

1.01 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

PROJECT TITLE NAME: The Prairie Waters Education and Research Center

**NAME AND ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL OF LEAD PROJECT SPONSOR/
SUBGRANTEE:**

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STATE: North Dakota **WATERSHED:** Statewide

HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE: NA

HIGH PRIORITY WATERSHED:(YES/NO): NO

TMDL UNDER DEVELOPMENT: PENDING ____ **IMPLEMENTATION** ____

PROJECT TYPES WATERBODY TYPES NPS CATEGORY

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STAFFING & SUPPORT | <input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WATERSHED | <input type="checkbox"/> LAKES/RESERVOIRS | <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN RUNOFF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> RIVERS | <input type="checkbox"/> SILVICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I&E | <input type="checkbox"/> STREAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> WETLANDS | <input type="checkbox"/> RESOURCE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER | EXTRACTION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> STOWAGE/LAND |
| | | DISPOSAL |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> HYDRO |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

PROJECT LOCATION: STATEWIDE X LATITUDE ____ **MIN.** ____ **LONGITUDE** ____ **MIN.**

SUMMARIZATION OF MAJOR GOALS: The purpose of this proposal is to continue the funding of the highly successful Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. The Center is a statewide resource for water education, research, and management. The center moved to a new facility and has been working to increase the number of participants reached through educational programming specific to water quality and the mitigation of non-point source pollution. Participation is back to pre-Covid levels and the new space will allow for an increase to the number of students, educators, resource professionals and members of the public able to be reached through hands-on learning and technical training opportunities available through the Center.

**FY2023 319 Funds requested: \$477,480; Match \$318,320 Other Federal Funds \$0;
319 Funded Fulltime Personnel: 1.58**

Length of proposal: 34 months from Sept. 1, 2025 to June 31, 2028

Total Project Cost: \$795,799

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Prairie Waters Education and Research Center (Center) aims to raise awareness of non-point source (NPS) pollution through water quality focused educational activities. The Center serves a wide variety of clientele including students, teachers, and resource personnel.

Prairie Waters collaborates with agencies such as the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Water Resources, the North Dakota Game and Fish, the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, and state Soil Conservation Districts to produce a set of activities that cover a range of water issues in relation to NPS pollution. This center works with currently established educational entities such as Project Wet, River Watch, and Envirothon to provide educational experiences about water issues to a wide range of clients. Activities related to the Center include:

- Educational activities for school groups
 - Bringing in school groups to the Center for educational activities related to water and NPS pollution.
 - Doing outreach programs for schools and other educational entities.
 - Acting as a support center for the River Watch program in North Dakota.
- Provide training for teachers in water education.
- Provide a site for workshops for resource professionals.
- House a research lab that addresses water issues in North Dakota.

For the past year, the Center has been settling into its new facilities at the Valley City National Fish Hatchery owned and operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). For twelve years, the Center was housed in the Kathryn School building, but due to poor and unhealthy building conditions, a move was necessary to ensure the safety of participants and staff. The new location has several advantages; it is much closer to the Valley City State University (VCSU) campus, the facilities are well maintained, and the Center has access to the adjacent Camp Tonweya grounds previously managed by the Dakota Horizon Girl Scout Council which have been utilized for outdoor activities the past year. Camp Tonweya consists of three buildings on grounds owned by the fish hatchery. The Girl Scouts have vacated the buildings, and discussions are underway to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the USF&WS for the Center to have access to the grounds and buildings of Camp Tonweya.

The previous proposal for phase VI of this project detailed how the COVID epidemic negatively impacted participation numbers and outlined several strategies to increase involvement and reestablish pre-COVID participation levels. Over the past year the Center was successful in achieving its goal of pre-COVID participation levels and the expectation is the new facilities and continued efforts will increase numbers further.

Also, during phase VI, a quarterly newsletter was sent out to teachers, resource professionals, and interested citizens. The newsletters have been a successful means of advertising for the Center.

The purpose of this proposal is to request additional funds through the Section 319 Clean Water Act grant for the continuation of the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. The funding currently supporting this work is set to lapse September of 2025. The funds requests in this proposal would support 34 months of operation (through June of 2028). The Center is very appreciative of the continued support from the 319 program.

