

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2008

TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: **Scientific & Natural Areas Restoration & Enhancement (2.7) & Acquisition (3.6)**

PROJECT MANAGER: Peggy Booth

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources, Scientific & Natural Area Program

ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25, St Paul, MN 55155-4025

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas

FUND: The Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5(b).

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Result 1: Development of SNA lands. Ecological restoration and site enhancement were completed on 403 acres at 16 Scientific and Natural Areas in order to prevent the loss of important species, plant communities and features from accidental or willful human disturbance and natural catastrophe. Specifically, woodland restoration (including exotics control and deer exclosure), prairie restoration (including seed harvest, seeding, fire breaks, prescribed burning, and exotics control), and site development (fencing, signs, parking lot gates, trail clearing, and site cleanup) were done at one or more the following SNAs: Black Dog Preserve, Boot Lake, Cannon River Turtle Preserve, Falls Creek, Grey Cloud Dunes, Hastings Sand Coulee, Lost Valley Prairie, Mississippi River Islands, Pine Bend Bluffs, River Terrace Prairie, Savage Fen, St Croix Savanna, Seminary Fen, Spring Creek Prairie, Wolsfeld Woods, and Wood-Rill.

Result 2: Acquisition of Significant Habitat. Two sites of high biodiversity significance in Dakota County were acquired in part through this funding as designated Scientific and Natural Areas. First, in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program, an addition to the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA was acquired of 31.73 acres (6.21 LCCMR acres) which protects a quarter mile of Mississippi River shoreline and bluffs including a grove of old growth white pine. Second, in cooperation with Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and Friends of the Mississippi River, the new Hastings Sand Coulee SNA was created through acquisition of 76.66 acres (7.48 LCCMR acres) which is part of the largest sand gravel prairie remaining in the county that contains 13 rare species of animals and plants.

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: May 28, 2008

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: **Scientific & Natural Areas Restoration & Enhancement (2.7) & Acquisition (3.6)**

Project Manager: Peggy Booth

Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Scientific and Natural Areas

Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25

City / State / Zip : St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5088

E-mail Address: peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us

FAX Number: 651-296-1811

Web Page address: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas>

Location: Within mapped Focus Area and within the counties of Anoka, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, LeSueur, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington. See Figure 1.

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$ 300,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	<u>300,000</u>
	Equal Balance:	\$ <u>0</u>

Legal Citation: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd.5 (b).

Appropriation Language: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II. \$1,765,000 the first year and \$1,765,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with the Trust for Public Land, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2 and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2008, at which time the project

must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

II & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

Result 1: Development of SNA lands. Ecological restoration and site enhancement were completed on 403 acres at 16 Scientific and Natural Areas in order to prevent the loss of important species, plant communities and features from accidental or willful human disturbance and natural catastrophe. Specifically, woodland restoration (including exotics control and deer exclosure), prairie restoration (including seed harvest, seeding, fire breaks, prescribed burning, and exotics control), and site development (fencing, signs, parking lot gates, trail clearing, and site cleanup) were done at one or more the following SNAs: Black Dog Preserve, Boot Lake, Cannon River Turtle Preserve, Falls Creek, Grey Cloud Dunes, Hastings Sand Coulee, Lost Valley Prairie, Mississippi River Islands, Pine Bend Bluffs, River Terrace Prairie, Savage Fen, St Croix Savanna, Seminary Fen, Spring Creek Prairie, Wolsfeld Woods, and Wood-Rill.

Result 2: Acquisition of Significant Habitat. Two sites of high biodiversity significance in Dakota County were acquired in part through this funding as designated Scientific and Natural Areas. First, in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program, an addition to the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA was acquired of 31.73 acres (6.21 LCCMR acres) which protects a quarter mile of Mississippi River shoreline and bluffs including a grove of old growth white pine. Second, in cooperation with Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and Friends of the Mississippi River, the new Hastings Sand Coulee SNA was created through acquisition of 76.66 acres (7.48 LCCMR acres) which is part of the largest sand gravel prairie remaining in the county that contains 13 rare species of animals and plants.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Development of SNA lands

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

LCMR Budget	\$50,000
Balance	\$ <u>0</u>

Final Report Summary:

Ecological restoration and site enhancement and development were completed on 403 acres at 16 Scientific and Natural Areas. Specifically, woodland restoration (including exotics control and deer exclosure), prairie restoration (including seed harvest, seeding, fire breaks, prescribed burning, and exotics control), and site development (fencing, signs, parking lot gates, trail clearing, and site cleanup associated with removing buildings to restore native habitat) were done at one or more the following SNAs: Black Dog Preserve, Boot Lake, Cannon River Turtle Preserve, Falls Creek, Grey Cloud Dunes, Hastings Sand Coulee, Lost Valley

