

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 131-G

Statewide Fishing Pier Cooperative Projects and MinnAqua Events

Topic Area: G. Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 910,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs. July 2013 - June 2015

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

This proposal expands and improves fishing recreation by providing fishing pier and shore fishing areas, community based MinnAqua programs, and aquatic invasive species prevention signs specific to shore anglers.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: Statewide Fishing Pier Cooperative Projects and MinnAqua Events

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been collaborating with local government units (LGUs) to provide fishing pier and shore fishing areas since 1984. Piers provide a safe and convenient place to fish, instead of from bridges, steep/rocky embankments, or fragile shorelines. Piers can eliminate shoreline erosion from foot traffic and allow native aquatic habitat and vegetation to thrive. Fishing piers can also help reduce the carbon footprint by providing an area for people to fish close to home or without a boat. They facilitate use by disabled anglers, elderly, and parents or grandparents with young children. They also enhance the DNR’s outreach efforts by proving the “classroom” that easily facilitates fishing clinics such as those offered through MinnAqua and their Fishing: Get in the Habitat! volunteers.

The overall goal of the fishing pier program is to expand and improve statewide fishing opportunities, especially for families, elderly, people with disabilities and those without a boat. The desired outcome is for parks and communities to have fishing piers being used by people of all abilities to catch fish. Presently there are 307 fishing piers, 31 platforms, and 22 shore fishing sites statewide. Due to the age of the program, fishing piers over 20 years old are in need of replacement.

MinnAqua is the statewide education program designed to teach angling skills, ecology, and conservation of aquatic habitats, natural resource stewardship, and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness. MinnAqua is ready to expand with a pilot program that will engage ten new communities to host weekly fishing events. This will encourage more people to learn angling and assure that this family-orientated activity will continue to be one of Minnesota's most popular pastimes.

The goal of community-sponsored angling classes and events is to increase the recruitment and retention of new and existing anglers. The desired outcome is to make fishing a life-long activity for families and children that connects them with the outdoors. This connection encourages environmental stewardship and support of Minnesota’s natural resource conservation programs, including the prevention of the spread of AIS.

To prevent the spread of AIS, a sign that explains the AIS laws to shore anglers will be developed. The new sign will be installed at all new and existing fishing piers and shore fishing areas. For those using smart phones, the development of a fishing pier mobile device internet application will allow them to find the closest pier and learn more about the facility, lake, and fish present.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Install 16 fishing piers (approximately 12 replacements and 4 new) **Budget: \$636,000**

The DNR will select the highest priority new and replacement fishing pier projects by using established criteria. Criteria for replacements are based on age, condition, and use. Criteria for new are based on fisheries data and site features. Project sites will be distributed equally between the four DNR Regions.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Order 16 fishing piers from MINNCOR Industries per state contract	October 31, 2013
2. Complete cooperative agreements with local government units	April 30, 2014
3. Install 10 fishing piers	December 31, 2014
4. Install 6 fishing piers	June 30, 2015

Activity 2: Develop two (2) shore-fishing areas **Budget: \$170,000**

Shore fishing areas are typically developed along rivers where currents and/or steep banks do not lend well to floating fishing piers. Engineering and permits are required for these projects, which can be completed by DNR staff. Universal design principles for accessibility will be incorporated.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Request engineering and design for the shore-fishing areas, apply for permits	October 31, 2013
2. Request bids for development of shore-fishing areas	June 30, 2014
3. Develop shore-fishing areas	June 30, 2015

Activity 3: Engage 10 communities to host weekly public fishing events **Budget: \$ 60,000**

The DNR's successful MinnAqua program will expand to more communities around the state. This pilot program will engage ten new communities to host weekly fishing programs and events.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Hire staff, order equipment, and establish communities, partners and volunteers	April 30, 2014
2. Organize successful weekly MinnAqua fishing event in those communities	June 30, 2015

Activity 4: Develop and install signs AIS prevention signs for shore anglers **Budget: \$ 24,000**

For pier and shore anglers the highest risk of spreading Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is with their equipment and bait. Sign messages will focus on prevention methods specific to shore anglers.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Design and order AIS signs for fishing pier and shore fishing areas	June 30, 2014
2. Distribute and install AIS signs at fishing piers and shore-fishing sites	June 30, 2015

