



Sponsorship Opportunity: Source Water Protection Collaborative City of Chatfield Creative Engagement Project

What is the Source Water Protection Collaborative?

The [Source Water Protection Collaborative](#) (SWPC) is a Minnesota-based initiative engaging individuals involved in different aspects of source water protection. Facilitated by Environmental Initiative, the Collaborative gathers diverse perspectives to advance collective action for protecting drinking water. It is funded by a Minnesota Department of Health grant.

The creative engagement project

The Collaborative is building off its successful pilot project that placed Su Legatt, a creative engagement specialist, with the community of Little Falls in 2023. Legatt worked with the community to co-develop the project, called [Creating With and For Water](#). She gathered community members to discuss drinking water through a series of papermaking and paper art workshops that were then used to create posters about water that are displayed at Little Falls City Hall. More information is available under [the SWPC portion of our website](#), [environmental-initiative.org](#).

Building off the pilot project, the Source Water Protection Collaborative aims to launch full-year creative engagement residencies. The first two residencies will be in southeast Minnesota, starting with Chatfield in 2026. The work will move to the Central Sands region in 2028.

Project goals

Creative engagement specialists will:

- Empower community members to engage deeply with drinking water protection.
- Increase local government capacity for community engagement related to public drinking water both during and after the project.
- Build relationships and trust among stakeholders, including state and local government and the local community.
- Co-develop an engagement plan with the community to ensure their goals are met.

Community value

Extended engagement allows:

- Community ownership of the project from choosing the specialist to project implementation.
- Application of lessons learned in subsequent years and projects.
- Time for trust building and deeper engagement.
- Connection to community members to allow for difficult conversations that invite curiosity and dialogue instead of heightening tension.

Sponsorship fiscal needs

2026 Chatfield, Minn.	\$120,000	\$45,000 – creative engagement specialist stipend* \$15,000 – materials \$60,000 – administration-includes start-up costs, engagement planning support, and communication.
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2027 Chatfield, Minn.	\$100,000	\$45,000 – creative engagement specialist stipend* \$15,000 – materials \$40,000 – administration + communication
2028 Central Sands region, Minn.	\$130,000 (assumes increases in rates/costs)	\$50,000 – creative engagement specialist stipend* \$20,000 – materials \$60,000 – administration-includes start-up costs, engagement planning support, communication
* Stipend direct payment to specialist(s). Assumes a 20-hour work week (average).		

In-kind sponsorship

We are open to in-kind sponsorships, such as the donation of space or artist materials, in addition to fiscal sponsorship. If you would like to discuss an in-kind sponsorship for this work, please reach out to Britta Dornfeld at 612-425-4939 or at bdornfeld@en-in.org.

Benefits of financial sponsorship

\$500-1,499	Drop-by-Drop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name recognition on all digital documents. Participate in all engagement events.
\$1,500-4,999	Stream Steward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name recognition on all digital documents. “Behind the scenes” pre-engagement event site visit. Participate in all engagement events.
\$5,000-9,999	Well Spring Supporter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name recognition on all print and digital documents. “Behind the scenes” pre-engagement event site visit. Participate in all engagement events.
\$10,000-24,999	Tributary Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo placement on all print and digital documents. “Behind the scenes” pre-engagement event site visit. Social media tagging during community engagement events. Participate in all engagement events.
\$25,000-50,000	Water Guardian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the artist” event. “Behind the scenes” pre-engagement event site visit. Elevated logo placement on all print and digital documents. Named recognition and quote opportunity in media releases. Social media photos and tagging during community engagement events. Participate in all engagement events.

Project partnership

Those interested in contributing over \$50,000 to this work will be considered project partners. In addition to all the sponsorship benefits listed above, partners will have input on project design and be consulted as work progresses. Please reach out if you are interested in becoming a project partner.

For more information

If you have any questions about this work or would like to learn more, please reach out to Britta Dornfeld at 612-425-4939 or at bdornfeld@en-in.org.