Prairie, Mississippi River Islands, Pine Bend Bluffs, River Terrace Prairie, Savage Fen, St Croix Savanna, Seminary Fen, Spring Creek Prairie, Wolsfeld Woods, and Wood-Rill. Without this funding support, the rare resources and plant communities at these sites would have deteriorated in quality and public use of these sites would have been compromised. Other Metro Corridors partners (Great River Greening, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, and Friends of the Mississippi River) also completed restoration work on several of these sites – with those acres counted by those partners.

Result 2: Acquisition of Significant Habitat

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:

LCMR Budget	\$250,000
Balance	\$ <u>0</u>

Final Report Summary:

Two sites of high biodiversity significance in Dakota County were acquired in part through this funding as designated Scientific and Natural Areas. First, in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program, an addition to the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA was acquired of 31.73 acres (6.21 LCCMR acres) which protects a quarter mile of Mississippi River shoreline and bluffs including a grove of old growth white pine. Second, in cooperation with Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and Friends of the Mississippi River, the new Hastings Sand Coulee SNA was created through acquisition of 76.66 acres (7.48 LCCMR acres) which is part of the largest sand gravel prairie remaining in the county that contains 13 rare species of animals and plants.

Pine Bend Bluff SNA – Funding Source	\$s Spent	Pro-rated %	Pro-rated Acres
LCMR – SNA Direct Cost	\$ 161,600	17.8%	5.66
LAWCON	\$ 384,000	42.4%	13.45
RIM Match (state funds)	\$ 78,400	8.7%	2.75
Dakota County Farmland & Natural Area	\$ 266,000	29.4%	9.32
SUBTOTAL – Direct Fee Acquisition	\$ 890,000		
LCMR – SNA Real Estate Transaction \$s	\$ 15,662	1.7%	0.55
TOTAL	\$ 905,662	100.0%	31.73

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA – Funding Source	\$s Spent	Pro-rated %	Pro-rated Acres
LCMR – SNA Direct Cost	\$ 66,000	8.6%	6.60
State SNA bonding	\$ 153,000	20.0%	15.30
State general fund	\$ 161,000	21.0%	8.00
State Metro Greenways bonding	\$ 80,000	10.4%	8.00
Dakota County Farmland & Natural Area	\$ 300,000	39.1%	29.99
SUBTOTAL – Direct Fee Acquisition	\$ 760,000		

LCMR – SNA Real Estate Transaction \$s	\$ 6,738	0.9%	0.67
TOTAL	\$ 766,738	100.0%	76.66

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Balance</u>
All Results: Personnel:	\$32,619	\$ 0
All Results: Equipment:	\$ 0	0
All Results: Development:	\$17,381	\$ 0
All Results: Acquisition:	\$250,000	\$ 0
All Results: Other:	\$ 0	0

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$300,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: See Table 1.

B. Other Funds being Spent during the Project Period: Laws 2003, SNA Bonding, \$500,000 (\$300,000 acquisition & \$200,000 development) and Laws 2005, SNA Bonding, \$300,000 (\$150,000 acquisition & \$150,000 development). Laws of 2005, Environmental Trust Fund. \$134,000 (SNA development, outstate area). RIM Critical Habitat Match Funding (\$46,000) will be directed to several SNA sites for enhancement and restoration in the East and Southeast Focus Area.

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Past Spending: Environmental Trust Fund, Laws of 2003, Chap.128, Art.1, Sec.9, Subd.5 (b), \$264,000 acquisition; Environmental Trust Fund, Laws of 2003, Art. 1, Chap.128, Sec.9, Subd. 5(d), \$480,000 (\$400,000 acquisition & \$80,000 development) ; RIM Critical Habitat Match Funding, \$140,000 development.

