

LCMR PROPOSAL 2001

Title: WaterShed Partners Coordinated Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

Total Biennial

Project Budget: \$473,000

Funding Priority: Implementation of Research

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Location: Seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area

I. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Through effective partnerships, implement the “Coordinated Volunteer Stream Monitoring Strategic Plan” by connecting citizens and student volunteers with agencies, enhancing the usable database, and evaluating and improving stream water quality.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Coordinated metro-wide program linking volunteers, local units of government, and agencies.

The Coordinated Monitoring Program benefits all volunteer stream monitoring efforts in the Twin Cities metropolitan area through program coordination; consistent training, protocols, and equipment; enhanced data management and access; and watershed-based promotion, communication, and reporting. A strategic plan was developed in 1999 through a strong partnership of public and private interests; recommendations for engaging volunteers, involving agencies, collecting and managing quality data, and securing sustained funding are being systematically implemented. A 1999 inventory identified 38 existing student and citizen volunteer teams in the seven-county area and there is an increasing demand for technical training, development of new teams, and monitoring additional stream reaches.

Providing safe, appropriate monitoring equipment for local teams is critical to expanding a consistent, coordinated program. Teachers, citizen volunteers, and civic groups will be trained to follow recommended monitoring protocols and quality assurance methods so that data are reproducible and usable for regional and local decision-making. Data will be synthesized into understandable results and will be accessible to citizens and agencies. State and local natural resource agencies will be involved to guide protocol and site selection, data management and interpretation, and a coordinated response to citizen concerns.

- Equipment for basic biological/chemical monitoring provided for seven counties
- 4 basic and 4 advanced training workshops each year

- Annual congress for volunteer monitors to share results and successes
- Annual evaluation and report of volunteer monitoring efforts
- Identification of priority streams for new monitoring programs
- Metro-wide promotional brochure; display; volunteer monitoring website

Category	Detail	Cost	Percent for project period
Personnel	2 full-time coordinators: program coordination and technical expertise and assistance	\$180,000.00	43%
	administrative support and secretarial	\$25,000.00	
Equipment	waders, nets, safety equipment, field and lab equipment, reference books	\$21,000.00	5%
Other	promotion: brochure, display, website	\$47,000.00	10%
	training workshops		
	program support: travel, office supplies		
Result 1 Total Budget		\$273,000.00	58.00%

Result 2: Training and coordination of local monitoring programs

Existing and new programs will work in partnership with citizen river groups to provide coordination at the local level, recruit volunteers, and train and support monitoring groups. The role of local units of government is critical to ensure that appropriate data are collected and that results are incorporated into local land-use decisions and policies. Eighteen local units of government are currently monitoring streams and many would be willing to utilize volunteers to gather additional data, but need funds to strengthen and coordinate volunteer work. Non-profit river groups also provide strong support and advocacy for local monitoring efforts.

Category	Detail	Cost	Percent for project period
Other	Support for local programs within seven metropolitan counties	\$140,000.00	30%
	Partner support for local program outreach and coordination	\$60,000.00	13%
Result 2 Total Budget		\$200,000.00	43.00%

III. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST:

All results: Personnel:	\$ 205,000
All results: Equipment	\$ 21,000
All results: Other	\$ 247,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 473,000

IV. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

- \$35,130 in 1999 from Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to develop the “Coordinated Volunteer Stream Monitoring Strategic Plan,” a regional directory, and a matrix of monitoring activities. At least \$40,000 of in-kind time and expenses were contributed to the planning process by partners representing state, regional, and local agencies, educational institutions, non-profits, and the private sector.

B. Current and Future Spending:

- Metropolitan Council will provide up to \$400,000 to support the WaterShed Partners Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program in the metropolitan area for the years 2000-2004.
- \$100,000 requested from the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation for 2000-2001 to support participation of local and non-profit partners.
- Additional grants will be sought to support the project from 2000 through 2005.
- Significant in-kind contributions from steering committee members and local organizers will occur annually.

C. Project Partners:

WaterShed Partners is an informal network of 45 agencies and organizations in the Twin Cities area committed to addressing shared goals pertaining to watershed education. The Coordinated Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program is supported by the WaterShed Partners. WaterShed Partners organizations actively supporting the program include:

- Kent Johnson and Mike Meyer, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
- Chris Lord and Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation District
- Charlotte Shover, Dakota County Environmental Education Program
- Tricia Mangold, Hennepin Conservation District
- Michele Hanson, Rice Creek Watershed District
- Julie Westerlund and Kevin Bigalke, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Sylvia McCollor and Louise Hotka, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Tracy Fredin, Hamline University, Center for Global Environmental Education
- Barbara Liukkonen, University of Minnesota, Water Resources Center
- Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River
- Molly MacGregor, Rivers Council of Minnesota
- Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting

D. Time:

Project activities will be completed in two years.