

1993 Project Abstract

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1995

JUL 06 1995

This project was supported by the MN Future Resources Fund.

Title: L&WCF Administration
Program Manager: William H. Becker
Organization: MN Department of Natural Resources
Legal Citation: M.L. 93, Ch. 172, Sec. 14, Subd. 6(f)
Approp. Amount: \$80,000

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The LCMR established this position to maximize Minnesota's share of federal funds from Land & Water Conservation Fund grant program, to take whatever actions are necessary to maintain our state's eligibility to participate, and to deposit grant reimbursements into the federal reimbursement account as rapidly as possible.

The LCMR also relies on this position to help it administer the 28 "pass through" appropriations that were made to the commissioner of natural resources but intended to be spent by some non-state entity such as a local unit of government or regional trail association. During the 1993-1995 biennium, these grant activities involved LCMR appropriations of approximately \$8.1 million.

RESULTS

Federal reimbursements totaling \$494,059 were captured and deposited between July 1, 1993 and July 1, 1995. The remaining balance of all L&WCF grant funds made available to statewide projects but not yet reimbursed is \$316,812. These funds will be collected and deposited as the recreation projects to which they are obligated are completed.

The state is in compliance with all federal regulations affecting this grant program. A week-long on-site audit performed by federal officials raised only minor compliance issues and these have been resolved.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The standard contract developed by the Department, the LCMR staff, and the Attorney General's office for the "pass-through" appropriations was used by all state agencies for such "pass-through" appropriations during the 1993-1995 biennium.

I. Project Title: Land & Water Conservation Fund Administration

Program Manager: William H. Becker
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A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt. 172, Sect.14, Subd. 6(f)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$80,000 Balance \$0

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for administration of the federal land and water conservation program and other contract administration activities assigned to the commissioner in this section.

II. Narrative

Administer the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant program to maximize federal receipts and ensure Minnesota's continuing eligibility to participate. Administer other grant activities assigned to the commissioner by contracting with organizations outside the department to conduct the projects described in the LCMR work programs.

III Statement of Objectives

- A. Administer L&WCF Grant Program and Capture Federal Funds
- B. Administer grant administration activities assigned to the Commissioner by the LCMR.

IV. Objectives

- A. Title: Administer L&WCF Grant Program and Capture Federal Funds
 - A1. Narrative: Complete tasks necessary to collect federal funds and maintain state's eligibility to participate in grant program.
 - A2. Procedures: Establish a formal process to select acquisition and development projects, select state grant projects; write grant applications to the National Park Service; deposit federal grant funds in the state's federal reimbursement account; monitor and account for grant projects; conduct on-site project inspections; resolve parkland conversions; prepare program reports to the federal government; ensure that all applicable requirements are met so that Minnesota maintains its eligibility to participate in this federal grant program.

A3. Budget: \$70,000 Balance: \$3,000

A4. Timeline:

	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Develop Biennial Action Program	**	**			
Develop Open Project Selection Process		**			
Write grant applications for selected projects		**		**	
Secure federal reimbursements	**	**	**	**	**
Monitor projects	**	**	**	**	**
On-site inspections	**		**		**
Resolve parkland conversions	**	**	**	**	**
Reports to National Park Service		**		**	
Host On-site Federal Audits			**		

A5. Status

Reimbursements totalling \$395,756 were collected and deposited since 7/1/93. The balance of all funds apportioned to Minnesota's statewide projects but not yet reimbursed is \$415,115. These funds will be reimbursed when the acquisition and development projects to which they have been obligated are completed. The next apportionment from Congress for statewide projects is expected to be approximately \$210,000 and available during early January '96. Approximately 400 matching grants have been made to statewide recreation sites since the program began. Each grant must be inspected at least once every 5 years to ensure that the program requirements continue to be met. Since 7/1/93, 194 four post completion inspections have been completed. Approximately 90 more inspections will be conducted during the summer of '95. The Biennial Action Program and Open Project Selection Process have been completed and approved by the National Park Service. Six parkland conversions were resolved since 7/1/93: the Willmar-Hawick Trail near Spicer (2); the Douglas Trail near Rochester; Dorer Forest near Red Wing (2); and the Heartland Trail in Walker. The state continues to be in full compliance with the grant program regulations.

