

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES
100 CONSTITUTION AVENUE/ROOM 65/SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1201
PHONE: 651/296-2406 TDD: 651/296-8896 OR 1-800-657-3550 RELAY: 651/297-5350 OR 1-800-627-3529
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John Velin, Director

December 27, 1999

Joe Wood
Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association
2820 S. Highway 169, P.O. Box 5123
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-5123

RE: Withdraw of 1999 LCMR Project 11 (k) Minnesota Whitetail Deer Resource Center Exhibits

WITHDRAWN

Dear Joe,

This letter is to confirm receipt of your letter to withdraw the LCMR project ML 1999, Chap. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 11(k) Minnesota Whitetail Deer Resource Center Exhibits. The project will officially cancel as of December 31, 1999.

We look forward to working with you on future projects.

Sincerely,

John Velin, Jr. - w p file
John Velin,
LCMR, Director

CC: Bill Becker, DNR
Keith Bogut, Finance

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Senators: Leonard Price, Chair; Dennis Frederickson, Jerry Janezich, Jane Krentz, Gary Laidig, Bob Lessard, James Metzen, Martha Robertson, Jim Vickerman.

Representatives: Irv Anderson, Dave Bishop, Steve Dehler, Ron Erhardt, Mark Holsten, Mark Olson, Dennis Ozment, Tom Osthoff, Leslie Schumacher, Kathy Tingelstad.



MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

2820 South Highway 169 • P.O. Box 5123 • Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744-5123
Phone: (218) 327-1103 • Toll Free: 1-800-450-DEER (MN) • Fax: (218) 327-1349



DEC 22 1999

JRV _____
DGF _____
SJT _____
YF _____
MLK _____

December 16, 1999

John Velin, Director
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

Dear John,

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Executive Committee has decided to withdraw the MDHA LCMR project request 1999 11 (k) Minnesota Whitetail Deer Resource Center Exhibits for \$400,000. This decision was based on the fact that we were unable to meet our projected match at this time.

The MDHA Board would like to continue to pursue this project and would appreciate an opportunity to present this project to the LCMR at some future date. They would also like to request that any funding made available through this withdrawal be seriously considered for a project dedicated to game and /or wildlife education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Wood

Executive Director

JW/ac

JUN 02 1999

Date of Report: May 25, 1999

Date of Next Status Report: January 15, 2000

Date of Workprogram Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2001

LCMR Work Program 1999

I. PROJECT TITLE: EE38 Minnesota Whitetail Deer Resource Center Exhibits 400,000

Project Manager: Joe Wood

Affiliation: Executive Director, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

Mailing Address: 2820 South Highway 169, P.O. Box 5123, Grand Rapids, MN 55744-5123

Telephone Number: (218) 327-1103 **E-Mail:** mdha@uslink.net **Fax:** (218) 327-1349

Web Page address: www.up-north.com/mndeerhunters

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$854,525

\$ LCMR	\$400,000	\$Match:	\$454,525
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- \$ LCMR Amount	-0-	- \$ Match Amount	-0-
Spent:		Spent:	

= \$ LCMR Balance: \$400,000

= \$ Match Balance: \$454,525

A. Legal Citation: ML 1999, [Chap. 231], Sec. [16], Subd. 11 (K)

Project Draft Appropriation Language

EE38 Whitetail Deer Exhibits 400,000

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association to construct exhibits on white-tailed deer in Minnesota. This appropriation is available to the extent matched by expenditure of non-state money on land and a building to display the exhibits.

B. Status of Match Requirement: A Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association (MDHA) Corporate Board motion to its statewide chapters on April 25, 1998 requested that \$20,000 a year be earmarked for the project's development through the 1999 and 2000 fiscal years. MDHA personnel and volunteers are dedicated to the finalization of the project. It is anticipated MDHA in-kind staff time will include 25% of one clerical position, 5% of one accounting position and 15% of the executive director or designee's time. Additional funding through private grants and foundations for the exhibit and other portions of the complete project are now being actively pursued.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

