

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

PROJECT MANAGER: John Brosnan

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.2

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$420,000.00

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

During the sixth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area to permanently protect important lands and Minnesota's remaining natural areas. Three perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protected 317 acres of land and more than 4,300 feet of shoreline, exceeding the grant obligations by 167 acres. Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

- Sunrise Lake (Chisago County): A 79-acre property of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA.
- Tennyson Lake (Isanti County): A 158-acre property of wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook.
- Rush River (Sibley County): A 79-acre property of open fields, wooded bluffslands, sloping ravines, and lowland forest lying adjacent to the Minnesota River and Rush River County Park.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,000 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre. Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,989 acres of critical habitat and 80,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$453 per acre. The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of using conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Land Trust continued to gain more experience with conservation easements, easement management, and issues unique to protecting land in a metropolitan area. This experience and information was shared with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, and policy makers. The Land Trust also disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, annual report (4,200 pieces), web site, and press releases. Additionally, the MeCC Partnership maintains an interactive public web map that shows the locations of MeCC projects over time. This web map can be accessed at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/MeCC/mapper.html



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update: 8/17/2015

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

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Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	420,000.00
	Amount Spent \$:	<u>352,794.83</u>
	Balance \$:	67,205.17

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.2

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management,

and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region's most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. In particular, we will focus outreach to landowners along three of the region's Wild and Scenic Rivers – the St. Croix, the Rum, and the Cannon – and prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. The conservation easements may be either purchased or donated, or a combination of the two (bargain purchase). These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program. In order to fulfill these stewardship obligations, grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures and as described in the documents attached to the initial work plan for this appropriation. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status and performance of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and monitoring activity associated with easements acquired with funds from this grant. This reporting includes submitting an annual financial audit of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Proposed activities under Activity 1 of this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements. Activity 2 of this project provides mapping, coordination and leadership for the partnership by Minnesota Land Trust staff.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

In December of 2014, the Land Trust closed on the Rush River project, which protected 79 acres of grasslands, hardwood forest and floodplain forest in Sibley County. The property is immediately adjacent to the Rush River County Park, creating a complex of over 360 acres of protected land. The Trust continues to work with the landowners of the Carnelian Creek property. That conservation easement has been drafted and received DNR Commissioner approval.

On Mapping, a new ecological analysis has recently been completed as part of the overall MeCC Mapping work. This work entailed creating new MLCCS data, combining MLCCS data with the most recent National Land Cover Dataset information, and refining habitat models for the specific

characteristics of the MeCC area. Results will be posted soon and will provide guidance for new MeCC focus areas.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

In June of 2014, the Land Trust closed on the Tennyson Lake (Barrett) project, which protected 158 acres of mixed hardwood forest, grasslands, wetlands and 12 acres of agricultural fields. This project also protected approximately 2,990 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline on Tennyson Lake and 1,385 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline along Spencer Brook. The Land Trust continues to pursue completion of projects at the Carnelian Creek and Rush Lake sites. The Carnelian Creek project has already received DNR Commissioner approval.

Amendment Request (6/11/14):

The Land Trust is requesting to change the project manager to reflect a staff transition. The Land Trust is also requesting an extension of the funds until June 30, 2015.

Amendment Approved: June 26, 2014

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

In December of 2013, the Land Trust closed on the Sunrise Lake (Barnes) project which protected 79 acres of mixed forest, grassland, wetland property and included 10 acres of agriculture. The additional properties that were expected to close by the end of 2013 (Rush Lake, Tennyson Lake and Carnelian Creek) are still likely candidates to close before the next Status Update. The Tennyson Lake landowner and the Moose Lake landowner are negotiating bargain sales. Depending on their willingness to negotiate, the Land Trust may have to request moving some funds from Staff to Acquisition in order to make both projects fit within this grant.

Amendment Request (11/1/13):

The Land Trust is requesting to add the Sunrise Lake property to the Parcel List. The property lies immediately to the east of Sunrise Lake and to the north of North Center Lake near the town of Lindstrom in Chisago County. The property is 2.5 miles east of the Sunrise River and the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. It is located within the Mille Lacs Uplands ecological subsection and is within the established priority areas for Metro Conservation Corridors as defined by Minnesota Laws 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2, Subdivision 4(i). The 80 acre property is a mix of forest, woodland, grassland, wetland and approximately 9.6 acres of agriculture.

Amendment Approved: November 15, 2013.

Project Status as of August 1, 2013:

The Land Trust anticipates that we will complete three projects by the end of 2013. We continue to focus on these three critical projects (Rush Lake, Tennyson Lake and Carnelian Creek), two of which are to be donated.

Additionally, we continue to work with several other landowners, and we have identified one new project that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of July 16, 2013:

Request to Amend Work Plan:

The Land Trust is requesting an amendment to change the project manager due to a staff transition. Amendment approved July 19, 2013.

Project Status as of February 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues to work on several projects, with particular emphasis on three that we believe could potentially close under this grant. Additionally, as indicated by the ~~strikeout~~ and underline above and on the Work Plan attachments, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change

the project manager due to a staff transition. Finally, the reporting schedule under the Reporting Requirements section and appropriate areas throughout the document were amended to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014, as consistent with the appropriation language. Amendment approved April 3, 2013.

Additionally, we have identified two new projects that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one conservation easement protecting 80 acres in Anoka County in June 2012. This easement was purchased at a bargain price using funds from our 2010 (Phase 5 Supplemental) grant. We did dedicate some funds from this 2011 grant to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund, so while the project deliverables are counted under our 2010 final report, the project results are described in more detail below.

Additionally, we continue to work with several other landowners, and we have identified one new project that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of February 1, 2012:

At this point in time, we have not yet incurred any expenses from the 2011 grant. While we do anticipate that some of the projects the Land Trust currently is pursuing will require funds from both the 2010 and 2011 grants, we have not yet needed any 2011 funds.

Project Status as of October 5, 2011:

Request to Amend Budget and Work on Grants Concurrently

The Land Trust currently is working to complete the 2010 grant. While we have projects identified that will complete our grant obligations, timing needs of certain projects make it necessary for us to adjust our 2010 budget to reduce the acquisition category and increase the personnel category. To balance out this 2010 adjustment, we also are requesting an adjustment to the 2011 budget to reduce personnel and increase acquisition.

Additionally, our plan for completion of both grants requires that we work on the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently, as some projects may require funds from both grants. Therefore, we are requesting approval to be able to work on both the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently. An updated Attachment A is attached as part of this request. Request approved on: October 6, 2011.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

During the sixth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area to permanently protect important lands and Minnesota's remaining natural areas. Three perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protected 317 acres of land and more than 4,300 feet of shoreline, exceeding the grant obligations by 167 acres. Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

- Sunrise Lake (Barnes): A 79-acre property of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA in Chisago County.
- Tennyson Lake (Barrett): A 158-acre property in Isanti County comprising wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook.
- Rush River (Amberson): A 79-acre property comprising open fields, wooded bluffs, sloping ravines, and lowland forest adjacent to the Minnesota River and Rush River County Park in Sibley County.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,500 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre. Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,989 acres of critical habitat and 80,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$453 per acre. The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of using conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements

Description:

The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors with an emphasis on Wild and Scenic River protection by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-5 permanent conservation easements on 150 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 400,000.00
Amount Spent: \$ 335,693.96
Balance: \$ 64,306.04

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 150 acres by completing 4-5 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2015	\$ 400,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity on this grant has not yet commenced.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one project in June 2012 as part of our Phase 5 Supplemental (2010) MeCC grant. Because we did use some 2011 funds for Stewardship and Enforcement, the project is described below; however all deliverables have been included in our 2010 final report.

Additionally, we are requesting to amend our project list to include one new project. The project, which lies adjacent to Wood-Rill SNA, is further described on the attached Project Summaries document. Request to add project approved: August 2, 2012.

Completed Projects:

Project: Emmans Farm, Anoka County

Description: Located in the City of St. Francis, this 80-acre property is adjacent to an additional 80-acre parcel protected in 2005 by the same family. The property is comprised of a mix of wetland types interspersed with hardwood forest, supporting a large array of terrestrial and aquatic species. Additionally, the property lies in a regionally significant ecological area as identified by the MN DNR.

The easement prohibits residential use and division of the property. Agricultural use is limited to a very small portion of the property where it currently occurs and will no longer be allowed following any future restoration of that area.

The Land Trust purchased this easement for \$80,000, a price below the fair-market value of \$192,000. Funds for the purchase price came from 2010 ENRTF funding. \$13,000 of ENRTF funds (\$2,500 from 2010 and \$10,500 from 2011) was used to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues working on approximately 12 potential projects. Special emphasis is on the following two projects that we anticipate will be completed within the next few months:

- Carnelian Creek (previously referred to as Wilder Forest): 38 acres, Washington County
The Land Trust is working with the landowners on a donated conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural communities of oak forest on the property which have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of high biodiversity significance.
- Wood-Rill: 16 acres, Goodhue County
The Land Trust is working with the landowners on a donated conservation easement that will protect the natural communities of hardwood forest and wetlands on the property, as well as a palustrine open water pond that connects with Wood-Rill SNA to the south. The entire southern line of the property borders Wood-Rill SNA.

Additionally, the Land Trust has been pursuing a potential purchase of a conservation easement on a unique parcel of land on Tennyson Lake in Isanti County which contains significant native plant communities of hardwood swamp, oak-maple woodland and northern mixed cattail marsh that have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues to work on three projects we anticipate closing by the end of 2013: Tennyson Lake, Rush Lake, and Carnelian Creek. Two of these projects will be donated, and one will be a bargain purchase.

Additionally, the Land Trust has an exciting opportunity to protect a 42-acre parcel of land on Moose Lake in Wright County which not only contains significant habitat and shoreline along Moose Lake, but connects two pieces of Stanly Eddy County Park.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

The Land Trust closed on one project during this phase of MeCC 6 and continued to pursue three additional easements while also processing additional landowner inquiries.

Completed Projects:

Project: Sunrise Lake, Chisago County

Description: The 79-acre Sunrise Lake (Barnes) easement is a mix of forest (30 acres), grassland (10 acres), wetland (29 acres) and agriculture (10 acres). There are three distinct wetlands on the Protected Property: the largest dominates the western half of the property (to the south and west of the residence); a second large wetland is on the very northeast end of the property and extends southeasterly; the third is a very small wetland just at the southeast corner of the property. The wetlands are surrounded by forestland which is typically older upland deciduous (hardwood-pine). Grasslands are concentrated primarily in the southeast portion of the property with a small distribution surrounding the residence in the center-north of the property. Agricultural land is in three small areas on the eastern half of the property.

The easement prohibits development and division of the property. Agricultural use is limited to a very small portion of the property where it currently occurs and will no longer be allowed following any future restoration of that area.

This easement was donated by the landowner. Funds for stewardship are being sought from the MeCC 6 grant and total \$15,000 based on the Land Trust's Stewardship Evaluation Worksheet.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

The Land Trust closed on one project during the most recent phase of MeCC 6 and continues to pursue two additional easements.

Completed Projects:

Project: Tennyson Lake, Isanti County

Description: The Tennyson Lake (Barrett) tract is located in Spencer Brook Township in Isanti County. This 158-acre property consists of 78 acres of wetlands, 40 acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest, 19 acres of open water, 6 acres of woodlands, 3 acres of grassland, and 12 acres of cultivated agricultural land. The forests, grasslands and wetlands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, black bear, and smooth green snake. Additionally, the property provides scenic views of the wooded landscape from Tennyson Drive NW.

The conservation easement limits division of the property and agricultural uses. Industrial and commercial uses are prohibited. Residential uses are limited in size and scope and confined to a building envelope. Any vegetative management and/or forest stewardship must be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Minnesota Land Trust.

The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$157,080, below the fair-market value of \$170,000. Funds for the purchase price came from ENRTF funding. ENRTF funds provided \$15,000 to cover easement monitoring, management and enforcement of the easement.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

The Land Trust closed on one project during the most recent phase of MeCC 6 and continues to pursue one additional easement.

Completed Project:

Project: Rush River, Sibley County

Description: The Rush River tract is located in Henderson Township in Sibley County. This 79-acre property consists of 45 acres of grassland and 34 acres of hardwood and floodplain forest. The forests and grasslands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including red-shouldered hawks and a number of migratory birds. The open and natural character of the property provides scenic views enjoyed by the general public from Rush River County Park, the Rush River and 316th Street.

The conservation easement limits division of the property and agricultural uses. Industrial and commercial uses are prohibited. Residential uses are limited in size and scope and confined to a building envelope. Any vegetative management and/or forest stewardship must be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Minnesota Land Trust.

The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$52,000, below the fair-market value of \$97,000. Funds for the purchase price came from ENRTF funding. ENRTF funds provided \$15,000 to cover easement monitoring, management and enforcement of the easement.

Final Report Summary:

Under Phase VI of the Metro Conservation Corridors program, the Land Trust met project goals and exceeded acreage goals by completing three conservation easements collectively protecting 317 acres of land, and 4,375 feet of lake and stream shoreline. Acres protected by the Land Trust under this grant exceeded grant obligations by 167 acres.

Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

Project: Sunrise Lake (Barnes)

Description: The 79-acre property is located along Sunrise Lake in Chisago County and consists of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field. The property lies in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA. There are three distinct wetlands on the Protected Property. The property is located within the Sunrise River Watershed, where the Sunrise River has been identified as a key river reach in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

The easement was donated. The value of the easement is unknown. ENRTF funds amounting to \$15,000 were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Project: Tennyson Lake (Barrett)

Description: The 158-acre property is located along Tennyson Lake in Isanti County and comprises wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook. The forests, grasslands and wetlands on the property provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, and smooth green snake, and potentially black bear. Of the three projects completed during this phase, the Tennyson Lake project builds upon prior protection work completed under previous phases of

MeCC project work, specifically within the Rum River Watershed. The Rum River is a critical landscape previously identified by the Land Trust to focus conservation easement work. To date the Land Trust has conservation easements on 1,682 acres of land within this crucial watershed.

The value of the easement is \$170,000. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$157,080 using funds from ENRTF. In addition, \$15,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Project: Rush River (Amberson)

Description: A 79-acre property is located adjacent to the Rush River and Rush River County Park in Sibley County, and comprises open fields, wooded bluffs, sloping ravines, and floodplain forest. The forests and grasslands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including red-shouldered hawks and a number of migratory birds.

The value of the easement is \$97,000. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$52,000 using funds from ENRTF. In addition, \$15,000 in ENRTF funds were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Each of these three parcels were also in line with the MeCC project selection criteria:

1. Habitat: The quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protection of riparian areas and buffering of water resources;
2. Context: Proximity and relationship to other protected lands;
3. Opportunity: Landowners are available to participate now;
4. Cost/Benefit Ratio: Maximization of amount of impact per dollar spent;
5. Other Benefits: Meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,500 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre.

The grant ended with \$64,306 remaining as a balance for this activity as a result of staff turnover during the course of the project.

ACTIVITY 2: Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

NOTE: MLT's contract was amended on April 29, 2014 to combine MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach. Previous Activity Status updates were submitted under separate cover, under MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach.

Description:

The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 17,100.87
Balance: \$ 2,899.13

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2014	\$ 7,500
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2014	\$ 7,500
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2014	\$ 5,000

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

DNR continues to make refinements to the database, focusing on the partner project maps, and ensuring the partners enter data such that it can be used by DNR to map project accomplishments.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

The DNR has not been working on the MeCC database this timeframe, but will be working with partners this spring to add in new MeCC projects from this phase to the online map as completed.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013:

The DNR has begun a landscape scale analysis to help the partners prioritize worksites.

Project Status as of February 2, 2014:

The DNR and MLT continue to work on a landscape scale analysis to help the partners prioritize worksites. The main focus recently has been on creating detailed land cover data (MLCCS) to improve the analysis.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

The DNR and MLT continue development of a landscape-scale analysis to be used in assisting the Metro Conservation Corridors partners prioritize project sites. DNR staff has developed a preliminary MeCC Priority Analysis map for use by project partners. That product continues to be refined and GIS work is ongoing. MLCCS land cover data was added to the analysis. The preliminary map is included as an attachment to this work plan update.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Land Trust staff continues to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Land Trust staff also assisted in the compiling of reports for this appropriation.

A new ecological analysis has recently been completed. This work entailed creating new MLCCS data, combining MLCCS data with the most recent National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) information, and refining habitat models for the specific characteristics of the MeCC area. Results will be posted soon and will provide guidance for new MeCC focus areas.

The MeCC database at the DNR is undergoing a software update. The application has been moved over to the new software and it is currently in a testing and debugging stage. Once the system is fully upgraded, the DNR will assist the partners in entering and updating their project information in the database.

Final Report Summary:

The DNR began refinements to the MeCC projects database application in 2012. The updating and revision work continued through the spring of 2015. Application updating has been completed by the DNR, but it is currently not available to MeCC partners. It is estimated that the database will be up and running in September 2015 for use by the partners.

Ecological analysis to assist MeCC partners in prioritizing project sites was initiated in summer 2013. The analysis drew upon existing Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data and combined that with the most recent National Land Cover Data information to create a new layer of MLCCS data. The new MLCCS data was then used to refine habitat models for the localized characteristics of the overall MeCC area. The new data and revised habitat models will be used to provide guidance to the project partners for new MeCC focus areas to concentrate conservation efforts.

The Land Trust staff continued to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Future meetings are planned, with the Land Trust continuing the coordination of partner conservation efforts in the MeCC program area as successive funding has been appropriated through a MeCC Phase VII grant. Land Trust staff also compiled MeCC Partnership reports for this appropriation.

The grant ended with \$2,899 remaining as a balance for this activity as a result of staff turnover during the course of the project.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The Land Trust will disseminate results in our publications and on our web page. We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which projects are located. Additionally, we will participate when possible in broader efforts of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership. These efforts may include emails to people on the Embrace Open Space (EOS) database, through the EOS quarterly meetings and jointly held county meetings, and on the partnership website.

Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity on this grant has not yet commenced.

Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one new project in June 2012, for which we drafted a press release (attached to this report). We also publicized this project on our website and Facebook page and sent the information to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of February 1, 2013: The Land Trust has not completed any additional projects since the last update for this grant, but will continue to disseminate results as projects reach completion.

Status as of August 1, 2013: The Land Trust has not completed any additional projects since the last update for this grant, but will continue to disseminate results as projects reach completion.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one new project in December of 2013, for which we drafted and disseminated a press release. We also publicized this project on our website and Facebook page and sent the information to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one new project in June 2014. The press release has been drafted but has not yet been disseminated. The press release will be sent to media outlets, project partners, and

shared on the Land Trust’s website and Facebook page. Information will be sent to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

The Land Trust completed one new project in December 2014. The press release has been drafted but has not yet been disseminated (the interview with the landowner was not completed until January 2015). The press release will be sent to media outlets, project partners, and shared on the Land Trust’s website and Facebook page. Information will be sent to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Final Report Summary:

For all three projects, the Land Trust completed press releases which were sent to local media outlets, project partners, and shared on the Land Trust’s website and Facebook page. Sunrise Lake and Tennyson Lake were also highlighted in the Land Trust’s 2014 Annual Report, which was disseminated as a 4,200-piece mailing. The portion of the annual report highlighting the two easement projects is included as an attachment to this work plan final report. The Rush River easement will be a focus of the 2015 Annual Report, which will go out in the first quarter of 2016.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 70,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$252,000	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 150 acres of land.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 3,000	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50 per mile and \$300 for meals.
Conservation Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Fund:	\$ 75,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.
MeCC Partnership Mapping, Coordination and Outreach	\$ 20,000	Develop up to date maps of the MeCC Corridors, convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work, compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly, and conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 420,000	

*Per discussion with LCCMR staff, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipate outcomes.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1 for two years

B. Other Funds:

Although we don't anticipate any cash funds at this time, we do anticipate providing leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project.

