

Project Manager Information

Name: Paul Brinkman

Organization: Northeast Service Cooperative

Office Telephone: (218) 749-9259

Email: paulb@nescmn.net

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Through partner engagement, project development, and environmental stewardship, NESC will revitalize the Laurentian Environmental Center, renewing and sustaining its 80-year legacy of outdoor learning and resource conservation for all Minnesotans.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,042,000

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?

Region(s): NE

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.

In 2020, in response to the Pandemic, the Laurentian Environmental Center closed its doors and vacated its premises. Today, five years later, the Center remains closed with no plan or proposal to resurrect, conserve, or enhance its campus resources, learning environment, nature-based traditions, and environmental ecosystem for the present and future benefit of Minnesota's children and adults.

The Center provides a unique natural platform for activities that align with the purpose of the ENRTF to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's resources including air, water, land, forests, fish, and wildlife. The full complement of these natural resources are all on the Laurentian site and throughout the hundreds of acres of contiguous state and federal land.

As a multipurpose four-season campus supporting education, health, and workforce development in a nature-based setting, the Center has a rich legacy of serving children and adults from the Northeast region and across Minnesota. NESC plans to not only draw from that legacy but to build upon it by tapping into our unique complement of staff and resources, leveraging our network of partners and collaborators, and identifying new partners in research, practice, and program delivery from both the public and private sectors.

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.

To help address and align the goals of the Minnesota Children's Bill of Rights (COBR), the crisis in mental health and social support, and the mission of the Minnesota ENRTF, NESC plans to create a partnership network focused on revitalizing the Center, rehabilitate the site as both a destination and a gateway to state trails and wilderness, reestablish the Center as a learning and cultural hub, restore LEC education and wellness activities and services, and renew on site conservation efforts in the ecosystem. Together, these efforts address the data, literature, and NESCs own independent school-based research that safe, vibrant outdoor spaces improve individual and population mental, physical, and social health.

We have seen results when you find the right niche, select the right team, leverage the right resources, engage the right partners, maintain the right focus, and stay true to your mission and the people you serve. NESC's stability, site proximity, partnership network, service mix, staff experience, and track record of project success position us well to resurrect Minnesota's Laurentian Environmental Center, renew an 80-year legacy, and revitalize a resource for children and adults through research, development, services, and support focused on natural habitat, conservation, experiential learning, and social connectedness.

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?

With direct access to water, woodlands, and wildlife and miles of year-round trails and waypoints, LEC also serves as a gateway and buffer to the Superior National Forest. NESC will marshal a project team, partners, guests, and volunteers to protect, conserve, and enhance the site and its ecosystem. Measured against evidence-based practices, project outcomes will include increased access for underserved children, collaboration with tribal communities, expanded opportunities for aligned partners (schools, Iron Range Resources, Conservation Corps), field research and best-practices in the ecosystem, and data-driven, nature-based activities that usher public purpose into teaching, learning, and social support.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Reestablish and rebuild awareness, access, and sustainability at the Laurentian Environmental Center.

Activity Budget: \$425,320

Activity Description:

With site assessment, planning, infrastructure, and safety taking center stage for a pilot project and soft launch in FY26, NESC needs to reset and reestablish awareness, assure access and revisit sustainably at the Laurentian Environmental Center as we begin FY27 and the project period. Awareness and access require clear priorities and evaluation criteria that inform project team leadership, partner engagement, public engagement and volunteer support to reestablish and rebuild Center vitality and impact. Sustainability requires project team focus in three dimensions: environmental, program, and financial. These goals can be achieved through mission-driven criteria and relevant data that help inform assessments, priorities, goals, and evaluation.

