

LCMR Final Status Report

I. Cannon River Watershed Grant - Water 107

Project Manager: David Peterson
Board of Water and Soil Resources
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- A. M.L. 91 Ch 254 Sec. 14 Subd: 4(i)
Appropriation: \$60,000
Balance: \$ 0

Cannon River Watershed Grants: This appropriation is from the Minnesota environmental and natural resources trust fund to the board of water and soil resources to provide research and demonstration grants to counties consistent with the comprehensive local water management program under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 110B, as part of the Cannon River watershed protection program.

- B. Compatible Data: Not applicable
C. Match Requirement: Not applicable

II. Narrative:

The Cannon River Watershed is among the most biologically diverse river systems in Minnesota with examples of presettlement habitat and rare and endangered species; is rich in historical value; is an ideal setting for recreation; and is a designated Wild and Scenic river. This program is an opportunity to enhance the watershed's natural systems in the face of industrial, agricultural and suburban pressures by providing grants for research and demonstration projects in the watershed to promote proper resource management techniques or investigate unique watershed features.

III. Objectives:

- A. County research and demonstration grants

- A.1. Narrative: Enhancing environmental price of watershed residents and implementing land use activities consistent with county water plans requires information on and examples of land use cause and effects. This objective will promote proper resource management techniques or investigate unique watershed features which will demonstrate or define land use activities that can improve degraded environmental systems. To be effective, information must be available locally and relate directly to the experience of the citizens of the watershed. Anticipated demonstration projects may include river clean-ups, cattle exclusion from the river or non-point pollution control activities which limit nutrient loading. Research projects may include pre-settlement water quality conditions, measurement of citizen attitudes toward the watershed or development of methods of visually assessing water quality conditions for common use.
- A.2. Procedures: The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will enter into an agreement with Rice County for local operations of the program. Rice County and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Inc. (CRWP) will: 1. establish project criteria consistent with local water management plans emphasizing geographic diversity and include any local match requirements; 2. issue requests for proposals; 3. review applications; 4. select project proposals for funding; and 5. assess the progress of projects.

In addition, grants may not be approved until grant proposals have been submitted to the BWSR and the BWSR has either made a recommendation or allowed 30 days to pass without making a recommendation.

Up to 10% of the LCMR grant will be available to the CRWP for local administrative expenses to offset costs of local grant administration to assure effective processing of proposals and track progress of projects.

A.3. Budget:

	LCMR Funds
a. Amount budgeted:	\$60,000
b. Balance:	\$ 0

A.4. Timeline:	Jul91	SepJan92	JulJan93	MayJun 30,93
-BWSR/County/CRWP agreement			
-Set criteria			
-Request/review proposals			
-Award grants			
-Project operation			
-Final reports			

- A.5. Status: Grants were awarded to nine applicants. Three projects demonstrated management practices for minimizing agricultural non-point pollution from nutrients and soil erosion. These projects will be ongoing. Two projects demonstrated forestry practices to improve understandings and promote forest management in the watershed. A grant to the Cannon Falls school district was used to establish an on site school nature area in conjunction with St. Olaf College. The French Lake Association demonstrated planting of selected aquatic vegetation with a technique called aquascaping. A project by Carleton College dealt with management needs to maintain a threatened species of turtles. St. Olaf College conducted a survey to determine wetland biodiversity in the watershed.

The Cannon River Watershed Grants project involved diverse segments of the watershed with varied interests. Several projects encouraged wide-spread community support and activity. The project showed that use of grants to local groups to initiate specific watershed protection activities is effective.

- A.6. Benefits: The grants program would encourage and use the local resources and expertise of private and public organizations and citizens in demonstrating beneficial resource management tools and the uniqueness of the watershed to enhance local environmental pride.

IV. Evaluation:

Evaluation of demonstration projects will be based on citizen participation, on-site products and final project reports. Research projects will be evaluated by identified unique watershed features, interest of watershed citizens and final project reports.

V. Context:

- A. Demonstration and research projects on surface water quality and land use have not been conducted in a unified effort throughout the Cannon River watershed to effect change in citizen attitudes toward land use management.
- B. Current surface water quality and land use programs by public and private organizations are site specific and limited to the specific interests or mandate of the organizations. This program will provide a multi-discipline watershed-wide context in which these organizations can participate.
- C. The Cannon River has not previously been a priority of a local group formed for the purpose of affecting land use improvements on a watershed basis, therefore, LCMR grants have not been used previously in that context. Enhancing environmental pride of citizens in the watershed will be a continuing effort of unknown duration. It is expected that the demonstrations and research projects funded under this program will identify other needs for LCMR support which will be included in status reports and the final status report.
- D. Not applicable.

- E. Biennial Budget System Program title:
 Cannon River Watershed Grants
 Program 20, Water and Soil Resources Board.

VI. Qualifications:

1. Program manager:

 David Peterson
 Board Representative - Southeast Administrative Region
 Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

2. Cooperators:

 The Cannon River watershed grants program has received support and expressions of interest in participation by counties, SWCDs, The Nature Conservancy, MN Extension Service, Trout Unlimited, state agencies such as DNR and MPCA, River Heritage, MN Action Group, local colleges, local volunteer citizen groups and private industry active in the area. The support comes to the program in terms of matching dollars, in-kind services and volunteer hours and sponsorship.

VII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993 and a final status report by June 30, 1993.