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust's identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF – MeCC	\$230,000	\$134,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, and February 1, 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 1, 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2, Subdivision 04i3.2								
Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$420,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2015								
Date of Update: 8/17/15								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements</i>			<i>Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$70,000.00	\$45,890.48	\$24,109.52	\$20,000.00	\$17,100.87	\$2,899.13	\$90,000.00	\$27,008.65
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>								
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>								
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>								
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>								
Easement Acquisition <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$252,000.00	\$232,250.50	\$19,749.50				\$252,000.00	\$19,749.50
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$3,000.00	\$2,052.98	\$947.02				\$3,000.00	\$947.02
Easement Monitoring & Enforcement Fund <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$75,000.00	\$55,500.00	\$19,500.00				\$75,000.00	\$19,500.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000.00	\$335,693.96	\$64,306.04	\$20,000.00	\$17,100.87	\$2,899.13	\$420,000.00	\$67,205.17

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Project Manager Name: John Brosnan
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Emmans Farm	475419	5025598	Anoka	woodland, grassland, wetland, agriculture	parts of the property lie within a regionally significant ecological area, also in MCBS site of biodiversity significance	conservation easement acquisition	80		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
2	Rum River	476605	5049201	Isanti	forest, grassland, wetland, shoreline	part of Rum River corridor - Wild and Scenic River	conservation easement acquisition	36	4,267	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
3	Rum River	479612	5051732	Isanti	forest, wetland, prairie, ponds	part of Rum River corridor - Wild and Scenic River	conservation easement acquisition	40	500	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
4	Rice Lake	437261	4980942	Carver & Wright	forest, wetland, shoreline	MCBS sugar maple forest native plant community	conservation easement acquisition	128	1,937	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
5	Schendel Lake	447080	4994399	Hennepin	forest, wetland, agriculture	parts of the property lie within a regionally significant ecological area, undeveloped wooded shoreline along Schendel Lake	conservation easement acquisition		TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
6	Lurton Park	451774	4982186	Hennepin	forest, grassland, wetland, pond	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area	conservation easement acquisition	30		Minnesota Land Trust	Public owner City of Orono	Donation. Initial contact complete
7	Camelian Creek (previously referred to as "Wilder Forest")	514276	5004133	Washington	forest, woodland, wetland	MCBS oak (red maple) woodland, site of high biodiversity significance	conservation easement acquisition	38		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Likely donation. Initial contact complete
8	Crow River	345827	5015058	Hennepin	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along state designated wild & scenic river, Crow River	conservation easement acquisition	97	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
9	Trout Brook	514691	4967409	Washington	forest, woodland, grassland, shoreline	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area	conservation easement acquisition	35	2,812	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
10	Oak Lake	436427	4977756	Carver	forest, grassland, wetland, shoreline	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area, shallow lake = DNR key habitat in state action plan	conservation easement acquisition	91	8,612	Minnesota Land Trust	Non-profit organization - Phyllis Wheatley CC	Purchase - funding source not yet identified.
12	Bullard Creek	541896	4930355	Goodhue	forest, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Bullard Creek, a DNR trout stream	conservation easement acquisition	60	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
13	Wood-Rill	457189	4982025	Hennepin	Big Woods, wetland	Big Woods remnant; adjacent to Wood-Rill SNA	conservation easement acquisition	17		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
14	Tennyson Lake	461976	5040955	Isanti	forest, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook, as well as four native plant communities mapped by MCBS.	conservation easement acquisition	145	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
14	Rush Lake	495625	5061833	Chisago	forest, woodland, grassland, agriculture, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Rush Lake	conservation easement acquisition	152	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
15	Moose Lake	403075	5008144	Wright	forest, woodland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Moose Lake, connects two pieces of Stanley-Eddy Regional Park	conservation easement acquisition	42	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Bargain purchase. Negotiations underway
16	Sunrise Lake	511944	5031434	Chisago	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	Undeveloped grassland- and forested-wetlands within the Chisago Lakes complex. Close proximity to Sunrise Lake, Sunrise River and the Carlos Avery Wildlife Area.	conservation easement acquisition	80	NA	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
17	Rush River	427028	4928417	Sibley	grassland, forest	Undeveloped grassland, hardwood forest and floodplain forest adjacent to Rush River County Park.	conservation easement acquisition	79	NA	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete

NOTES: The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the 2011 phase may be moved to future phases.

**Metro Conservation Corridors
Phase VI**
MINNESOTA LAND TRUST COMPLETED PROJECTS



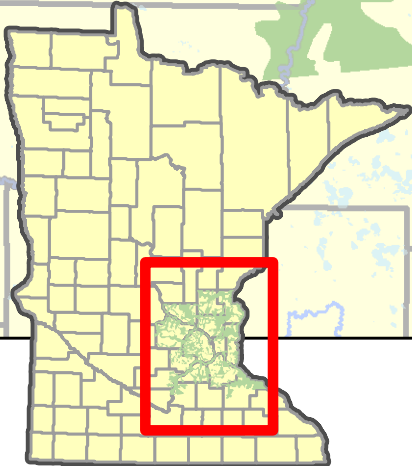
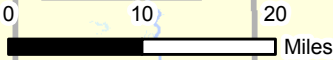
Tennyson Lake



Sunrise Lake



Rush River



-  Metro Conservation Corridors
-  Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects



Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects LCCMR Metro Corridors 2011 - Phase VI

Rush River: This 79-acre property is located within Sibley County. The property consists of a mixture of open fields, wooded bluffslands, sloping ravines, and lowland forest near the river. The lowland forest on the south side of the property has been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of moderate biodiversity significance by the DNR. The property lies adjacent to Rush River County Park, which is to the south and west. The property is located one mile east of Minnesota Valley State Recreational Area, and is within a five-mile radius of three wildlife management areas and four other Minnesota Land Trust conservation easements.

Sunrise Lake: This 79-acre property in Chisago County consists of mixed hardwood forest and coniferous forest, wetlands, grasslands, and approximately 10 acres of row crop agriculture. It is in close proximity to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. While there are no known adjacent landowners interested in a conservation easement at present, the Sunrise River could become an important complex and priority area for the Land Trust similar to Valley Creek in Washington County. The property is located within the Sunrise River Watershed, where the Sunrise River has been identified as a key river reach in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tennyson Lake: This 158-acre property in Isanti County is comprised of a combination of wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, woodlands, grassland, and 12 acres of cultivated agricultural land. The Protected Property also includes approximately 2,990 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline on Tennyson Lake and 1,385 linear feet of riparian shoreline along Spencer Brook. Rare habitats including oak and pine forest interspersed with grassland, sedge meadow, tamarack swamp, and cattail marsh are found on the property and have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of moderate biodiversity significance by the DNR. The property is located approximately one and a half miles southwest of one of the Land Trust's Rum River conservation easements. The Tennyson Lake project builds upon prior protection work completed under previous phases of MeCC project work, specifically within the Rum River Watershed. The Rum River is a critical landscape previously identified by the Land Trust to focus conservation easement work. To date the Land Trust has conservation easements on 1,682 acres of land within this crucial watershed. Seven other conservation easements within approximately an eight-mile radius of the property are held by the Land Trust. The property is also approximately two miles northwest of the MN DNR Crooked Lake Wildlife Management Area.

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

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NEWS & EVENTS

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"BIG WOODS" NOW PROTECTED FOREVER



Landowners Marjorie and Darrell Amberson, with Project Manager Maggie Karschnia.

Darrell and Marjorie Amberson recently realized a dream come true: permanently preserving their 79 acres along the north side of the Rush River in Sibley County, a few miles north of Le Seuer.

Their land lies within the Big Woods Ecological Subsection of the state. Historically, the predominant vegetation was hardwood forest, including red oak, sugar maple and American elm. Today, only a small fraction of the "Big Woods" forests remain.

The Amberson's land includes grassland as well; both the hardwood forest and the grassland provides exceptional habitat for many species of wildlife and migratory birds. Coyote, bald eagles and deer are frequent visitors to the land, which lies adjacent to the 285-acre Sibley County Rush River Park, thus creating a 364-acre complex of wildlife habitat.

Darrell early memories were formed from fishing trips with his grandfather as a boy. Later, Darrell and Marjorie both lived in Carver County and began to see the effects of urban sprawl. Before long, they began their search for acreage that would give them room to spread out.

It was love at first sight: next to a park, it had beautiful bluffs, rolling hills, open & wooded areas.

The Ambersons were inspired to contact the Minnesota Land Trust because, as they researched options, it seemed to line up with what they had envisioned for their land.

Darrell put it this way: "The easement restrictions described the way we were going to take care of our land anyway, and it's good to perpetuate what we had intended to do with the land."

Funding for this project was provided by members of the Minnesota Land Trust and by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

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Minnesota Land Trust

2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240

Saint Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: (651) 647-9590

1-877-MLT-LAND

Located on the Green Line, near Randolph Station

General email inquiries: mnland@mnland.org

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NEWS & EVENTS

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SANDHILL CRANES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ASSURED HABITAT FOREVER

Lindstrom landowner Joan Barnes once fought for the rights of a resident beaver in the Minnesota Supreme Court – and won. Now she has taken her passion for conservation to a different level by protecting her 79-acre property from development forever.

Joan has reason for concern. From 2000 to 2010 the population of Chisago County increased over 30 percent, with increasing competition for limited space between landowners and wildlife. The beavers who won their right to maintain their den in wetlands on Joan's property are now gone, trapped by neighbors. While Joan no longer finds beaver on her property, she does see bear, fox, grouse and sandhill cranes.



Landowner Joan Barnes signs documents that create a lasting legacy in the form of a conservation easement for her property near Lindstrom.



The shallow wetlands on Joan's property are part of a major migratory route for waterfowl and songbirds.

The natural and undisturbed forests, grasslands and wetlands of this property create attractive habitat to support a wide range of species such as bald eagle, common tern, osprey, wood turtle, trumpeter swan, yellow rails and sharp-tailed sparrow. It is part of a major migratory corridor for waterbirds and serves as one of the state's most critical areas for spotted salamander and other amphibians.

"We're fortunate to be able to

protect quality of habitat so close to the metro area," says Kris Larson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Land Trust adding, "This is not only a great legacy for the landowners, it is also a very wise—and cost effective—investment by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund with tremendous benefits for migratory birds and other wildlife."

Funding for the project was made possible by members of the Minnesota Land Trust and through the Metro Conservation Corridors, a project funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Natural Resources and approved by the legislature.



Joan regularly sees bear, fox, turkeys, grouse and sandhill cranes on her property despite being surrounded by explosive residential growth.

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THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE FUNDED BY LAND TRUST MEMBERS AND WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES (LCCMR).



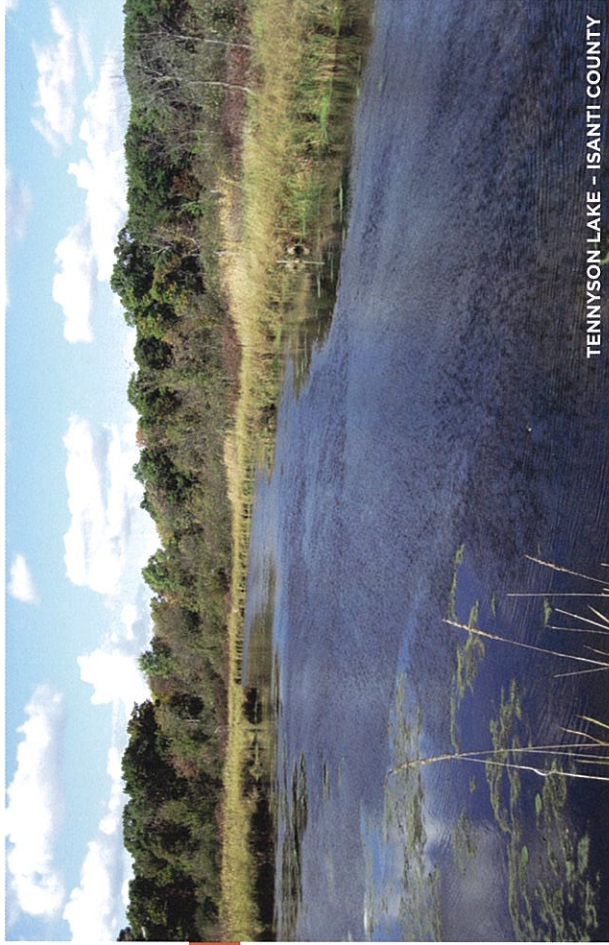
SUNRISE LAKE - CHISAGO COUNTY

FISCHER LAKES - BECKER COUNTY

Three generations of one family have protected their 475-acre Century Farm, located in a very important migratory area for forest birds and waterfowl. Wildlife species documented on the property include several species of greatest conservation need: trumpeter swan, prairie chicken, sandhill crane, great blue heron, bald eagle, sharp-tailed grouse, and upland sandpiper. Over 18,000 feet of shoreline along five lakes, as well as remnant oak savannah, prairie and forest located adjacent to the city of Frazee are protected forever.

SUNRISE LAKE - CHISAGO COUNTY

The forests, grasslands and wetlands on this 79-acre property provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including the wood turtle, trumpeter swan and spotted salamander.



TENNYSON LAKE - ISANTI COUNTY

BLACK LAKE - BELTRAMI COUNTY

This 145-acre property consisting of forest, wetlands, and grasslands also includes over 10,000 feet of shoreline. The mosaic of forest, wetlands and grasslands support bald eagles, northern goshawks, great gray owls, red-shouldered hawks, black-backed woodpeckers, gray wolves, loons, and other species of greatest conservation need.

TENNYSON LAKE - ISANTI COUNTY

Over 4,300 feet of sensitive shoreline are protected on this 158-acre property. Rare habitats including sedge meadow, tamarack swamp, and cattail marsh are found on the property. The land provides significant habitat for species in greatest conservation need, supporting such species as sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, black bear, and smooth green snake.

2011 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski
Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River
Mailing Address: 360 North Robert Street, Suite 400
City / State / Zip: St. Paul, MN 55101
Telephone Number: 651 222-2193 Ext. 12
E-mail Address: tlewanski@fmr.org
Fax Number: 651 222-6005
Web Page address: www.fmr.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 200,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

High quality habitat within the Metro area is important for both resident and migratory species. The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership is working to establish a system of habitat corridors that also provide open space and water quality benefits for the residents of the area. One goal of this project was to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. During this project, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projected amount by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick property, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. Uncommon flooding at Gores Pool WMA prevented woodland restoration at the site. Activities associated with this restoration included updating management plans, soil preparation, seed/plant installation, mowing, and weed control. These additional acres of natural communities will provide critical habitat for many species that rely on prairie and woodland, some of which are rare or in decline.

A second goal was to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control and burning, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.

The third goal achieved was to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners. This outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas, including Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

FMR organizes many tours and stewardship events at the sites where we conduct restoration activities. We share information about this project with the participants of these events. FMR also occasionally publishes articles in its paper and electronic newsletters regarding restoration projects that it is involved in. The following are four examples that highlight some of these projects & ENRTF.

- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_to_restore_bluffland-2009-08
- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_wins_sustainability_award-2011-04
- http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_2010-03. Landowner Steps Up To Help The River. Page 3. Restoring a Woodland: One Stem at a Time. Page 5.
- Fall 2010 newsletter (paper copy). Program Updates. Restoration Begins at Minneapolis' Riverside Park. Page 4.



**MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan. Final Report.**

Date of Status Update: 8/1/2014

Date of Next Status Update: Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? Yes

Project Title: MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski

Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River

Address: 360 N Robert St, Ste 400

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55101

Telephone Number: (651) 222-2193 x12

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Web Address: <http://www.fmr.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation \$: 200,000.00

Amount Spent \$: 199,383.32

Balance \$: 616.68

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

High quality habitat within the Metro area is important for both resident and migratory species. The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership is working to establish a system of habitat corridors that also provide open space and water quality benefits for the residents of the area. One goal of this project was to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. During this project, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projected amount by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick property, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. Uncommon flooding at Gores Pool WMA prevented woodland restoration at the site. Activities associated with this restoration included updating management plans, soil preparation, seed/plant installation, mowing, and weed control. These additional acres of natural communities will provide critical habitat for many species that rely on prairie and woodland, some of which are rare or in decline.

A second goal was to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control and burning, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.

The third goal achieved was to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners. This outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas, including Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of: 11/1/11

FMR asked for an amendment to add three additional sites to this work program. The sites are: Mounds Park in St. Paul, Wilmar in Vermillion Township and Karpen in the City of Hastings. The approval to amend the list was provided by LCCMR staff on Nov. 1 for Wilmar and Karpen and Oct. 21 for the Mounds Park. These sites have been added to the approved restoration site list.

Project Status as of: 2/1/2012

During this time period, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on 98.3 acres at four sites, using MeCC Phase VI funding. These sites are the Gores Pool WMA, the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, the Emrick/Gelhar property, and the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA. An additional 2 acres were enhanced using private funding and 23.7 acres were enhanced using other state funding.

Project Status as of: 8/1/2012 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/8/2012]

During this time period, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on 99.5 acres at five sites, using MeCC Phase VI funding. These sites are the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, the Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, the Wilmar site and Crosby & Mounds Parks in St. Paul. An additional 2 acres were enhanced using private funding and 15 acres were enhanced using other state funding (Outdoor Heritage Fund). FMR has also been conducting landowner outreach in the Pine Bend Bluffs area and Sand Coulee area.

- On April 3, 2012, Tom Lewanski spoke with Susan Thornton seeking permission to acquire NOMEX protective clothing for FMR's Ecologists. She gave permission to use funds in the

Equipment/Tools/Supplies line of the budget to acquire the clothing. We will need to move some funds from the Professional/Technical Contracts line to the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line in the contract for this expense.

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add one site, the Old Mill Park in Hastings, to its approved project list. The opportunity to improve the existing oak savanna was presented when a graduate student at the University of Minnesota approached us about developing a Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. This plan will be completed in the fall of 2012. This site will take the place of one in the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis that will not take place. FMR could not work out the details with the landowner in the time required to plan and carry out implementation activities.

FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Professional/Technical Contracts line and put \$500.00 onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line and \$3,500 onto the Plant Material line.

Project Status as of: 12/10/12

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add the portion of C.P. Adams Park that is adjacent to the Hastings SNA to its approved project list. We feel that removing exotic invasive woody plants will not only improve the natural area portion of the park, but it will reduce a seed source of these plants for the SNA. Barry Bernstein, City of Hastings' Parks and Recreation Director has submitted a letter acknowledging and granting permission to do this restoration work within the park. This letter also states that "this portion of the park will remain in a natural state and this restoration work is in keeping with our vision for the area." FMR has conducted a site visit and developed an addendum to the Natural Resource Management Plan developed for the Hastings SNA.

Project Status as of: 2/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [2/1/2013]

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$170.08 from the Travel expenses in Minnesota line onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line.
- As indicated by the strikeout and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below and in the Work Plan Attachment A, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the reporting schedule to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014 as consistent with the appropriation language.
- During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 91.5 acres. These sites include Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve and Wilmar. In addition, we conducted restoration and enhancement activities on an additional 51-acres using other funding.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project. We have had several face to face meetings with some of these landowners.

Project Status as of): 8/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/6/2013]

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Conservation Director budget line to the Ecologists budget line and to move \$3,100 from the Professional/Technical Contracts budget line to the plant material budget line.

- During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 37 acres. These sites include **Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, Rock Island Swing Bridge unit of the Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights and the Old Mill Park in Hastings.**
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project.

Project Status as of): 2/1/2014 - Amendment Request.

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$2404.39 from the Plant material line and move \$404.39 into the Travel expense line and \$2,000 into the Ecologist line of the budget.
- During this time frame FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 8 project sites for a total of 20 additional acres. These sites included Emrick, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Rosemount Preserve, Heritage Village Park/Rock Island Swing bridge, Ravenna block greenway/Almquist, Mississippi River Gorge/Riverside, Old Mill Park & Hastings SNA.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project.