Although developed and shepherded by the project team under the leadership of project management, awareness and access will be leveraged through partners, collaborators, volunteers, and the public. Sustainability will be a function of integrated efforts to reignite and reinvigorate the Center ecosystem. A two-pronged strategy will be to (1) reevaluate and reintroduce successful activities, programs, and development efforts from the Mounds View legacy period then (2) respond to feedback from stakeholders, old and new, as to gaps and opportunities to be addressed and achieved. The team must listen and learn from formal assessments and informal feedback.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop an integrated plan for sustainability built upon three pillars: environmental, program, and financial	November 30, 2026
Establish Foundational Excellence with emphasis on three core values: public engagement, data-driven decisions, and sustainability.	March 31, 2027
Reignite the brand by introducing legacy successes, identifying new opportunities, and responding to stakeholder feedback.	November 30, 2027
Create a project team culture of commitment to best practices, continuous improvement, and environmental stewardship.	March 31, 2028

Activity 2: Recruit, hire, mentor, and support a Naturalist to teach, conduct research, and build partnerships.

Activity Budget: \$249,600

Activity Description:

Engaging a Naturalist is essential to the success and sustainability of an outdoor learning center. As part of the project leadership team, the Naturalist fills roles as a content expert, site-based educator, resource to schools and staff, assessment and research contributor, and a asset to partners in the ongoing work of the Center, especially understanding and conserving its ecosystem.

If awarded, NESC will enter the project period with a staffing plan, identified skills, and scope of work for the Naturalist already in place. We need to advertise, screen, hire, and onboard the position as quickly as the process allows. Once on board, initial priorities for the naturalist include team integration, resource provision and support, ecosystem assessment (formal and informal), goal-inspired collaboration, research promotion and outreach, and partnerships for ongoing further research, funding and project support.

Evaluation and growth for the Naturalist will include job-specific and Center-wide goals and assessments. Program evaluation and professional development, including certifications and outreach presentations, are also critical to the ongoing support of this position. Finally, special attention to ethical stewardship of the land includes a best practice, research-based approach, data collection and management, and compliance with legal, regulatory, and Center standards and commitments.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate
	Completion Date
Naturalist secured and onboarded	August 31, 2026
Initial ecosystem assessment and priority planning.	March 31, 2027
Research and educational program implementation.	June 30, 2027
Partnership development and professional growth.	December 31, 2027

Activity 3: Engage a Nature-based Project Coordinator to teach, conduct research, share best practices, and leverage the success of a proven pilot.

Activity Budget: \$184,800

Activity Description:

NESC is completing a promising two-year pilot project broadly aimed at public health challenges endemic in society and further revealed by the Pandemic. Led by a collaborative team of NESC staff, consultants, and engaged partners using available data, project-based research, and best practices, this self-funded pilot has impacted 31 public schools, 3 charter schools, 1 tribal school, 6 counties, AEOA and Bois Forte Health & Human Services. Work continues.

NESC plans to deploy a half-time Nature-based Project Coordinator to leverage the success of this regional pilot project at the Center. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (2021), park and recreation professionals have become public health leaders, filling gaps in health, wellness, and social support. The Coordinator will implement the success of the regional pilot within the Center ecosystem through efficacious wellness, self-care and renewal; social connectedness; experiential learning; and evidence-based environmental "protective factors."

Nature-based priorities, activities, and outcomes will focus on immersion in the Center ecosystem to help reduce social isolation, support mental well-being, and provide equitable and accessible opportunities, particularly for underserved populations. Through accessible activities, holistic modalities, and workforce pathways, the Nature-based Project Coordinator will complement the project team goals of inclusiveness, engagement, and sustainability for all.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Onboard the Nature-based Project Coordinator, connecting the regional pilot and its resources to the Center.	July 31, 2026
Work with Project Team and pilot partners to integrate successful outcomes within new project planning.	August 31, 2026
Implement initial Nature-based planning, strategy, and aligned activities.	September 30, 2026
Work with the Project Team to develop and implement initial Workforce Pathways.	March 31, 2027
Work with the Project Team to develop strategies for long-term funding, partnerships, and program sustainability.	December 31, 2027
Work through the Project Team, engaged partners, and guests in ongoing program evaluation and realignment.	June 30, 2028

Increase partnership development and program impact year-over-year as measured against the FY26	June 30, 2028
baseline.	

