

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Paul Bunyan State Trail Connection in Bemidji

PROJECT MANAGER: Tony Walzer

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

MAILING ADDRESS: 3296 State Park Road NE

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

PHONE: 218.308.2379

FAX: 218.755.4063

E-MAIL: anthony.walzer@state.mn.us

WEBSITE:

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 11, Subdivision 6h.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The City of Bemidji acquired approximately 7.42 acres of land in the Wye area from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. The DNR acquired approximately 4 acres of the Wye area from the City for \$845,000. \$400,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund was used to acquire the portion of the Wye area needed for the Paul Bunyan State Trail corridor from the City. The DNR used 2006 bonding funding to supplement the acquisition of this property.

The Wye area will be used to accommodate the trail corridor and future trail bridge over TH 197, along with trail amenities such as a parking lot and rest area. The City of Bemidji and DNR will continue to work together to cooperatively develop this area. Additional property rights will need to be acquired from the City, as it continues to work with CP Railway and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and other residential property owners along the trail route. The Wye area corridor will connect the south lake Bemidji area trail corridor to the Clausen Avenue trail corridor.

This land acquisition and future trail construction will help to provide a major connection for the trail through the City and an amenity to the City's south shore economic development project. Future funding will be required to construct a bridge over TH 197. Once these projects are completed, a continuous paved trail will be provided from Lake Bemidji State Park to Crow Wing State Park.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information about the project has primarily been disseminated through the local media in relation the City's south shore development project. The Bemidji City Manager and City Council used this information as part of their overall development project, since the City was relying on the DNR acquisition funds to help with their south shore development project.

No articles appeared in the paper specific to the DNR acquisition of the City property, except for when the project was referenced in relation to the City's overall development project and reliance on the acquisition funds as part of that project. Once the trail is constructed, a news release will be submitted indicating the funding sources for the acquisition and construction.

An article did appear in the Bemidji Pioneer on August 13, 2008, pertaining to an LCCMR visit to Bemidji to get an update on the project, along with others in the area. See attached article for details.

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: January 6, 2011

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

Date of Next Status Report: Not applicable.

Date of Work Program Approval: June 14, 2005

Project Completion Date: June 12, 2009

I. PROJECT TITLE: Paul Bunyan State Trail Connection in Bemidji

Project Manager: Tony Walzer

Affiliation: Development Specialist, Parks & Trails Division
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 3296 State Park Road NE

City / State / Zip : Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Telephone Number: 218-308-2379

E-mail Address: anthony.walzer@state.mn.us

FAX Number: 218-755-4063

Web Page address:

Location: Paul Bunyan State Trail within the City of Bemidji

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$400,000.00
	Minus Amount Spent: \$	400,000.00
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 11, Subdivision 6h.

Appropriation Language: \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land to connect the Paul Bunyan State Trail within the City of Bemidji.

Money appropriated under Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 1, article 2, section 11, subdivision 6, paragraph (h), for the Paul Bunyan State Trail connection is available until June 30, 2008; adopted into ML 2007 Chapter 57.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

The City of Bemidji acquired approximately 7.42 acres of land in the Wye area from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. The DNR acquired approximately 4 acres of the Wye area from the City for \$845,000. The LCCMR funding of \$400,000 was used to acquire the portion of the Wye area needed for the Paul Bunyan State Trail corridor from the City. The DNR used 2006 bonding funding to supplement the acquisition of this property.

The Wye area will be used to accommodate the trail corridor and future trail bridge over TH 197, along with trail amenities such as a parking lot and rest area. The City of Bemidji and DNR will continue to work together to cooperatively develop this area. Additional property rights will need to be acquired from the City, as it continues to work with CP Railway and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and other residential property owners along the trail route. The Wye area corridor will connect the south lake Bemidji area trail corridor to the Clausen Avenue trail corridor.

This land acquisition and future trail construction will help to provide a major connection for the trail through the City and an amenity to the City's south shore economic development project. Future funding will be required to construct a bridge over TH 197. Once these projects are completed, a continuous paved trail will be provided from Lake Bemidji State Park to Crow Wing State Park.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS. All funds have been expended from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant administered by LCCMR for the acquisition of the state trail parcel.