Project Status as of): 8/1/2014

- FMR has completed the landowner outreach portion of the work program. In addition, we continued to conduct restoration activities, on previously reported acres, at the following sites:
 - Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area – Dormant seeding in the Oak Savanna and prescribed burn on restored prairie.
 - Old Mill Park – Cut and treat non-oak trees in oak savanna.
 - Heritage Village Park – Spot spraying for weeds and prescribed burn.
 - Emrick – Prescribed burn on restored prairie.
 - Almquist – Prescribed burn and mowing on prairie.
 - Rosemount Wildlife Preserve – Cut and treat buckthorn in forest.

Amendment Request (08/01/2014)

FMR is seeking a retroactive work program budget amendment to close out the project and move \$855.50 from the Volunteer Coordinator budget line, \$710.73 from the Stewardship Coordinator line and \$419.24 from the Ecologist budget line and put the \$1,985.47 into the Conservation Director budget line. In addition we are asking to move \$209.46 from the travel expenses budget line into the plant material line.

Amendment Approved: 09/09/2014

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restore and/or enhance 163 acres of prairie and woodland/forest.

Description:

There are three overall goals for this project: One goal is to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat. Specific activities associated with these outcomes include updating management plans, soil preparation including herbicide, burning, and discing, seed/plant installation, followed by mowing, and weed control. A second goal is to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands. Activities associated with this outcome include updating management plans, cut/treat invasive plant species and prescribed

burning. Natural resource management plans will have been developed or updated for each of FMR's sites prior to the initiating restoration or enhancement activities. FMR will develop and send out requests for proposals to vendors, including Conservation Corps Minnesota, for services associated with the restoration and enhancement activities planned. Vendors will be selected based on bid amount, experience with the services requested, experience with site, and quality of similar services provided to FMR in the past.

FMR will conduct an initial evaluation of the restoration and enhancement activities undertaken with ENRTF funding provided through this grant. This evaluation information will be provided in the final report.

FMR will utilize ENRTF (LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. FMR will also secure a landowner agreement for private land projects. The SNA's and WMA's, upon which FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities, are owned by the State of Minnesota and therefore, presumably, permanently protected.

A third goal is to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors. Specific activities include identifying and contacting 27 landowners in proximity to existing projects, meeting with these landowners and sharing information about the natural resources on their property, provide information on restoration options, permanent land protection options, and solicit their involvement in habitat improvement. FMR will begin to plan habitat restoration activities with interested landowners and will solicit the involvement of other MeCC partners on projects in which the landowner indicates an interest in pursuing permanent protection for their property through fee title acquisition or a conservation easement.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 200,000
Amount Spent: \$ 199,383.32
Balance: \$ 616.68

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget (approx.)
1. Conduct prairie restoration activities on 55 acres.	6/30/2014	\$ 52,000
2. Conduct woodland habitat restoration of on 5-acres.	6/30/2014	\$ 30,000
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 41 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2014	\$ 22,000
3. Conduct restoration and enhancement activities on 62 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2014	\$ 90,000
4. Contact 27 landowners and meet with as many as are interested in doing so. Develop a spreadsheet that reports which landowners were contacted, meetings held, and landowners interested in pursuing restoration and/or protection activities.	6/30/2014	\$ 6,000

Activity Status as of 2/1/2012

During this time period FMR began enhancement activities at four sites.

- At the Gelhar/Emrick property in Ravenna Township, Dakota County, we conducted a variety of enhancement activities. In continuing the prairie installation process, we mowed 22 acres within two of the management units at the site. Mowing reduces competition from unwanted plants and allows sun to reach the young prairie seedlings, encouraging their growth. Within another management unit at the site, woody plants were cut, stacked and burned. After this, herbicide was applied to the area and about a month after this a prescribed burn was completed. This

work took place on about 3 acres. These activities are in preparation for seeding that will take place at a later date. The landowners contributed funding for these activities.

- Approximately 17 acres of a prairie restoration site were mowed at the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. Mowing reduces competition from unwanted plants and allows sun to reach the young prairie seedlings, encouraging their growth and vitality.
- A number of enhancement activities took place at the Freitag unit of the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area in Hastings. A 4-acre prairie installation area was mowed. A follow up foliar herbicide spray took place within a 40-acre savanna. This activity took place to address resprouting from previously cut buckthorn shrubs. After this, native seed was purchased and hand broadcasted throughout the site. Volunteers assisted staff in this activity. In addition, a 4-acre wetland, dominated by reed canary grass was sprayed with herbicide and then burned.
- At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA in Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, exotic brush was cut and treated on 34 acres. For this project we also utilized a LSOHC grant through the Big Rivers Habitat –Phase I project. 23.7 – acres are assigned to the LSOHC grant and the remaining 10.3 acres were assigned to the MeCC Phase VI funding.
- Mounds Park, St. Paul. FMR ordered native shrubs during the fall of 2011 that will be installed at the site in the spring of 2012.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2012

Amendment Approved: [8/8/2012]

At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add one site, the Old Mill Park in Hastings, to its approved project list. The opportunity to improve the existing oak savanna was presented to us when a graduate student at the University of Minnesota approached us about developing a Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. This plan will be completed in the fall of 2012. This site will take the place of one in the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis that will not take place. FMR could not work out the details with the landowner in the time required to plan and carry out implementation activities.

- On April 3, 2012, Tom Lewanski spoke with Susan Thornton seeking permission to acquire NOMEX protective clothing for FMR's Ecologists. She gave permission to use funds in the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line of the budget to acquire the clothing. We will need to move some funds from the Professional/Technical Contracts line to the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line in the contract for this expense.
- FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Professional/Technical Contracts line and put \$500.00 onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line and \$3,500 onto the Plant Material line.

During the first two quarters of 2012, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 5 sites.

1. At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, a prescribed burn was completed on 17 acres. Using non-state funding, FMR burned piles of brush that had been removed from a portion of the prairie. We conducted a breeding bird survey at this site in June.
2. At the Rosemount Wildlife Preserve exotic brush was cut from 7.2 acres of woodland in preparation for a 2012 fall foliar herbicide application. Using Outdoor Heritage funding, FMR cut brush from an additional 10.5 acres. In addition, we spot-sprayed for weeds on 2.3 acres of prairie using ENRTF and an additional 2.3 acres using Outdoor Heritage funding.
3. Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. A one-acre site was mowed near the entrance to the SNA in preparation for enhancement activities that will be undertaken with Hastings High School biology students. Spot spraying took place on 45 acres of prairie to control herbaceous weeds (spurge, knapweed, cow vetch and crown vetch). We conducted a breeding bird survey at this site in June.

4. At the Wilmar property along the Vermillion River in Dakota County, we conducted a prescribed burn and spot spraying on 27 acres.
5. FMR purchased native plants (forbs, shrubs and a tree) that were installed in
6. Crosby Park and in Mounds Park, both in St. Paul.

One of the FMR's goals for this phase of the project was to develop a list of potential conservation projects that would add on to existing projects. Toward this goal, we have reached out to seven landowners in the Sand Coulee area and three landowners in the Pine Bend Bluffs area.

Project Status as of: 12/10/12

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add a 3.3 - acre portion of C.P. Adams Park that is adjacent to the Hastings SNA to its approved project list. We feel that removing exotic invasive woody plants will not only improve the natural area portion of the park, but it will reduce a seed source of these plants for the SNA. This work would be an expansion of the activities being conducted on the Hastings SNA. Barry Bernstein, City of Hastings' Parks and Recreation Director has submitted a letter acknowledging and granting permission to do this restoration work within the park. This letter also states that "this portion of the park will remain in a natural state and this restoration work is in keeping with our vision for the area." FMR has conducted a site visit and developed an addendum to the Natural Resource Management Plan developed for the Hastings SNA.

Activity Status as of 2/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [2/1/2013]

- FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$170.08 from the Travel expenses in Minnesota line and put it onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line.
- As indicated by the strikeout and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below and in the Work Plan Attachment A, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the reporting schedule to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014 as consistent with the appropriation language.

During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 91.5 acres. These sites include Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve and Wilmar. In addition, we conducted restoration and enhancement activities on an additional 51-acres using other funding.

- Almquist: Cut, treat, and slash exotic brush on 27.6 acres of forest.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: applied herbicide and watered a planting on 1-acre at the entrance to the SNA.
- Emrick: conducted spot mowing and spraying on installed prairie and conducted exotic woody plant control within a woodland. These activities were conducted on land that were previously reported, so no additional acres are reported here.
- Gores Wildlife Management Area: Mowed and sprayed 4- acres of installed prairie. Cut and treated resprouted exotic shrubs and trees on previously reported acreage. Cut, bagged and treated purple loosestrife on 4 acres of wetland.
- Hastings SNA: Cut, treated, hauled and chipped exotic shrubs on 19 acres of this forested SNA. An addition 21 acres were similarly treated using matching funds. FMR organized a volunteer event at this site to haul and stack the cut plant material.
- Karpen: Cut and slashed exotic shrubs on 5 acres of forested land.

- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: Cut and bagged trefoil and crown vetch on previously reported acres. Cut and treated exotic shrubs on 30 acres of forest. An additional 12.5 acres were similarly treated using matching funds. Using matching funds, we conducted a prescribed burn and spot sprayed and mowed on 17 acres of installed prairie. Sprayed .5 acre of reed canary grass using matching funds.
- Riverside Park: Watered and weeded a one-acre native planting.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Cut and treated exotic shrubs on previously reported acreage.
- Wilmar: Spot sprayed Siberian elm seedlings on previously reported prairie acreage.

During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/6/2013]

At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Conservation Director budget line to the Ecologists budget line and to move \$3,100 from the Professional/Technical Contracts budget line to the Plant Material budget line.

During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 37 additional acres. These sites include **Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, Rock Island Swing Bridge unit of the Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights and the Old Mill Park in Hastings**. During the month of June FMR staff conducted breeding bird surveys at the Gores Wildlife Management Area, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area and the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA.

- Almquist: Brush piles were burned on previously reported acres.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Burned 23 acres of prairie at the southern unit.
- Gores Wildlife Management Area: Developed a burn plan for a portion of the site. Cut and treated exotic brush. It was then hauled and stacked. These activities were conducted for or on previously reported acres.
- Hastings SNA: A patch of day lilies was sprayed to remove on previously reported acres.
- Karpen: Previously cut and stacked brush was burned (previously reported acres).
- Heritage Village Park: Exotic woody plants were removed, treated early season weeds primarily garlic mustard and seeded eroded gullies with native prairie seed from/on 4 acres. Using non-state funding we conducting the same activities on an additional 7 acres. Treated purple loosestrife on 1 acre of shoreline.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: Previously stacked brush piles were burned (previously reported acres).
- Old Mill Park: Exotic brush was cut, treated and chipped from 9 acres of native oak savanna.
- Riverside Park: Organized volunteer planting event.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Erected protective fencing around plantings.

During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.

- **Activity Status as of 2/1/2014**
- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$2404.39 from the Plant material line and move \$404.39 into the Travel expense line and \$2,000 into the Ecologist line of the budget.

- During this time frame FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 8 project sites for a total of 20 additional acres. These sites included Emrick, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Rosemount Preserve, Heritage Village Park/Rock Island Swing bridge, Ravenna block greenway/Almquist, Mississippi River Gorge/Riverside, Old Mill Park & Hastings SNA.
- Ravenna Block Greenway/Almquist: A prairie restoration site, conducted with other funding, was mowed.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Spot spray crown vetch, cow vetch, pulled knapweed on previously reported acres.
- Hastings SNA: Crew revisited site to spot spray resprouts and plants missed the first time through.
- Heritage Village Park/ Swing bridge: Weed and brush control on 8 acres. 10 cottonwood trees were planted in floodplain. Native grass seed was also broadcasted.
- Old Mill Park: Cut, treat, chip savanna trees on previously reported acres.
- Riverside Park: The previously reported planting area was watered during the dry part of the summer and fall.
- Emrick: Weed and exotic brush control on an additional 8 acres at this site. Burn breaks were mowed for 2014 burn.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Spot spray trefoil, Canada thistle, reed canary, knapweed, parsnip, burdock on 6 acres of prairie.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.
- **Final Report Summary: 8/1/2014 - Amendment Request.**

FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$855.50 from the Volunteer Coordinator budget line, \$710.73 from the Stewardship Coordinator line and \$419.24 from the Ecologist budget line and put the \$1,985.47 into the Conservation Director budget line. In addition we are asking to move \$209.46 from the travel expenses budget line into the plant material line.

 - *Goal 1: Increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat.* At grants end, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projection by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. We attribute this to uncommon flood occurrences at Gores Pool WMA that interfered with the activities associated with restoring woodland at the site.
 - *Goal 2: Enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands.* We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.
 - *Goal 3: FMR committed to developing a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners.* FMR met this goal first by contacting landowners through the mail, followed by phone calls. In some cases, this outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas where FMR has ongoing projects. These included Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: FMR will disseminate information about the restoration and enhancement activities associated with this grant on the organization's website (www.fmr.org) and in its digital newsletter, which is called Mississippi Messages.

Status as of 2/1/2012:

Because the project activities have just begun we have not written about them for any of our publications as of yet. As the project moves forward we will.

Status as of 8/1/2012:

FMR included an article in its Spring 2012 Newsletter about Public/Private conservation partnerships that highlighted LCCMR/ENRTF (page 4).

http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_spring_2012.pdf

Status as of 2/1/2013:

- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/restoration_roundup-2013-01

Status as of 8/1/2013:

Status as of 2/1/2014: FMR's Digital newsletter articles that mentions Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund:

http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/oak_savanna_tour-2013-09-17,
http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/vento_public_lands-2013-09-28,
http://www.fmr.org/participate/ongoing/coulee_seed_collection_2013-10-12

Status as of 8/1/2014:

Final Report Summary:

FMR organizes many tours and stewardship events at the sites where we conduct restoration activities. We share information about this project with the participants of these events. FMR also occasionally publishes articles in its paper and electronic newsletters regarding restoration projects that it is involved in. The following are four examples that highlight some of these projects & ENRTF.

http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_to_restore_bluffland-2009-08
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_wins_sustainability_award-2011-04
http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_2010-03. Landowner Steps Up To Help The River. Page 3. Restoring a Woodland: One Stem at a Time. Page 5.
Fall 2010 newsletter (paper copy). Program Updates. Restoration Begins at Minneapolis' Riverside Park. Page 4.
http://fmr.org/news/current/june_july_events-2014-06
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/2013_year_in_restoration-2014-02
<http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/stpaul-db/messages/topic/4NY1VOXWx4cGXRhqTkxUm>

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 28,960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conservation Director</u>: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. Approximately \$8,300. • <u>Ecologists (2)</u>: Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. Approximately \$17,650. • <u>Stewardship Coordinator</u>: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,670. • <u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,340.
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 160,000	Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$910.08 \$9000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags. • Pay for a nursery to germinate and grow plants from locally collected (native ecotype) seed. Purchase native ecotype trees and shrubs.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1129.92	Travel to project sites and to partner meetings.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 200,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: .21 FTE (Total staff hours - 877.5, divided by 4176, because the staff hours associated with this grant will be used over a two year period).

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state		\$	
Private landowners	\$100,000	\$ 60,500	Staff time and vendor services
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant	\$10,000	\$10,160	Staff time and vendor services
Local units of government	\$30,000	\$25,854.99	Staff time and vendor services
National Park Service	\$30,000	0	Staff time and vendor services
St. Paul Foundation	\$5,000	\$3,400	Staff time
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$20,000	\$27,373.05	Staff time, supplies and vendor services
Vermillion River Joint Powers	\$5,000	\$240	Staff time and materials/supplies

Organization			
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$200,000	\$ 127,528.04	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The FMR project team consists of the Conservation Director-Tom Lewanski, Ecologist and Project Manager-Karen Schik, Ecologist - Joe Walton, Volunteer Coordinator-Sue Rich and Stewardship Coordinator-Karen Solas. Salary and benefits of these staff will be supported by the Trust Fund appropriation.

Trust Fund will be used for restoration activities on land owned by these partners: The National Park Service, Macalester College (Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area), Minneapolis Park Board, St. Paul Parks, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Cities of Rosemount & Inver Grove Heights. Restoration will also take place on a couple of sites that are in private ownership. FMR will utilize ENRTF (as recommended by LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. These entities, along with Dakota County, the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Minneapolis neighborhood associations, watershed districts, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and community volunteers will contribute resources to restoration and enhancement projects from non-Trust Fund sources. No funds from this appropriation will go directly to any of the partners.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The Mississippi River is the defining natural feature of the central portion of the United States. It provides critical habitat both as an international migration corridor and as essential habitat for local resident wildlife and plant populations. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for well over a decade. This approach has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, over time, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. As such the restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. FMR is committed to conducting fundrasing from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$90,000 Subd.5(b)	\$53,000 Subd.4c (2.1).	\$92,000 Subd. 3(a)2.1	\$90,000 Subd. 4(f)2.3	
Private landowners	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership	\$10,000				
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation				\$34,000	
St. Paul Audubon Society	\$5,000				
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund-					\$94,374

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program					
Outdoor Heritage Fund-LSOHC					\$25,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attached.