2.0 STATEMENT OF NEED

2.1 Non-point source pollution is a problem that can have many negative effects on the state's water resources. It is important that the causes and effects of NPS pollution are well understood by citizens of our state. Knowledge of not only what NPS pollution is, but also how the amount of NPS pollution is affected by a wide variety of water issues ranging from flooding, to farming practices, to drought, to wetland drainage is important. The Center examines these components of NPS pollution in a variety of ways. The Center gives K-12 students hands on activities that demonstrate many features of NPS pollution. An excellent example of this is the River Watch program which is organized and run by the Center. The program engages high school students in doing river chemistry monitoring on rivers and streams in North Dakota. The Center also partners with other entities in the state that focus on NPS to deliver quality education to both youth and professionals. The Center addresses several actions for the Information and Education Objective in the North Dakota NPS Management Program Plan: 2021 – 2025 through the delivery of a balanced statewide program that addresses NPS issues with K-12 school groups. In addition, the Center works with the DEQ and other local resource managers to provide training to professionals to better understand the implications of NPS pollution.

An important focus of the activities with students will be immersive learning meaning, whenever possible, getting them outside and next to, on, or in the water. Educational research has shown that these types of active learning experiences do a better job of engaging students and lead to a better understanding of scientific principles.

Another need this Center fulfills is to provide teachers the information and activities to help educate their students on water related issues. Many high school science teachers with a strong Biology background have little formal training in water issues. Most elementary school teachers have little science training at all. By providing teachers with workshops and having them participate in activities with their classes the Center improves teachers' knowledge in water issues and NPS.

The Center also acts as a place to bring resource professionals together for workshops and discussion related to NPS pollution. The Center has hosted workshops for NRCS and Soil Conservation District personnel on several NPS issues from Bio Assessment techniques to proper water quality sample collection.

While there may be some concern about overlap between the Center and the other NPS educational programs such as Project WET, Envirothon, and ECO Ed. camp; these programs have a synergistic relationship that results in the strengthening of all programs. Prairie Waters is involved in the Envirothon program, helping to prepare and manage the aquatics portion of the events. The Center assists with the Ransom County, Barnes County, Cass County, Adams County, and Slope/Hettinger County Eco Ed events.

2.2 The Center targets audiences from three main areas. The first, school groups, are an excellent audience for the Center because students are the future of our state and instilling knowledge of water issues will produce a more concerned and informed group of citizens. The second area, teachers and educators, are also important targets for the Center. Elementary education teachers have little or no training in the topics of NPS pollution and water issues. To put it bluntly, teachers are more likely to teach subjects that they are familiar with and understand themselves. Providing them with information and support greatly increases awareness and leads to more classroom activities on water issues. The collaborations with other programs such as Project Wet, Envirothon, and River Watch play a strong role in reaching both school groups and educators. Finally, working with resource personnel, farmers, and producers is important for supporting several state and federal agencies concerned with State's water quality and North Dakota's agricultural businesses.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As stated earlier, the Center has four main areas of focus. A further description of those areas follows. Additional information can be found on the Prairie Water's website:

<https://www.vcsu.edu/academics/academic-centers/prairie-waters-education-research-center/>.

Educational activities for school groups – Involvement with school groups is a combination of onsite activities at Prairie Waters and outreach programs to accommodate schools who may not be able to travel to Prairie Waters. A variety of activities are done at the Center, others are hands-on field trips to any one of several aquatic resources in the near vicinity of the Center. Examples of some of the subjects covered as a part of these activities are watersheds, aquatic macroinvertebrates, flooding, fish, biomonitoring, stream erosion, and wetlands studies.

The Center also hosts summer programs for kids including two three-day long camps. The first is for 5th and 6th graders and is titled “Splashin Around”. The second is a fishing camp for 7th and 8th graders. The Center has also hosted activities at the 4-H camp in Washburn in past summers.