E. Time: 3 years, until February 15, 2008.

VII. DISSEMINATION: Metro Corridors will periodically distribute information about the program through the widely broadcasted emails to people on the Regional Greenways Collaborative (RGC) database, through the RGC quarterly meetings, and jointly held county meetings. As projects are completed, the DNR SNA Program will publicize accomplishments through press releases, organization newsletters, public tours and websites, etc.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1st and August 1st each year, starting with February 1st, 2006. A final work program report will be submitted by July 1st, 2008.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

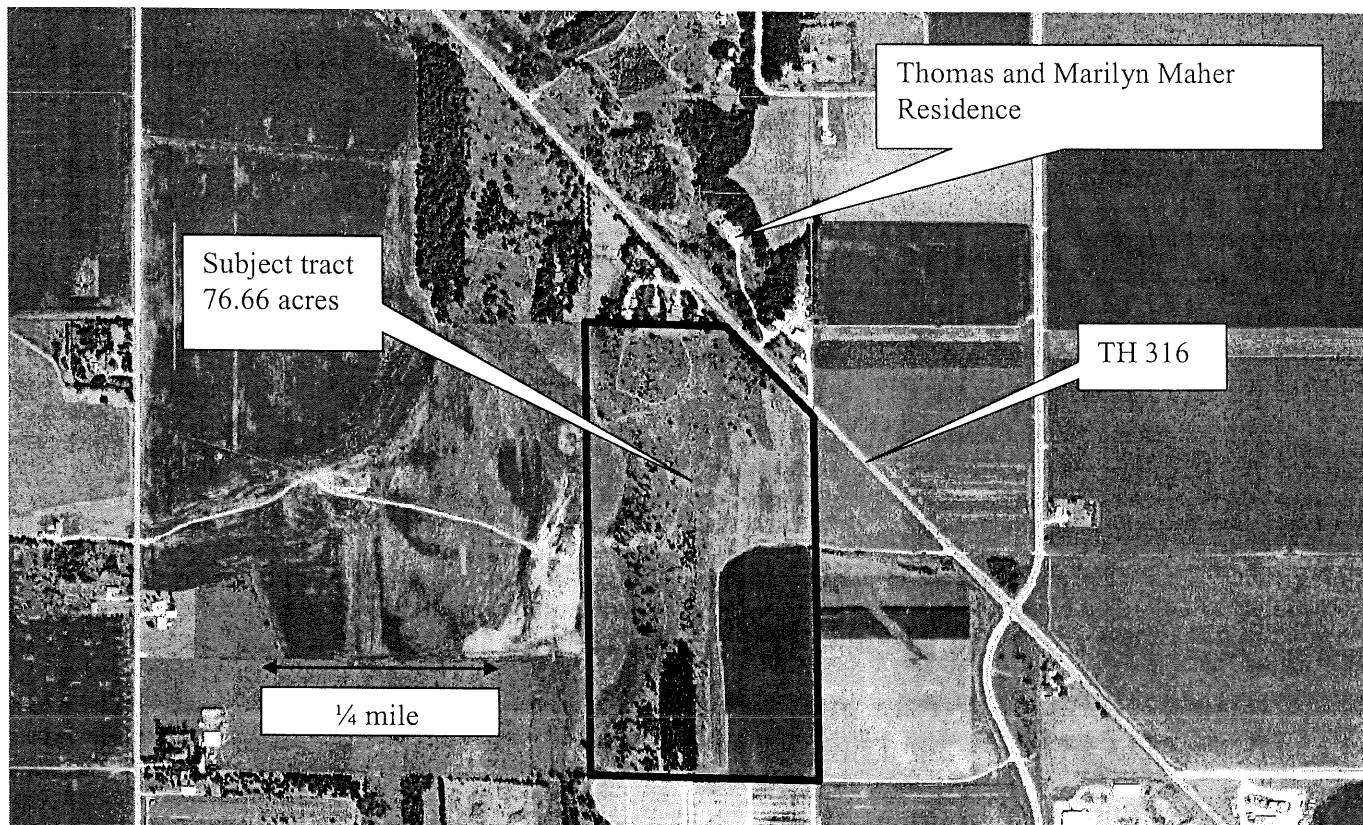
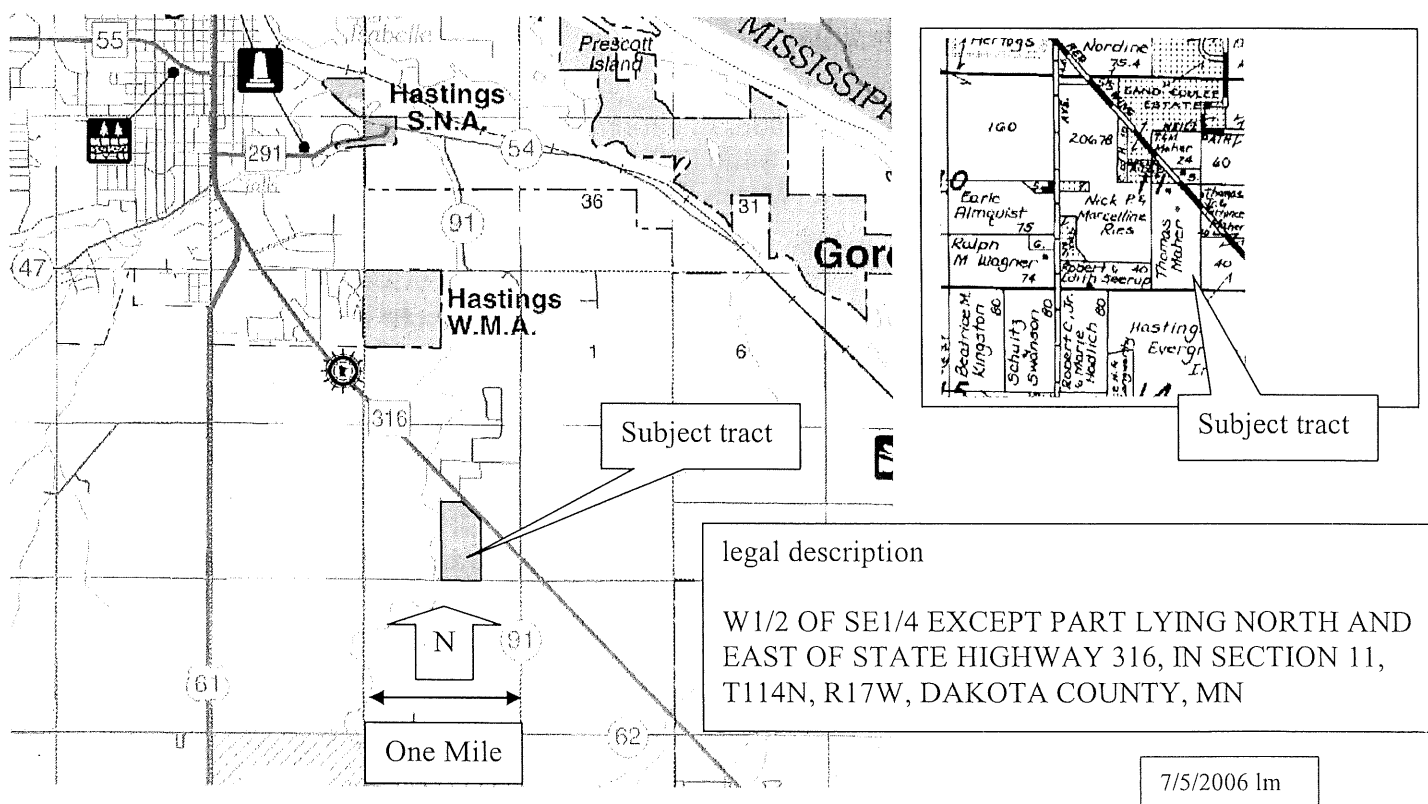
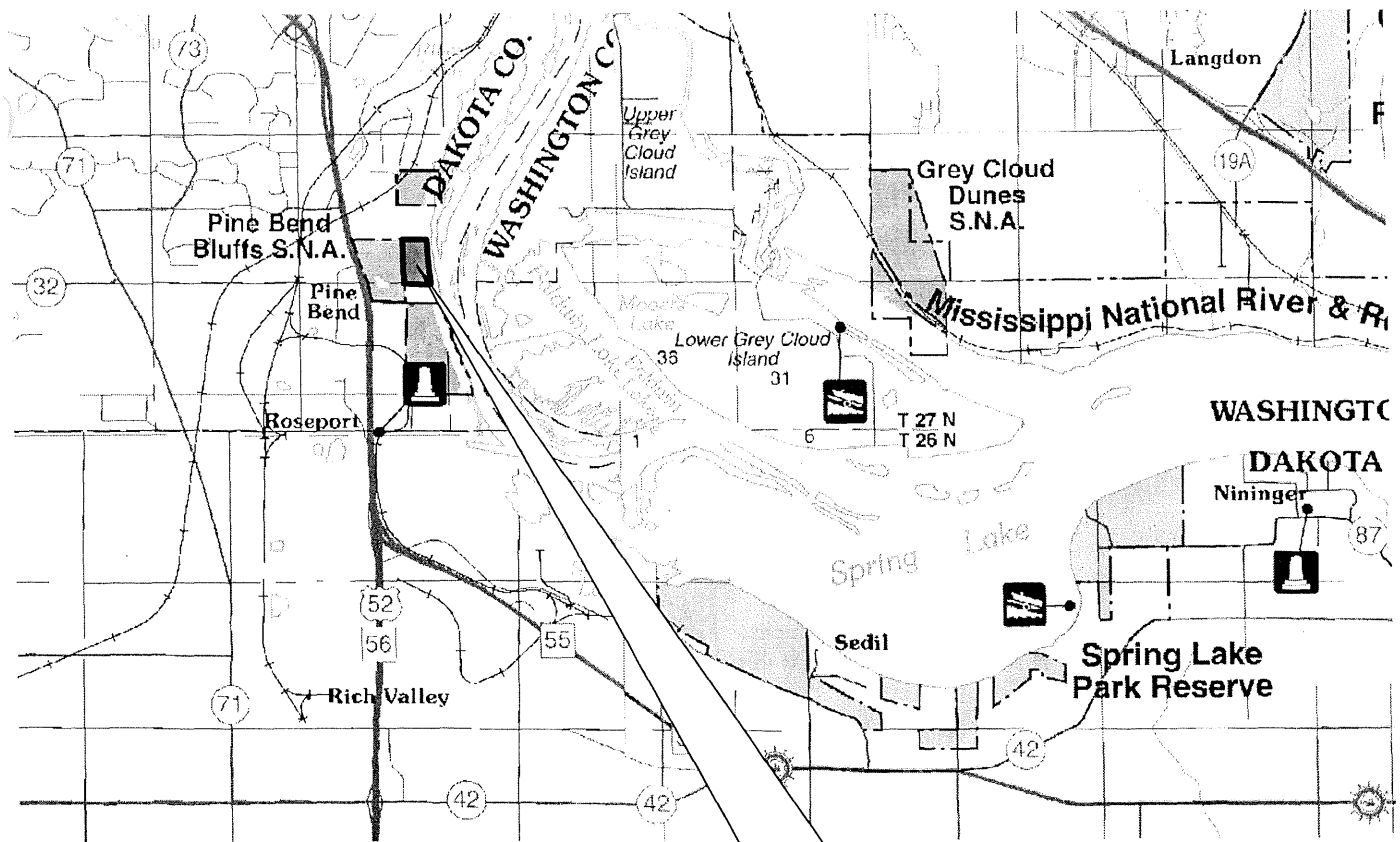


