Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilmsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

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<tr>
<th>Date of Report Submission:</th>
<th>May 19, 2014</th>
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<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Workshop: “New Directions in Environmental and Energy Law, Policy, and Geography” – May 2012</td>
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**Project Context & Purpose**

*Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.*

**Original Proposal:**

We requested a $3000 Mini Grant to support an interdisciplinary workshop entitled “New Directions in Environmental and Energy Law, Policy, and Geography” which took place May 3-5, 2012. The University of Minnesota has leading faculty in environmental and energy law and policy in the professional schools and social sciences who are working on interrelated projects with public policy implications. Although these faculty members have formed some ad hoc collaborations over the years, these units are not yet taking full advantage of their cross-cutting capacity. In 2011 and 2012, we began to form a new interdisciplinary collaboration to address this gap. Faculty from law, public policy, business, geography, and anthropology began to meet on a monthly basis to explore possibilities for synergy in research, teaching, and policy.

One of the barriers to such synergy we have encountered is that inadequate opportunities exist for sharing scholarship among law, geography, and public policy as compared to the environmental sciences. Each group of faculty is extremely active in its field and attends the leading conferences in its discipline, but the conferences have minimal overlap. Moreover, the most valuable interchanges tend to come in workshops on specific pieces and the informal conversations within them. Although there are a few opportunities for such workshops within each discipline, there are currently no workshops that cut across all three.

This dearth both limits the policy impact of scholarship from each of the three disciplines and provides an exciting opportunity for the University of Minnesota to be a pioneer on critical policy issues. In order to address these gaps and deepen our collaboration, we held a first annual two day workshop that included key environmental and energy faculty in law, public policy, and geography at the University of Minnesota and at other leading universities around the country. We invited ten to fifteen outside leading scholars from professional schools and the social sciences to participate, to create an intimate and collaborative setting in which everyone was able to present their work.

Our workshop focused on these three disciplines to tackle the legal, policy, and spatial ways in which the U.S. approach to environmental and energy problems is broken. We cannot upgrade our aging energy grid because we lack adequate federal legislation and inter-state cooperation, and as a result, are unable to transport the huge supply of wind energy from the Midwestern plains to where it is needed. The Obama Administration’s national
program to integrate regulation of fuel efficiency (energy law) and vehicle emissions (environmental law) represents one of the few instances in which these interrelated areas of law have been brought together. In the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, over 40% of the oil spill waste went into municipal and county landfills of low-income communities of color, despite stated recognition of environmental justice concerns, due in part to exemptions for oil companies in how they store waste and to the unequal siting of environmental hazards.

These failures have four primary dimensions which the workshop addressed, each of which is a focus for the interdisciplinary efforts of our research collaboration here at the University of Minnesota. First, we do not have effective governance strategies for complex, multi-level problems that predominate at the intersection of environmental and energy law.

Second, we do not have the legal or physical infrastructure needed to transition to cleaner energy sources. Third, the relevant law results in low-income communities of color bearing the environmental burdens of our energy and other industries without reaping the benefits of clean, low-cost energy or open space. Fourth, many U.S. metropolitan areas lack effective regional approaches to land-use, power, and transportation and suffer from dysfunctional dynamics between core cities and their suburbs and exurbs. We plan to hold sessions on each of these dimensions, which will examine interrelated legal, policy, and geographic issues and provide the foundation for future collaborative work to impact policy change on these issues.

We raised $8,000 from the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences ($5000) and from Alexandra Klass’s Institute on the Environment Fellow funds ($3000). Because that amount was not sufficient to cover the expenses of hosting the workshop as well as the hotel and travel costs for all of our participants, even in a model in which we use very inexpensive food options, we requested a Mini Grant of $3000 to cover the expenses of hosting the event and of the University of Minnesota faculty and student scholars, which allowed us to use other funds to support travel expenses of participants, many of whom would not otherwise be able to attend.

