

FINAL REPORT

SEP 04 2001

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

Title: Minnesota River Watershed Ecology and History Exhibit
Project Manager: Lon Berberich or Larry Granger
Affiliation: Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society (JRB)
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 433, Henderson, Minnesota 56044
Email: jrb@mnric.net
Web Address: www.jrb.org or www.mnriverjrb.org
Fund: Future Resources
Legal Citation: ML 99, Chapter 231, Section 16, Subdivision 11(m)
Appropriation Amount: \$90,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results and Use Dissemination

The Minnesota River Watershed Ecology and History Exhibit (*known as the River Table*) which has been placed in the exhibit hall of the Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center was developed by the Science Museum of Minnesota to provide students, teachers, policy makers, tourists and residents with a *hands on* exhibit that encourages exploration of the 12,000 year history of the Minnesota River Basin and its ecological and cultural stories and features. The core exhibit is a 14' by 8', 32" high, topographically correct raised relief map carved out of a hard fiberboard and painted with water and vegetation features in accordance with USGIS maps. In the future, overlay maps will be able to highlight various features of the twelve major watersheds of the River Basin including indicators for reduced point and non-point pollution sources. Sixty fiber optic lights illuminate the location of human settlements from 9,000 years ago to today. These lights are activated when visitors press multicolored story telling buttons. A storybook mounted on the *River Table* tells about the *U.S.-Dakota War of 1862* while another describes flooding on the river. Wildlife and natural features are presented through the use of storyboards telling about wild rice and mussels while freestanding graphic panels provide information about fish and birds. A companion computer kiosk located near the *River Table* provides visual and audio information on eleven Minnesota River related ecological and historic topics which may be further explored on an adjacent internet connected work station. During the 2001-2002 school year, a series of opened houses for elementary and secondary teachers will be held to develop curriculum for use with the *River Table*. In addition, meetings of study committees and public officials dealing with Minnesota River issues will be scheduled in the exhibit hall.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT 1: River Table Design, Construction and Installation:

1a. Data base researching and preparation for exhibit use by Eagle Wings Consultants and Robert Jensen:

	1,000 paid
Balance	0

1b. Overall exhibit design completed by Science Museum of Minnesota:

	6,000 paid
Balance	0

1c. Design of electronic operating system by Science Museum of Minnesota and Alderman Solutions:

	8,000 paid
Balance	0

1d. Purchase of electronic components-including surface lighting multiple informational display screens from the Science Museum of Minnesota and Aldamon Solutions:

	40,000 paid
Balance	0

1e. Fabrication and installation of exhibit by Science Museum of Minnesota and Aldamon Solutions:

	32,000 paid
Balance	0

1f. Exhibit construction/installation oversight:

	3,000 paid
Balance	0

RESULT 2: Curriculum Design for K-12 students and public by Eagle Wings Consultants hired and paid by JRB. To be started in the 2001/2002 school year.

V. DISSEMINATION:

The River Table exhibit will provide a comprehensive range of data that can be accessed on site or at the Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center. Communications with K-12 teachers in area schools will take place in the fall of 2001 with curriculum available for use in the classroom and at the Center.

VI. CONTEXT:

A. *Significance:* The Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center has an ongoing commitment for developing specialized research library collections, an exhibit gallery including the *River Table Exhibit* and programs regarding the ecology and cultural history of the Minnesota River Watershed. Since the 1980's, the Minnesota River has been under intensive study and water quality improvement efforts. In recent years, the interest in the tourism and educational potential of the communities within the Minnesota River Watershed has accelerated and led to the expansion of historic sites and markers. The Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center is unique in addressing both ecological and historical themes.

B. *Time:* The project was completed and in place by June 30, 2001.

C. *Budget Context:* The conceptual development of the Minnesota River Table has been accomplished within the 1994-95 exhibit design framework of the JRB Center which was carried out through a consulting contract with the design firm of Jensen & Wilcoxson of Minneapolis (cost \$6,000). Research and design on the *River Table* was completed by the Program Manager of the JRB Center (Larry Granger) on a voluntary basis (app. 200 hours, 1996-1998) and included consultation with the staff of *The Science Museum of Minnesota*.

D. *Budget History:* For 1993-1998: All funds were spent on building restoration and renovation. In 1993, LCMR with the Minnesota Historical Society as sponsoring agency appropriated \$16,667 to undertake a study

to determine the need for a Center. This study was completed in 1995. In 1995, LCMR under ML 1995, Chapter 220, Section 19, Subdivision 12c appropriated \$75,000 to the Sibley County Historical Society with \$8,075 of matching funds contributed by the City of Henderson to do restoration and renovation on the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse Building. This project was completed in June of 1997. In 1996 under M.L. 1996, Bonding Bill, Sect. 22, Subd. Five, \$250,000 was appropriated to the City of Henderson for the restoration, and life safety and handicapped accessibility upgrading of the 1879 Sibley Courthouse Building. The City contributed \$3,811 to this project and the Joseph P Brown Heritage Society added \$14,000. This project was completed in June of 1997. In 1998 the Minnesota Historical Society authorized a \$23,000 grant to the City of Henderson for window restoration and interior improvements and the Joseph R Brown Heritage Society and City appropriated \$150,000 for window restoration, ceiling and floor work including painting with installation of insulation and a heating and ventilation system. Additional work on the building and grounds is ongoing.

1. LCMR Budget History	\$ 91,667(1993 & 1995)
2. State Bond Funds	\$250,000 (1996)
3. City of Henderson	\$ 58,886 (1996-1999)
4. Joseph R. Brown Society	\$ 119,000 (1996-1999)
5. Minnesota Historical Society	<u>\$ 23,000 (1997)</u>
6. TOTAL	\$542,553 (1993-1999)

1. Budget:

Personnel: Costs are contained within the following proposed consulting contracts:

Data Base Research, Program Manager, Eagle Wings Consultants and Robert Jensen	1000
Exhibit Design, Science Museum of Minnesota and Aldamon Solutions	6000
Technical Design of Electronics, Science Museum of Minnesota and Aldamon	8000
Oversight of Construction and Exhibit Installation, Science Museum	<u>3000</u>
Total	18,000

Equipment:

Electronic components	40,000
Exhibit fabrication	<u>32 000</u>
Total	72,000

Curriculum design will be done by a consultant (to be determined later) to be hired and paid for by JRB.

2. Budget:

RESULT 1: Exhibit Development

Contracts:

Professional/technical	18,000
Tools & Equipment	72,000

RESULT 2: Educational Program Development will be done and paid for by JRB (estimated cost, \$7,000).

VII. COOPERATION:

Contracts for exhibit development consulting were entered into with the Science Museum of Minnesota and Aldamon Solutions of Mankato (computer kiosk and workstation).

VIII. LOCATION

Work on this project took place in Henderson and at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Status reports were submitted according to the following schedule: December 31, 1999, June 30, 2000, December 31, 2000 and June 30, 2001.