One of the prime responsibilities of the Center is to act as the coordination center for River Watch. River Watch is a program that involves a team of high school students learning about and conducting river monitoring. The objectives of the program are as follows:

- Improved citizen awareness and understanding of watersheds and proper land and water stewardship practices.
- Sustainable citizen based, scientifically sound monitoring using standard methods, equipment, and training.
- Availability of useful, reliable, comparable water quality data for analysis, evaluation, and decision making.
- Sound resource management decisions based on quality data and informed discussion.

The students take water quality measurements in a river or stream in their area and are encouraged to examine how certain factors affect the water quality. This program does an excellent job of introducing students to water quality parameters and what they mean in relation to NPS pollution. Training is provided for the teacher and students at the Center and Prairie Water’s staff are available to visit the school as needed for trouble shooting and support services. In addition, the Center purchases the supplies needed for the monitoring and provides them to the schools for use. If a school decides to leave the program, the equipment is collected and provided to another school. The program also covers 60% of the school’s cost for travel and substitute teachers, meaning the school is responsible for 40% of the cost. This ensures that schools have a commitment to the program. One of the examples of success for this program has been the River Watch presentations at the 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 North Dakota Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference where the students from the

participating schools give PowerPoint presentations about their projects to a room full of resource professionals; feedback from both the students and the attendees to the conference has been overwhelmingly positive.

Unfortunately, participation in River Watch dropped considerably during and after the Covid 19 pandemic. This is an area in which the Center continues to lack participation. Having a committed teacher is an essential key to successful involvement in the River Watch program. This program has required teachers to be willing to donate their time, but considerations are being made for stipends to support teachers willing to host a River Watch program. There will be certain goals they will need to demonstrate to get the stipend. The Center is currently in discussion with Mandar Nangare from Barr Engineering to find funding from outside sources to support this initiative. Mr. Nangare has seen the student presentations at the 2021 and 2023 North Dakota Water Quality Monitoring Conference and has stepped forward to help us improve the River Watch program. The Center is committed to increasing the participation in the River Watch program.

Teacher training – The Center provides workshops in water education for teachers. These include workshops for Project Wet and training for River Watch, but also will include other workshops. In the past, the Center held a River Watch symposium where teachers and students presented their work. With the drop in participation, this event has not been held in the last several years. Plans for this phase of the program is to hold at least one River Watch symposium each year. This workshop takes place during the school year, most likely in late Fall or early Spring.

The Center is also looking at developing pre-service workshops for students in our science education programs and elementary education programs. Given the much closer proximity of the Fish Hatchery to the VCSU campus, Education majors will be able to be more actively involved at Prairie Waters.

Professional workshops – Covid 19 disrupted the professional workshops that were offered in the past. The Center will work with the North Dakota DEQ to evaluate the need for the certification workshops for water quality sampling at Prairie Waters. Alternative methods for training and education (such as webinars) will also be investigated. Soil Conservation Districts and the NRCS offices will be contacted to assess training needs.

Summary of accomplishments - Below is a summary of the number of people served during the last 2 grant cycles. The effects of Covid 19 are obvious. During FY 20 -21 the Center saw the total number of participants sink to 817. The numbers rebounded a bit in FY 21-22 to 2059. As a comparison during the FY 17-18 year there was a total of 2,801 participants and in FY 18-19 there were 2,860 participants. Participation numbers

rebounded in 22-23. For this year, the total was 2,772 which is very close to pre-covid numbers.

FY	Students	Teachers	Other	TOTAL
Phase 4 grant - July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	754	48	15	817
Phase 4 grant - July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	1884	114	61	2059
Phase 4 grant – July 1, 2022 to June 31, 2023	1846	134	80	2070
Phase 5 grant - August 31 2023 to Sept 1 2024	2473	224	75	2,772

Table 1. Overview of participants in Prairie Waters activities by fiscal year.

These numbers are a combination of both onsite participants and outreach participants. Onsite numbers consider participants that come to Prairie Waters for activities and outreach numbers take into account groups or schools to which Center staff travel to give presentations. Historically, the Center has always had more onsite than outreach participants. This is the first time the Center has seen more outreach participants compared to onsite. This trend can be attributed to two factors. First, one of the focused efforts under the current grant was to increase outreach work to help boost participation. The numbers are reflective of the success of these efforts. Second, the move to the new site at the Valley City National Fish Hatchery decreased the number of participants we could bring in for a day. The Kathryn facility was able to accommodate up to 100 students, whereas the Hatchery is limited to less than 50. The Center anticipates the ability to serve larger groups in the Fall of 2025 following necessary building renovations of the Camp Tonweya buildings.