We invited people over the course of Fall 2011 and set up a room block at a major hotel to assist participants with their arrangements. We provided all meals for participants over the two days, as well as a welcome dinner the night before the event began. We maintained a stipend pool to assist any participants who could not participate without travel assistance. In the lead-up to the conference, we posted all of the drafts to a secure website and encouraged participants to continue using the website paired with a listserv for ongoing feedback and collaboration. Once all participants were confirmed, we publicized the event through the major electronic channels to maximize the reputation impact and generate interest in the event in the future.

We also wanted this workshop to serve as a learning experience for students across disciplines and encourage them to explore educational and scholarly opportunities beyond their discipline. To that end, we held a paper contest for students with small monetary prizes ($100 per paper) for the top paper in each of the three disciplines and public recognition of runner-up status. The prize winners and runners-up were recognized during the workshop and provided a brief oral summary of their papers, which was a major opportunity for students interested in academia and a way to integrate these new ideas with those of the leading scholars. This student involvement does not simply help our students educationally and professionally, but it also begins to create a cohort group of leaders in interdisciplinary work emerging from the University of Minnesota. Such a cohort is critical to addressing the difficult environmental and energy problems facing the world today, and also will enhance the reputation of the school.

In sum, this collaboration represented a unique opportunity for the University of Minnesota to become a leader in emergent interdisciplinary environmental thinking across disciplines crucial to the IonE’s goals for public policy progress. It also served as an important piece in forwarding more cross-cutting research and teaching at this University. By involving relevant faculty in disciplines who might not otherwise dialogue easily about their work, this workshop served the core goals of IonE. It allowed for synergistic thinking that would not otherwise happen, and that could lead to needed, innovative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time. Funding
from IonE helped to make this exciting initiative possible in a fuller form than our current funding would have allowed.

**Work Completed**

*Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.*

Summary:

The workshop was a real success. It brought together a small group of approximately 25 scholars from multiple disciplines within U of MN and from around the country for two days to discuss critical issues associated with geography, energy policy, and the environment. We developed deeper connections with our colleagues here at U of MN from Humphrey, Law, Geography, and IonE. Our colleagues at other schools still talk about the workshop as a model for interdisciplinary scholarly collaboration. The workshop really increased the profile of the U of MN and IonE as cutting-edge centers of scholarly work on environmental and energy issues.
Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

The participants in the workshop were as follows:

- **Deepa Badrinarayana**, Chapman University
- **Melinda Harm Benson**, University of New Mexico
- **Jeffrey Bielicki**, University of Minnesota
- **Alejandro Camacho**, University of California, Irvine
- **Ann Carlson**, UCLA
- **Lincoln Davies**, University of Utah
- **Daniel Farber**, UC Berkeley
- **Victor Flatt**, UNC
- **Robert Glicksman**, George Washington University
- **Rebecca Hardin**, University of Michigan
- **Brad Karkkainen**, University of Minnesota
- **Alice Kaswan**, University of San Francisco
- **Steve Kelley**, University of Minnesota
- **Alexandra Klass**, University of Minnesota
- **Katherine Klink**, University of Minnesota
- **Jennifer Kuzma**, University of Minnesota
- **Helga Leitner**, University of Minnesota
- **Alfred Marcus**, University of Minnesota
- **Beth Mercer-Tayler**, University of Minnesota
- **Myron Orfield**, University of Minnesota
- **Hari Osofsky**, University of Minnesota
- **Ashira Ostrow**, Hofstra University
- **Dalia Patino**, Duke University
- **Eric Sheppard**, University of Minnesota
- **Elizabeth Wilson**, University of Minnesota
- **Hannah Wiseman**, Florida State University

As indicated on the list, the U of MN participants came from a broad range of disciplines in law, policy, and social sciences. This is a group of faculty that, until now, did not often collaborate regularly. Since the workshop, additional collaborations have formed and more personal connections have been made.
Project Outcomes

Please provide a summary of the outcomes of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

The agenda from the conference is attached. As noted above, new collaborations have formed among U of MN scholars in various disciplines that we have drawn on for subsequent workshops and conferences, including a major energy and environmental law conference held at the law school in April 2013.

Because of the positive response to this conference we hope to hold another, similar interdisciplinary workshop on environmental and energy law issues if funding permits.