Activity 4: Assure post-project sustainability and success through mission-driven planning, alignment, engagement, program relevance, funding diversity, risk mitigation, stewardship, and sound management.

Activity Budget: \$182,280

Activity Description:

To achieve long-term success, NESC needs mission-driven planning to align, measure, and adapt established and emerging strategy, goals and outcomes. Stakeholder engagement requires communication, feedback, advisory committees, informed implementation, relationships, and reciprocity. Program relevance follows content expertise and informed delivery while program realignment requires feedback, assessment and humility. Funding diversity assures strategic stability through multiple sources: competitive grants, public funding, partnership risk-sharing, user fees, service fees, agency match, agency in-kind, and in-kind volunteer support. Risk mitigation includes site safety and informed compliance. Stewardship of the ecosystem is essential to not only the project but over the long-term where internal and external stakeholders across the project impact spectrum expect an improved ecosystem, increased environmental awareness, and measurable conservation outcomes.

Finally, sound management and leadership is fundamental to long-term success in any initiative, especially one that thrives on a commitment to stewardship. Helpful tools, personal accountability, sound practices, and a creative, uplifting operational environment help underwrite a strong team, assure fidelity to goals and outcomes, and result in favorable stakeholder support and third-party review.

The Project Team must identify project management and evaluation tools that capture these critical planning and operational elements to create a platform to identify and calibrate sustainable practices.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date		
Implement feedback loops, advisory channels, and relationship management to inform public engagement and strategic priorities.	September 30, 2026		
Identify, develop, and implement site safety and compliance standards.	September 30, 2026		
Develop an aligned, actionable, and adaptable strategic plan with measurable goals and outcomes.	November 30, 2026		
Integrate ecosystem stewardship, including active conservation efforts, into project activities and long-term planning.	November 30, 2026		
Implement project management and program evaluation tools that align with planning and stakeholder expectations.	November 30, 2026		
Assure content value, leveraged expertise, and program relevance through alignment, preparation, delivery, evaluation, and realignment.	March 31, 2027		
Develop and implement a diversified funding strategy.	March 31, 2027		

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Aubrie Hoover	St. Louis	Employed by NESC as a Regional Manager for Behavioral Mental Health, Aubrie	No
	County Family	also serves as a collaborator, advisor and liaison to the Family Services	
	Services	Collaborative Collaborative at St. Louis County.	
	Collaborative		
Paul Brinkman	Northeast	Executive Director (regional)	Yes
	Service		
	Cooperative		
Amy Maki	Northeast	Education Department Lead, project development and school collaborative	No
	Service	specialist	
	Cooperative		
Tara	NESC and MSC	Director, Education Services, also serves on the Statewide Advisory Committee of	No
Lindstrom		the Minnesota Service Cooperatives	
Pat Conway	Essentia	Research Scientist III at Essentia Health and NESC collaborative partner	No
	Health		
Anne Kilzer	Minnesota	Executive Director (statewide)	No
	Service		
	Cooperative		
Randy Long	Bois Forte,	Long-time NESC collaborator and partner (since 2005)	No
	Nett Lake		

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?

NESC's project development practices assure that negative outcomes present learning opportunities and positive outcomes (i.e. results) supported at the team and agency levels. NESC will address funding gaps (program development, construction, repairs, operations, maintenance, equipment, supplies) using other grants, fundraising activities, strategic partnerships, fees/rentals, matching funds, and in-kind contributions. NESC will create a reserve account in FY26 to address funding variables and assure project continuity. NESC considers all its work to be a generational commitment. We will have 6 months of reserves, an informed work plan in place, and one year of program funding secured by March 2028.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Paul Brinkman

