

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# 2023 Request for Proposal

## **General Information**

**Proposal ID:** 2023-095

**Proposal Title:** Preventing AIS Spread Through Hay Creek Watershed

## **Project Manager Information**

**Name:** Kristine Altrichter

**Organization:** Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

**Office Telephone:** (218) 789-3100

**Email:** kaltrichter@brrwd.org

## **Project Basic Information**

**Project Summary:** The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District will contain AIS from spreading using civic engagement and lake outlet modifications that prevent the spread of zebra mussels downstream of Turtle and Long Lakes.

**Funds Requested:** $1,987,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2025

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species (D)

## **Project Location**

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?** Region(s): NW

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?** Region(s): NW

**When will the work impact occur?** In the Future

## **Narrative**

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

In 1999, BRRWD installed a series of outlet siphons to address high water levels on Turtle Lake, a land-locked basin. Turtle Lake properties were experiencing severe flooding conditions. A siphon was installed on the south end of Turtle Lake and flows into Long Lake, a second siphon was installed on the west side of Long Lake and outlets into a wetland. Water then flows through a series of wetlands and outlets in Lake Fifteen and eventually reaches Hay Creek. Project has successfully managed flooding on Turtle Lake since construction. In July 2021, Turtle Lake was listed as infested with zebra mussels. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed survey of downstream waterbodies and have not identified any evidence of the presence of zebra mussels downstream of Turtle Lake.   
In February 2022, DNR notified BRRWD to cease operation of Turtle Lake outlet siphon to stop the spread of zebra mussels. In order to operate outlet, additional conditions need to be met. For long term, operation of system, BRRWD will need to install a filtration system or treat the water. The land-locked nature of the lakes involved make discharge of water from the lakes critical to prevent flooding and significant property loss.

**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.**

BRRWD is proposing to work with DNR and area landowners on education and outreach and install a filtration system to prevent the spread of AIS from Turtle to Long Lake and downstream in the Hay Creek watershed. To further reduce the spread of zebra mussels into the Hay Creek watershed, BRRWD is prepared to install a similar filtration system to the outlet of Long Lake.

**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?**

Our goal is to protect, conserve, and preserve downstream waterbodies by preventing the further spread of zebra mussels through the Hay Creek watershed. Installing an outlet that prevents the spread of zebra mussels will allow us to continue to protect the property along Turtle Lake from significant flooding while also protecting the larger watershed.

## **Activities and Milestones**

### **Activity 1: Education and Outreach**

**Activity Budget:** $22,000

**Activity Description:**The BRRWD will work with the Turtle Lake Improvement Association on civic engagement and AIS Prevention education efforts. This will involve producing educational materials and holding meetings with landowners to keep them abreast of the project progress throughout the life of the grant. The public will be surveyed before and after project on their understanding of AIS issues to obtain valuable information on the effectiveness of the education and outreach efforts and feedback will be published by the BRRWD for others to use statewide.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Develop Outreach Materials and disseminate to Landowners in the project area | December 31, 2023 |
| Hold meetings with landowners | December 31, 2023 |
| Survey area landowners | December 31, 2023 |

### **Activity 2: Filtration Design and Implementation**

**Activity Budget:** $1,965,000

**Activity Description:**The BRRWD will evaluate a series of potential filtration solutions. This work will be coordinated with the BRRWD’s Project Team to get concurrence on the alternative selected for installation/construction. The BRRWD will develop plans/specifications and bid documents, as necessary, to select a contractor to complete any work associated with implementation of the selected alternative.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Evaluate various filtration system | December 31, 2023 |
| Implement/construct Selected Solution | December 31, 2024 |
| Evaluate selected solution performance | December 31, 2024 |

## **Project Partners and Collaborators**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Role** | **Receiving Funds** |
| Rodger Hemphill | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Regulatory - Public Waters Work Permit Amendment will be required. | No |
| Greg Anderson | Turtle Lake Improvement Association | Work with the TLIA on education and outreach to achieve AIS Spread prevention. | No |

## **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?**The BRRWD has an assessment area already established to raise funds from local landowners for any required ongoing operation and maintenance. The assessment area has been used since 2000 to assess costs for operation of the existing system to landowners benefiting from the project.

## **Project Manager and Organization Qualifications**

**Project Manager Name:** Kristine Altrichter

**Job Title:** Administrator

**Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.**Kristine Altrichter has been the manager for several million dollars of various grant program funds. These programs have included Clean Water Funds from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Outdoor Heritage Fund grants awarded by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and Section 319 funds awarded by the MN Pollution Control Agency. Kristine is familiar with the State’s typical grant funding language and grant management and reporting requirements.

**Organization:** Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

**Organization Description:**The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District is a Watershed District operating under MN Statutes 103D Watershed Law headquartered out of Barnesville, MN. The District is actively involved through the implementation of several projects in managing water resources within the 1,785 square miles that make up the District. The mission of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) is to alleviate flooding and to manage the water resources of the District in a manner that best protects this valuable resource.

## **Budget Summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category / Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Purpose** | **Gen. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified Staff?** | **$ Amount** |
| **Personnel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Personnel |  | Civil Engagement/AIS Education and Outreach |  |  | 0% | 0.2 |  | $20,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$20,000** |
| **Contracts and Services** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TBD | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Construction Contract to Implement Selected Alternative |  |  |  | 0 |  | $1,500,000 |
| Houston Engineering Inc. | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Alternative Review and design and oversight for implementation of the selected alternative |  |  |  | - |  | $465,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$1,965,000** |
| **Equipment, Tools, and Supplies** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Capital Expenditures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Acquisitions and Stewardship** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Travel In Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Miles/ Meals/ Lodging | This budget item will cover personnel and contracted staffs' mileage from Fargo to Barnesville (70 miles per trip), from Fargo to project site (80 miles per trip), and Barnesville to project site (40 miles per trip). BRRWD will pay personnel the IRS standard mileage rate and will pay contracted staff mileage detailed on invoices. | Mileage for contracted staff to attend meetings and perform project coordination. |  |  |  |  | $1,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$1,000** |
| **Travel Outside Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Printing and Publication** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Printing | Printing costs for mailing, handouts, and information for public meetings. | AIS education and outreach and mailing notices |  |  |  |  | $700 |
|  | Publication | Publications for Public Meetings. | Education and Outreach for AIS and Project Development. |  |  |  |  | $300 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$1,000** |
| **Other Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Grand Total** | **$1,987,000** |

### **Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category/Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request** |

### **Non ENRTF Funds**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Specific Source** | **Use** | **Status** | **Amount** |
| **State** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **State Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Non-State** |  |  |  |  |
| Cash | BRRWD Local Landowner Assessments | Previously expended costs for design, development, and maintenance of current outlets for Turtle Lake and Long Lake. Assessments have been collected since 2005. | Secured | $440,670 |
|  |  |  | **Non State Sub Total** | **$440,670** |
|  |  |  | **Funds Total** | **$440,670** |

## **Attachments**

### **Required Attachments**

#### ***Visual Component***

File: [98db5dd9-8b0.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/98db5dd9-8b0.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Visual Component***

Document provides a map with the locations of the siphon outlets for Turtle Lake and Long Lake. There are a images of significant flooding that occurred around the lake prior to original project implementation to show flooding risk if AIS prevents operation of outlet....

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Board Resolution | [13e0b259-5b7.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/13e0b259-5b7.pdf) |

## **Administrative Use**

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**   
 No

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?**   
 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?**   
 No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**   
 Yes, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District