This project will result in the construction of a 6600 square foot exhibit on white-tailed deer in Minnesota and their relationships with people. The exhibits will provide unique educational experiences through the use of dioramas, hands-on interactives, and computer and video programs. The title of the exhibit is *The Fascinating Whitetail*. The exhibit is divided into four areas: The Exhibit Introduction; Discovering the Whitetail's World; Whitetail Habitats; and People and Whitetails. The exhibit areas focus on the white-tailed deer in Minnesota and will be of special interest to the people of the state in terms of both economics and human interest, since the white-tailed deer is unquestionably the most important large wild mammal in Minnesota. The exhibits produced under this work program will become part of a new Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Education Center located in Minnesota. Market survey projections for the Center and its exhibits estimate it could draw 1.4 to 3.4 million visitors. Three-fifths of these likely visitors would probably come from outside Minnesota. Books, videos, and other materials produced by the Center could reach another 600,000 households.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

This work program will result in the construction of a 6600 square foot exhibit on white-tailed deer in Minnesota and their relationships with people. These exhibits will provide unique educational experiences through the use of dioramas, hands-on interactives, and computer, and video programs. The exhibits produced under this work program will become part of a new Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Education Center located in Minnesota.

An overview of the Work program for the final design and construction of the exhibits consists of six results: (Additional supporting documents are available to provide in-depth detail on all categories.)

Result 1. Exhibit Area I: Exhibit Introduction. (Approx. 1000 square feet)

Design and construct a diorama with taxidermic mounts of leaping whitetails surrounded by a simulated forest environment. Examples of other supporting exhibits to be constructed include the title panel for the overall exhibit "*The Fascinating Whitetail*" and other exhibits exploring the public's ideas on deer facts versus fiction.

Budget: \$28,575

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$14,287 Match: \$14,288
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: September 15, 2000

Result 2. Exhibit Area II: Discovering the Whitetail's World (approx. 1800 square feet)

Design and construct exhibits that show how a deer lives and experiences its world. Separate dioramas will show how a deer lives as a buck, a doe, or as a member of a social group. Hands-on specimens and other interactive exhibits and video provide additional support.

Budget: \$146,650

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$73,325 Match: \$73,325
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: January 15, 2000

Result 3. Exhibit Area III: Whitetail Habitats (approx. 1000 square feet)

Design and construct exhibits that examine the three major habitats for deer in Minnesota, their availability of food and cover, and the factors that limit deer populations such as predation, winter survival, and other mortality factors. Computer programs challenge visitors to create an ideal deer habitat in forest, farmland, and urban settings.

Budget: \$92,750

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$46,375 Match: \$46,375
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: March 15, 2001

Result 4. Exhibit Area IV: People and Whitetails (approx. 2800 square feet)

Design and construct exhibits that range in scope from Native American and early settler views of whitetails in Minnesota to contemporary hunters and non-hunters. Other dioramas enable visitors to understand the dilemmas of different landowners and stakeholders involved with the whitetail, deer management, and the present ecosystem-based management. Visitors can manage a deer population through a computer simulation based on historical trends and research. Deer hunting and its role, ethics, rituals, safety, equipment, economics, and conservation values is also featured.

Budget: \$261,550

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$103,512 Match: \$158,038
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: June 30, 2001

Result 5. Supplemental Educational Materials and Programming

Design and develop supplemental programming products based on the exhibit content, and video and computer programs that are produced for the finished exhibits. These programming products include videos, educational packets, computer programs and a Web home page to provide for dissemination to a larger public audience outside the exhibit, on either a state, region, or nationwide level.

Budget: \$21,500

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$10,750 Match: \$10,750
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: June 30, 2001

Result 6. Contract Exhibit Development/Management Services

Implement and manage the exhibit work program and schedule, administer and supervise exhibit construction subcontractors, and the final exhibit assembly. Development services include specimen collecting, final content development, final design development, construction management and materials specification, and acquisition of objects, art, and artifacts.

Budget: \$303,500

Result 1: LCMR Budget: \$151,750 Match: \$151,750
Balance: \$ _____ Match Balance: \$ _____

Completion Date: January 15, 2000, September 15, 2000, March 15, 2001, June 30, 2001

V. DISSEMINATION: In addition to the impact of the exhibit itself on the visiting public, Result 5. Above, also provides for an even wider dissemination of the exhibits. Developing these supplemental programming products during the course of the exhibit development will result in significant cost savings compared to trying to develop these materials separately or at a later date. These supplemental products which include videos, educational packets, computer programs, and other materials would be available to a nationwide audience. In addition to their educational value, they would also serve to publicize the Center and its exhibits, provide an additional source of potential income to offset operating expenses, and provide a further stimulus for the public to visit the Center. A web page would also be developed featuring the Center and its exhibits and programs. An address for this web site will be provided in subsequent program submissions once the web page has been completed and is on-line.

