



# **GOODHUE COUNTY** MINNESOTA

**TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR RESIDENTS**

**Goodhue County Budget Committee**  
Administration Conference Room  
Government Center, Red Wing  
August 16, 2016  
7:30 a.m.

**1. Out of State Travel Request for HHS**

Documents:

[Out of State Travel Request for HHS.pdf](#)

**2. Zumbro Watershed Partnership Funding Request**

Documents:

[Zumbro Watershed Fund Request.pdf](#)



**Goodhue County  
Health and Human Services**

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DATE: August 1, 2016

TO: Goodhue County Budget Committee  
Goodhue County Health and Human Services Board

FROM: Nina Arneson, HHS Director

RE: Out of State Travel Request

**BACKGROUND:**

Gina Johnson, ClearWay MN Tobacco Grant Coordinator has an opportunity to attend the 2017 National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH). She is strongly encouraged to attend by her ClearWay Grant Manager. This conference is taking place in Austin, Texas on March 22-24, 2017.

The NCTOH is the premier gathering of the U.S. tobacco control movement. Since the most recent NCTOH in 2012, the field has evolved considerably, with new challenges to face, along with new tools and resources available. Leaders and practitioners from across the country will have three days of learning, networking, and strategizing on the impact of and opportunities around reducing tobacco use.

This is a part of Ms. Johnson's job duties and the travel expenses including flight, hotel, wages, and meals are 100% covered with the ClearWay grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The HHS Department recommends approval of this request.

***Promote, Strengthen, and Protect the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities!***

## Introduction of Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP)

Zumbro Watershed Partnership is seeking funding from counties to support our operational costs, which includes rent, utilities and office staff salaries.

The Zumbro Watershed Partnership was incorporated as a 501(c)3 federal nonprofit in 2005 by citizens counties in the Watershed who wanted our governments to work together more effectively toward addressing problems afflicting our rivers and lakes. The Zumbro Watershed drains six counties; each county has a separate plan for the watershed. Regulatory authority and funding to address pollution and reduce flooding are distributed across a plethora of federal, state and local governmental entities, including but not limited to the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and local County Environmental Services. We facilitate coordination among these entities and many other partners to secure grants, educate the public, and effect change.

Our board is comprised of County Board and SWCD representatives from each county as well as 13 citizen members from throughout the watershed. Dan Rechtziel represents the Goodhue County Board on the ZWP board. Glen Roberson is on the ZWP Board as a SWCD representative from Goodhue County. Vernetta and Harland Pahl are current members and long-time officers in ZWP and live in Pine Island. Laurie Svien is a current member and past Executive Director and lives in Lake City. Beau Kennedy represents Goodhue County on our PAC Committee.

McKnight Funding: For the past decade, the McKnight Foundation has provided ZWP operational funding. Previous contributions have included:

<b>2008</b>	\$50,000
<b>2009</b>	\$50,000
<b>2010</b>	\$50,000
<b>2011</b>	\$50,000
<b>2012</b>	\$45,000
<b>2013</b>	\$45,000
<b>2014</b>	\$25,000
<b>2015</b>	\$25,000

We maintain some funds for the purpose of cash flow since many projects require that we wait for reimbursement from approved funding sources. With the generous McKnight support coming to an end, we are seeking financial assistance from each of the counties we serve.

After a long discussion and on advice from various county staff, we decided that our operational funding request to counties should be based on the percentage of watershed land within each county. This is similar to how the Mississippi-Winona Watershed Joint Powers Board receives funding from area counties.

Our request is as follows:

Total Zumbro Watershed Partnership 2016 Funding Request: ***\$40,000***

Division by percentage of Watershed Acres in Each County:

Olmsted County 26% of Watershed .....	\$10,400
Dodge County 26% of Watershed .....	\$10,400
Wabasha County 24% of Watershed .....	\$9,600
<b>Goodhue County 20% of Watershed...</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
Rice County 2% of Watershed .....	\$800
Steele County 2% of Watershed .....	\$800

This request is the minimum we need to continue daily operations. The historic return on investment (ROI) for dollars invested with ZWP through donations is 20:1.

ZWP plans to continue as a watershed partnership and remain a separate entity. We would continue to receive funding from memberships, donations, and public and private grants.

**State grants cover the costs of the project and include a small administrative fee; however, generally these funds cannot be used for operational costs such as utilities, rent, and our office staff salaries. We would use the financial support provided by the counties to fund these operation costs.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership

# What Your Money Would Pay For: County Funding for Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP)

1. ZWP partnered with Dodge County to submit the One Watershed One Plan grant proposal in June 2016. If awarded, Dodge County would serve as the fiscal agent, and ZWP would coordinate the development of the One Watershed One Plan document with all six counties.

**Benefit:** Clean water funds will be directed to watersheds who have developed a plan, such as One Watershed One Plan or a WRAPS (Watershed Restoration And Preservation Strategies) document. With such a document in hand, counties may be able to secure funding for additional projects.

2. ZWP will continue to seek out, plan, and obtain grant funding for watershed-wide initiatives, research, and education projects.

**Benefit:** ZWP, as a 501(c)3, is in a position to pursue opportunities at a watershed-scale. ZWP staff, who have won several high-profile (LCCMR, McKnight, SELCO, MN Historical Society) grants over the past 5 years, could provide this service for watershed counties. Already, Dodge County has acquired substantial conservation funding using data generated from our ZWP “Priority Conservation Sites” project.