Exhibit B - Proposed SNA acquisition-Hastings Sand Coulee SNA

Maher tract in Section 11-114-17

76.7acres –Dakota County PIN # 25.01100.012.76





Subject 32 acre Polkinghorne
tract at
Pine Bend Bluff SNA
Acq. 132580
In SESE Section 27-27-22

Lee Markell
December 11, 2006

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Metro Corridors Project

27-May-08 FINAL

Project Title: Scientific and Natural Areas Restoration and Enhancement (2.7) & Acquisition (3.6)

Project Manager Name: Peggy Booth

LCMR Requested D \$ 300,000

BUDGET ITEM	Result 1: Restoration			Result 2: Acquisition			TOTAL			Comments
	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	
PERSONNEL										
Staff expenses, wages, salaries, & benefits	\$ 32,619	\$ 32,619	\$ -				\$ 32,619	\$ 32,619	\$ -	Project crews (laborers and technicians paid almost exclusively with special project funds) to carry out restoration and enhancement, amounting to 3.0 FTE over the life of the project. Fringe varies from 14.8 -18%.
DEVELOPMENT										
Land improvement	\$ 16,426	\$ 16,426	\$ -				\$ 16,426	\$ 16,426	\$ -	Restoration, development, burning, site clean up, etc. estimated on 20 acres.
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ 954	\$ 954	\$ -				\$ 954	\$ 954	\$ -	This is only for crew travel associated with development
DEVELOPMENT - SUBTOTAL	\$ 17,381	\$ 17,381	\$ -				\$ 17,381	\$ 17,381	\$ -	
ACQUISITION										
Land acquisition (fee title & conservation easement)			\$ -	\$ 228,321	\$ 228,321	\$ (0)	\$ 228,321	\$ 228,321	\$ (0)	Fee title to land; estimated at 15 acres.
Land transaction costs (e.g. survey,			\$ -	\$ 21,679	\$ 21,679	\$ -	\$ 21,679	\$ 21,679	\$ -	
ACQUISITION - SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ (0)	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ (0)	
TOTAL LCMR Funding *	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ (0)	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ (0)	

* The total development amount is \$50,000; actual expenditures will reflect what percent is spent on crews hired for land improvement versus materials purchased for improvement. These will be reported separately in each status report.