Here is a list of different activities the Center has been a part of during the last grant cycle.

FY 2023-24

- Barnes Eco Ed
- Stutsman Eco Ed
- LaMoure Eco Ed
- Ransom Eco Ed
- Red River Water Festival

- International Water Institute - River Watch
- STEMtastic – VCSU STEM camp
- Dickinson Water Festival
- Bismarck Earth Day
- Summer Camps

VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab Research – This research lab focuses on aquatic biological resources and water quality in North Dakota. It is currently the identification lab for the DEQ’s aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring program and has had many contracts and grants related to North Dakota waters and water quality. In addition, the lab oversees two websites that focus on aquatic macroinvertebrates found in North Dakota waters (www.waterbugkey.vcsu.edu and www.ndfreshwaterinverts.vcsu.edu). These sites were developed by a previous 319 grant and are a valuable resource for the Center. Much of the information, data, and biological samples from these projects and future projects are available for use by the other three areas of focus for the Center. *This proposal does not include any direct funding for this component of the Center.* It is the responsibility of the Center Director to find research funds. In the past year the Macroinvertebrate Lab has brought in approximately \$150,000 in grants and contracts from entities such as the North Dakota DEQ, the North Dakota Game and Fish, the US Forest Service, and the Army Corp of Engineers. The fact that the Center and the Macroinvertebrate Lab have separate funding accounts set up with the VCSU Business Office ensures that funding will be separate.

Advisory Board - The Center has an advisory board to oversee its work and provide input for future directions. It meets twice a year to review the work of the Center and offer suggestions for future improvement. A list of current board member affiliation is included in the Coordination Plan of this document, section 4.1.

3.1 Goal. The mission of the Prairie Water Education and Research Center is to provide a site dedicated to water education, research, and management in North Dakota. In addition, there is currently much concern and emphasis on the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. This Center will take an active role in addressing those concerns. An important part of this mission is to have a broad reach across the state. Although the Center is based in southeast North Dakota services are provided across the state.

3.2 Objectives/Tasks: Specific objectives and underlying tasks for the FY 2025 Prairie Waters Education and Research Center for the period of September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028 are defined in this section.

Objective 1. Staff, assess and monitor the success of the Center.

Task 1. Staff the PWERC with a 29% time director, fulltime education specialist, one summer student employee, and 75% time staff person. The Director will be responsible for all major Center decisions, grant writing and the research component of the Center. Currently, the Director receives a summer salary for 1.5 months from 319 funds (12.5% of his time) and 2 months of volunteer time is captured as in-kind match under this project.

The Education Specialist/Presenter is a fulltime position. This person is responsible for designing and delivering educational activities for student groups, developing and implementing teacher workshops, developing displays for the commons area, and day to day activities at the Center. The salary will be 75% 319 funds and 25% VCSU funds.

The Lab Manager/Presenter will oversee the day-to-day activities of the research lab in the Center as well as help present activities to school groups. This is a full-time position with 75% of its time devoted to Prairie Waters; 50% paid by 319 funds, 25% paid by VCSU. The remaining 25% of the time is devoted to research and contract work which will be paid by research grants and contracts.

The Center will hire one summer student employee working approximately 400 hrs. at \$16 an hour. This would be a 0.20 FTE.

Product: An effective staff of 2.20 FTE for the Center, 1.58 funded by 319, 0.67 funded by in kind or match from VCSU.

Estimated Cost: \$542,513 = \$389,040 from 319 funds; \$153,473 match (\$112,405 – VCSU funds; and \$41,068 - inkind salary match)

Task 2. Advertise the Center to Educators, Schools, and the general public throughout North Dakota through the use of pamphlets and other mailings along with a website. A quarterly newsletter is distributed to promote water quality education and issues. Signage is also necessary to promote the new location.