IX. MAP(S): See attached.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than 2/1/2012, 8/1/2012, 2/1/2013, 8/1/2013 & 2/1/14. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resource

Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1					
Project Manager: Tom Lewanski					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: August 1, 2014					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget (2/1/14)	Revised Activity 1 Budget (8/1/14)	Amount Spent	Final Balance (8/1/14)	
BUDGET ITEM		Budget revision requested in 8/1/14 update report.			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	30,960.00	30,960.00	30,532.78	427.22	
Conservation Director: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. (approximately 84% salary & 16% benefits)	4,300.00	6,285.47	6,285.47	0	
Ecologists (2): Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. (approximately 83% salary & 17% benefits)	23,650.00	23,230.76	22,803.54	427.22	
Stewardship Coordinator: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 78% salary & 22% benefits)	4,670.00	959.27	959.27	0	
Volunteer Coordinator: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 80% salary & 20% benefits)	1,340.00	484.50	484.50	0	
Professional/Technical Contracts Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)	160,000.00	160,000.00	159,852.26	145.74	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags.</i>	910.08	910.08	910.08	0	
Plant material (native ecotype)	6,505.64	6,805.07	6,805.07	0	
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>mileage</i>	1,534.34	1,324.85	1,281.13	43.72	
COLUMN TOTAL	200,000.00	200,000.00	199,381.32	616.68	

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Restoration List**

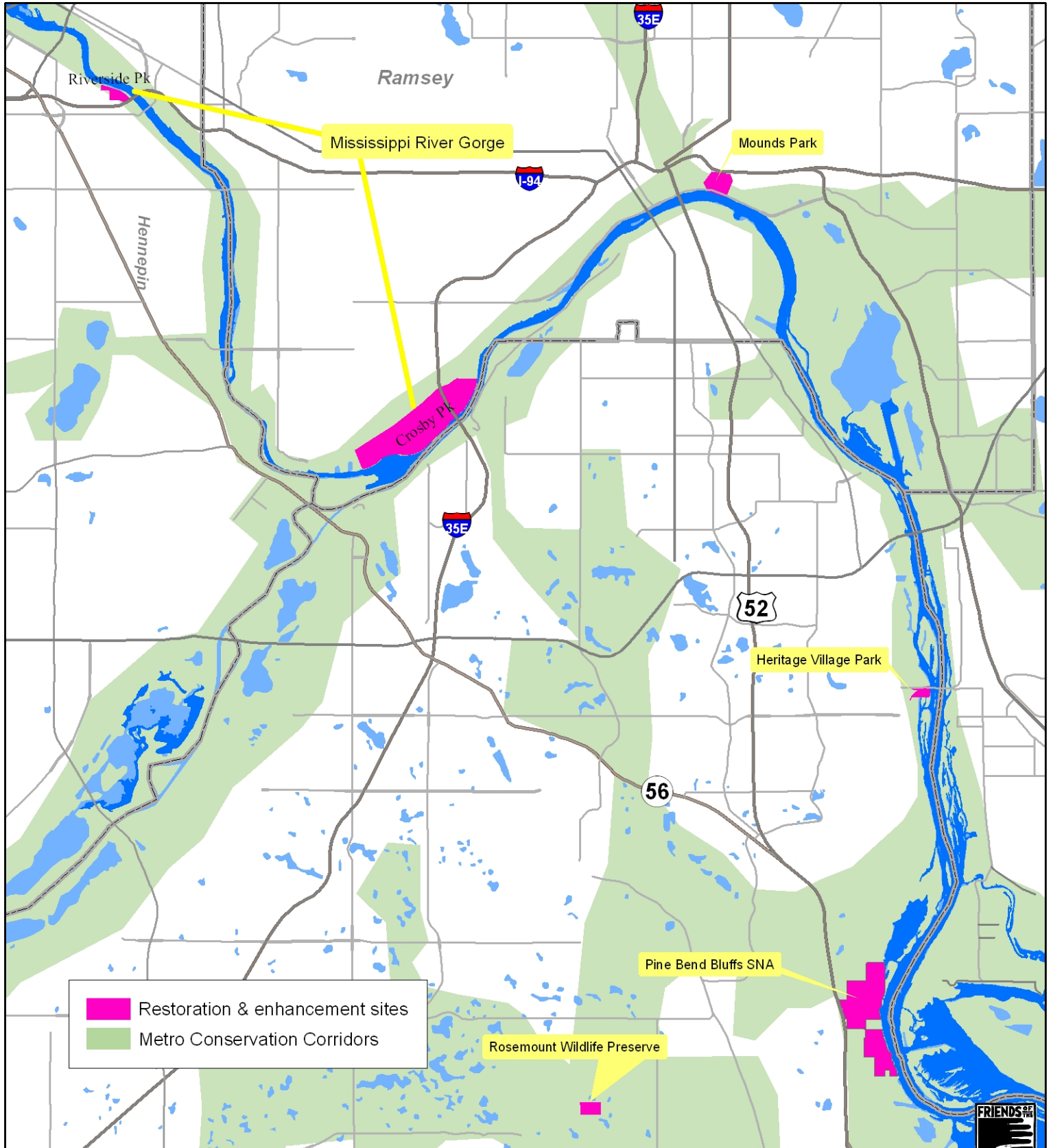
Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat
Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	Project status	
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y						
1	Geihar-Erick	518412.285	4949886.29	Prairie	Mississippi River bluffland above Vermillion River Bottoms.	Prairie restoration - site prep, prescribed burn, exotic plant control, seed/plant natives.	40	22+3+8=33	33
2	Gores Pool WMA (former Freitag property)	513718.809	4954686.17	Upland forest and prairie.	Mississippi River floodplain and corresponding uplands. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control. Mow prairie restoration area. Install native plants/seed.	80	40+4+4=48	48
3	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA	503193.226	4959757.6	Prairie	Rare natural community with rare species.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	30		
4	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	514145.039	4948705.08	Prairie	Rare natural community, including 14 rare species. Part of a local greenway.	Prescribed burns, remove trees & grind stumps, prepare soil, install seed, mow, exotic plant control.	140	17+1+45+23=86	86
5	Hastings SNA	513251.499	4952772.7	Floodplain forest & maple-basswood forest.	Diverse natural community with rare plant. Important bird habitat. Part of a local greenway.	Exotic plant control	40	37	37
6	C.P. Adams Park	44°43'51.15" N	92°50'01.68" W	Oak forest	Diverse natural community that is adjacent to Hastings SNA.	Exotic plant control	3.3	3	3
7	Heritage Village Park	498607.466	4967409.16	Floodplain forest	Mississippi River floodplain. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	10	5+8=13	13
8	Karpen	510580.133	4954749.46	Bluffland oak forest	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	5	5	5
9	Mississippi River Gorge	484629.932	4972938.81	Floodplain forest, wetland, upland forest, prairie	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	15	1	1
10	Mounds Park	495412.316	4977045.79	Bluff prairie	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	1		
11	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	497895.45	4959176.33	Upland forest and prairie.	Diverse and rare natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, prescribed burns, prep and seed prairie restoration.	60	17+10.7+30=58	58
12	Ravenna block greenway	518242.021	4943118.29	Oak forest and grassland	Contiguous forest within greenway, opportunity for prairie re-creation.	Invasive species management, prairie & savanna restoration- site prep and seeding.	60	27.6	27.6
13	Rosemount Wildlife preserve	491944.396	4957746.98	Prairie and woodland	Diverse natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	25	7.2+2.3+6=15.5	15.5
14	Wilmar	501095.223	4945510.49	Prairie	Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	40	27	27
15	Old Mill Park	44.72687° N	92.34754° W	Oak Savanna	rare natural community, rare plant and Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	7	9	9
							556.3	340.1	363.1

NOTES:

2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL
PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River
NORTHERN SITES



1:110,000

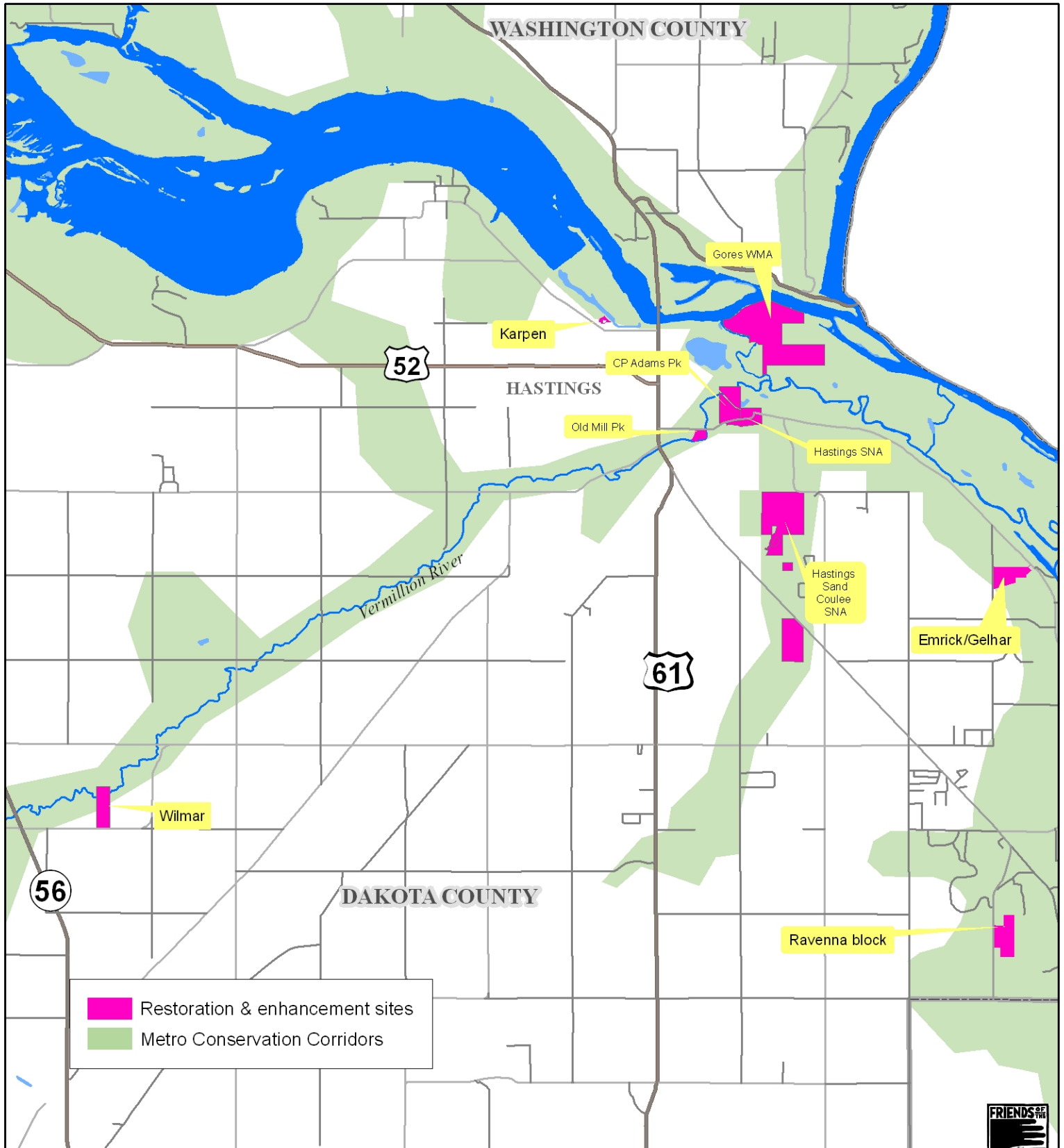
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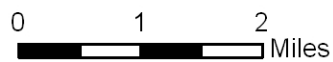
2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL
PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River.

SOUTHERN SITES



1:100,000



2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

Project Manager: Wiley Buck
Affiliation: Great River Greening
Address: 35 W Water St, Ste 201
City / State / Zip: St Paul, MN 55107
Telephone Number: (651) 665-9500
Email Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org
Web Address: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.3; M.L. 2014, Chapter 226, Section 2, Subdivision 19

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

Along with partners and volunteers, Greening undertook restoration projects to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance habitat quality, reconnect habitat corridors, and build connections with local communities. Significantly exceeding all of our goals, we:

- 1) restored/enhanced 191 acres of upland habitat and an additional 192 acres with leveraged non-state funds for a total of 383 acres restored,
- 2) restored/enhanced 0.26 mile of shoreland habitat and an additional 0.20 mile using leveraged non-state funds for a total of 0.46 miles of restored shoreland,
- 3) engaged nearly 2,500 volunteers in meaningful parts of these projects, including 700 youth.

Habitats included prairie, oak savanna, woodland, wetland, riparian, and black ash swamp. Sites hosted a total of 14 documented rare species (7 vertebrates, 1 invertebrate, and 6 plant species) (Battle Creek Park, Hidden Valley Park, Katherine Abbott Park, Lake St. Croix Beach, Pilot Knob Hill, Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), one easement property), and four native plant communities with biodiversity of statewide significance as rated by Minnesota County Biological Survey (Hidden Valley Park, Ike's Creek, Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), Pond Dakota Mission).

We restored 18 sites using methods such as native species plantings, prescribed burns, and mechanical removal and treatment of invasive species. We restored and de-fragmented habitat along the valleys and banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers (Heritage Village Park, Battle Creek Park, Pilot Knob Hill, Pond Dakota Mission, Ike's Creek, Valley Park) as well as our Wild and Scenic Rivers (Cedar Creek Conservation Area, Martin's Meadows, five easement properties), and restored prairie/savanna at a site historically connected to Lost Valley Prairie SNA (Central Corridor). We also restored habitat at several ecological cores (Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), Cedar Lake Farm, Katherine Abbott Park, Freeman Park).

Volunteers planted over 2,400 trees/shrubs and 27,000 forb/grass plugs, and received presentations from a Greening ecologist as part of their workday.

We leveraged a total of \$441,000 non-state funds for these projects.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2011, Feb 2012, July 2012, February 2013, July 2013, and spring 2014 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from about 5,000 to over 6,000.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> . Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from approximately 1,200 to approximately 1,500 visits per month.

A summary of results from our partnership with Metro Conservation Corridors was included in email marketing in January 2012, as part of our 2011 annual report, reaching over 5,000 subscribers. Approximately 300 hard copies of the annual report were also distributed.

Two press articles, complete with correct ENRTF acknowledgement, were released during the grant period.

- The Mendota Heights Patch reported in April 2012 on continued restoration at Pilot Knob Historic Site: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/4.23.12-Restoration-Continues-at-Pilot-Knob-Historic-Site-Mendota-Heights-MN-Patch.pdf> .
- The Isanti County News reported on a fall 2012 Greening volunteer event in the Wild and Scenic Rum River project area: <http://isanticountynews.com/2012/10/31/restoration-effort-preserves-20-acres-of-floodplain-forest-along-rum-river/>.

An additional five press articles, missing correct acknowledgement despite our efforts, disseminated information about the projects.

- The Bloomington Crow reported in April 2012 on a volunteer event focused on removing invasive species at Ike's Creek: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/4.27.12-Chamber-Community-Outreach-Committee-Pulls-Buckthorn-at-Ike-Bloomington-Crow.pdf>.
- The Pioneer Press reported on May 3, 2012 on an upcoming volunteer event to remove invasive species and planting prairie seeds at Pilot Knob Hill: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/5.3.12-Volunteers-at-Pilot-Knob-Mendota-Heights-Pioneer-Press.pdf>.
- The Mendota Heights Patch reported on May 8, 2012 on the same volunteer at Pilot Knob Hill, discussing the work to restore a prairie with a high biodiversity of native plant species: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/5.8.12-Pilot-Knob-Clean-up-Draws-Volunteers-Public-Officials-Mendota-Heights-MN-Patch.pdf>.
- The Sun Current reported in June 2012 on a volunteer event and the history of restoration at Ike's Creek: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/6.27.12-Bringing-new-life-to-a-Bloomington-Creek-Sun-Current.pdf>.
- The Path, a newsletter published by DNR Division of Parks and Trails for its employees, reported in November 2012 on a volunteer event at a DNR Wild and Scenic River easement along the Rum River. See page 4: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/12.11.12-DNR-Parks-and-Trails-Internal-Newsletter.pdf>.

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Status Update: 8/17/2015
Final Report: 8/17/2015
Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

Project Manager: Wiley Buck
Affiliation: Great River Greening
Address: 35 W Water St, Ste 201
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55107

Telephone Number: (651) 665-9500
Email Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org
Web Address: http://www.greatrivergreening.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Washington
Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	400,000
	Amount Spent \$:	398,479
	Balance \$:	1,523

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.3; M.L. 2014, Chapter 226, Section 2, Subdivision 19

Appropriation Language:

Carryforward: The availability of the appropriations for the following projects are extended to June 30, 2015: (3) Laws 2011, First Special Session chapter 2, article 3, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (i), Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VI; \$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - 2.3: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and serve as an avenue to connect residents with their local environment. In the end, long-term support for natural areas and their ongoing protection and management among community members will be the only way to safeguard these treasures through time. Great River Greening's efforts to build that connection through community volunteer events will play a key role in building that link.

Great River Greening will work with an array of local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals – as part of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership – to undertake a diverse array of restoration projects that serve to meet **our project goals** of: 1) reducing habitat fragmentation, 2) enhancing habitat quality, 3) reconnecting habitat corridors, and 4) building connections with local communities. **Our objectives** through this grant are to: 1) restore 121 acres of upland habitat, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds, 2) restore 0.18 mile of shoreland habitat, plus an additional 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds, and 3) engage 450 volunteers. We have identified 11 important restoration projects – based on criteria of ecological significance, partner commitment, opportunity, and community importance – that are poised for action during the grant timeline. These specific projects, listed in the Restoration List, are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, St. Croix Healthy Waters Campaign, collar counties, urban core, and State Wild & Scenic Rivers within the mapped Metro Corridors.

For each site, an ecological restoration and management plan will be made that is consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the restoration site. The plan will give consideration to factors such as soil, topography, geology, and other relevant factors that would provide for the best chance for long-term success of the restoration. The plan will include a timetable for implementing the restoration, identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how they will be financed, take advantage of the best available science, and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration.

For each project, an initial restoration evaluation will be provided at the completion of the appropriation, and another evaluation three years after the completion of the expenditure. Restorations will be evaluated relative to the state goals and standards in the restoration plan, current science, and, when applicable, the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. The evaluation shall determine whether the restoration is meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restoration, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations.

Private lands will be required to have a permanent conservation/scenic easement in effect. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists. In instances when leveraged match funds exceed our goal, Greening prefers to reinvest, to a level that is justified, in the original project area to augment, improve, and accelerate the restoration of those acres, before enlarging the project boundary to begin restoration of additional acres.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2012:

The majority of projects are on schedule for completion by 6/30/13. Some projects have required a longer planning phase (e.g. Cedar Lake Farm Shoreland Restoration) but are nevertheless projected for implementation by 6/30/13.

The Ike's Creek project is on schedule, including a fall 2011 volunteer event, with additional activities planned. However, there have been delays by the City of Bloomington in the signing the landowner agreement. Based on conversations with City staff, Greening is confident that the Agreement will be signed by early spring 2012; they have signed the same agreement for work at Pond Dakota Mission. Until we receive signature, we are not requesting any Trust Fund reimbursement, nor including the field accomplishments in our total.

One project that is not on schedule is the Battle Creek Bluffs restoration. Due to an unanticipated overhaul of the National Park Service's "Servicewide Comprehensive Call" grant program (N. Duncan, MNRRA, pers. comm.) the federal match is delayed until at least 10/1/12. While the Battle Creek proposal ranked top in the area NPS ranking, this project along with many others did not get funded at the federal level due to the abrupt overhaul.

The delay/absence of federal match will prevent us from reaching our original goals at Battle Creek. Greening is prepared to meet our overall acreage goals through a modified, smaller scale project at Battle Creek using county match, as well as three replacement projects: Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott Co.) Phase III; Freeman Park (Shorewood); and Bridgewater Park (Medina). In addition, we are proposing to add the public site Martin Meadows Park (Andover) to our project list, as it is in the same focus area as our Rum Wild and Scenic River project for protected private lands. With these additions to the project list, the acreage goals are projected to be met.

The loss of the MNRRA match is largely offset by greater than anticipated match for Pilot Knob Hill, match associated with proposed replacement projects, and addition of DNR Shorelands match at two Rum River projects.

Amendment Request (2/1/12)

We request to simplify Attachment A/Personnel by no longer tracking individual salaries and benefits. Benefits change with insurance rates and other factors; and personnel salaries can change and/or we can experience personnel turnover. While remaining transparent through our detailed submissions, including individual's rates and amount, to DNR for payment, we want to put all personnel into a single lump sum on Attachment A. Otherwise, managing individual personnel totals will result in an a large amount of administrative detail and effort, and restrict our flexibility for personnel assignments during field seasons.

Amendment Approved: 02/09/12

Project Status as of August 1, 2012:

The majority of projects are on schedule for completion by 6/30/13. Some projects have required a longer planning phase (e.g. Cedar Lake Farm Shoreland Restoration) but are nevertheless projected for implementation by 6/30/13. Spending will increase significantly with some intensive activity in fall 2012.

In order to reach our overall goals for Wild and Scenic River activities, we propose to undertake a 33.5 acre prairie restoration at Cedar Creek Conservation Area, an Anoka Co. Park on the Rum River. This project was previously included in our MeCC VII project list, but it is ready to move forward this year. Private lands projects in our Wild and Scenic River program, despite their merit, are not developing as quickly as this public land project.

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

We also propose to undertake the 4.5 acre Central Corridor Phase III prairie restoration project, which was also originally slated for the next phase of MeCC. This will replace the Bridgewater Park project which is not moving forward.

With the above revisions to our project list, we are projecting to complete over 150 acres restored/enhanced by LCCMR, which exceeds our acreage goals, and 0.18 mile of LCCMR restored shoreline, which meets our shoreline goals.

Amendment Request (08/01/2012)

Greening respectfully requests to shift \$17,000 from Result 2 Supplies to Result 2 Contracts. This is in anticipation of a large erosion control contract for the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park shoreline restoration; RFP is scheduled to go out in August.

Amendment Approved: 08/08/2012

Amendment Request (09/05/2012)

Greening respectfully request to add oak woodland enhancement at Valley Park in Mendota Heights to our project list. Valley Park is located in a tributary valley which connects to the Mississippi River Valley at Lilydale Regional Park. Enhancement work includes garlic mustard and buckthorn control in select portions of the park, releasing a multi-aged oak grove from the buckthorn infestation. The understory is depauperate of native species, and therefore the enhancement work will include seeding and plugging aggressive native understory species once the buckthorn clearing is complete.

No changes to Attachment A are associated with this request.