VI. CONTEXT

A. Significance: This exhibit project focuses on the white-tailed deer, which potentially exerts more influence on the character of the natural vegetation than any large wild herbivore in the state of Minnesota. White-tailed deer are found in almost every habitat from farmland, to forest, and urban areas statewide. Yet, the deer's influence on these habitats and the people who live there requires different management solutions and techniques. An understanding of these different situations between deer and people on the land and their possible solutions can benefit the larger environment as a whole. In addition, public understanding of the necessity to maintain a delicate balance between preserving the diversity of natural vegetation and deer populations is critical to maintaining the integrity of the state's natural systems and the deer itself. This exhibit project will explore the full range of the deer's life cycle and behavior and its effects on natural systems.

Also, in terms of human interest and the field of economics, the white-tailed deer is undoubtedly the most important large wild mammal in Minnesota. Although the deer's economic value, as with most wild animals is often difficult to document, the economics of deer hunting in the state is better known. For example, a 1993 study by the International Fish and Wildlife Association showed Minnesota deer hunters spent nearly \$94 million in direct sales on deer hunting, and their expenditures for food, gas, lodging, and other amenities totaled more than \$191 million. Today, deer hunting expenditures are over \$289 million annually in Minnesota. Other negative economic impacts such as deer/vehicle collisions and crop depredation are less well documented.

This exhibit project will address the full range of these people/deer interactions in a groundbreaking exhibit that will be part of a new Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Education Center. The Center will become a central institution for the public in the interpretation and presentation of the current research, management, and other issues involving the white-tailed deer and other wildlife in Minnesota. A wealth of widely scattered historical and contemporary scientific information about the white-tailed deer in Minnesota exists. This exhibit project will initiate bringing that information all together in one place through an objective, entertaining, educational, and interactive format that will enable visitors to learn about the ongoing diverse and complex relationships people have with the white-tailed deer. The future location for the Center is envisioned for an area of Minnesota and will provide a benefit to the local community as well as the region. Location of the Center in proximity to another facility would offer the added potential of sharing resources and facilities and increasing tourism in the community.

B. Time: This project will be completed in a two-year time frame from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2001.

Other:

a. Exhibit Area I - Exhibit Components, Materials and Labor	\$ 28,575
b. Exhibit Area II - Exhibit Components, Materials and Labor	\$146,650
c. Exhibit Area III - Exhibit Components, Materials and Labor	\$ 92,750
d. Exhibit Area IV - Exhibit Components, Materials and Labor	\$261,550
e. Supplemental Educational Materials and Programming	\$ 21,500
f. Project Start-up/ Specimen and Material Collecting	\$ 60,000
g. Purchase/Commissions- objects/art/artifacts	\$ 25,000

TOTAL

\$854,525

2. Submit a budget detail with all the specifics as attached as Attachment A.

VII. COOPERATION: 1. Curt Hadland, Images of Nature Studio. 2. Lansing Shepard, researcher/writer. 3. Mark LaBarbara, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance. 4. Dave Schad, Minnesota DNR, Division of Wildlife. 5. MWDRC Committee

VIII. LOCATION: The address for the Project Manager, Joe Wood, and the location where the overall project will be administered, is at the MDHA state office, 2820 South Highway 169, P.O. Box 5123, Grand Rapids, MN 55744-5123. Development and construction of the exhibits will take place throughout the state, wherever the subcontractors are located. If some of the subcontractor work can be performed in proximity to the center's location and quality and cost are competitive, this will also be considered. The home office for the Exhibit Director, Curt Hadland is at 15280 Pilar Road North, Scandia, MN 55073.

IX. Reporting Requirements:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 15, 2000, September 15, 2000, and March 15, 2001. A final work program and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2001, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

X. Research projects: