

FINAL REPORT

1

Date of Report: July 1, 1999
LCMR Final Work Program Update Report

LCMR WORK PROGRAM 1997

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Point Protection M-22

Project Manager: Kinnan Stauber

Affiliation: Park Point Community Club

Mailing Address: 3026 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Manager: 4139 Lake Avenue South, Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Telephone: 218/722-6255 or Club President Dave Johnson 218/722-9764

Total Biennial Project Budget:

LCMR \$75,000

\$ LCMR Amount Spent \$62,046.22

- A. Legal Citation: ML 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 17 (g),
Appropriation Language: "This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Park Point Community Club for administrative and management expenses to secure the protection of the old growth stands and bird sanctuary at Minnesota Point in Duluth."

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The objective of this project is to protect a unique ecosystem, including a 45 acre stand of old growth white and red pine forest, a bird sanctuary, beach dunes and other habitats from partial destruction by the Duluth Airport Authority, as authorized by the City of Duluth (Ordinance 9215). This objective will be met by establishing permanent conservation easements, development of a binding management plan "that will provide a level of protection sufficient to ensure the continued ecological integrity of the area and to prohibit further cutting of the old growth forest area." Furthermore, the management plan and communications products will document the value of this unique habitat in a scientific manner for decision-makers at municipal and state levels of government and informing the general public regarding this state treasure.

- Result 1 - Conservation easement with Duluth Airport Authority and City of Duluth.
- Result 2 - Conservation easement with Superior Water Light and Power Company (23.5 acres in center of old growth forest.).
- Result 3 - A management plan, consistent with Chap. 216 Sec. 154 of ML. 1997
- Result 4 - Implementation of selected management plan objectives for restoration and vegetative relocation.
- Result 5 - Engineering plan for mitigation of beach erosion along east edge of forest adjacent to Lake Superior.
- Result 6 - Dissemination of project information by three modes.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:

MARCH 5, 1998

The Duluth Airport Authority is reviewing the terms of a conservation easement through their lawyer. They are also considering alternative protection avenues.

SWL&P is working on a plan to donate most of their land in the Pine Forest to the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas program through the Reinvest in Minnesota Program.

NRRI has completed the base map and added the first layer defining covertypes. The trail map will soon follow.

Trees at the end of the runway have been selectively trimmed, transplantation will continue this spring.

The airport has a proposed plan that includes a perimeter fence and plantings.

There will be a major tree and beach grass planting effort in one of the dune blowout area near the beachhouse. Trees, beach grass and fencing have been ordered, and the planting date of May 23rd has been set.

An Economic Analysis was written by the Arrowhead Regional Development Council in support of the COE working on this project. Joseph Mengel, (geologist) and Charles Thompson (COE) visited the site in September 1997, for evaluation.

The Park Point web site will be launched by March 30, 1998. This will be the repository for information specific to the project, as well as for calendar and news items.

\$ LCMR Amount Spent: \$6,864.43

MAY 30, 1998

Research towards information for the Management Plan is continuing as scheduled. Contracts are all in place for NRRI's mapping work, Gary Walton's field botany work, and Rita Hawrot/ Frank Nicoletti's avian studies. NRRI has completed the base map, the majority of the vegetative cover map, the trail map, and is working on the disturbance map. Historical maps have been copied at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and show successive changes over many years. El Nino weather is enticing plants to fruition quite early. Birds are moving earlier, but in fairly normal patterns.

Implementation of the management plan is also underway. Three weekends in May resulted in a fenced-off planting area about one city block in size, and the planting of about 1,000 trees and about 1,000 culms of beach grass. The types of trees included; red pine, white pine, juniper, sand cherry, pin cherry, juneberry and roses. Later this summer there may be the transplantation of large trees and shrubs from a construction site to a very large blowhole in the dune near the airport, as well as transplanting from an area at the end of the runway.

Although promised a couple of months ago, the web site has made some excellent progress. A firm in Duluth, looking for some Pro Bono work on web site design, decided ours was an excellent candidate. Press releases and a public debut will be the week of June 23rd.