Amendment Approved: 09/06/2012

Project Status as of February 1, 2013:

Amendment Requests (02/01/2013)

Greening respectfully requests to make a midstream correction to our budget in a number of categories, and between Results, as detailed in Attachment A and as indicated in the strikeout and underline in the budget information below. These adjustments are necessary as the budgets and use of match funds are more fully determined on a project by project basis. In general, we are seeking: more for contracts, mileage, and volunteer events; a reduction in personnel and site prep supplies; and an overall shift of funds to Result 1.

Amendment approved: February 15, 2013.

Greening respectfully request a Work Plan amendment to take full advantage of 2013 fall seeding opportunities, and the 2013 growing season to perform such things as invasive species control and prairie establishment activities on recently seeded prairies. As indicated by the strikeout and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below we are proposing a project completion date of June 30, 2014, while intending to perform the large majority of work by June 30, 2013.

Amendment approved: February 15, 2013.

During the last six months, Greening's projects have advanced significantly. Activities well underway include forest and prairie enhancements on over 100 total acres, prairie seeding of 80 total acres, plug planting of over 1200 feet of shoreline, and utility pole removal completed at Pilot Knob Hill to defragment the savanna. A total of fourteen projects are underway, and several of them have expanded to additional acreage and activities. We are on track to exceed both our acreage and shoreline goals.

Project Status as of August 1, 2013:

One project is completed and remaining thirteen remain underway. Significant progress has been made on all projects in the last six months, ranging from prairie plantings and seedings, wetland restoration, forest enhancements, and invasive species control. A running total of over 150 Trust Fund acres and 0.28 mi of shoreline are Underway or Completed. Volunteers have been engaged in meaningful parts

of the activities including planting 1500 trees and shrubs at Cedar Creek Conservation Area, and over 13,000 forb and grass plugs at Cedar Lake Regional Park, Spring Lake Regional Park, Heritage Village Park, Pond Dakota Mission Park, and Pilot Knob Hill. Over 1,000 volunteers were engaged for over 3,000 hours, both at large Saturday events and a large number of smaller weekday events with corporate, school, and church groups.

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

Amendment Request (02/01/2014)

Greening respectfully requests to add select acres of Katherine Abbott Phase I to our list of projects. The bulk of Katherine Abbott Phase I is underway with the 2013 appropriation, but adding a portion of the project will allow for an additional six (6) acres to be enhanced, using funds that are available in this appropriation.

Greening also requests a number of budget changes to reflect actual and anticipated expenditures versus earlier estimates. These are:

1. Decreasing the Activity 1 "Personnel" budget by \$1,500 down to \$81,300, and decreasing Activity 2 "Personnel" budget by \$623 down to \$14,570.
2. Decrease "Contracts" budget category for Activity 2 by \$208 down to \$78,627
3. Correspondingly, increase "Supplies – seeds..." budget category for Activity 1 by \$1,000 up to \$65,900
4. Increase "Travel Expense" in Minnesota in Activity 1 by \$500 up to \$7,900 and in Activity 2 by \$831 up to \$2,131

Approved by LCCMR 2-26-14

We have a running total of 195 acres and 0.27 miles of shoreline restored/ enhanced, well on our way to exceed our goal of 121 acres and 0.18 mile of shoreline. With leveraged funds, we have an additional 158 acres and 0.22 miles of shoreline underway or complete, well on the way to exceed our goal of 146 acres and 0.14 mile of shoreline.

To date, over 2,400 volunteers have been engaged in meaningful parts of these projects, of which over 700 were youth, both at large Saturday events and a large number of smaller weekday events with corporate, civic, school, and church groups. Volunteers have planted over 2,400 trees and shrubs, and over 27,000 forb and grass plugs as well as receiving a roving presentation on the activity, the site, and other relevant topics of interest.

Amendment Request (06/27/2014)

Greening requests an extension of the Project Completion Date from June 30, 2014 to December 1, 2014 in order to allow for supplemental seeding, plugging and invasive species control through the full season and seed harvest season for natural community integrity and in particular pollinator habitat.

Amendment Approved: 07/02/14

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

We have a running total of 173 acres and 0.27 miles of shoreline restored/ enhanced, well on our way to exceed our goal of 121 acres and 0.18 mile of shoreline. With leveraged funds, we have an additional 155 acres and 0.19 miles of shoreline underway or complete, well on our way to exceed our goal of 146 acres and 0.14 mile of shoreline.

To date, over 2,400 volunteers have been engaged in meaningful parts of these projects, of which over 700 were youth, both at large Saturday events and a large number of smaller weekday events with corporate, civic, school, and church groups. Volunteers have planted over 2,400 trees and shrubs, and over 27,000 forb and grass plugs as well as receiving a roving presentation on the activity, the site, and other relevant topics of interest.

Amendment Request (08/01/2014)

Greening respectfully requests a number of budget changes to complete supplemental seeding/plugging and invasive species activities through December 1st, for habitat improvement at select project sites, and completion of 2011 restoration initial evaluations. We anticipate that labor, contracts, herbicide, and volunteer event supplies will come in under budget, and are seeking to shift more dollars to seeds and plugs, and travel.

Amendment Approved: 08/11/14

Amendment Request (11/21/14)

Greening respectfully requests an extension of the Project Completion Date from December 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The 2014 fall season came to an abrupt end due to early snow and cold temperatures, and we are now looking for improved conditions this winter and spring to complete our field activities.

Amendment Approved: 12/2/14

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

Upon updating numbers and polygons, we now anticipate a total of 175 acres and 0.27 miles of shoreline restored/ enhanced, well on our way to exceed our goal of 121 acres and 0.18 mile of shoreline. With leveraged funds, anticipate an additional 159 acres and 0.19 miles of shoreline restored, well on our way to exceed our goal of 146 acres and 0.14 mile of shoreline.

Over 2,400 volunteers were engaged in meaningful parts of these projects, of which over 700 were youth, both at large Saturday events and a large number of smaller weekday events with corporate, civic, school, and church groups. Volunteers planted over 2,400 trees and shrubs, and over 27,000 forb and grass plugs, and received a roving presentation on the activity, the site, and other relevant topics of interest.

Final Project Status, August 17, 2015:

Along with partners and volunteers, Greening undertook restoration projects to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance habitat quality, reconnect habitat corridors, and build connections with local communities. Significantly exceeding all of our goals, we:

- 1) restored/enhanced 191 acres of upland habitat and an additional 192 acres with leveraged non-state funds for a total of 383 acres restored,
- 2) restored/enhanced 0.26 mile of shoreline habitat and an additional 0.20 mile using leveraged non-state funds for a total of 0.46 miles of restored shoreline,
- 3) engaged nearly 2,500 volunteers in meaningful parts of these projects, including 700 youth.

Habitats included prairie, oak savanna, woodland, wetland, riparian, and black ash swamp. Sites hosted a total of 14 documented rare species (7 vertebrates, 1 invertebrate, and 6 plant species) (Battle Creek Park, Hidden Valley Park, Katherine Abbott Park, Lake St. Croix Beach, Pilot Knob Hill, Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), one easement property), and four native plant communities with biodiversity of statewide significance as rated by Minnesota County Biological Survey (Hidden Valley Park, Ike's Creek, Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), Pond Dakota Mission).

We restored 18 sites using methods such as native species plantings, prescribed burns, and mechanical removal and treatment of invasive species. We restored and de-fragmented habitat along the valleys and banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers (Heritage Village Park, Battle Creek Park, Pilot Knob Hill, Pond Dakota Mission, Ike's Creek, Valley Park) as well as our Wild and Scenic Rivers (Cedar Creek Conservation Area, Martin's Meadows, five easement properties), and restored prairie/savanna at a site historically connected to Lost Valley Prairie SNA (Central Corridor). We also

restored habitat at several ecological cores (Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), Cedar Lake Farm, Katherine Abbott Park, Freeman Park).

Volunteers planted over 2,400 trees/shrubs and 27,000 forb/grass plugs, and received presentations from a Greening ecologist as part of their workday.

We leveraged a total of \$441,000 non-state funds for these projects.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restoration and Enhancement of Upland Habitats

Description: We will restore 121 acres, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds (267 total acres) of upland habitat (forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie) through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing, direct hardwood seeding, and associated activities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 275,000
Amount Spent: \$ 273,546
Balance: \$ 1,454

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore 121 acres of upland habitat (forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie) through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing, direct hardwood seeding, and associated activities. Anticipated milestones include 65 ac Underway by 12/31/11; 121 ac Underway by 6/1/12; 121 ac >30% complete by 12/31/12.	6/30/15	\$ 275,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Over 50 acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and maintenance are underway. This is below our goal of 65 ac at this time, largely due to the delays with the Battle Creek Bluffs restoration project, but our final goals remain well within reach.

Central Corridor Phase II (13 Trust Fund acres, 26 total acres) is well underway with woody invasives removal including a 100-person volunteer event in fall 2011, and seeding of a fallow farm field.

The proposed modified Battle Creek project is aimed at a series of 3 seepage areas, containing some of the higher quality remnant vegetation in the park. Proposed activities include woody invasive removal, low-intensity hydrological and soil stabilization improvements (e.g. brush wattles), and dividing and transplanting understory plants to denuded areas. Larger scale hydrological restoration is not included. Two of these seep areas were in the same area that was covered in a Legacy Funds grant from Met Council, but seep enhancement was not included (Moriarty, Ramsey County Natural Resource Manager, pers. comm.). The northern seep is within the same area as the original Bluffs Restoration project.

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

Pilot Knob Hill Prairie Establishment included establishment mowing and invasive species control in the Phase II area, where a first burn is scheduled for spring 2013. The landowner was recently awarded a competitive National Trust for Historic Preservation grant, to bury the utility lines and replant. This will complete the defragmentation of the prairie, which is well underway with the removal and re-planting of a former road.

Four Wild and Scenic River projects on protected private land are well underway, totaling about 25 Trust Fund acres. These projects entail oak savanna reconstruction, and invasive species control in forested acres. Federal and private match is secured. Two of the Rum River projects have shoreline restoration funded by DNR Shorelands Program. Landowner outreach in the Cannon River WSR area outreach is well underway by our partners, gathering several positive responses.

Prairie, savanna and woodland establishment at Pond Dakota Mission began with strategic mowing, spraying of invasive weeds, and volunteer efforts to continue the removal of woody material from the restoration area, including a 100 person volunteer event in fall 2011.

Two acres of upland woody invasive buckthorn and Siberian elm removal were completed at Ike's Creek including a 97 person volunteer event, and is scheduled to continue in spring 2012. Acreage and amount spent are not included in this report (nor reimbursement requests) until the final agreement is reached with the City of Bloomington. On-site planning meetings with DNR Fisheries trout specialist and MN Valley NWR staff (the downstream landowner) were conducted.

Monitoring of 26 existing/former MeCC projects included site visits at 11 sites: Arcola Mills, Central Corridor I, Heritage Village City Park Phase I, Hidden Valley City Park, Lost Valley SNA, Indian Mound Regional Park, North Mississippi Regional Park, Pilot Knob Hill Phase I, Six Mile Creek, Spring Lake Park Reserve (Dakota Co.), and St. Croix Trail Rx Burn. We are currently developing our evaluation template. Maintenance is underway at two sites.

All financial numbers are as of 5 December 2011.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

Over 132 LCCMR acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and maintenance are currently underway, and we are on track to meet or exceed our original acreage goals. Over 30 more acres of restoration/enhancement projects are in an advanced development phase.

Central Corridor Phase II (13 Trust Fund acres, 26 total acres) is well underway with woody invasives removal including a 100-person volunteer event in fall 2011, and seeding of a fallow farm field.

The Battle Creek seeps project is underway, with the majority of field work to be completed this fall.

Pilot Knob Hill Prairie Establishment included a first burn in spring 2013. The site is on the list for burying of utility lines for de-fragmentation and historic vista, using matching funds by a National Trust for Historic Preservation grant. Invasive species control is being sustained through crew and volunteer work, including a small group that works on the site on a regular basis, and a public volunteer event in May.

Four Wild and Scenic River projects on protected private land are well underway. Landowner outreach continues on multiple fronts, but despite ours and our partners' efforts, we do not anticipate any projects developing in the Cannon River WSR for this MeCC phase. As an indirect result of our outreach efforts to private landowners, projects on public land were developed. This includes forest restoration, which began with buckthorn control at Andover's Martin's Meadows in the Rum River watershed; and prairie restoration contracted for fall 2012. The Cedar Creek Conservation Area project with Anoka Co. Parks is in the advanced development phase.

Prairie, savanna and woodland establishment at Pond Dakota Mission continued with strategic mowing, and herbaceous invasive control with Greening crew and Conservation Corps Minnesota, Youth Job Corps.

Additional upland invasive species control was conducted on the banks of Ike's Creek, including a 35 person private corporate volunteer event. Final agreement was reached with the City of Bloomington. On-site planning meetings with DNR Fisheries trout specialist and MN Valley NWR staff (the downstream landowner) were conducted.

Monitoring of 26 existing/former MeCC projects included site visits at 4 additional sites: Camp Waub-o-Jeeg, Afton State Park, Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve (Dakota Co), and River Park in Brooklyn Park for a total of 15 sites visited to date. Maintenance and enhancement activities are underway at six sites totaling 21 LCCMR acres.

Oak savanna restoration and forest enhancement is underway at Spring Lake Regional Park in Scott County, as is terrace forest enhancement at Freeman Park in Shorewood with buckthorn treatment with Greening crew and Conservation Corps Minnesota. Forest enhancement at Bridgewater Park in Medina is no longer moving forward as a project.

All financial numbers are as of 30 June 2012.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

Over 160 LCCMR acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and maintenance are currently underway, and we are on track to meet or exceed our original acreage goals of 121. In addition, restoration and enhancement of another 170 acres are underway with match, exceeding our original acreage goals of 146. This sums to over 330 total acres currently underway.

Central Corridor Phase II was expanded to include Phase III work area, and another 26 total acres were seeded to prairie in fall 2012. Establishment mowing occurred on the acres seeded in fall 2011.

The Battle Creek seeps project saw the completion of buckthorn control, forest understory planting, and log check dam and brush wattle installation.

Pilot Knob Hill Prairie Establishment, invasive species control is being sustained through crew and volunteer work, including a small group that works on the site on a regular basis. Defragmentation took a huge step forward with utility pole removal using a relatively large amount of matching funds by a National Trust for Historic Preservation grant that the City received. .

Four Wild and Scenic River projects on protected private land are well underway, and a fifth is being considered, which would be our first in the Cannon River WSR. These entail forest invasives control, forest tree planting with a volunteer event, and shoreline restoration with matching funds, and a prairie seeding planned for spring 2013. Two projects on public land in the WSR areas are well underway, with a 67 total acre prairie seeding at Cedar Creek Conservation Area, now expanding to include a spring tree and shrub volunteer planting in spring 2013, in adjacent acres; and site prep in advance of a spring 2013 prairie seeding at the Martin's Meadows project.

Prairie, savanna and woodland establishment at Pond Dakota Mission continued with strategic mowing, and herbaceous invasive control. A buckthorn control project in adjacent woodland is in the development phase.

Additional upland invasive species control was conducted on the banks of Ike's Creek. Partners now include DNR Fisheries and MN Valley NWR.

Oak savanna restoration and forest enhancement is underway at Spring Lake Regional Park in Scott County, with woody encroachment removal, site preparation for spring seeding, and planting of 30 oak trees by Greening crew and an 80 person volunteer event.

Terrace forest enhancement at Freeman Park in Shorewood with buckthorn treatment with Greening crew and Conservation Corps Minnesota is nearly complete.

Status as of August 1, 2013:

Over 150 Trust Fund acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and maintenance are currently underway, and we are on track to meet or exceed our original acreage goals of 121. The majority of projects are well advanced, and we are sustaining the invasive species control and supplemental efforts. Our Central Corridor project is being expanded to include local acorn planting. Our Wild and Scenic River project has seen some growth during this period, as expansion at one of the Rum River sites to include shoreline restoration is pending, and agreements have been reached for our first Cannon River project and is scheduled to begin within the next month.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

Our Wild and Scenic River: Cannon River project saw significant progress with a combination of invasive removal by contractor and a volunteer event, as we continue to enhance this forest. DNR Shorelands program has funded adjacent shoreline restoration. The savanna restoration at Spring Lake Park is nearly complete with a 30 acre seedling of the understory layer. Establishment mowing was conducted at the Central Corridor prairie restoration areas.

At Martin's Meadows, the prairie was seeded and red cedar woody encroachment as well as buckthorn was removed from the site.

Establishment of the prairie seeding and tree plantings continued at Cedar Creek Conservation Area. At Valley Park, buckthorn control and seeding efforts continued in the oak forest area. At Pilot Knob Hill, seeding and oak grove planting continued, engaging school groups and other volunteers.

We have completed site visits to 26 projects. Interns were engaged in the fall to visit and photograph several of these project sites employing a new generation of hand-held GPS units which geo-reference photographs.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Buckthorn removal at Katherine Abbot Park SE Unit was completed, and native plugging planned.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Additional buckthorn control was conducted at Martin's Meadows and Wild and Scenic Rivers - Rum, based on the field evaluations, improving the timing of the work for easier identification and mobility. Native plugging was completed in select cut areas at Katherine Abbot Park SE Unit.

Plans for supplemental seeding/plugging, with an emphasis on improving pollinator habitat, have been set for dormant season and/or spring seeding/plugging. Plans for further site visit evaluations are being made.

Final Report Summary, August 17, 2015:

Over the course of the grant period, Great River Greening restored:

- 191 acres of upland habitat with Trust Fund dollars, exceeding our goal of 121 acres
- an additional 192 acres of upland habitat using leveraged non-state funds, exceeding our goal of 146 acres
- a total of 383 acres.

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

At the conclusion of the grant, all sites were signed and supplemental seeding and plugging completed at several sites with an emphasis on improving pollinator habitat.

Over 2,000 volunteers contributed to restoration work on upland habitats, including over 500 youth. Volunteers planted over 4,800 forbs and grasses, and over 2,200 trees and shrubs.

At Central Corridor Phase II and III, Greening restored prairie-savanna through removal of woody invasives, seeding of a fallow farm field, and prescribed fire. Undesirable vegetation cover was reduced to close to 5%. The project was expanded to include seeding a Phase III work area to prairie in fall 2012, adding 26 total acres. Establishment mowing was conducted at all Central Corridor prairie restoration areas. Supplemental seeding was conducted in spring 2015 with an emphasis on improving pollinator habitat. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 28 acres and an additional 22 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

The Battle Creek Regional Park (Seeps Portion) project targeted a series of 3 seepage areas containing some of the higher quality remnant vegetation in the park. Activities included woody invasive removal, low-intensity hydrological and soil stabilization improvements (e.g. brush wattles), and forest understory planting. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 6 acres and an additional 1 acre through leveraged non-state funds.

At Pilot Knob Hill Phase II prairie establishment, invasive species control work, seeding, and oak grove planting was completed by the Greening crew and volunteers, including a small group that works on the site regularly. A prescribed burn was completed in 2013, and de-fragmentation took a huge step forward with utility pole removal using matching funds from a National Trust for Historic Preservation grant that the City received. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 1 acre and 14 additional acres through leveraged non-state funds.

To help preserve the natural quality of the Rum, Cannon, and St. Croix Rivers, Greening completed five projects on private lands protected by easements: three DNR Wild and Scenic River Easements (27 acres), one Minnesota Land Trust Rum River Easement (7 acres), and one Standing Cedars Conservancy St. Croix WSR Easement (0.5 acres). Work included: oak grove tree planting and prairie seeding; invasive species control in forested areas; and shoreline restoration on two of the sites.