Result 1: The highest priority was to establish a trail corridor through the south side of Bemidji and to acquire various parcels of land to assemble this corridor.

Description: Acquired approximately 4 acres of land in the Wye area from the City of Bemidji that will connect the south Lake Bemidji trail corridor with the Clausen Avenue trail corridor and allow for a future trail bridge to be constructed across TH 197.

Various other small parcels will need to be acquired from the City of Bemidji and combined with other public rights-of-way to provide a continuous trail corridor from Rako Street north to TH 197. Parks & Trails will continue to work with the City of Bemidji to acquire the necessary properties for a trail corridor.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCCMR Budget	\$400,000.00
	Balance	0

Completion Date: June 30, 2007 (Extension requested until June 30, 2009)

Result Status as of (Date of First Update Report): January 1, 2006

Result Status as of (Date of Second Update Report): July 1, 2006

Result Status as of (Date of Third Update Report): April 12, 2007 (No report submitted in January 2007)

Result Status as of (Date of Fourth Update Report): July 20, 2007

Result Status as of (Date of Fifth Update Report): July 8, 2008

Result Status as of (Date of Sixth Update Report): January 26, 2009

Result Status as of (Date of Seventh Update Report): November 19, 2010

Final Report Summary: 3 to 5 years

Result 2: Continue to acquire parcels of land along the established Paul Bunyan State Trail corridor in the City of Bemidji as various segments become available and funding allows.

Description: Work with the City of Bemidji to identify various parcels of land to acquire to assemble all the necessary property rights to construct the paved state trail. Although no funding is available for additional acquisitions at this time, funding is available to develop 1.25 miles of paved multi-use trail along the south and southeast shore of Lake Bemidji. This result is not part of this LCCMR project but is offered as next steps to completion of this project and is expected to be constructed in the summer of 2011.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:	LCCMR Budget	\$	0
	Balance	\$	0

Completion Date: 3 to 5 years

Result Status as of (Date of First Update Report):

Result Status as of (Date of Second Update Report):

Result Status as of (Date of Third Update Report):

Result Status as of (Date of Fourth Update Report):

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL LCCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$400,000.00

All Results: Personnel: \$
All Results: Equipment: \$
All Results: Development: \$
All Results: Acquisition: \$ 400,000
All Results: Other: \$

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$400,000.00

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: The DNR has expended the entire amount of the project budget for the acquisition of land for the state trail along the south and southeast shore from the City of Bemidji.

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners:

- a. City of Bemidji (John Chattin)
- b. Minnesota Department of Transportation (Lynn Eaton)
- c. Bemidji Area Paul Bunyan State Trail Committee (Jerry Downs)

B. Other Funds being spent during the Project Period: Funding has been expended by the DNR and City of Bemidji to conduct investigative work in relation to environmental issues and possible remediation efforts. This work has been completed and the City has conducted the necessary environmental remediation for the upland areas with additional work to be done for the lakebottom for future recreational use.

C. Required Match (if applicable): DNR funding was used for the balance of the acquisition cost.

D. Past Spending: The City of Bemidji has spent \$505,093.50 for acquisition of the right-of-way in the vicinity of the Wye area and nearly \$300,000 for the two residential properties and the City Trail property. The DNR has only acquired the necessary property from the City to accommodate the trail in this area.

E. Time: 1-4 years to acquire / 3-5 years to develop

VII. DISSEMINATION:

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)

Proposal Title: Fill in your proposal title and Proposal # (A-01)

Paul Bunyan State Trail #A-01)

Project Manager Name: Fill in your name.

Tony Walzer

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$ Fill in the dollar amount you are requesting.

