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Elks National Foundation 2012-13 Impact Grant Application

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1. Contact Information [View/Change](#)

Lodge Name:

Wadena, MN

Lodge Number:

2386

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Partnership Organization(s) Contact Information:

STEP (Stimulating Economic Progress) 114 Jefferson St. S. Wadena, MN 56482 612-282-9301

Please list the date of the meeting when this grant was discussed.

Meeting Date: 5/11/2012

Tell us about your community.

Is your Lodge located in an urban, suburban or rural community? Please check the appropriate box.

Urban Suburban Rural (less than 25,000) Rural (less than 5,000)

2. Project Information [View/Change](#)

Project Title: **Students and Sustainable Agriculture – High Tunnel Classroom Project** Application Status: **New application**

Identify the community problem your project will address. (This is the case for why your Lodge needs Impact Grant funds.)

This project would provide substantial funding towards the construction of a High Tunnel Greenhouse at Wadena Deer Creek School. Wadena Deer Creek students will start the 2012-2013 school year at a new facility after spending two years in four locations after an EF 4 tornado destroyed the existing school, community center and close to 300 homes and businesses in the community on June 17, 2010. This project would educate students at Wadena Deer Creek Schools and their families and community members about sustainable agricultural practices that can be easily replicated by a family or on a small farm.

Wadena County (population 13,000) is one of the poorest counties per capita in the State of Minnesota. The county ranks in the bottom 10% of 87 counties in the state. The sale of fruits and vegetables through Farmer's Markets would enhance family incomes and establish healthy eating habits. In addition there are opportunities locally to sell products to a local produce wholesale company that is based in Wadena. This company serves grocery stores and other accounts in a five state region.

A high tunnel greenhouse would expand the growing season in our northern climate and enable operators to grow a wide variety of produce items, including some not normally grown in this area.

How will the Elks specifically address this need? If the Lodge has a partner in this project, we want to know exactly what the Elks will do, and not what the partner organization will do. (This is your project description.)

Grant funding would provide a substantial portion of the high tunnel classroom project. The Wadena Elks Lodge members will take a lead role in the in the construction of the high tunnel facility. A well established local contractor who is an Elks member will supervise the construction using volunteer labor from our lodge and the community. The Wadena Elks Lodge is 100% committed to the completion of this project.

What steps have you taken to gain widespread Lodge support for this project?

The Wadena Elks Lodge became aware of this opportunity and realized it was something that it could easily partner with the school district to accomplish. Following approval from the Exalted Ruler, Board of

Trustees and Lodge members, a committee was formed to pursue financial support and coordinate volunteer labor.

How did your Lodge determine the need for this project?

The high tunnel classroom project was developed by members of the Wadena Deer Creek School faculty and board as a way to compliment the "green" design of the new school. The school is designed to be eco-friendly with heating and cooling provided by 300 groundwater wells. Due to financial constraints with the new building project, the school does not have the financial capacity to complete this alternative classroom.

Describe the aspects of the project that you believe are most important to the participants.

The most important aspects of this project involve a learning opportunity for students that will last a lifetime. The ability to grow healthy foods for use by a family is significant and excess harvest can be sold to generate additional income. All family members, regardless of age, can be involved in a high tunnel growing operation.

Given your Lodge's description of the project, please break down the project in terms of volunteer activities/duties/committees.

How many Elks will be needed to complete each activity?

The WDC School district has agreed to locate the high tunnel classroom on district property in close to proximity to the new school.

The Wadena Elks Lodge is seeking grant funding to assist with the construction materials. In addition, a group of 20+ Lodge members have volunteered to help build the structure which is 72 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high. The high tunnel walls and pitched roof are made from 2"x6" lumber and 4'x8' sheeting, with the south facing walls and roof covered with 1/4" clear polycarbonate. The Wadena Elks is fully aware that site preparation, utility connections, materials and equipment will be approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000. A complete material listing for a similar structure has been obtained. The Wadena Elks is committed to raising the additional funds through Lodge fundraising activity(s) and other organizational, business and private party donations. Materials will be sourced through local vendors using best pricing obtained via direct negotiations.

The number of volunteer hours is estimated at a minimum of 1600 person hours. (5 eight hour days with 20+ people for eight hours per day)

3. Proposed Goals & Objectives [View/Change](#)

Build an alternative classroom to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices.

Plan project (materials, construction practices, cost).

Provide volunteer labor.

Celebrate successful completion.

Provide educational opportunities primarily for students, secondarily for community members.

Student learning components involve biology and other sciences, family and consumer science (foods and healthy living), and horticultural instruction.

Collaborate with area adult educational programs and university extension services.