Product: Pamphlets and other promotional material plus postage. Cost of a highway sign. Travel to meetings.

Estimated Cost: \$1,950 – 319 funds

Task 3. Develop and administer assessment components. Record of all visitors to the Center will be collected to gauge the amount and type of usage the Center

receives. In addition, questionnaires and other assessment tools will be developed for all workshops and educational activities.

Product: Questionnaires and documentation of usage.
Estimated Cost: \$110 – 319 funds

Task 4. Advisory board. The board will meet twice yearly to oversee the workings of the Center. In-kind matches are tracked for eligible board members traveling and participating in meetings.

Product: Travel and meeting costs.
Estimated Cost: \$200 = \$0 319 funds; \$200 in kind match

Objective 2. Provide educational activities for school groups.

Task 5. Run the River Watch Program in North Dakota with a focus on maintaining the schools already active in the program and encourage other schools to join. Funds are provided to partially cover the costs of travel, supplies, and hiring substitute teachers at these schools.

Products: Funds for misc. supplies (calibration solutions, repairs, and sampling items) along with 60% of the costs for transportation and hiring of substitute teachers at our participating schools.
Estimated Cost \$7,425 = \$5,000 from 319; \$2,425 In-kind match (school contribution to travel and substitute teachers)

Task 6. Provide onsite and outreach educational activities to North Dakota K-12 schools with annual average participation numbers of 2500 - 3000 students.

Product: For onsite activities this includes cost for local transport to area aquatic resources, materials for use in activities, and cost of transporting students to the center. Costs also cover travel for outreach activities.
Estimated Cost: \$21,100 = \$12,100 - from 319; \$9,000 In-kind match (\$6,000 school costs for transportation of students to center; \$3000 match from Barnes County Wildlife Federation).

Objective 3. Provide Teacher training related to water issues.

Task 7. Provide teacher training for River Watch

Product: Develop webinars and in person training for River Watch teachers.
Estimated Cost: \$2,000 = \$2,000 in 319 funds; (travel costs)

Task 8. Provide teacher workshops and training for Water education to pre-service and in-service teachers. Two workshops will be offered: one for K-6 teachers and one for 7-12 teachers each geared to activities and subjects for those grade levels.

Product: At least one workshop will be provided each summer for either K-6 or 7-12 teachers with a focus on water quality education. These workshops will take place in the summer of 2026 and 2027.

Estimated Cost: \$3,800 = \$2,250 from 319 funds and \$1,550 in kind match.

Objective 4. Provide training to water resource professionals.

Task 9. Present workshops and develop webinars for resource professionals.

Product: A water quality sampling certification workshop and workshops/training activities for a variety of resource professionals including soil conservation district and NRCS personnel.

Estimated Cost: \$1,800 – 319 funds

Objective 5. House the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Research Lab.

Task 10. Provide the space for the lab and integrate components of the research, specimens and data for example, into the educational mission of the Center.

Product: Integration of VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab into the educational aspects of the Center.

Estimated Cost: \$0, The work of the research lab will be funded by outside sources.

3.4 Valley City State University is well positioned to sponsor this program. They have made a considerable investment in the Center. In the past VCSU spent nearly \$100,000 renovating the Kathryn school building to support the mission of the Prairie Waters Research and Education Center. They cover the costs of utilities which include electricity, heating costs, internet, and other utilities. In addition, they have agreed to provide a 25% match for the Education Specialist and Lab Manager positions.

The staff of the Center are all well qualified for their positions. All are North Dakota natives, have at least an undergraduate degree in Biology, and extensive experience in water and water issues. The Director and Education Specialist both have education backgrounds and the Director has previous experience in outdoor environmental education centers.

The Macroinvertebrate lab portion of the Center provides many experiences for undergraduate students to do research and present their findings. Over the last fifteen years 18 undergraduate students have given over 28 different poster or talk presentations at regional and national conferences. In those fifteen years the lab has brought in over \$2 million in grants and contracts to VCSU.

4.0 COORDINATION PLAN

4.1 Valley City State University will be the sponsoring organization for this project. Valley City State University has supplied the lab equipment, much of the furniture and presentation equipment, the North Dakota Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Collection, and the website for this project.