At Martin's Meadows Open Space (Andover), prairie and wetland habitats were restored and a slope stabilized. Prairie habitat was restored through site preparation followed by seeding. A shrub wetland complex was restored through removing buckthorn. One acre of slope was stabilized through habitat replanting and seeding. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 11 acres and an additional 2 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area (Anoka Co Parks - Oak Grove and Andover), prairie and oak savanna habitats were restored through prairie seeding, planting of bur oak trees, and control of invasive species. Approximately 1500 small trees and shrubs were planted and caged by volunteers, and 2500 planted by landowner. Supplemental plugging was conducted in spring 2015 with an emphasis on improving pollinator habitat. The site has displayed exemplary germination of forbs and grasses in all but the wettest areas. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 43 acres and an additional 36 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Pond Dakota Mission, prairie, savanna, and woodland restoration work was conducted, controlling invasive species and expanding native vegetation communities. Work involved strategic mowing, spraying of invasive weeds, and removal of woody material. Work was conducted by the Greening crew, Conservation Corps Minnesota, Youth Job Corps, and volunteers. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 2 acres, and an additional 4 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

At Ike's Creek, we restored/thinned the canopy to a woodland structure and removed invasive shrubs. Herbaceous seeding and plugging into the denuded ground resulted in approximately 80% coverage consisting of a mix of early successional native and non-native herbaceous species, with the native species currently becoming dominant by early summer. Several volunteer events were conducted. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 10 acres and an additional 10 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

Monitoring of 26 existing MeCC projects; Maintenance, Enhancement, Upgrades on Select Sites as Needed: Greening completed site visits to 26 projects and conducted maintenance work at six sites. Several project site visits included photographs by interns, employing a new generation of hand-held GPS units which geo-references photographs. We conducted maintenance work at:

- Arcola Mills: garlic mustard control
- Afton Forest – For the Birds (Afton State Park): provided materials for the installation of fencing to protect a sample of tree plantings
- Central Corridor Phase I: controlled burning, mowing, and invasive weed management/maintenance
- Hidden Valley City Park: control of herbaceous and woody invasive species
- Lake St. Croix Beach: prescribed burn, control of woody vegetation
- Pilot Knob Phase I: sustained invasives control

Acreage of upland habitat maintained: 18 acres and an additional 22 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Spring Lake Regional Park Phase III (Scott County), oak savanna and forest habitats were restored. After removal of woody encroachment, mowing, and prescribed burns, 30 oak trees and approximately 800 forbs/grasses were planted with help from volunteers. The savanna understory was subsequently seeded using 'multiple seed rains' technique). Acreage of upland habitat restored: 21 acres and an additional 19 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Freeman Park (Shorewood), terrace forest enhancement was completed with treatment and removal of buckthorn by the Greening crew and Conservation Corps Minnesota Youth Job Corps, with graminoid seeding in the upland area. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 7 acres and an additional 7 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Valley Park (Mendota Heights), oak woodland and forest target communities were restored through buckthorn control and seeding and plugging of native graminoid species. Work was completed by the Greening crew, Conservation Corp of Minnesota, a contractor, and volunteers. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 2 acres and an additional 5 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

At Katherine Abbott Park Phase I – SE sub unit (Mahtomedi), restoration was completed in the southeast section of the forest (with the majority of phase I included in the 2013 appropriation). Non-native invasive shrub coverage was greatly reduced, non-native invasive garlic mustard was contained, and native graminoids promoted through plugging and seeding. Acreage of upland habitat restored: 6 acres and an additional 2 acres through leveraged non-state funds.

Increased monitoring led to improved feedback and greater information for guiding restoration work. Greening has adopted the use of hand-held GPS units that provide geo-referenced photographs, which can then be converted to waypoints by MnDNR freeware, for use in ArcMap GIS software. This procedure is Greening's new standard as we are finding it easy to use, affordable, and quite informative being able to view photos located on a map along with when they were taken. Monitoring confirmed that sustained invasive control continues to be the primary challenge to restoration; to supplement the maintenance commitment of project site landowners, our continued engagement of community

members, and in particular the large number of youth during this allocation, we feel has the potential to be part of the long term solution to sustained invasive control and restoration maintenance (among other benefits).

ACTIVITY 2: Restoration and Enhancement of Wetland/Shoreline Habitats

Description: We will restore 2 acres of wetland habitat and 0.18 mile of shoreline, plus an additional 1 ac and 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds (3 ac and 0.32 mile total), through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 125,000
Amount Spent: \$ 124,933
Balance: \$ 67

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore 2 acres of wetland habitat and 0.18 mile of shoreline through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities. Anticipated milestones include 0.18 mi shoreline planted and seeded by 12/31/11.	6/30/14	\$ 125,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

The full 0.18 mi and 2 acres of habitat restoration and enhancement are underway in the planning stages.

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, intensive planning and scheduling has occurred. Using matching funds, engineering services for signed plans, soil sampling, permitting, and construction oversight of re-grading, have been contracted. Work is scheduled to begin in spring 2012.

At Heritage Village Park, all work is scheduled and will begin in spring 2012.

All financial numbers are as of 5 December 2011.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

The full 0.18 mi and 2 acres of habitat restoration and enhancement are underway.

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, the shoreline restoration plan has been drafted and approved by the Helena Township (LGU) and Army Corp as part of wetland/shoreline permitting. MN DNR has completed the 60-day public comment process and will be issuing their permit. Advanced draft of erosion control plan has been written with Scott County, for submittal to PCA, for an erosion control RFP target release date in August. A large volunteer shoreline planting event is scheduled for fall 2012.

At Heritage Village Park, wetland restoration is well underway, with invasive species spraying and a controlled burn in spring 2012 to prepare the site for seeding and planting in the fall of 2012.

All financial numbers are as of 30 June 2012.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

A total of 0.27 LCCMR miles of shoreline restoration is currently underway, and we are on track to exceed our original shoreline goals of 0.18. Restoration of another 0.19 miles is underway with match, exceeding our original goals of 0.14 mile. This sums to nearly a half mile of shoreline restoration currently underway, with plans for additional restoration.

Channel reconfiguration, seeding, and lakeshore plugging with volunteers were completed at our shoreline project at Cedar Lake Farm Regional park.

Burning, spraying, regarding, and seeding were completed at our shoreline/wetland project at Heritage Village Park.

Status as of August 1, 2013:

Establishment and supplemental seeding/plugging were the activities at our two wetland/shoreline sites over the past six months essentially consisted of establishment, including invasive species control, and supplemental seeding/plugging on the shorelines and wetland.

A total of 2 Trust Fund acres and 0.28 Trust Fund miles of shoreline are well underway.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

At both Cedar Lake Regional Park and Heritage Village Park, establishment of the shoreline restorations was sustained with spot treatments and monitoring.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Supplemental seeding at Heritage Village Park was planned during this period.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Budget figures were adjusted; we are now showing a remaining balance of \$112 for Result 2, instead of \$0 reported earlier.

Final Report Summary, August 17, 2015:

Over the course of the grant period, Great River Greening restored a total of 0.26 miles of shoreland habitat with Trust Fund dollars, exceeding our goal of 0.18 miles. Using leveraged non-state funds, Greening restored an additional 0.20 mile of shoreland habitat, exceeding objectives of 0.15 miles, for a total of 0.46 miles of shoreland. At the conclusion of the grant, all sites were signed.

Nearly 500 volunteers contributed to restoration work on shoreland habitats, including nearly 200 youth. Volunteers planted over 22,000 forbs and grasses, and over 161 trees and shrubs.

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park shoreline restoration, Greening's work during this phase included shoreline restoration and the creation of a wetland/prairie complex. This project is part of a larger engineered plan to create an enhanced lake access to coincide with the long term environmental education goals of the site. Volunteers planted approximately 4,000 native plugs and 35 shrubs. Greening also oversaw establishment maintenance which included mowing and exotic species treatment. Shoreland habitat restored: 0.11 mile plus an additional 0.11 mile through leveraged non-state funds.

Restoration project at Heritage Village Park wetland and shoreline diversified native vegetation and habitat in wet prairie and wetland areas. Work involved mowing, treatment of invasive species and weeds, prescribed burning, seeding, and supplemental planting of shrubs, grasses, and wild flowers by volunteers. Miles of shoreland restored: 0.15 mile and an additional 0.09 mile through leveraged non-state funds.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Project results will be shared via periodic reports to landowner partners and other funding partners, as well as the larger Metro Corridors partnership.

Great River Greening will periodically distribute information about the program through our e-postcard, 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailings, donor mailings and communications (including newsletter and annual report), at volunteer restoration events, and through our website www.greatrivergreening.org. We reach over 3,700 people through our database.

Status as of February 1, 2012:

Status as of August 1, 2012:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to over 5,000 subscribers in July 2011, Feb 2012, and July 2012 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> which receives over 1,200 visits per month.

A summary of results from our partnership with Metro Conservation Corridors was included in email marketing in January 2012, as part of our 2011 annual report, reaching over 5,000 subscribers. Currently, 300 hard copies of the annual report are also being distributed.

Status as of February 1, 2013:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results are planned for distribution to over 5,000 subscribers in February 2013 and July 2013 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> which receives over 1,200 visits per month.

The Isanti County News reported on a fall 2012 Greening volunteer event in the Wild and Scenic Rum River project area, complete with correct acknowledgement language, on October 31. The link is: <http://isanticountynews.com/2012/10/31/restoration-effort-preserves-20-acres-of-floodplain-forest-along-rum-river/>

Status as of August 1, 2013:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were distributed to over 5,000 subscribers in February 2013 and July 2013 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> which receives over 1,200 visits per month.

In late July, the Pioneer Press featured an article on the conservation grazing activities at Pilot Knob Hill, complete with correct acknowledgement language. The link is: http://www.twincities.com/breakingnews/ci_23732772/horses-chew-grass-its-conservation-grazing-latest-new,

Status as of February 1, 2014:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were distributed to over 6,000 subscribers in advance of our spring 2014 event season.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors program is on our website at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/what-we-do/metro-area/> which receives over 1,200 visits per month.

A feature on our website about the upcoming Katherine Abbott Project and spring volunteer event can be found at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/katherine-abbott-spring-2014/>. The press release about the Katherine Abbott project going to major media venues and community newsletters will include acknowledgment of Trust Fund contributions.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors program is on our website at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/what-we-do/metro-area/> which receives an average of 1,500 visits per month.

While a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park was held in the spring of 2014, it was ultimately contained to the areas enhanced under the 2013 appropriation only.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors program is on our website at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/what-we-do/metro-area/> which receives an average of 1,500 visits per month.

While a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park was held in the fall of 2014, it was ultimately contained to the areas enhanced under the 2013 appropriation only.

Final Report Summary, August 17, 2015:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2011, Feb 2012, July 2012, February 2013, July 2013, and spring 2014 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from about 5,000 to over 6,000.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/>. Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from approximately 1,200 to approximately 1,500 visits per month.

A summary of results from our partnership with Metro Conservation Corridors was included in email marketing in January 2012, as part of our 2011 annual report, reaching over 5,000 subscribers. Approximately 300 hard copies of the annual report were also distributed.

Two press articles, complete with correct ENRTF acknowledgement, were released during the grant period.

- The Mendota Heights Patch reported in April 2012 on continued restoration at Pilot Knob Historic Site: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/4.23.12-Restoration-Continues-at-Pilot-Knob-Historic-Site-Mendota-Heights-MN-Patch.pdf> .
- The Isanti County News reported on a fall 2012 Greening volunteer event in the Wild and Scenic Rum River project area: <http://isanticountynews.com/2012/10/31/restoration-effort-preserves-20-acres-of-floodplain-forest-along-rum-river/>.

An additional five press articles, missing correct acknowledgement despite our efforts, disseminated information about the projects.

- The Bloomington Crow reported in April 2012 on a volunteer event focused on removing invasive species at Ike’s Creek: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/4.27.12-Chamber-Community-Outreach-Committee-Pulls-Buckthorn-at-Ike-Bloomington-Crow.pdf>.
- The Pioneer Press reported on May 3, 2012 on an upcoming volunteer event to remove invasive species and planting prairie seeds at Pilot Knob Hill: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/5.3.12-Volunteers-at-Pilot-Knob-Mendota-Heights-Pioneer-Press.pdf>.
- The Mendota Heights Patch reported on May 8, 2012 on the same volunteer at Pilot Knob Hill, discussing the work to restore a prairie with a high biodiversity of native plant species: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/5.8.12-Pilot-Knob-Clean-up-Draws-Volunteers-Public-Officials-Mendota-Heights-MN-Patch.pdf>.
- The Sun Current reported in June 2012 on a volunteer event and the history of restoration at Ike’s Creek: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/6.27.12-Bringing-new-life-to-a-Bloomington-Creek-Sun-Current.pdf>.
- The Path, a newsletter published by DNR Division of Parks and Trails for its employees, reported in November 2012 on a volunteer event at a DNR Wild and Scenic River easement along the Rum River. See page 4: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/12.11.12-DNR-Parks-and-Trails-Internal-Newsletter.pdf>.

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 88,971	Benefit rates subject to change with change in ins. premiums and 401k participation. Wiley Buck, Project Manager/ Restoration Ecologist, \$11,600 (29% benefit) 10% FTE; Todd Rexine, Stephen Thomforde. Ecologists. \$17,900 (14% and 24% benefit) 15% FTE; Wayne Ostlie, Dir of Conservation Programs \$2,750 (8% benefit) 4 % FTE; William Smith, Director of Finance \$4500 (24% benefit) 6 % FTE; Julia Wells, Administrative Assistant \$700 (20% benefit) 24% FTE; Sean Wickhem, Field Coordinator \$26,300 (16% benefit) 62% FTE; Restoration Technicians incl. Seasonal Burn Crew \$28,300 (8% benefit) 94% FTE; Jen Kader, Community Engagement Manager \$5,700 (15% benefits) 11 % FTE
Service Contracts	\$ 174,987	Contracts with restoration vendors for prairie reconstruction, direct hardwood seeding, mowing, tree removal, tree planting, phosphorous trap installation, earthmoving/excavation, burning, etc. Vendors TBD upon bidding process; bidders list will include MCC.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 108,947	Herbicides; Equipment fuel, lubes, and replacement parts; Chainsaw safety supplies (Personal Protective Equipment). Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protection

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

Capital Equipment over \$3,500:	\$ -0-	n/a
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 10,292	
Other:	\$ 16,803	Volunteer Event Supplies: Tents/tables/chairs rentals; portable toilet rentals; overnight security; granola bars/juice/water/fruit/sandwiches; safety glasses and work gloves. Burn permit fees.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 400,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: n/a

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: n/a

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.3 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Scott WMO	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreline Restoration
Cargill Global Partnership Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreline Restoration and Freeman Park
Ramsey County Parks	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Battle Creek
South Washington WD	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	Central Corridor Phase II; Phase I Establishment.
City of Inver Grove Heights	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	Heritage Village Park Wetland and Shoreline Restoration
City of Mendota Heights	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Valley Park Oak Woodland Enhancement: Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, and modest seeding/plugging
Aggregate Industries	\$ 500	\$ 500	Valley Park
Harris Mechanical	\$ 500	\$ 500	Valley Park
City of Mendota Heights	\$ 65,800	\$ 65,800	Pilot Knob Hill Phase II
Cargill Corporation	\$ 500	\$ 500	Pilot Knob Hill Phase II
Dakota County Farm and Natural Areas Program	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	Pilot Knob Hill Phase II
City of Bloomington	\$ 42,746	\$ 42,746	1) Pond Dakota Mission Establishment 2) Ike's Creek
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Rum River Wild and Scenic River Easement Restorations
Private Landowners w/ Easements	\$ 6,850	\$ 6,850	Rum, Cannon, St. Croix WSR Easement Restorations
Arcola Mills Historic Foundation	\$ 500	\$ 500	Arcola Mills Historic Foundation Maintenance
City of Lake St. Croix Beach	\$ 700	\$ 700	St. Croix Recreational Trail Prairie Burn

MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

City of Savage	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	Hidden Valley Park dry hill prairie Maintenance
City of Andover	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Martin's Meadows. Also 15K in-kind for erosion control
Scott County	\$ 44,000	\$ 44,000	Spring Lake Regional Park
MN Valley Electric Trust	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Spring Lake Regional Park
City of Shorewood	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	Freeman Park
Anoka Co. Parks	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	Cedar Creek Conservation Area, (cash and in-kind)
Viking Gas	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Rum River Shoreline planning
US FWS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Rum River Shoreline/Upland planning
City of Mahtomedi	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	Katherine Abbott Park restoration
State			
DNR Shorelands	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	Rum River Shoreline Restoration planning
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 451, 796	\$ 451, 796	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project partners include: Anoka County Parks; City of Andover; City of Bloomington; City of Inver Grove Heights; City of Lake St. Croix Beach; City of Mahtomedi; City of Savage; City of Shorewood; Minnesota DNR Wild & Scenic Rivers Program; Minnesota Land Trust; City of Mendota Heights; National Park Service; Ramsey County Parks; Scott County Parks; Scott Watershed Management Organization; and South Washington Watershed District.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The need and opportunities for restoration in project areas will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of climate change, increasing development pressures, and other threats. Great River Greening – as a non-profit conservation organization – is committed to working with our partners into the future to identify financial resources to manage their lands where these investments have been placed. While landowner partners must agree to manage their lands over the long term, where appropriate, and where the need exists, we envision approaching ENRTF to be *one of several* funding streams to that end. ENRTF funding helps to ensure that we actively guide the long term adaptive management of the site.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2003 or FY 2004-05	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010
ENRTF	\$ 124,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 111,000	\$ 155,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

See Restoration List attachment.