\$400,000.00

1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet

2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable

2005 LCMR Proposal Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance
	(date)	(date)	(date)		(date)	(date)
	Fill in your result title here.	6/12/2009	7/1/2009	Fill in your result title here.		
BUDGET ITEM						
PERSONNEL: Staff Expenses, wages, salaries – Be specific on who is paid \$, to do what? Make each person paid a separate line item						
PERSONNEL: Staff benefits – Be specific; list benefits for each person on a separate line item						
Contracts						
Professional/technical (with whom?, for what?)						
Other contracts (with whom?, for what?) list out: personnel, equipment, etc.						
Other direct operating costs (for what? – be specific)						
Equipment / Tools (what equipment? Give a general description and cost)						
Office equipment & computers - NOT ALLOWED unless unique to the project						
Other Capital equipment (list specific items)						
Land acquisition (how many acres)4	400,000	400,000	0			
Land rights acquisition (less than fee)						
Printing						
Other Supplies (list specific categories)						
Travel expenses in Minnesota						
Travel outside Minnesota (where?)						
Construction (for what?)						
Other land improvement (for what?)						
Other (Describe the activity and cost) be specific						
COLUMN TOTAL	400,000	400,000	0 \$			

2005 LCCMR Acquired Property State Trails Land Acquisition



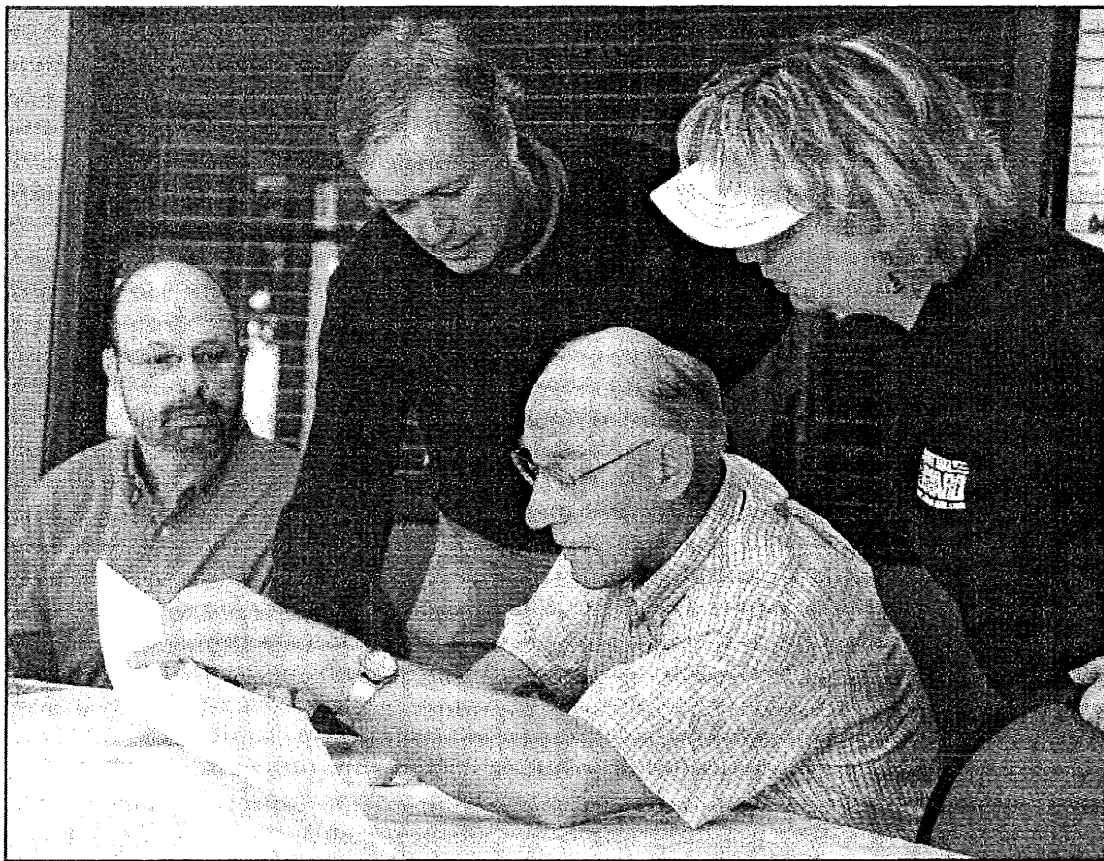
LEGEND

- Paul Bunyan State Trail Corridor
- LCCMR Acquired Property
- Existing Paved Trail

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



PAUL BUNYAN TRAIL



Pioneer Photo/Monte Draper

Members of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources get a update on the Paul Bunyan Trail in Bemidji during a Tuesday morning briefing at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The panel spent the day on a bus touring various natural resources projects it funds in the region. From left, LCCMR member Gregg Knopff, staff Michael McDonough, member Al Berner and Sen. Mary Olson, DFL-Bemidji, look at a map of the proposed trail.