Activity 5: Develop a fishing pier mobile device internet application **Budget: \$20,000**

Instead of map, use your phone to take fishing pier information on the go with this app.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Compile data and design the attributes of the fishing pier mobile device internet app	June 30, 2014
2. Test and launch the fishing pier mobile device internet application	June 30, 2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners: For most fishing pier projects, the DNR enters into cooperative agreements with the local government unit who provides the accessible walkway, parking area and 20+ years of ongoing maintenance. The state constructs the shore-fishing site or purchases the fishing pier. Often the partner is able to donate money towards the purchase of the pier or provide additional in kind services such as plantings, picnic tables, benches, restrooms, and lighting. Communities agreeing to provide weekly fishing clinic opportunities will receive aquatic resource education training, staff support for two years as needed, and resource materials to reduce barriers to new anglers and families.

B. Timeline Requirements: Fishing Pier and shore fishing projects sites will be selected, cooperative agreement with LGU's will be completed, and piers ordered by April 2014. Installation of the fishing piers and construction of the shore-fishing sites will be done in the spring, summer, and fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015. MinnAqua guided fishing programs will take place for 10 weeks during the summer in 2014. The completion of the AIS sign and fishing pier mobile device internet application is expected by June 30, 2015.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs: To ensure the long-term viability of the fishing pier program, the DNR will continue to seek money from a variety of funding sources. The popularity of the program has been constant since 1984. Currently there are more than 70 requests for new and replacement projects statewide. MinnAqua staff will work with communities that receive training and supporting materials to establish a community-based volunteer group. The goal is to have partners and/or volunteer groups maintain the equipment and continue to provide fishing programs for local residents after initial start-up. MinnAqua will still be available to provide additional training and support to these communities in subsequent years as needed or resources allow, with the understanding that staff will be moving to support other communities around the state to establish these programs as well.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: 5 full time seasonal MinnAqua staff	\$ 30,000
Contracts: Development the mobile device internet application for fishing piers, contract with DNR MIS staff or competitive bid with an outside vendor	\$ 20,000
Engineering for shore fishing area(s) site design, DNR staff	\$ 10,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: 16 Floating Fishing Piers built by MINNCOR Industries per state contract	\$ 576,850
Construction of and materials for shore-fishing areas	\$ 160,000
Fishing equipment including fishing poles, tackle, safety gear, Get in the Habitat! Leader guide lesson plans and learning kits	\$ 30,000
400 Signs (competitive bid with outside vendor)	\$ 24,000
Additional Budget Item: DNR used a rate of 6.5% to calculate costs for direct support services, which are DNR's direct and necessary business services required to support this proposal	\$ 59,150
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 910,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Potential donations from LGU or local organizations for fishing piers	\$ 25,000	<i>Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Game and Fish Fund pays for full time and seasonal Parks and Trails staff who will install the fishing piers. Game and Fish Fund also pays for 3 full time MinnAqua staff who oversee the angling education and skills program	\$ 50,000	<i>Secured</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: Local Government Units will provide the accessible path and parking area and other amenities for fishing pier and shore fishing sites	\$ 100,000	
Funding History: Fishing Pier Program \$ 29,325 FY 2012 Donations from local organizations (2 piers) \$ 35,000 FY 2011 Lake Superior Coastal Grant Program (1 pier) \$595,000 FY 2010 Legacy (20 piers) \$ 50,000 FY 2008 Bonding (3 piers) \$ 24,000 FY 2008 Contributions from LUG's (1 pier) \$ 19,000 FY 2008 Donations from local organizations	\$ 752,325	

Environment Trust Fund 2012-2013 Project Proposal

Project Title: Statewide Fishing Pier Cooperative Projects and MinnAqua Events

Project Manager Qualifications

Peter M. Hark has worked for the Minnesota DNR for over 20 years in various management and coordination positions. Currently, he is the Operations Manager for the Division of Parks and Trails. He directs and administers statewide field operations and a variety of program focused efforts. He also oversees professional program and operational staff.

Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails operates 67 state parks, 8 recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1,610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Division connects people to state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education, and natural resource restoration and management.