The Center has a strong record of working with other entities in delivering NPS education. The Prairie Waters River Watch program was developed in close coordination with the River Watch program in Minnesota. Collaboration between the Center and Project Wet, a program run by the Department of Water Resources, has fostered events such as Envirothon, an annual water festival at Prairie Waters, and Project Wet Teacher workshops. The Center has worked with the DEQ on workshops and training for NRCS, Soil Conservation District, and other resource professionals.

As part of the coordination and assessment plan, an advisory board has been established. The purpose of the board is two-fold; to oversee the Center and ensure it is run properly, and to involve representative groups in the activities of the Center. Below is a list of agencies/institutions who have representation on this board.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation

North Dakota Game and Fish Outreach

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Water Division

High School Teacher

Junior High Teacher

North Dakota County Extension Agent

VCSU Administrator

4.2 A major feature of this venture is the wide-ranging support of governmental, educational, and citizen groups. As an example of this interest, the North Dakota Game and Fish Outreach/Education has given the Center several small grants to summer students working at the Center. Former Barnes County SCD Watershed Project staff assisted in with facilitation and advertising of workshops for SCD and NRCS personnel. In the spring of 2014, the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust granted the Center funds to integrate a Wetlands activity into their curriculum. The Barnes County Wildlife Federation has been kind enough to donate \$1000 per year for the purchase of waders for the programs. Lastly, the new relationship established between the Center and the US Fish and Wildlife allows the program to use their facilities.

4.3 The Center has a history of working with existing educational programs, several of which are or have been supported by 319 funds. As previously highlighted, the Center works with Project Wet, county ECO Ed programs, government agencies such as SCDs, NRCS, DEQ, Game & Fish and the National Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nongovernmental Organizations such as the Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2). These relationships and connections continue to be essential to the success of this program.

As stated earlier in this proposal, the goal of this program is not to replace the activities or entities listed above but supplement them and act as an instrument to help increase their distribution.

4.4 The Center does not duplicate the activities of any other like facilities in the area as it is uniquely focused on water issues and water education..

5.0 EVALUATION AND MONITORING PLAN

5.1 Prairie Waters uses both formative and summative assessments as part of their evaluation process. The formative assessments take place on an ongoing basis and help to gauge success and make needed changes to the program. To accomplish this all clientele are given an opportunity to fill out comment forms and evaluation forms. Forms are provided to teachers, students and workshop participants to fill out. These forms are read by staff personnel, discussed, acted upon, and then summarized in a final report which becomes part of the summative assessment. The summative assessment will take place once a year and will involve an overall examination of the

Center. Each year a report will be prepared on the progress of the Center. This report includes an overview of the total number of K-12 students that have used the center, the total number of teachers who have undergone some type of training, the number of professionals that have taken part in a workshop at the site, the number of VCSU students involved in the Center either through research or as education majors, and research activities carried out. In addition, an expense report detailing the money received by the Center and the expenses of the Center will be prepared. A compilation of this data will be presented to major funding sources, the Vice President of Academic Affairs at VCSU, and the Advisory board. The Director will receive feedback from these entities and implement any needed changes.

6.0 BUDGET

6.1 See the attached budget tables. The new project budget will start on Sept. 1st, 2025 and end on June 31st, 2028. Raises are calculated into the first, second, and third year. Below is a brief detail of the matching funds for this project:

- VCSU money match – Valley City State University has agreed to pay 25% of the Education Specialist position and the Lab Manager position. Over the 34 months of the grant this comes to \$112,406.
- Barnes County Wildlife – donates \$1000 per year to the Center for the purchase of Waders.
- Storage match – The Us National Fish Hatchery is allowing us to store much of our equipment in a large storage space approximately 14'X35'X14.5'. In Valley City, this size of storage space goes for \$233 a month rental (see <https://www.northenskystorage.com/pages/rent>). The Hatchery is allowing us to use this for no charge which is an inkind match of \$7,992 over the period of the grant.
- Office match –VCSU will provide office space for the three employees. Space will be approximately 121 sq. ft. each and the current rate for retail rental space in Valley City is \$10-12 an hour per square foot per year. For three office spaces over the time of the grant this comes to \$9,801 in inkind match.
- Director inkind salary match – The program Director has retired from teaching and will commit to working at Prairie Waters. He will receive 1.5 months' pay and will donate 2 months of his time to the Center. He will continue to direct the center and handle administrative duties as well as assist with the various groups with which we work. The salary paid for his last year at VCSU will be used to quantify value of time, as he will be doing the same tasks he has done in the past for the Center. The value of this in-kind over 34 months is \$82,136.
- Other inkind – this is inkind matching of the expenses by the schools, board members, and workshop presenters. For the River Watch program, it is 40% of