Job Title: Executive Director

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

Working with a lead team of planning, content, and project development professionals, as project manager, Paul Brinkman brings thirty-five years' of experience to the proposed project as a co-founder, project developer, executive manager, and board member in education, technology, health care, and fundraising. His skills include board development, change management, community health planning, leadership development, organizational development, strategic partnerships, and rural telecommunications. His start-up projects include the VRMC Foundation (1991), St. Louis County Partners with Youth (1992), NortheastNET (2001), MSC VEBA Trust (2003), MSC Online Education (2005), USDA Regional Distance Learning & Telemedicine (2008 & 2009), Northeast Middle Mile Fiber Optic Telecommunications Network (2011), and the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (2017). More recently, he and the lead team at NESC have developed and launched a new regional behavioral mental health initiative (2022) and a multi-district

school literacy collaborative (2025). All of these projects continue to be self-sustaining as standalone or merged initiatives, regionally and statewide.

Organization: Northeast Service Cooperative

Organization Description:

Established as a planning agency, regional service provider, and school district under Minnesota Statute 123A.21, the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) helps build, sustain, and recreate rural enterprise and infrastructure in education, technology, health care, and workforce development. Winner of two national awards for rural innovation and project development (2004 & 2013), NESC serves and supports over 150 schools, colleges, townships, cities, counties, state agencies, service agencies, health care providers, telecommunications providers, and others. NESC also works collaboratively under joint powers authority with other service cooperatives and diverse public and private partners statewide in education, health & wellness, and procurement. An independent, public initiative governed by a regional board of elected officials and led by a staff of thirty-five, NESC develops and delivers services and value through cooperation between and among its members, customers, collaborators and partners from both the public and private sector. NESC has a 25-year history of leveraging seed funding, grant awards, and reserves to launch and sustain rural services and infrastructure. Since 2000, in addition to assuring the success of its core services, NESC's strategic focus has been on mental health, social connectedness, partnership value, and rural sustainability.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineli	% Bene	# FTE	Class	\$ Amount
ivaille	or Type			gible	fits	FIE	Staff?	
Personnel				Біміс	1103		Julii.	
Project		The Project Manager is responsible for leading the			35%	2		\$324,000
Manager		transformation and growth of the Laurentian						
		Environmental Center by developing and						
		implementing strategic plans, overseeing program						
		development, and strengthening community						
		partnerships. This position plays a fundamental role in						
		revitalizing the Center's ecosystem, infrastructure,						
		educational offerings, and public image through site						
		stewardship and community engagement. The						
		Manager will be a visionary leader experienced in						
		project management, program development, and						
		environmental education Other position requirements						
		include (1) design, implement, and evaluate engaging						
		environmental education programs for youth,						
		families, schools, and the broader community, (2)						
		develop innovative programming that reflects the						
		center's commitment to sustainability, conservation,						
		and outdoor learning, (3) supervise program staff,						
		seasonal educators, and volunteers to ensure high-						
		quality program delivery, (4) collaborate with						
		partners, environmental initiatives, public agencies,						
		and grant makers to co-create and deliver Center						
		services of high impact and value, and (5) ensure that						
		programs are inclusive, accessible, and culturally						
		responsive to diverse communities.			/	_		40.000
Project		The Project Coordinator supports and advises the			35%	2		\$216,000
Coordinator		Project Manager, team, and related stakeholders by						
		overseeing grant project deliverables, coordinating						
		resources, and ensuring smooth operational						
		execution. The Coordinator is responsible for						
		operational tasks, resource coordination, and						
		communications to help keep projects aligned and on						
		schedule. Key duties include (1) managing project						
		timelines and deliverables, (2) scheduling meetings, activities and events, (3) tracking project progress,						
		and (4) maintaining project documentation and file						