Research on Mira Southworth, the marsh's namesake, has been fruitful. She has quite a legacy of photos depicting areas on Park Point from 1917 to the 1940's. They have been re-photographed, scanned, and archived on computer discs.

\$ LCMR Amount Spent: \$11,550.99

APRIL 30, 1999

All research contracts have completed fieldwork, and are now preparing for final products. The maps will be divided into hard copies for the Management Plan book and digital copies that will be available on a CD-ROM. There are some excellent maps that will be available.

Mira Southworth's stunning photographs will also be archived on a CD and be available at First Photo for copies, and for viewing at the NE Minnesota Historical Society and the Duluth Public Library. A dedication of the marsh is planned for May 14th (Mira's birthday), following approval by the city council of the marsh's protection. May is also American Wetlands month.

Management Plan implementation continues with another planting fest in May. There will be three weekends set up for fence installation, and planting of 5,000 beach grass culms and more than 1,500 trees and shrubs in the severely eroded and exposed dune areas near the recreation area. The

city crews have started building a new walkway to the beach at a heavily used access point. The large airport blowhole and another NEW blowhole will also be dealt with this spring.

Late last fall the COE finished its dredging operation to place beneficial dredge material along the beach near the Superior Entry. Inherently unstable, the beach began its erosion process immediately. Snowfencing was placed in two rows to hopefully slow this process over the winter. Maintenance was done on the fence this spring. We will be watching this area carefully.

The web site is looking good. As more material becomes available to add to the site, it will be expanded. Once the Management Plan is complete, it will also be added.

Negotiations have continued with the Duluth Airport Authority on its property in and near the Pine Forest. The Duluth Airport Authority Board will be touring the beach and forest before their next board meeting in May. They will then reconsider a resolution to protect the sensitive beach and forest areas. This is a sensitive area, legally, and negotiations will continue.

The city of Duluth has helped out in several areas of the project; sand moving, signage, council actions, and the building of a boardwalk to the beach – to name some examples.

\$ LCMR Amount Spent: \$28,127.75

JUNE 30, 1999

Writing the Management Plan has been a big job. Included; an Area Identification section, and Research and Reference, with appendices of the research performed. The maps from NRRI will be on a CD, reports from field work on avian studies and vegetation are also included. A major portion of the plan will be a Natural and Cultural History, written as a time line. Careful reading of this part reveals many perennial problems

The transfer of SWL&P's property from the Minnesota Land Trust to the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program will occur once the Pine Knot cabin is removed from the forest. This is planned for July of 1999.

There are certain aspects of the work program that did not get completed. The conservation easement on Airport controlled property did not happen because of the many legalities involved with the control of zones around the airport. A land use agreement was written to allow the Park Point Community Club to plant trees and grass on the severely-eroded dune area.

The 1939 Conveyance and other associated property transfers began to look like a nightmare. There are overlapping jurisdictions along the beach, and this may warrant another project.

No trees were relocated, since the vegetative surveys indicated many rare plants in the areas that would need to be disturbed, and the heavy equipment needed would have caused more damage that it mitigated. The airport did not erect a perimeter fence, so there was no reason to plant shrubs along it.

The engineering study that was completed was only preliminary to a full-blown Section 111, which is now in progress. This study should be available for public comment this fall.

The dissemination of project results has evolved into three major methods; the web site www.parkpoint.org, the Time Line, and the Management Plan. The production of a video would still be a wonderful way to highlight our natural resources. In lieu of that, a small video clip could be added to the web site, and may be more cost-effective and far-reaching.

LCMR Amount Spent \$62,046.22

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1. A permanent conservation easement on two parcels of land; a) A portion deeded by the State of Minnesota to City of Duluth 1939, and b) A deed easement from the Federal Government to City of Duluth in 1939; such easement to be executed by the Minnesota Land Trust. (NOTE: Detailed terms of the easement will be developed under Item 3. Management Plan).

Budget: \$4,550 Spent: -0- Balance: \$4,550 Compl. June 1998

Result 2. A permanent conservation easement with Superior Water Light and Power Company regarding their 23.5 acres in the old growth forest, executed by the Minnesota Land Trust.

Budget: \$3,950 Spent: \$2,741.80 Balance: \$1,208.20 Compl. June 1999

Result 3. A management and enforcement plan for protection of the old growth forest and bird sanctuary and continued ecological integrity of the surrounding area serving as a basis for the proceeding easements and possible designation as critical habitat or Scientific and Natural Area, including mapping of vegetative communities by a qualified botanist and survey of bird migration patterns.

Budget: \$31,300 Spent: \$31,300 Balance: \$0 Compl. July 1999

Result 4. Implementation of selected management plan objectives:

- a. Selected relocation of designated trees at end of airport runway to alternative locations near SLPC pump stations for vegetative restoration. Sub-budget \$3,200 *Spent \$0*
- b. Enhancement of proposed airport perimeter (fence to be furnished and installed by Airport Authority) with suitable vegetation indigenous to Minnesota Point. Sub-budget \$3,200 *Spent \$0*
- c. Restoration of sand dune areas against wind erosion by:
 - 1) Cut and fill realignment of blow holes with equipment. *Spent \$0*
 - 2) Planting of approximately 200, 8 year old red pine trees, and
 - 3) Planting of dune grass (available through Michigan Soil and Water Conserv.)
 - 4) Placement of wind erosion barrier fencing

Budget: \$11,600 Spent \$7,187.94 Balance \$4,412.06 Compl. June 1999

Result 5. Engineering study and plan by independent coastal engineer or geologist for submittal to U.S. Corps. of Engineers for development of a project to protect a specific section of shoreline from wave scouring action caused by the Superior Entry pier structures.

Budget: \$8,950 Spent: -0- Balance: \$8,950 Compl. May 1999

Result 6. Dissemination of project information will consist of the following:

- a. establishment of a Web Site.
- b. publication and distribution of technical data to government agencies and educational institutions.
- c. publication and distribution of booklet for general public
- d. production of video tape for 25 minute program regarding history and nature of project area, for distribution to environmental organizations and specified government agencies.

Budget: \$14,650 Spent: \$8,230.41 Balance: \$6,419.59 Compl. July 1999

V. DISSEMINATION: See description in Result 6.

VI. CONTEXT:

- A. Significance: This old growth forest habitat is used by millions of birds in their annual migrations through this international flyway. Thousands of people from several states visit this small forest to enjoy this unique habitat. A Mn/DNR survey in 1996 confirmed that this "old growth forest" contains red and white pines over 197 years old.

Legislation was passed which reads as follows: Chap. 216 Sec. 154 [PROTECTION OF OLD GROWTH FOREST AREA.] The commissioner of natural resources shall negotiate with the city of Duluth, the Duluth Airport Authority, and other federal, state, and local parties to identify and delineate the land subject to the 1939 conveyance on Minnesota Point and develop a management plan that will provide a level of protection sufficient to ensure the continued ecological integrity of the area and to prohibit further cutting of the old growth forest area.

As of September 4, 1996, the City of Duluth notified the Park Point Community Club that all responsibility for the Pine Forest and surrounding area is responsibility of the Duluth Airport Authority, which has authorization to cut 15 acres of old growth trees. The DAA and Mn/DOT Aeronautics has recently indicated a willingness to consider modifying these policies as of 6/19/97 to reduce the impact of the area's ecology.

- B. Time: July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1999

- C. Budget Context: The original project proposed was a collaborative effort to avoid cutting the old growth forest by relocating the runway onto new dredge material thereby creating a much needed location for beneficial dredge disposal and new fish habitat in the St. Louis River estuary. Approximately \$1.6 million was earmarked for this project which may still be developed by other agencies. Meanwhile the project described herein is budgeted as follows:

	<u>July 1995 - June 1997</u>	<u>July 1997- June 1999</u>	<u>July 1999- June 2001</u>
	Prior expenditures on <u>this project</u>	Proposed expenditures on <u>this project</u>	Anticipated future expenditures on <u>this project</u>
1. LCMR	\$ -0-	\$75,000	\$-0-
2. Other State	\$ -0-		-0-
3. Non-State Cash	\$5,000		
 Totals	 <u>\$5,000</u>	 <u>\$75,000</u>	 <u>\$100,000</u>
			<u>Budgeted</u> <u>Spent</u>
Personnel:Contract with Minnesota Land Trust			\$6,000 2,741.80
Contract with NRRRI for mapping			14,000 14,000.00
Contract with qualified botanist			5,000 5,000.00
Contract with qualified bird expert			3,000 3,000.00
Contract with management plan writer			10,000 9,300.00
Contract with Joseph Mengle, Hydro-geologist			8,000 -0-
Contract with Glenn Maxham Productions			4,800 -0-
Project management by Park Point Community Club			
520 hours @ 15.00 x 24 months			7,800 7,702.03
Clerical work 384 hours @ 7.50			2,880 4,012.24
Equipment:Purchase of copy machine			1,750 967.50
Rental heavy equipment			3,500 -0-
Other: Trees and other plants purchased			4,250 6,347.94
Dune grass plugs from Michigan supplier			500 840.00
Publication costs, printing, binding, dist.			5,500 8,230.41
Office supplies, paper, phone, postage and mileage			1,020 837.38
Total			<u>\$75,000</u> <u>\$62,046.22</u>

- VII. **COOPERATION:** With Mn/DNR as required by ML 1997, Sec. 154
- VIII. **LOCATION:** See maps below
- IX. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic workprogram reports will be submitted no later than February 1998, May 30, 1998 and April 30, 1998. A final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 1999, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.
(maps to be sent by U.S. mail)
- X. **STATUS:** At the time of this report, our Minnesota Point Management Plan is going to press. This three-part volume contains 1) Area Identifications and Management Policies 2) Research and Reference Guide and 3) Appendices including a CD with color maps and graphics, paper and digital copies of the field research reports on the avian and vegetation studies, relevant legislation, and the Minnesota Point Time Line. The Time Line is a natural and cultural history of the people and environment of Minnesota Point.

Copies of this Management Plan will be available by request. Please write to the Park Point Community Club, attn: Kinnan Stauber, 3026 Minnesota Ave, Duluth MN 55802 Requests may also be made by e-mail to <kkstauber@aol.com>

REORGANIZATION OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AT MEETING OF P.P.C.C. with DNR Pat Collins on August 6th, into LCMR Workprogram format

A SYNOPSIS

Item Nos. on list requested by John Velin		Allocation of items 12 and 13 Management, clerical and office expenses		"RESULTS" ITEMS in Workprogram
1. \$3,000	+	\$1,500	=	1. \$4,550
2. 3,000	+	950	=	2. 3,950
3. 14,000}				
10,000}	+	2,300	=	3. 31,300
4. 5,000}				
7. 2,200}				
8. 2,000}	+	3,150	=	4. 9,600
10. 2,250}				
9. 8,000	+	950	=	5. 8,950
11. 2,000	-	-	=	6. 2,000
5. 6,000}	+	4,050	=	7. 14,650
6. 4,600}				
TOTALS	+			
\$62,050		12,950		\$75,000

Addendum 1: Participants List Revised April 30, 1999

Organization	Member	Signatory
Park Point Community Club	Dave Johnson, President	Y
	Kinnan Stauber, Project Manager Kinnan Stauber, Chair, Environment Committee John Pegors, Planning Commission	--
Minnesota Land Trust	Renay Leone, Executive Director	Y
DAA	Ray Klosowski, Director	Y
	Henry Storms, Assistant Director, Opportunity	--
	Steve Conley, Salo Engineering	--
DOT	Ray Rought, PE	--
	Ken Kloek, PE	Y
	Jim Halvorson	--
City of Duluth	Mayor Doty and Bob Hartl	Y
	Scott Keenan, City Council President	Y
	Jim Mohn and Bill Majewski, Planning Commission	Y
	Kelley Fleissner, City Forester	N
	Tim Howard, Forester	N
	Timothy Bates, Tree Commission	N
	Sue Moyer, Director, Parks and Recreation	N
SWLP	Tom Donofrio	?
	Brian Denston	N
IKES	Alden Lind, President	N
	Gary Glass, EPA, UMD, PPCC	N
Audubon	Virginia Borden, President Kathryn Dawson	N
ACOE	Al Klein, Area Engineer	Y
DNR	Pat Collins	Y
SLRCAC	Karen Plass	N
ARDC	Gary Tonkin	N