A6. Benefits: Deposit federal funds to Federal Reimbursement Account, maintain integrity of funded recreation projects, maintain eligibility for future federal funds.

B. Title: Internal administration of grant activities assigned to the Commissioner by the LCMR.

B1. Narrative: Twenty-eight of the appropriations made to the commissioner will require formal contracts with organizations outside the department to conduct the projects described in the work programs. These projects are:

- 5(b) Como Park Replanting Program
- 5(c) Reforestation In Ramsey County Parks And Open Space
- 5(d) Developing Quality Hardwood Forests
- 6(d) Headwaters River Inquiry And Education Project
- 7(b) Developing Multi-Use Urban Green Space

- 7(i) Minnehaha Park Environmental Interpretive Center

7(j) Nicollet Conservation Club Swan Lake Interpretive Room

7(l) Granite Quarry Park and Interpretive Center Planning

8(c) Recreational Resource Planning In Metro Mississippi

10(b) Americans With Disabilities Act: Retrofitting

10(c) Trail Linkages, Metropolitan Regional Network

10(e) Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway

10(f) Cedar Lake Trail Development

10(h) Shingle Creek Trail Improvement

10(i) Lilydale / Harriet Island Regional Park

10(j) Como Park East Lakeshore Reclamation

10(k) Acquisition of Palace Restaurant Site on Mississippi River

10(q) Agassiz Recreational Trails

10(r) Mesabi Trail Acquisition, Planning and Development

10(u) Urban Community Gardening Program

10(x) Peninsula Point Two Rivers Historical Park

11(e) South Central MN Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility

12(d) Establishment Of Critical Winter Habitat Areas On

12(e) Wild Turkey Hunting Safety/education

12(i) ~~Establishing Goose Nesting Sites In Northern Minnesota~~ (cancelled)

12(j) Prairie Ecosystem Restoration in Minneapolis Park System

12(k) Theodore Wirth Park Tamarack Bog Preservation Project

12(m) Replacement Of Eurasian Watermilfoil With Native MN Plant

B2. Procedures: Execute the formal agreements as needed, monitor the progress of work completed, and ensure payments made to contractors are conveyed in accordance with these formal agreements.

B3. Budget: \$10,000 Balance \$ 2,000

B4. Timeline:

	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Prepare & Execute agreements	**				
Monitor work progress		**	**	**	**

B5. Status

Several improvements were made to the standard agreement form used for appropriations that are recommended by the LCMR and passed through state agencies to the final recipients. Formal agreements have been prepared and executed for 27 of the 28 appropriations listed above. The appropriation for 'Establishing Goose Nesting Sites in Northern Minnesota' was cancelled due to lack of matching non-state funds.

The problems with the 1991 grant to the Mpls. Park and Recreation Board to restore the Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary have been resolved. This project has now been completed in accord with its LCMR work program.

- To complete this work program, the Department plans to supplement the LCMR funding by using an estimated \$17,000 from the General Fund. The LCMR funding of \$80,000 is not sufficient to cover the added grant administration activities added to this program by the LCMR.

B6. Benefits: Grant activities assigned to the commissioner in this section will be performed in accordance with state law. Work conducted by these activities will meet the requirements set forth in the work programs approved by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.
- V. Evaluation

Objective A: Federal funds are obligated, reimbursed, and deposited to the Federal Reimbursement Account on time. Eligibility to participate in future apportionments is maintained.

Objective B: Contracts are executed on time and LCMR work programs are completed as they were proposed.
- VI. Context

A. L&WCF Grant Administration is a continuing process of capturing annual Congressional apportionments, and verifying and grant requirements continue to be met.

B. This activity supplements the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning process.

C. This activity was funded by the LCMR at \$84,000 during the FY 91 biennium. We expect to seek funding again for this activity in the next biennium.
- VII. Qualifications

1. William H. Becker

a. 8 yrs experience administering the L&WCF Grant Program

b. DNR, Office of Planning
- VIII. Reporting Requirements. Semiannual status report will be submitted not later than Jan 1, 1994, Jul 1, 1994, Jan 1, 1995 and a final status report by Jun 30, 1995.