	systems, (5) acting as a communication bridge between team members and stakeholders, (6) providing regular status updates to the Project Manager and the team to ensure transparency and alignment among all stakeholders, (7) assisting in the distribution of educational materials and program-related resources, (8) tracking project performance for team sharing, discussion and review, and (9) identifying and addressing potential planning, scheduling and resource conflicts to help keep projects on track.				
Naturalist	The Naturalist fills an essential role on the project team and directly contributes to the mission of fostering environmental sustainability and stewardship. The Naturalist plays a key role in developing and delivering engaging educational programs, conducting field research, supporting conservation initiatives, and cultivating strong partnerships with education, community partners, and other stakeholders. This position requires a deep understanding of natural history, conservation, excellent communication skills, and a commitment to promoting environmental literacy.		35%	2	\$216,000
Nature- Based Project Coordinator	The Nature-based Project Coordinator will leverage the therapeutic benefits of nature and the resources of the Center ecosystem to promote resilience, self-care and overall well-being, provide guidance on connecting with the natural environment, and organize educational, holistic, and social activities for children and adults. Duties of the position include (1) develop and implement outdoor education and recreation programs aligned with the Minnesota Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR).Coordinate partnerships to encourage and equip schools, organizations, and government agencies to promote environmental education and sustainability practices, (2) organize field trips, workshops, and special events to engage diverse populations in outdoor experiences, (3) coordinate budgets, grants, stakeholders, and other resources to support nature-based projects, (4) oversee volunteer and internship programs, providing mentorship and leadership opportunities for children		35%	1	\$135,000

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		and adults, (5) conduct program assessments and					
		gather community feedback for continuous					
		improvement, and (6) advocate for practice and					
		policies that enhance equitable access to outdoor					
		recreation and environmental education.					
Public		The Public Engagement and Development Coordinator		35%	1		\$108,000
Engagement		is responsible for driving program development and					
and		growth at the Laurentian Environmental Center					
Development		through data analysis, community engagement, and					
Coordinator		grant writing. Under the direction of project					
		management, this role involves planning and					
		executing strategies for partner collaboration, grant					
		writing and fundraising, and stakeholder support and					
		development. The Coordinator will also develop and					
		implement marketing strategies and communications					
		plans to raise awareness of the Center's mission and					
		· ·					
		goals, promote program offerings and site-based					
		opportunities, and assure community outreach and					
		public engagement.					4
						Sub	\$999,000
						Total	
Contracts							
and Services							
						Sub	-
						Total	
Equipment,							
Tools, and							
Supplies							
	Equipment	Yarbo Electric Snow Blower (commercial grade-	Assures a sustainable solution to help				\$4,999
		quantity 1)	assure accessibility to the LEC during				
			the winter months.				
						Sub	\$4,999
						Total	
Capital							
Expenditures							
						Sub	_
						Total	
Acquisitions						Total	
and							
Stewardship							
Stewardship						Sub	
						Total	-
						Total	

Travel In Minnesota					
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Number of trips: Weekly engagement as we described below for an average of 200 miles per week. The current mileage rate is .70/mile. \$7280/year=\$14,560 for two years.	public engagement, contract coordination, regional and statewide, outreach partnership, support project development		\$14,560
				Sub Total	\$14,560
Travel Outside Minnesota					
				Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication					
	Printing	Copies of materials: \$800/person. 4 people = \$3200/year= \$6400 for two years.	Semi annual reports, board updates, operations, document creation, record keeping.		\$12,800
	Publication	ADA compliant digital publication via multiple platforms. 1 @ \$5,320.50/year. \$10,000 for 2 years.	Provide education and accessibility for general audiences inclusive of historically marginalized communities.		\$10,641
				Sub Total	\$23,441
Other Expenses					
				Sub Total	-
				Grand Total	\$1,042,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Ī	Category/Name	Subcategory or	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
		Туре		

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
In-Kind	Minnesota Multi Purpose Community Facility Projects Grant to Support Community Revitalization, Connectedness, and Equity by Promoting Education, Work and Health.	The Northeast Service Cooperative's (NESC) vision for the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project is to enhance the health, well-being, and belonging of individuals and communities by integrating education and health systems through innovative, accessible, and interconnected solutions. NESC will work diligently to ensure equitable outcomes for all individuals with a focus our tribal communities and low to moderately low-income families which have been among underserved and historically marginalized populations. Grant funding begins May 2025 through December 2026. The funding will support initial site development, preparation to scale center activities in FY27 and FY 28, essential commissioning and construction costs, and carrier class optical and wireless connectivity.	Pending	\$500,000
			State Sub Total	\$500,000
Non-State				
In-Kind	Indirect costs (5%) for fiscal management and project support.	Inclusive of staff time not included in this grant.	Secured	\$52,100
			Non State	\$52,100
			Sub Total	
			Funds	\$552,100
			Total	