IX. MAP(S):

See Map attachment.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

n/a

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, and February 1, 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2011 Projects								
Project Title: MeCC6-2.3: Restoring our Lands and Waters								
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 400,000								
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet								
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable								
2011 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget	Amount Spent 6/30/15	Balance 6/30/15	Result 2 Budget	Amount Spent 6/30/15	Balance 6/30/15	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE 6/30/15
BUDGET ITEM	Restoration and Enhancement of Upland Habitats			Restoration and Enhancement of Wetland/Shoreline Habitats				
PERSONNEL: benefits subject to change with change in ins. premiums and 401k participation.	\$ 76,861	\$ 76,861	\$ -	\$ 12,110	\$ 12,110	\$ -	\$ 88,971	\$ -
Wiley Buck, Project Manager/ Restoration Ecologist, \$21,100 (29% benefit) 36% FTE								
Todd Rexine, Stephen Thomforde. Ecologists. \$32,600 (14% and 24% benefit) 56% FTE								
Wayne Ostlie, Dir of Conservation Programs \$5,000 (8% benefit) 8% FTE								
William Smith, Director of Finance \$8,200 (24% benefit) 10% FTE								
Julia Wells, Administrative Assistant \$1200 (20% benefit) 4% FTE								
Sean Wickhem, Field Coordinator \$47,800 (16% benefit) 112% FTE								
Restoration Technicians incl. Seasonal Burn Crew \$51,500 (8% benefit) 170% FTE								
Jen Kader Community Engagement Manager \$10,400 (15% benefits) 20% FTE								
Contracts								
Other contracts Contracts with restoration vendors for prairie reconstruction, direct hardwood seeding, mowing, tree removal, tree planting, phosphorous trap installation, earthmoving/excavation, burning, etc. Vendors TBD upon bidding process; bidders list will include MCC.	\$ 96,024	\$ 96,024	\$ -	\$ 78,963	\$ 78,963	\$ -	\$ 174,987	\$ -
Supplies (list specific categories)								\$ -
Site prep supplies: Herbicides; Equipment fuel, lubes, and replacement parts; Chainsaw safety supplies (Personal Protective Equipment)	\$ 4,215	\$ 4,215	\$ -	\$ 523	\$ 523	\$ -	\$ 4,738	\$ -
Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protector	\$ 73,500	\$ 72,924	\$ 576	\$ 30,709	\$ 30,709	\$ -	\$ 104,209	\$ 576
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ 9,011	\$ 8,351	\$ 660	\$ 1,281	\$ 1,281	\$ -	\$ 10,292	\$ 660
Other								
Volunteer Event Supplies: Tents/tables/chairs rentals; portable toilet rentals; overnight security; granola bars/juice/water/fruit/sandwiches; safety glasses and work gloves.	\$ 15,389	\$ 15,171	\$ 218	\$ 1,389	\$ 1,347	\$ 42	\$ 16,778	\$ 260
Burn Permit Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
COLUMN TOTAL	\$275,000	\$273,546	\$1,454	\$125,000	\$124,933	\$67	\$400,000	\$1,521

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Final Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: MeCC VI-2.3: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck

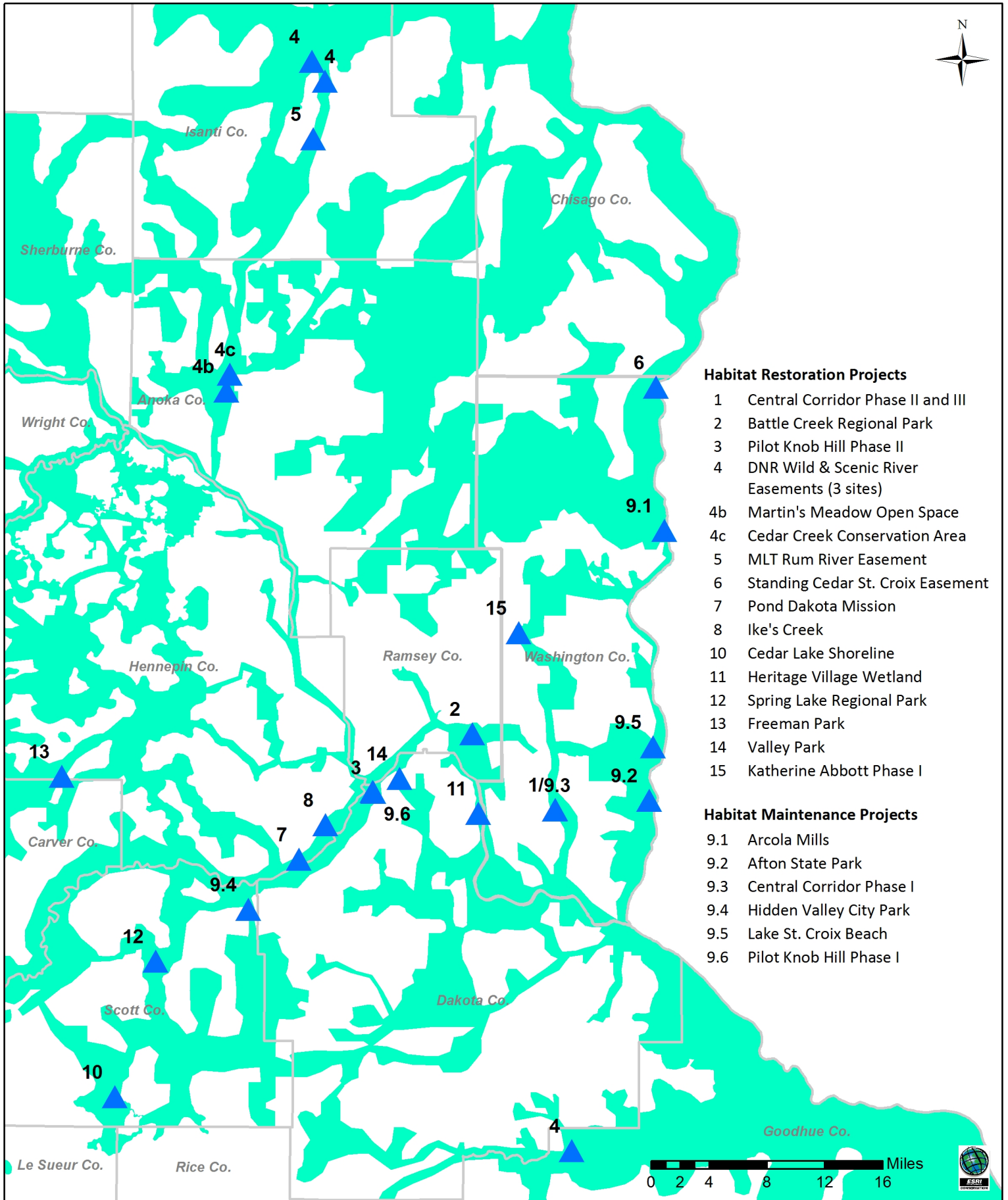
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y						
1	Central Corridor (aka South Washington) Phase II and III	-92.909	44.864	Prairie	Expand Prairie Remnant; shares corridor with Lost Valley SNA	Woody invasive removal, seeding a fallow farm field, prescribed fire, and seed planting.	28		Completed
2b	Battle Creek Regional Park - Seeps Portion	-93.027	44.938	Three seep areas	Some higher quality native vegetation including skunk cabbage, marsh marigolds, and robust forest understorey	Buckthorn cut and log dams installed. With youth group, plugs planted, and brush wattles installed.	6		Completed
3	Pilot Knob Hill Phase II	-93.168	44.881	Prairie, Oak Savanna	SGCN priority location and ecosystem; connected to Ft Snelling State Park on Minn. River	Utility poles removed w/ lg match and disturbed areas seeded and planted; 12 oaks planted; inv spp control sustained.	1		Completed
4	DNR Wild and Scenic River Easements: Rum, Cannon	Rum: M)-93.235298 P)-93.259201 Cannon: CB)-92.888	Rum: M)45.59479 P)45.614101 Cannon: CB)44.5204	Riparian, Forest, Prairie, Savanna, Woodland, Wetland Forest enhancement, volunteer event	WSR contain over 500 miles of fish and wildlife habitat and MCBS native plant communities of high diversity.	Restorations and enhancements above and beyond easement requirements: M) Forest invasives removal and planting, shoreline restoration; P) oak savanna reconstruction; burn, pr seeding, oak planting. CB) Forest enhancement.	27		M) 21.8 ENRTF ac Completed P) 0.5 ENRTF ac Completed CB) 4.4 ENRTF ac Completed
4b	Martin's Meadows Open Space (Andover)	-93.373497	45.2826	Rum River Shoreline, including Forest and Ash Swamp.	Adjacent to Cedar Creek Conservation Area; across river from Rum River Central Regional Park.	Seeded prairie; buckthorn control; slope stabilized through habitat replanting and seeding.	11		Completed

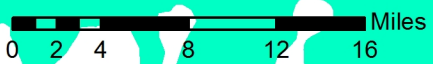
4c	Cedar Creek Conservation Area (Anoka Co Parks - Oak Grove and Andover)	-93.372902	45.298698	550 ac oak woodland, wetland, forest, and ag fields at confluence of Rum and Cedar Rivers. In cluster of protected land of ecological significance.	Adjacent to Maratin's Meadows; across river from Rum River Central Regional Park.	Mixed height Prairie Reconstruction for wildlife habitat; 4000 small savanna trees planted by volunteers/landowner. Supplemental plugging.	43		Completed
5	Minn Land Trust Rum River Easement	L) -93.253998	L) 45.535	Riparian, Forest, Prairie, Savanna, Woodland, Wetland	High quality forest on shore of Rum River	Restorations and enhancements above and beyond easement requirements: Woody invasive removal.	7		Completed
6	Standing Cedars Conservancy St. Croix WSR Easement	-92.766197	45.285999	St Croix River Corridor	St. Croix contains a high density of rare species and MCBS native plant communities of high diversity. 1)Restoration of portion of large block of protected land.	Oak grove planting per pre-settlement vegetation.	0.5		Completed
7	Pond Dakota Mission Prairie Establishment	-93.287	44.808	Prairie, Oak Savanna, Woodland	Part of Minnesota River Valley; connected to NWR land.	Establishment mowing, invasive species control, removal of woody material.	2		Completed
8	Ike's Creek	-93.236	44.848	Wooded Ravine; spring-fed stream supporting trout	MCBS forest of moderate diversity, and buffer zones. Rare metro stream with trout	Upland restoration through invasive species removal and planting of native vegetation with emphasis on erosion reduction.	10		Completed
9	Monitoring of 26 existing MeCC projects; Maintenance, Enhancement, Upgrades on Select Sites as Needed.	various	various	prairie, prairie reconstruction, forest enhancement	MCBS quality dry hill prairie with rare species; prairie in corridor with Lost Valley SNA; high diversity forest	Invasives control; Prairie establishment; prairie burn; fencing of seedlings.	18		Site visits completed on 26 sites and maintenance on 6 sites.
10	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreland Restoration	-93.544	44.576	Lakeshore	Improved fish and wildlife habitat; water quality	Wetland area seeded, ~9000 plugs in shoreline, w/ vols. Channel reconfiguration into wetland.	1	0.11	Completed
11	Heritage Village Park Wetland and Shoreland Restoration	-93.027	44.799	Lakeshore	Improved fish and wildlife habitat; water quality. Miss River flyway.	Supplemental vol planting, inv control; Site prep and regrading completed; Volunteers seed, installed erosion fabric, planted ~4,000 plugs and 35 shrubs.	1	0.15	Completed

12	Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott) Ph III	-93.471298	44.710098	Savanna Reconstruction, Oak Forest Enhancement	Regional Park with MCBS quality forest in Phase I and II	Buckthorn clearing, planting of 800 forbs/grasses with volunteers in savanna restoration project Site prep and tree planting with volunteers completed. Forest understory enhancement, and oak planting.	21		Completed
13	Freeman Park (Shorewood)	-93.605103	44.894699	Terrace hardwood forest with v large trees including American elm.	Hydrologically connected to Lk Minnetonka in area with med high concentration of NHIS Element Occurrence Records	Buckthorn cutting and removal.	7		Completed
14	Valley Park (Mendota Heights)	-93.129601	44.8951	Oak Woodland	Tributary to Miss River at Lilydale Regional Park.	Oak Woodland enhancement, including invasive removal and understory seeding and plugging of native graminoid species, in central oak knob portion of park.	2		Completed
15	Katherine Abbott Park Phase I sub-unit (Mahtomedi)	45° 2' 36.9528"	-92° 57' 50.0328"	Oak Forest	Site with mosaic of habitats	Oak forest enhancement incl. buckthorn control, plugging/seeding of native graminoid understory species.	6		Completed
NOTES:									

Metro Conservation Corridors VI Restoring Our Lands and Waters



- Habitat Restoration Projects**
- 1 Central Corridor Phase II and III
 - 2 Battle Creek Regional Park
 - 3 Pilot Knob Hill Phase II
 - 4 DNR Wild & Scenic River Easements (3 sites)
 - 4b Martin's Meadow Open Space
 - 4c Cedar Creek Conservation Area
 - 5 MLT Rum River Easement
 - 6 Standing Cedar St. Croix Easement
 - 7 Pond Dakota Mission
 - 8 Ike's Creek
 - 10 Cedar Lake Shoreline
 - 11 Heritage Village Wetland
 - 12 Spring Lake Regional Park
 - 13 Freeman Park
 - 14 Valley Park
 - 15 Katherine Abbott Phase I
- Habitat Maintenance Projects**
- 9.1 Arcola Mills
 - 9.2 Afton State Park
 - 9.3 Central Corridor Phase I
 - 9.4 Hidden Valley City Park
 - 9.5 Lake St. Croix Beach
 - 9.6 Pilot Knob Hill Phase I















































Community & People

Restoration effort preserves 20 acres of floodplain forest along Rum River

Published October 31, 2012 at 12:42 pm

More than 75 volunteers gathered on Saturday morning, Oct. 27, to restore 20 acres of floodplain forest along the Rum River just north of Cambridge.



Linda and Bruce Mickelson kneel next to one of the trees planted during a restoration project held Saturday, Oct. 27, on their land located along the Rum River just north of Cambridge off of Polk Street NE. The trees are marked so mowing can be done in between the rows. Photos by Rachel Kytonen

Leading the effort was Great River Greening, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to fostering clean water, healthy habitat and improved quality of life through local, community-based restoration in Minnesota.

The volunteers planted trees and scattered seed on private land protected through a Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers easement to restore the last major gap in the otherwise intact floodplain forest along the Rum River.



Students from the University of St. Thomas School of Law volunteered with the restoration project. Pictured are Adrienne Geile, Laura Gisler, Nicole Limper and Roger Maldonado.

Floodplain restoration is part of a three-year plan that includes riverbank stabilization, invasive species control and wild rice seeding.

The property is owned by Bruce and Linda Mickelson, Diane (Bruce's sister) and Larry Lundeen and Judy (Bruce's sister) and Glen Thorson.

Bruce explained the land has been in the family since moving from Milaca to Cambridge in 1952.

“Great River Greening sent us a letter looking for land located in a DNR easement,” Bruce said. “We were also looking to do some restoration projects so it seemed like a good fit. We met with Great River Greening and everything took off from there.”

Volunteers planted 500 floodplain forest trees, including silver maple, American cranberry, pussy willow, meadowsweet, silky dogwood and cottonwood, and will seed the area with native grasses and wildflowers.



Volunteers learn about the restoration project.

Great River Greening Volunteer Manager Josh Kritz thanked all the volunteers for their time.

“We had around 75 volunteers whose time totalled around 200 service hours,” Kritz said. “These volunteers saved us a week’s worth of time for our crew. With these volunteers, we eclipsed 30,000 volunteers.”

[READ 6th Annual Cambridge Community Wide Read](#)

Why the Rum River

The Rum River, a state-designated Wild and Scenic River, runs 89 miles from its source at Mille Lacs Lake before entering the Mississippi River at Anoka. The meandering river passes through extensive backwaters and marshes, sand plains, floodplain forests and stands of red and white pine that are remnants of the vast pine forests that were logged during the late 1800s. Although it is a river with relatively clear waters, land use activities and invasive plant species are dramatically altering the landscape and pose a significant risk to the “outstanding and remarkable values” for which the river was originally designated.

Great River Greening

Great River Greening, in collaboration with partners, began the Rum River Program in 2010 with a three-year plan to restore, enhance and provide long-term protection for the Rum River and important habitats within its watershed.



Work has been performed on private and public lands throughout the watershed, involving riverbank and riparian forest restoration, installation of erosion control measures, upland habitat restoration, and the reintroduction of wild rice into the river's backwaters.

Great River Greening is a nonprofit environmental organization that is leading the charge for clean water, healthy habitat and improved quality of life through local, community-based restoration in Minnesota. Founded in 1995 in Saint Paul, the organization is growing statewide, and has engaged 30,000 volunteers, multiple landowners, public and private agencies in restoration partnerships.

Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program was established in 1973 to assist communities and property owners in developing management plans that protect the scenic, recreational, natural, historical and cultural integrity of the land. Six rivers in Minnesota have segments designated as wild, scenic or recreational under the state program, including the Rum.

Area landowners in collaboration with the Minnesota DNR have protected 117 parcels totaling 1,180 acres with permanent scenic easements on the Rum River, as well as other Wild and Scenic Rivers in the state.

Funding Sources

The restoration project was made possible with support from Bruce and Linda Mickelson, MN DNR Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, MN DNR Shorelands Program, National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Connexus Energy, Viking Gas, the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Filed Under: [must read](#)

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PATH

Parks and Trails Happenings

A newsletter to inspire, inform and recognize Minnesota State Parks and Trails employees.

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Courtland Nelson

Deputy Director
Luke Skinner

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Strategic
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Recreation Systems
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Region 2
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Region 3
Joel Stedman

Region 4
Craig Mitchell

PATH Editor
Paul Nordell

PATH is distributed as an internal newsletter sent via e-mail to all staff. Send your news items and comments to: path.newsletter@state.mn.us.

The deadline for submissions is the last day of the previous month.

As I have traveled the state this summer and fall I have viewed hundreds of signs for state legislative races. Many previous political district boundaries have been redrawn. Colleagues from the same party may have been forced to run against each other. As I was talking to one legislator on the phone this past fall, he asked me to call him back after the election since he was presently in a restaurant speaking to his constituents.

It will take some weeks to know who the leaders will be for the Minnesota House and Senate. We do know we will have many new players at all levels of government. The Parks and Trails story is a complicated one to tell and we will need help from friends groups, user associations and occasionally even our own staff. We are therefore at work putting together information which we all can use (fact sheets, maps, basic budget information) that will assist us in working with legislators, commissioners and others. Our new audience will need to understand the work, services and benefits of Parks and Trails.

The Department is working on individual Senate and House district maps that will display DNR services and key holdings within each district, as well as summary statements about our mission and goals (Conservation That Works, regional efforts, etc.). This information will be available on-line for downloading prior to any meeting with legislators or other interested parties. They will all be good tools for delivering our message and explaining the value of Parks and Trails and all we do for the community.

Regardless of your political view of the world, our future with budgets and programs is tied with the legislative process. As we go into biennial budget and legislative discussions, we will work as hard as we can on your behalf, while you continue to provide the best of care to our appreciative visitors.

Courtland Nelson

For update regarding Rum River easement project, see Section called "Green Moment"



Green Moment

Rum River flood plain restoration partners provide restoration help

On Saturday, October 27, a DNR Wild and Scenic River easement on the Rum River near Cambridge received a boost. It was the largest such riverbank restoration project to date, restoring 20 acres along ¼ mile of shoreline and floodplain forest. “We planted over 500 trees and shrubs, spread seed, cut willows for planting in the spring, and prepared the site for winter activities where the stream bank will be reshaped,” said Jay Krienitz (DNR Scenic Easements Coordinator). DNR combined forces with Great River Greening, local, state, and national partners, and 75 volunteers who worked together for half a day on this key stretch of the Rum Wild and Scenic River. The work also involved 20 partners from the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership. Private landowners with state-held conservation easements are eligible to receive cost-share funding for restoration activities that will improve woodland, forest, and savanna habitat for bird species and otherwise reduce land use impacts on the Rum River.

The day was sunny, crisp and beautiful. Bruce Mickelson, the landowner, was there with his family and talked with all the volunteers while he worked alongside us. His stories of living on the land and his stewardship of the river were moving as he spoke to the crowd of nearly 100 people. This project was reported in the *Isanti County News* on October 31.



On November 17th, this same partnership hosted a landowner outreach workshop in Isanti, MN. During this event, folks toured existing restoration project sites on MN DNR scenic easements and gather for a BBQ meal afterwards to learn about opportunities to engage in river stewardship through this partnership effort. For more on this story, see *Isanti County News*, 10-31-2012.

<http://isanticountynews.com/2012/10/31/restoration-effort-preserves-20-acres-of-floodplain-forest-along-rum-river/>

Happenings

Minnesota 4 Wheel Drive Association (M4WDA) partners with DNR to clean Belle Plaine State Wayside



On Saturday, Oct. 27, DNR Adopt-a-River facilitated an effort with M4WDA, working along with the City of Belle Plaine, Union Pacific Railroad, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) and Scott County Community Corrections. The cleanup was part of an ongoing effort to remove scrap and old tires from the 60-acre site, known officially as Belle Plaine State Wayside. In conjunction with state and local planning efforts, the site is slated to become a functional unit of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area.

The cleanup continues a multi-year effort that has stalled because of high waters and a washed-out railroad crossing on Cherry Street. Members of MN4WDA donated their time, expertise and use of their own heavy equipment, including a tow truck, dump truck, various front-end loaders and custom-built 4x4 trucks with flotation tires and trailers. Almost all vehicles had electric winches that seemed to effortlessly pull heavy objects out of the flood plain muck and tangles of roots.

The cleanup effort involved ten dumpsters that were filled with auto and truck parts, fuel-oil tanks, appliances and other assorted debris. In addition, hundreds of auto, truck and heavy-equipment tires were retrieved and piled on the side for later removal from the site. The project also had the participation of Belle Plaine City Council, Ag Power Enterprises and Fahey Sales (both of Belle Plaine), and Ziegler Caterpillar of Columbus, Minn. Scrap removal was provided by DNR and many of the tires will be hauled away and recycled by MMCD.

For more on this story, see: <http://belleplaineherald.com/main.asp?SectionID=7&SubSectionID=39&ArticleID=950&TM=38995.33> and http://files-intranet.dnr.state.mn.us/user_files/1889/volume418.pdf.



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Editor Mendota Heights Patch mendotaheights@patch.com

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[Government](#), [Awareness](#)

Restoration Continues at Pilot Knob Historic Site

Power lines will be buried and invasive species will be pulled in the coming weeks.