3. ZWP will continue to develop, maintain, and improve connections with state and federal agencies who provide the bulk of funding for clean water projects.

**Benefit:** Building trusting relationships takes time. Counties who aren’t also organized on the watershed level, will find it increasingly difficult to secure state or federal funding for projects when competing against the state’s highly organized watershed districts. ZWP already has great relationships with state and federal staff and boards, and will maintain and improve on these relationships. ZWP also has a proven track record of planning and implementing projects on time and on budget.

4. ZWP will continue to develop, maintain, and improve connections with township, city, and county agencies in the watershed. When a project opportunity arises, we can utilize these existing relationships, partnering to obtain grant funding right away.



**Benefit:** Again, building trusting relationships takes time. ZWP already has great relationships with local communities and county agencies across the watershed, and will maintain and improve on these relationships.



# What We've Accomplished 2013-2016

## 1. Identifying Priority Conservation Sites

Only **20 percent** of the acres in the watershed could be supplying up to **80 percent of the erosion** and sediment pollution in the region. This project mapped parts of the watershed most likely to have severe erosion problems. County SWCD staff could use data from this project to give these sites more priority in their planning process. Dodge County has already used these data to generate **substantial conservation grant funding**.



## 2. Watershed Signs Project

ZWP posted 126 bridge signs to identify the rivers and streams in our region. Twelve education signs were also posted to educate the public about the rivers and streams, and how human activity is leading to river pollution and increased flooding.

## 3. LCCMR Educational Recreation Sites Project Grant

ZWP staff is working with local communities to develop six Educational Recreation Sites in parks and boat launches in the watershed in 2016 and 2017. These sites will educate the public about how we can all work for

*Cleaner Water and Fewer Floods*. In 2016, we'll develop sites in Zumbro Falls (Wabasha), Green Bridge (Wabasha), and Mantorville (Dodge). In 2017, we'll develop sites in Oronoco (Olmsted), Wanamingo (Goodhue) and Pine Island (Goodhue).

## 4. SELCO Library Water Programs

ZWP's Library Water Programs reach hundreds of children and adults each year, teaching them how to enjoy and protect our rivers and lakes. Our Education Coordinator develops and presents educational programming throughout the watershed.



## 5. Surface Water Monitoring

Staff and volunteers collect river water samples to help researchers identify healthy and unhealthy portions of the river. This data helps inform natural resources planners within our watershed.

## 6. The Zumbro Watershed History Project

To know where we're going, we need to know where we have been. With that in mind, ZWP and History Center of Olmsted County staff have collected data that describe how the watershed has changed since U. S. settlement in the mid-1800s. A report was generated to document these findings.

# What Comes Next 2016 and Beyond

(While we're committed to these projects, their success depends on the support of sponsors)

- 1. Leading the Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategies (WRAPS) development process in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.**
- 2. Partner with the six counties within the Zumbro River Watershed to generate a One Watershed One Plan document.**
- 3. Six Education Recreation Sites within the Zumbro Watershed. This project spans 2016 and 2017.**
- 4. Continue preparing monthly newspaper articles on water and river issues within the watershed. These educational articles are provided to the newspapers throughout the region.**
- 5. Continue the monthly ZWP Clean Water Speaker Series in Rochester. See the attached flier for an example.**
- 6. Creation of "Traveling Exhibits" that will educate the public about river and water issues when they tour bank lobbies, libraries, and community centers across the watershed.**





# Zumbro Watershed Science Speaker Series

**For Families, Grade 5-12 Science Students, and Adults**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Each Month**  
**St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Cascade Meadow Center**  
**2900—19<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Rochester**



## What's Stressing Our Zumbro River Fish and Water Bugs?

By Tiffany Schauls, Minnesota  
Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)  
**Thursday, May 12, 6:30 pm**

Since the late 1990's professionals and citizens alike have been collecting water, bug, fish and sediment samples from the Zumbro River. What are the results and what do they mean? Come and hear for yourself the results of this

newly compiled watershed science. Learn about what parts of Zumbro Watershed are impaired or fully supporting of their designated uses. Learn what parts of the River's biology is stressed and why. New reports are out from the MPCA detailing this new watershed science on the Zumbro Watershed.  
(Academic Areas: Biology, Chemistry, Government)

## SimZumbro: High Tech Tools For Cleaner Water

By Ben Roush, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)  
**Thursday, June 9, 6:30 pm**

We've all heard of SimCity and SimEarth, computer simulations where you get to "control" a city or a planet and see what happens. But can we do the same thing with a watershed? Yes we can! Join MPCA Modelers and Zumbro Watershed Partnership staff to learn about water quality models for the Zumbro Watershed. See and understand how water quality models can help us fix the Zumbro Watershed's problems. See what we think will happen in the watershed as we work to change land use and best practices to reduce river pollution and flooding events and what management scenarios have been developed to realize these changes. (Academic Areas: Computer Science, Biology, Earth Science, Government)

These talks are part of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership's "Water Ways" Speaker Series that takes place the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Cascade Meadow Wetland and Environmental Science Center in Rochester. For more information, contact ZWP Education Coordinator Kevin Strauss at [education@zumbrowatershed.org](mailto:education@zumbrowatershed.org) or at 507-993-3411.