Total Project Cost: \$1,594,100

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated	Type of	Easement or	Status of
						Cost	Landowner	Title Holder	Work
Laurentian	St. Louis	Located in the Superior National Forest,	Restoration	11	0.2	\$4,000	Public	Northeast	Has Not
Environmental Center		this parcel is primarily forest with direct						Service	Begun
		access to Arrowhead (Auto) Lake. The						Cooperative	
		site ecosystem holds all ecological							
		resource categories listed in the mission							
		and purpose of the Environmental &							
		Natural Resources Trust Fund. The site							
		has a public history that dates to the							
		1920s with initial development by the							
		Virginia Auto Club. Acquired by Mounds							
		View public schools in the 1970s, the site							
		operated as a year-round outdoor							
		learning center for almost 50 years							
		before closing due to the Pandemic.							
		Although periodically maintained and							
		inspected, it's been idle since 2020. The							
		site presents a unique value for							
		conservation with low-impact							
		recreational development for public							
		benefit already in place. Along with its							
		representative ecosystem, the site sits at							
		a gateway to the Superior National							
		Forest, on the shores of an undeveloped							
		but publicly accessible lake, alongside							
		thirty miles of year-round state							
		recreation trails, and within hundreds of							
		acres of wilderness public land.							
Totals				11	0.2	\$4,000			

Restoration

- 1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.
- NESC understands that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land protected by public ownership.
- 2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

NESC has no plans to restore but rather to conserve land on the project site. If requested, NESC will provide a management plan. Appropriate staff are assigned, trained, skilled, and certified (where necessary) to work with construction projects, easements, permitting, DNR, Army Corps, HIPAA, and others. NESC has policies and practices in place for file storage and long-term compliance and implementation.

- 3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement. Compliance with this and other laws and regulations are part of our project plan.
- 4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

NESC has resources - reserves, cash, and in-kind - and a 25-year history of securing revenue for sustainable project development and future growth. We have already received one award notification for third-party funding and have a work plan and team in place to seek funding from additional sources over the coming biennium and beyond.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Recently, a mutual colleague (Roger Moe) offered to connect NESC to Nalani McCutcheon, executive director of the Conservation Corps in Minnesota and Iowa, to establish a working relationship and explore joint planning opportunities.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

NESC recognizes and accepts the three-year window "post-funding" and responsibilities in evaluating and reporting. We are accustomed to mission-driven responsibilities ("tails") imbedded in other projects and grants awarded NESC in the past at the state and federal level.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: 2e438658-fa6.pdf

Alternate Text for Map

Map of the location, topography, and other features of the Laurentian Environmental Center and its surrounding public lands and lakes....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
NESC Board Financial Report March 2025	6b389dde-c6c.pdf
NESC FY24 Annual Audit Financial Statements	a5ba8ef6-7b2.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
NESC Letter and Board Resolution for Project Funding	1008a789-efa.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Laurentian Environment Center YouTube Presentation (prior to	<u>b9f4f527-083.docx</u>
closing)	
Mesabi Behavioral Health Network	<u>d77651e4-4df.pdf</u>
Moundsview Public Schools	cec80896-daa.pdf
Range Association of Municipalities and Schools	<u>59516b45-561.pdf</u>
St. Louis County Family Services Collaborative	<u>46cffd16-c45.pdf</u>
Representative Virnig	<u>0fb22e91-4a3.pdf</u>
Nett Lake School District	ce1f837a-cdb.pdf
Bois Forte Tribal Government	<u>61e78d7c-e42.pdf</u>
Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation	<u>dc6232e6-752.pdf</u>

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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?

No

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

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

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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:

None

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

N/A