



# Smithsonian Water Project

## Traveling Exhibition & Community Engagement Initiative

This project is a collaboration of the Minnesota Humanities Center and Smithsonian Institution, in partnership with MPCA. It is being led by Erika Herrmann, who is working with staff from MPCA, BWSR, UMN Extension, the MN Historical Society and others to create a short list of Greater MN communities where this project will have the potential for greatest impact.

Letters of inquiry were sent to the following communities to assess their interest and to find those that are the best fit for this project:

Alexandria	New London/Spicer
Bagley	Nisswa
Detroit Lakes	St. Charles/Winona
Ely/Tower	St. Peter/Henderson
Grand Marais	Sandstone/Hinckley
Grand Rapids	Stillwater
Lanesboro	Thief River Falls
Little Falls	Two Harbors
Milaca/Onamia/Garrison	Worthington
Montevideo	

Soon, eight of the responding communities will be invited to submit a full proposal and letters of commitment from partners. By the end of May, an announcement will be made identifying the six selected host sites. Their commitment will be large; they will be asked to engage as many sectors of their community as possible: from water stakeholders, to city and county government entities, to history, culture, and arts organizations, school districts, parks & recreation groups, faith communities, and civic organizations. Based on the responses to date, the MHC feels there is a hunger for broader engagement around water issues in MN.

The Smithsonian exhibition will tour six communities, six weeks at each site, with local exhibits, programming and events, during these time periods:

1. June 25, 2016 to August 7, 2016
2. August 13, 2016 to September 25, 2016
3. October 1, 2016 to November 13, 2016
4. November 19, 2016 – January 1, 2017
5. January 7, 2017 to February 19, 2017
6. February 25, 2017 to April 9, 2017