Commission tours local natural resource projects

By Brad Swenson
Pioneer Political Editor

In four or five years, a bicyclist will be able to ride 110 miles of paved Paul Bunyan State Trail from Crow Wing State Park to Lake Bemidji State Park.

In fact, all will be paved except the portion through the city of Bemidji in two years, state Department of Natural Resources officials said Tuesday morning.

"Seventy miles has bituminous surface, and in the next two years 30 miles will be done using state Department of Transportation enhancement funds," said Kent Skaar, natural resources program consultant for the DNR's Trails and Waterways Division in St. Paul.

Five miles along the east side of Lake Bemidji to Lake Bemidji State Park is paved, leaving the segment of the Paul Bunyan Trail that enters the city at the

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Visiting officials focus on Minnesota's forests
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south and then through the city's new southeast shore development area.

Paul Bunyan Trail: See Page A7

CASS LAKE

Council to vote on elimination of police department

By Molly Miron
Pioneer Editor

At a Monday night meeting Pike Bay Town Hall, a group Cass Lake area residents gathered to air concerns about plan to disband the Cass Lake Police Department.

The Cass Lake City Council will act on the issue at a 5:30 p.m. meeting today at City Hall. But Cass Lake Mayor Wayne LaDuke said Tuesday disbanding the police department and contracting for law enforcement with the Cass County Sheriff's Office "basically a done deal."

LaDuke said a shrinking tax base requires a different way of doing business. Otherwise, property taxes will rise by double or its for the next 10 or 15 years, he said.

Cutting local police and contracting with the county will allow the city to focus on other critical needs, including street and infrastructure repairs, he said. He cited \$4 million in infrastructure improvements the city needs.

The police department budget increased by \$100,000 this year for a total of \$403,000, LaDuke said. The department consists of two officers and Chief Larry Johnson.

"If we go with the county, we would save \$113,000," LaDuke said.

"Cost is a very large word," said Rene Wright, a former member of the City Council. "There is a dollar cost and cost to the community."

Cass Lake: See Page A5

CHEF GIVES DEMONSTRATION



From Page 1

Paul Bunyan Trail: Commission makes funding recommendations to Legislature

"We're naturally excited about when the Paul Bunyan Trail is completed," Skaar said.

Properties to be acquired in the city that are needed to complete the trail will be purchased with a 2005 grant from the Legislative-Citizen Committee on Minnesota Resources.

LCCMR members are in the area for two days of touring local natural resources projects the panel has funded or may receive requests for funding. They started the day Tuesday morning with a Paul Bunyan Trail update at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

About \$1 million is to be applied to enhance the trail from capital bonding from bonding bills in 2005, 2006 and 2008, said Stan Linnell, state program administrative director for the DNR's Trails and Waterways Division in St. Paul.

LCCMR is a 17-member commission consisting of 10 legislators and seven citizens — five appointed by the governor and one each by the Senate and the House. It makes funding recommendations to the Legislature for special environmental and natural

resource projects, primarily from the state Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund fueled by State Lottery proceeds.

LCCMR through June 1, 2006, had allocated \$525 million to more than 1,200 projects.

Paving the Paul Bunyan Trail started 15 years ago in Brainerd, said state Sen. Mary Olson, DFL-Bemidji. Over the next several years, paving was extended from Brainerd to Pequot Lakes, then to Hackensack and to Walker.

"That whole part would have come together sooner but didn't because of funding issues," Olson said. "People coming to the Bemidji area have no paved trail. To bring people from outside the area, we will really need to complete that segment. We get that through south Bemidji and then we have a connection all the way from Brainerd to Bemidji."

Bids will be opened today for paving about 13 miles from Bemidji to Guthrie, with work yet this year, said Tony Walzer, with the DNR's Trails and Waterways in Bemidji. Next year, a 16-mile segment will be done from Guthrie to Walker.