1997 Project Abstract**For the Period Ending June 30, 1999****This project was supported by the Minnesota Future Resources Fund****TITLE: Minnesota Point Protection M-22****PROJECT MANAGER: Kinnan Stauber****ORGANIZATION: Park Point Community Club****ADDRESS: 3026 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth MN, 55802****WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.parkpoint.org****LEGAL CITATION: ML 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, Subd, 17 (g)****APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$75,000**

NOV 09 1999

Statement of Objectives

The objective of this project is to protect a unique ecosystem, including a 45 acre stand of old growth white and red pine forest, a bird sanctuary, beach dunes and other habitats from partial destruction by the Duluth Airport Authority, as authorized by the City of Duluth (Ordinance 9215). This objective will be met by establishing permanent conservation easements, development of a binding management plan "that will provide a level of protection sufficient to ensure the continued ecological integrity of the area and to prohibit further cutting of the old growth forest area." Furthermore, the management plan and communications products will document the value of this unique habitat in a scientific manner for decision-makers at municipal and state levels of government and informing the general public regarding this state treasure.

Overall Project Results

Planted 6,000 culms of American Beach grass.

Planted 3,000 trees and shrubs.

Fenced off 2 square blocks of severely eroded dunes.

Employed more than 50 volunteers to plant trees, for approximately 750 hours of service.

Assisted in the transfer of 17.6 acres of old growth red and white pine forest to a MN-DNR SNA.

Protected a 7-acre wetland and christened it the Mira M. Southworth Lake Superior Wetlands Preserve.

Obtained a license to plant from the Duluth Airport Authority.

Researched the natural history of Minnesota Point, and the cultural history of Park Point.

Convinced the Army Corps of Engineers to do a Section 111 Erosion Study.

Contracted research and wrote a Management Plan for Minnesota Point. Included in this plan are the research results of GIS-mapping, a floristic survey and an avian study.

Established a web site for dissemination of information. The project and the Management Plan information will also be available here. <www.parkpoint.org>

Received press and television coverage on at least 15 separate occasions to highlight our efforts to protect Minnesota Point and its environment. (Clippings file is available)

Hosted a brief tour for Legislators and LCMR staff in the Minnesota Point Pine Forest.

Attended the Sustainable Landscape Fair and the St. Louis River Fair to showcase our project.

Spoke to the Clean Water Actions campaign crew, presented the project to the St. Louis River Fair attendees, assisted 50 5th-graders in a tree planting day, and gave a tour to 50 5th-6th grade girls and their counselors from a FastCamp.**Project Results Use and Dissemination**

The information collected by researchers for this project will be published in a Management Plan for Minnesota Point. From that, there will be a bird check list and a plant check list to include in future publications about the Minnesota Point environment. The web site will also be a repository for the information about this project and the associated research. As a community resource, the web site will be a place for everyone to use: from neighborhood information to environmentally sound landscaping practices and tree planting.

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DAA	Ray Klosowski, Director Henry Storms, Assistant Director, Opportunity Steve Conley, Salo Engineering	Y -- --
DOT	Ray Rought, PE Ken Kloek, PE Jim Halvorson	-- Y --
City of Duluth	Mayor Doty and Bob Hartl Scott Keenan, City Council President Jim Mohn and Bill Majewski, Planning Commission Kelley Fleissner, City Forester Tim Howard, Forester Timothy Bates, Tree Commission Sue Moyer, Director, Parks and Recreation	Y Y Y N N N N
SWLP	Tom Donofrio Brian Denston	? N
IKES	Alden Lind, President Gary Glass, EPA, UMD, PPCC	N N
Audubon	Virginia Borden, President Kathryn Dawson	N
ACOE	Al Klein, Area Engineer	Y
DNR	Pat Collins	Y
SLRCAC	Karen Plass	N
ARDC	Gary Tonkin	N