their costs and for school groups coming to the Centers it is their full travel cost. Based on past years, this amount is estimated to total \$8,625.

- Indirect match – Valley City State University has a Negotiated 40% Indirect rate on Salary and Fringe for Federal grants. For this grant we can only claim a 15% indirect rate. The difference between these rates will be used as match. The Salary and Fringe total is \$389,040; 40% of this is \$155,616. The 15% indirect is \$62,280. Therefore, \$93,336 will be claimed as match.

Budget Tables for Prairie Water Education and Research Center

Part 1 – Funding sources – The funds for this project will be used for 34 month period of time spread over three fiscal years. Funding will start Sept. 1, 2025, and continue through to June 31, 2028.

	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	Total
FY2024 Section 319 Funds	\$133,854	\$168,664	\$174,962	\$477,480
State and Local match:				
1) VCSU salary match	\$31,700	\$39,562	\$41,144	\$112,405
2) Inkind Salary Match	\$26,312	\$27,364	\$28,459	\$82,136
3) Indirect cost match	\$26,427	\$32,770	\$33,721	\$92,917
4) Office match	\$3,328	\$3,993	\$3,993	\$11,314
5) Storage Match	\$2,330	\$2,796	\$2,796	\$7,922
4) Participating schools/Advisory Board match	\$3,625	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$11,625
Subtotals	\$93,722	\$110,485	\$114,113	\$318,320
Totals	\$227,576	\$279,149	\$289,075	\$795,799

Part 2 – Funding - The funds for this project will be used for funding 34 months; 10 months of FY26 and full years in FY27 and FY28.

Project Objectives and Tasks	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	Total Costs	Cash Match	In Kind Match	319 funds
Objective 1: Staff facility, advertise, and assess program.							
Salary/Fringe	\$109,715	\$136,924	\$142,401	\$583,581	\$112,405	\$82,136	\$389,040
Travel	\$250	\$300	\$300	\$1,050	0	\$200	\$850
Supplies	\$330	\$340	\$340	\$1,010	0	0	\$1,010
Subtotals	\$110,295	\$137,564	\$143,041	\$585,641	\$112,405	\$82,336	\$390,900
Objective 2: Provide educational activities to approximately 2500 students a year							
Travel	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$18,425	0	\$8,425	\$10,000
Supplies	\$2,500	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$11,100	\$3,000	0	\$8,100
Subtotals	\$5,500	\$6,300	\$6,300	\$29,525	\$3,000	\$8,425	\$18,100
Objective 3: Provide Teacher training related to water issues							
Travel	\$300	\$400	\$400	\$1,100	0		\$1,100
Workshops	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	0		\$4,000
Subtotals	\$300	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$5,100	0	\$0	\$5,100
Objective 4: Provide training for water resource personnel							
Workshops	\$300	\$400	\$400	\$1,100	0	0	\$1,100
Subtotals	\$300	\$400	\$400	\$1,100	0	0	\$1,100
Objective 5: House VCSU Macro Lab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 % Administrative Costs	\$17,459	\$22,000	\$22,821	\$62,280	0	0	\$62,280
Storage Match	\$2,330	\$2,796	\$2,796	\$7,922	0	\$7,922	
Office Match	\$3,328	\$3,993	\$3,993	\$11,314	0	\$11,314	\$0
Indirect Match	\$26,427	\$32,770	\$33,720	\$92,917	\$0	\$92,917	\$0
TOTALS	\$133,854	\$168,664	\$174,962	\$795,799	\$115,405	\$202,914	\$477,480