Enhance the stature of the Wadena Elks Lodge as a leader in community service.

Provide a venue for Elks members to volunteer their time and talent to a highly visible school and community project.

Enable the lodge to have a primary association with the WDC schools for future projects.

Gain new Elks members who were not previously aware of the community / public service projects that the Wadena Lodge has accomplished.

4. Plan for Success [View/Change](#)

At the end of the year, how will you know the project has helped the problem identified in section 2?

Plan for Success:

A high tunnel greenhouse classroom creates a year-round learning environment for sustainable produce growing operations. With minimal upkeep and maintenance, the high tunnel will serve the school and community for many years. As an on-going venue for instruction, students and community members can see how viable a family-based operation can be.

What data will you collect to show the project's success? (For example, we will monitor the graduation rate at the high school we are working at. Or, we will improve the reading scores of the children in our education program.)

Measuring Success:

The WDC Schools will incorporate the high tunnel into as many educational components as possible. The district, as the project manager, has agreed to monitor and report on student and community member activity hours on an annual basis. In addition, the long-term success will be evident with more family involvement with local Farmer's Markets.

This is an opportunity to raise your Lodge's profile and inspire new members to join a Lodge that's making a difference in the community. How do you plan to promote this in the community as an Elks-identified project?

Community Awareness:

Upon successful receipt of the grant, there will be a press release to local broadcast and print media.

Numerous photo opportunities and broadcast interviews will occur with Elks members and School Officials at the groundbreaking.

A celebration open house will be advertised to the community.

Signage indicating Elks Lodge support will be placed on and in the building.

As with all Wadena Elks endeavors, we strive to involve existing members and create a pathway for potential members to see the value of our Lodge in the community.

The Wadena Elks Care. The Wadena Elks Share.

5. Budget Information [View/Change](#)

Budget Category	ENF Funds	Matching Share		Total Project Cost
		Cash	In-Kind	
Staff Salaries & Support	N/A	\$3000	\$3000	\$6000
Equipment:	\$0	\$2000	\$1000	\$3000
Materials & Supplies:	\$10000	\$5000	\$0	\$15000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
TOTAL	\$10000	\$10000	\$4500	\$24500

Budget Narrative

The passive solar greenhouse we intend to build for use at the school will involve: • A four foot excavation to be lined with insulation and then filled with a sand floor, ribbons of [perforated field drain tile covered with field stone to absorb and store heat, all covered with a rich super soil. • The South facing wall will be built at about a 65 degree angle to capture sun power all winter. This 72 foot long, 12 foot high wall will be constructed of 2x6 studs on 24 inch centers and covered with ¼ inch clear polycarbonate • Side and back walls will have 2x4 studs and 4x8 sheathing. • Exterior solid walls will be covered with vinyl siding. The roof may be metal. • A 6 foot by 24 foot work shed will be integral.

We estimate we will need; Framing: 90 2x4s; 70 2x10s and 24 4x8 sheets of particle board. Foundation: enough 8 inch cinder block for 192 feet four foot high and cedar plank for the sill Sheathing: 55 4x8 sheets exterior grade, twin wall poly carbonate 24 sheets 4x14, 300 feet of mounting tracks; 2000 sq. feet of Tyvek; 2000 feet of siding, one oversized insulated door, one oversized interior door; 2 end wall 30 inch louvered vents Insulation: Blue foam 30 sheets 3 inch thick and 70 bats 2 inch and 90 bats 6 inch. Roof: tar paper, shingles or metal and flashing for 72 long building Solar heat: 4 inch drain tile 480 feet, PVC piping 24 feet of 4 inch, 6 Duct blowers, 180 feet of stove pipe and 12 elbows. Air flow: 2 louvered vent fans (20 inch) six industrial 20 circulation fans Electrical: One breaker box, 12 insulated outlet boxes and cable Water: 1 laundry sink, 1 stainless triple sink, 1 8 foot stainless table, 50 foot hose and long wand, pvc piping and one faucet connection. Misc: Fasteners, nails, duct tape, thermostats, back up heater (2) shop lights, carts, tools, scale, hanging chain for suspended grow troughs, and about 180 6 foot long vinyl gutter growing pans.

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If you're completely finished with your Impact Grant application, you must submit it for consideration. If you have questions before you submit, contact us at ENFPrograms@elks.org or call 773/755-4730.

Once submitted, you can no longer edit your application.

By submitting this application, you certify that you have discussed the contents of this Impact Grant application and its contents at a Lodge meeting, and have the Lodge's full permission to submit this on behalf of the Lodge.

I agree to these terms.

[Submit Impact Grant Application to the Elks National Foundation]