The DNR proposes to bring the trail between Lake Irving and Washington Avenue and over a bridge to the south Lake Bemidji shore and around the lake, finally going north to connect with the paved trail already in place to Lake Bemidji State Park.

"We don't need to buy all the property the city has," Walzer said. "Just parts."

If funding is available, the whole trail could be complete in four or five years, he said.

LCCMR citizen member Al Berner asked of the city was making any kind of contribution or if the DNR was expected to reimburse the city for all costs associated with bringing a trail corridor through the city.

Olson said the city's biggest investment was the more than \$14 million it paid to acquire the south Lake Bemidji property through which the DNR trail corridor will pass. It's also the site where the city plans a regional events center.

"The Legislature has now allowed the city to use its half-cent sales tax" for events center construction, Olson said. "So the city already has a \$14 million investment and

will be having another \$40 million for the entire part."

The DNR is only purchasing the trail corridor, Walzer said.

"This will be of mutual benefit by working together," Olson said.

"We do have a partnership with the city," added Walzer. The city will also provide parking for trail users, public facilities such as bathrooms and green space around the trail area.

"The public amenities will draw a lot of people," he said. "The whole property is 145 acres, but we will have a 100-foot setback for the trail, a 50-foot corridor and 170 feet from the lake shore to any development."

Walzer added that the DNR's Fisheries Division is interested in making a wildlife management area of about 1,000 feet of shoreline as natural habitat. With some of it wetlands, a boardwalk could allow visitors to venture out and see flora and fauna native to that landscape.

State Rep. Lyndon Carlson, DFL-Crystal, asked why the events center had been moved from the downtown, and Olson said the space foot-

print couldn't handle the facility and parking, and that there were water table issues.

"The primary reason was to complete the trail and in an environmentally responsible way," she said.

Berner asked about local support for this fall's ballot question, to constitutionally dedicate an additional three-eighths of 1 percent of state sales tax to the outdoors and cultural programs. If passed, some of that money could help trails in Bemidji, he said.

"Those who live here have a commitment to natural resources and use the outdoors," Olson said. "We care about protecting the environment. But we also are a community that values the arts. There is a very firm commitment of funding both natural resources and arts." "That would be a way to provide future funding and make a fine partnership," Berner said.

The DNR will also need additional funding to maintain paved trails throughout the state, Linnell said. It will add 100 miles of paved trail by 2011, giving the state about 650 miles of paved trails.

At about \$10,000 a year to maintain a mile of trail, the DNR will need increased funding, Linnell said. "We already have a \$3 million to \$4 million yearly funding gap."

LCCMR members are visiting 10 sites over two days, including the Big Bog State Recreation Area at Waskish, the DNR's historic fish also at Waskish, the Chippewa National Forest, Steamboat Lake public water access at Walker, Shingobee Bay fishing access, Leech Lake Pelican Island, Ten Mile Lake public water access and Crow Wing County Bay Lake Church Island Camp.

"To get other legislators who are concerned about the environment up into our area and get them a chance to experience firsthand not only what we have to offer but issues that we have and could use the state's help, I think is really important," Olson said in an interview.

"There's nothing like seeing our area firsthand to really emphasize the significance of how important it is, not just to our area, but to the whole state," she said.

✉ bswenson@bemidjipioneer.com

U.S. and allies weigh punishment for Russia

By Matthew Lee

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scrambling for ways to punish Russia for

said that they will, but those military operations really do now need to stop because calm needs to be restored."

For now, the Bush administration decided to boycott a third meeting at NATO on Tuesday at which the

Meurers said she is concerned that the revenue to pay for the project is not finalized.

"As far as I'm concerned, we need all the answers," he said.

"I think the real issue is risk

city received in state bonding for preliminary design work for the project.

Chattin said he believes the city "wasted a lot of money" in the preliminary design process. For example, money was "wasted"

son for the job. Merrill is vice president of sports and assembly with Leo A. Daly.

Hellquist, however, suggested changing firms.

"I still think 'once burned, twice shy' he said.

"He said he believes the sta-

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Events center: Councilors explore issue