

July 1, 1995

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LCMR Work Program 1993

I. Project Title: IE-1 Nicollet Conservation Club Swan Lake Interpretive Room

Program Manager: Fred L. Froehlich
Agency Affiliation: Nicollet Conservation Club
P.O. Box 187
Nicollet, MN 56074
507-225-3843

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt.172, Art.1, Sect.14, Subd. 7(j)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$18,000
Balance: \$4,150

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a contract with the Nicollet Conservation Club to equip a Swan lake interpretive center at the Nicollet Conservation Club. Facilities will be open for use by local school groups and state agencies for interpretive programs and meetings at no charge. This appropriation must be matched by an equal amount of non-state funds.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement:
Match Required: \$18,000
Funds Raised to Date: \$18,000

II. Narrative: The Swan Lake Area Wildlife Project is a cooperative watershed management project to enhance water quality, wildlife habitat and public awareness of wetland values. Current proposals channel funds to land acquisition and management and do not provide for public education and interpretation. This project will be a public-private partnership to provide facilities for

enhancing appreciation for Native American cultural resources, wetlands ecology and nongame wildlife.

III. Statement of Objectives: An agreement from the Nicollet Conservation Club will be secured to provide an interpretive and meeting room in their building free of charge. Assistance from DNR and other outdoor education groups will be sought to design, prepare and implement an interpretive program for the Swan Lake Area that will instill an appreciation for wetland ecology, wildlife and cultural resource values and restoration efforts initiated by LCMR and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

IV. Objectives:

A. Design and Prepare Interpretive Program

A1. Narrative: Design, prepare and implement wetlands ecology, wildlife management and cultural resource interpretive program for the Swan Lake Area Wildlife Project to be used for education of professional, academic and tourism groups.

A2. Procedures: Expert professional assistance will be sought from DNR, educational institutions, cultural resource and tourism groups to design several interpretive programs aimed at a wide variety of audiences using audio/visual, artifacts, and direct observation of Swan Lake. Construction of audio/visual aids and interpretive room equipment will be through competitive contract with private vendors. Coordination with other centers such as Heron Lake will be sought.

A3. Budget
A. Amount budgeted: LCMR \$18,000
Match \$18,000
\$36,000

Balance (07/01/95) \$4,150

A4. Timeline		7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Develop Interpretive Plan	xxxxxxx					
Construct Interpretive Program			xxxxxxx			
Begin Public Interpretive Events				xxxxxxx		

A5. Status: Built in cabinets and other building modifications are complete. Audio/visual equipment such as T.V., VCR, overhead projector etc. as well as binoculars and spotting scopes for wildlife viewing have been purchased and are in use. Taxidermy mounts of representative avian species in the Swan Lake area have been prepared. A student intern position for the summer, paid for from non-project funds, was hired and completed 400 hours work on interpretive displays, slide shows and brochures. Interpretive programs were presented to over 140 children in boy scout groups, church groups, grade school, high school and Mankato State University classes. This project was completed on schedule and under budget.

A6. Benefits: Swan Lake is the largest and highest quality prairie pothole marsh in North America. Its historic wildlife and cultural resources were unsurpassed. Ongoing restoration efforts will demonstrate state-of-the-art watershed management techniques to repair damaged ecosystems. This interpretive program will provide an environmental education tool to local grade schools, high schools, and colleges. It will provide a historical perspective and continuing education for the general public on the value of wetland ecosystems and up-to-date progress on restoration efforts. Cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society and local tourism associations will draw tour groups to diversify the depressed agricultural economy.

V. Evaluation: The success of project design and implementation can be evaluated by the demand and participation rates of various user groups and through satisfaction questionnaires completed by participants. Local support can be demonstrated through contributions to the interpretive program of cash and equipment from non-state sources.

VI. Context:

- A. Existing Swan Lake Area Wildlife Project office facilities, rented by the DNR, do not provide meeting facilities or potential for interpretive programs.
- B. This interpretive center and meeting room will be made available to DNR free of charge until permanent facilities can be arranged.
- C. From 1962 to 1992, four privately financed building expansions have taken place in response to public interest in the Nicollet Conservation Club and Swan Lake. LCMR recommended funding for the Swan Lake Area Wildlife Project in 1987, 1989, and 1991, has increased demand for facilities by the public beyond current capacities at the DNR office. The Nicollet Conservation Club does not anticipate any future proposals to LCMR.

VII. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager

Mr. Froehlich has been a board member of the Nicollet Conservation Club since 1977 and has served as secretary from 1978 to 1982 and as president from 1983 to present. He has been chairman of the Swan Lake Ducks Unlimited Chapter from 1988 to 1991 and has 15 year experience in organizing public support for various wildlife groups and wildlife projects.

VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, and a final status report by June 30, 1995.