By [Anna Schier](#) | [Email the author](#) | April 23, 2012

Recommend 15 Tweet 5 [Email](#) [Print](#) [Comment](#)



Related Topics: [Great River Greening](#), [Partners in Preservation](#), and [Pilot Knob Preservation Association](#)

What do you think of Pilot Knob and the work that has been done at the site? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

[Pilot Knob](#) Historic Site in Mendota Heights will receive a proper spring cleaning this year.

The power lines that currently divide the sacred Dakota burial ground and site of the signing of the Treaty of 1851 will soon be buried under the roadbed. The city of Mendota Heights is coordinating the move with area utility providers.

"The lines will no longer fragment the prairie," said Amy Jenkins, director of communications for [Great River Greening](#). Great River Greening is currently in year four of a 10-year restoration plan for the site. The nonprofit's efforts are funded by Mendota Heights and the [Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#).

Mendota Heights purchased Pilot Knob approximately six years ago with the support of a number of organizations, and the property has been undergoing restoration ever since.

"Pilot Knob gives us a rare window on the past," said Gail Lewellan, co-chair of the [Pilot Knob Preservation Association](#)

City officials plan to start the line burial project within the next six weeks. However, the project is a low priority for local utility providers that will need to do the work, according to Jake Sedlacek, assistant to the city administrator.

Minnesota Department of Transportation requires the lines to maintain Highway 55.

Funding for this project is provided solely by a \$75,000 grant received last fall from the [Partners in Preservation](#) program.

Pilot Knob will also undergo the next step in ecological restoration. Great River Greening is coordinating a native seed spreading and invasive species removal, which is scheduled for May 5.

A group of approximately 75 volunteers will be pulling invasive burdock and spreading native wild rye seeds.

It is important to maintain the ecological integrity of the site because the diversity of native plants in the area provides a habitat for grassland wildlife, said Jenkins.

"The site is very significant, both culturally and ecologically," said Jenkins.

[Email me updates about this story.](#)

Chamber Community Outreach Committee Pulls Buckthorn at Ike's Creek

[Gina Szafraniec](#) | April 27, 2012 | [0 Comments](#)



Tory Christensen, Great River Greening, leads volunteers in the removal of buckthorn and garlic mustard along Ike's Creek

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and its Community Outreach Committee organized a buckthorn and garlic mustard removal event under the guidance of Great River Greening, a St. Paul nonprofit organization focused on ecological restoration, on Thursday afternoon, April 25, 2012.

The removal of invasive species benefited Ike's Creek, just steps from Mall of America and adjacent to the [Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#). It is one of only 12 trout streams in the metro area. The buckthorn and garlic mustard threaten the fishery and water quality because it keeps ground cover plants from growing and causes runoff water pollution and erosion.

“We provide an educational component to the ecological restoration,” said Tory Christensen of [Great River Greening](#). At the beginning of the event Christensen explained what buckthorn and garlic mustard is, where it came from, how it grows and how it destroys native habitats and pollutes water. “A lot of people just don't have a clue...so when they leave they know what it is and they remove it on their own when they see it.”



John Berhow-Rivera (left), Paradise Car Wash, "This is our first (Community Outreach event) to go to. We thought we'd try it out and see how we can help." Randy Bjornstad (middle), Nick McCollum (right)"

Smaller buckthorn was removed by pulling the roots out. Larger buckthorn was lopped off and a special herbicide was applied to the freshly cut area. The herbicide used is restricted and a permit is required to own it. Great River Greening representatives applied the herbicide.

Nearly 25 volunteers from the [Bloomington Chamber of Commerce](#), which included a team of fifteen volunteers from Mall of America, took time away from work to help.

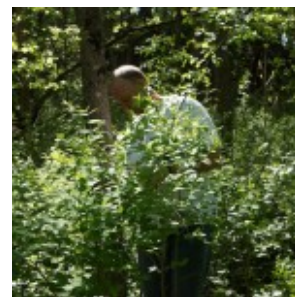
"It's nice to be outside and I had no idea this was here," said Erin Sheppard. "I've been working at the Mall for twelve years. This is really nice."

Great River Greening supplied the tools and gloves for the volunteers. It's funding comes from lottery and state funds. Private ecological restoration events can be organized with Great River Greening support through a business or organization, like the Chamber of Commerce. Communitywide events led by Great River Greening are also open to the public and usually have 200 people attend. Another event for Bloomington is planned for the fall.

Click on picture to enlarge.



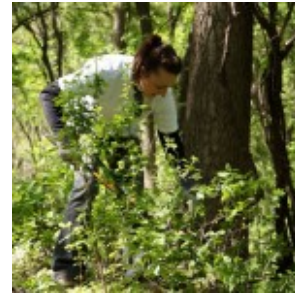
Troy Christensen, Great River Greening, leads volunteers in the removal of buckthorn and garlic mustard along Ike's Creek



Ken Vorsty, Mall of America, "When I started working at the Mall I was a gardener. I like things that have to do with the environment."



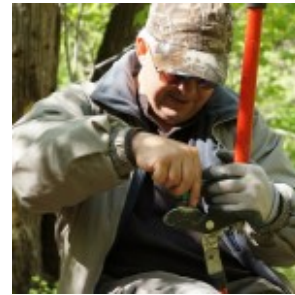
Volunteers for Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
Community Outreach



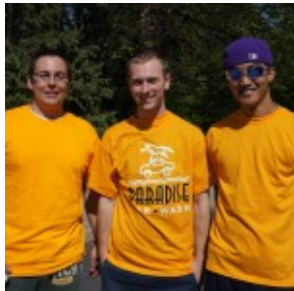
Kelly Steinhaus, Mall of America, lops buckthorn



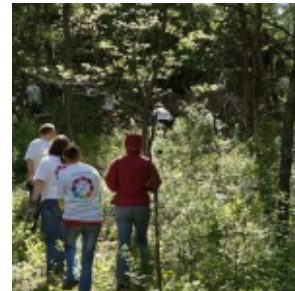
Ike's Creek



Mark Adkins, Merrill Lynch and Chair Elect for
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce



John Berhow-Rivera (left), Paradise Car Wash, "This is
our first [Community Outreach event] to go to. We
thought we'd try it out and see how we can help." Randy
Bjornstad (middle), Nick McCollum (right)



Tags: [Bloomington Chamber of Commerce](#)

Category: [Businesses](#), [Health](#), [Top Story](#)



http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_20542347/volunteers-help-remove-invasive-species-and-plant-prairie#

TwinCities.com
PIONEER PRESS

Volunteers to help remove invasive species and plant prairie seed at Pilot Knob site in Mendota Heights

[By Nick Ferraro](#)

nferraro@pioneerpress.com

Posted: 05/03/2012 12:01:00 AM CDT

Updated: 05/03/2012 05:44:06 PM CDT

About 75 volunteers are expected to remove invasive species and plant prairie seed at the historic Pilot Knob site Saturday, May 5, as part of a restoration plan now in its fifth year.

Great River Greening, a nonprofit consulting firm, continues to manage the restoration efforts on the 25-acre site in Mendota Heights under a city contract. The plan is to restore the site to native prairie and oak savanna by 2017.

The hill, located on the east end of the Mendota Bridge, south of Highway 55, is considered a sacred American Indian burial ground and has historic significance as the place where Dakota Indians ceded millions of acres to European-American settlers in the 1851 Treaty of Mendota. It's referred to as "Oheyawahi," which means "the hill much visited."

The majority of Saturday's work will take place on about three acres at the north end of the site. Volunteers are expected to be joined by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum and Dakota County Commissioner Tom Egan.

MendotaHeightsPatch

Pilot Knob Clean-Up Draws Volunteers, Public Officials

About 75 volunteers braved a cloudy Saturday to participate in the historic site's restoration.



By Danielle Cabot
May 8, 2012

Pilot Knob Historic Site in Mendota Heights continues its transformation from an overgrown lot destined for condo development into a distinctive overlook of restored prairie and oak savannah.

Great River Greening and a crew of 75 volunteers donned gloves and shovels last Saturday to remove invasive species and spread seeds at the 25-acre overlook.

The site is known for both its historical significance as well as its sacred connection to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux.

The city of Mendota Heights contracts with Great River Greening for the maintenance and restoration of the site, through a ten-year plan.

Also present were elected officials Ultan Duggan from the Mendota Heights City Council, Tom Egan from the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and Betty McCollum, from the Fourth Congressional District.

“We chose the path less traveled to restore a higher number of diverse species,” said Great River Greening Project Manager Wiley Buck, in a statement for the event. “The methods we used are different than others used in typical prairie reconstructions, which are often dominated by one or two species only. The outcome that is visible already will be a rich native prairie with a high biodiversity of native plant species.”

The site already attracts a wide variety of wildlife, including prairie songbirds that would not otherwise be found in an urban area.



Photo Credit:
Renée Duncan



Bringing new life to a Bloomington Creek

By [Sun Current Editor](#) on June 27, 2012 at 2:43 pm

By Nick Van Heest – Sun Intern

Amid the roar of jets overhead, 70 volunteers from the Royal Bank of Canada Wealth Management's branch in Minneapolis and nine volunteers from St. Paul-based Great River Greening teamed up on a recent Friday afternoon to remove invasive plant species from a Bloomington trout stream's banks, the latest installment in a \$45,000 restoration project that includes contributions from the wildlife refuge, the DNR, the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Twin Cities chapter of Trout Unlimited.

"Once a year we come together for a Bluewater day, part of a ten-year \$50 million commitment by our firm to fund water projects around the globe," RBC Financial Advisor Craig Shaver said. "Polluted water is useless, so this is our attempt to make the world a better place in our own backyard."

Located just 800 feet from Bloomingdale's at the Mall of America, the creek officially has no name, but is often called Ike's Creek after the Izaak Walton League conservation group that raised fish in nearby ponds in the early 1900s, according to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge wildlife biologist Vicki Sherry.

Ranging in width from a trickle to 15 feet, the stream bubbles out of the ground near Old Shakopee Road and travels eight-tenths of a mile to the Minnesota River. One of only 12 viable trout streams remaining in the metro area, Ike's Creek is pure and cold enough to offer the opportunity of restoring the native brook trout that used to glide through its waters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Stream Habitat Specialist Brian Nerbonne said.

"I have a friend who grew up here in Bloomington, and this was one of his favorite places to hang out," Shaver said. "Hopefully, we can bring Ike's Creek back to the state it was in when my friend was little."

The restoration project began in 2007, when the DNR introduced 1,450 brook trout to Ike's Creek, of which about 150 have survived and reproduced. Fishing is not allowed—

even catch and release—because the population is still too vulnerable, according to Great River Greening Director of Conservation Programs Wayne Ostlie.

There was still one problem, however, that stood in the way of a sustainable trout population: a dam.

The Izaak Walton League installed a dam in 1926 to divert the stream in order to circulate the clean water through several nearby ponds. Historical documents show the creek supported trout until the 1940s when they disappeared for unknown reasons, according to Nerbonne.

But the dam was impeding the trout's movement, as they needed to move up and down the stream to thrive.

“To make the whole stream accessible to trout, the barrier needed to be removed,” Ostlie said. “The dam was effectively doing nothing in terms of what it was initially designed for, so it was an easy target for removal.”

About a month ago, DNR crews removed the dam and reconstructed the stream to the way it once flowed, with a natural gradient and a meandering curve. After restoring the stream, the next step was to uproot invasive honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard weeds that were outcompeting the native woodland species, according to Ostlie.

“We're trying to get a healthy forest system in place which will help curb the erosion and lead to a more healthy trout population as well,” Ostlie said.

Restoring Ike's Creek is an ongoing effort, and it could be five to 10 years before significant changes in the canopy are visible, according to Ostlie.

The lower half of the creek is part of the wildlife refuge and is open to the public, while the upper half is owned by the city of Bloomington and several private landowners.

ML2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (2.6/3.3)

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)

MAILING ADDRESS: 3815 East American Boulevard

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bloomington, MN 55425

PHONE: (612) 801-1935

EMAIL: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.mnvalleytrust.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.6/3.3

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$600,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

Activity 1: The Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. (MVT) acquired 154.6 acres of priority habitat to expand the St. Lawrence Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on January 14, 2015. Of that, 95.1 acres were acquired with the ENRTF grant and 59.5 acres were acquired with other, non-state funds. This property joins two prior acquisitions for this unit, one of which was acquired in part with a prior ENRTF grant (ML2010 - MeCC V Supplemental). The total land acquired for this unit now stands at 445 acres.

About 60 acres of the acquired lands that had been actively-farmed cropland are being restored to its historic alluvial plain and slope wetland habitat with a 2015 Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. This will restore the native wetland habitat with local ecotype vegetation, promote plant diversity to provide a suite of pollinator habitat, prime nesting cover and expanded forage options, and reclaim a unique ecosystem lost to agricultural practices. The project will increase sediment and nutrient entrainment to the Minnesota River, increase water storage and create additional habitat for wildlife, including game species.

Another 3.5 acres were acquired in July 2012 for the nearby Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge as leverage, and 176.5 acres were received in donation in December 2011 to create a new Waterfowl Production Area associated with the Refuge. The latter property was just 1 mile outside the corridors of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, so does not technically qualify as leverage acres, but was a priority for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District and is reported here for information purposes.

Activity 2:

The following work was completed for this activity:

- Oak savanna remnant at Long Meadow Lake Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on the 15 acres.
- Oak savanna remnant at Louisville Swamp Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres.
- Mesic prairie at the Jessenland Unit – Prescribed fire on 300 acres.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Upon completion of the restoration activities, the St. Lawrence Unit property will be posted open for public use and announced through news releases and the MVT website. Signage at the unit will include reference to the ENRTF.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update: 8/1/2015
Final Report: 8/1/2015
Date of Work Plan Approval: 4/24/2014
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (2.6/3.3)

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc

Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City: Bloomington **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55425

Telephone Number: (612) 801-1935

Email Address: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

Web Address: <http://www.mnvalleytrust.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Hennepin and Scott

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	600,000
	Amount Spent \$:	599,630
	Balance \$:	370

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.6/3.3

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6 - 2.6/3.3 Priority Expansion and Restoration - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

II. PROJECT SUMMARY: The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. will improve habitat connectivity, combat habitat loss, protect native plant and animal species, improve water quality of the Minnesota River and increase public access to natural lands through the following activities:

(1) Fee title acquisition of 125 acres for one or more of the following units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge – Blakely Unit (Scott County), Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County), Jessenland Unit (Sibley County), Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), Rapids Lake Unit (Carver County), St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County), San Francisco Unit (Carver County) and a prospective new unit between Henderson and LeSueur (LeSueur and Sibley Counties). The expansion lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and the Trust is working with willing landowners. At least 125 additional acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the MN Valley Trust using other, non-state funds. The lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Restoration and enhancement of 405 acres of oak savanna and remnant native prairie communities on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge units near Jordan and Belle Plaine. Work has been designed by the USFWS and will include removal of invasive and non-native species on a 15 acre oak savanna on Long Meadow Lake Unit (Hennepin County) and 190 acre oak savanna on Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), as well as prescribed fire on those two units and a 200 acre mesic prairie on the Jessenland Unit (Sibley County) of the Refuge. The work will be completed using mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire methods.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2012:

(1) Minnesota Valley Trust is in discussions with multiple landowners who are interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units. Appraisals and surveys are being ordered for some parcels.

(2) Planning is underway to restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on 405 acres of existing units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This work will begin in 2012.

Project Status as of August 1, 2012:

(1) Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.

(2) A request for proposals has been issued to qualified contractors. Work is expected to commence in fall 2012.

Project Status as of February 1, 2013:

(1) Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.

(2) Work commenced in fall 2012 with some hand-cutting by FWS crews of invasive species (FWS work is in-kind). A contract is being developed with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for the bulk of the mechanical cutting and herbicide application. Qualified contractors are being sought and interviewed for the prescribed fire work.

As indicated by the strikeout and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below and in the Work Plan Attachment A, Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. is requesting Work Plan amendments to (1) change the reporting schedule to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014 as consistent with the appropriation language and (2) allow for equipment rental and/or seed purchase using the \$10,000 allocated to Equipment / Tools / Supplies.

Project Status as of August 1, 2013:

- (1) Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.
- (2) Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

CCM will be contracted for additional mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. Qualifications of possible prescribed fire contractors are being reviewed. A request for proposals will be sent to a short list of contractors with goal of completing the prescribed fire in fall 2013 or spring 2014.

USFWS crews will complete prescribed fire on the USFWS-owned tracts in the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts on an in-kind basis.

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

- (1) Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.
- (2) Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

MN Valley Trust has contracted again with CCM for additional mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. We were not able to find any prescribed fire contractors who could meet the USFWS qualifications, so all prescribed fire will be completed by USFWS crews on an in-kind basis. MN Valley Trust will reimburse the USFWS with non-grant funds for fire personnel to supplement USFWS crews, so that the work may be completed.

Amendment Request 2/1/2014:

- (1) The Minnesota Valley Trust may need additional time to complete the fee acquisition and requests an amendment to extend this grant one additional year to June 30, 2015.

(2) All grant funds will be expended for the habitat enhancement project and, weather-permitting, all work should be complete by June 30, 2014. However, given that weather may not allow the prescribed fire during the spring of 2014, the Minnesota Valley Trust hereby requests an amendment to extend the grant period by one additional year to June 30, 2015.

Project Status as of April 21, 2014:

(1) Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, several opportunities to acquire in-holdings to complete the Refuge within the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit have been identified. Acquisition of these lands for the Refuge is a high priority. They all include Minnesota River frontage, floodplain forest and the following: (a) Two of the parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit will allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail by the DNR. (b) One Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel contains a south facing slope goat prairie remnant, a rare and disappearing habitat within the metropolitan area. (c) The Louisville Swamp Unit includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge.

(2) Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

MN Valley Trust has contracted again with CCM for additional mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts. This work is underway.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. We were not able to find any prescribed fire contractors who could meet the USFWS qualifications, so all prescribed fire will be completed by USFWS crews on an in-kind basis. MN Valley Trust will reimburse the USFWS with non-grant funds for fire personnel to supplement USFWS crews, so that the work may be completed.

Amendment Request April 21, 2014:

(1) The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to this Work Program and the related Acquisition-Restoration Parcel List to allow for use of the grant funds to acquire lands for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

(1) Appraisals, surveys and negotiations are underway with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within its Bloomington Ferry and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, outreach continues with landowner within other Refuge Units. Acquisition of these lands for the Refuge is a high priority. The properties under active negotiation include the following: (a) two parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit will allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail by the DNR, (b) one Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel contains a south facing slope goat prairie remnant, a rare and disappearing habitat within the metropolitan area, (c) a parcel in the Louisville Swamp Unit includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge.

(2) Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. During this reporting period, CCM completed mechanical and chemical removal of invasive and non-native species on Long Meadow Lake Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit. In addition, USFWS burn crews conducted a prescribed burn on the Jessenland Unit and a portion of the Louisville Swamp Unit. Unfavorable weather conditions prevented prescribed fire operations on a portion of the Louisville Swamp Unit and on the Long Meadow Lake Unit, so these will be attempted in the future.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

(1) Appraisals, surveys and negotiations are underway with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within its Bloomington Ferry and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, outreach continues with landowner within other Refuge Units. The properties under active negotiation include the following: (a) two parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit that will allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail by the DNR and (b) a parcel in the Louisville Swamp Unit that includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge. MVT was not able to complete acquisition of a parcel previously reported for the Bloomington Ferry Unit.

(2) Since this grant's inception in February 2012, the following work has been completed for this activity:

- Oak savanna remnant at Long Meadow Lake Unit: Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 7 acres; additional prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on 7 acres.
- Oak savanna remnant at Louisville Swamp Unit: Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres.
- Mesic prairie at the Jessenland Unit: prescribed fire on 300 acres.

During the upcoming (final) reporting period, we will be providing a supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species to another 8 acres of oak savanna remnant at the Long Meadow Lake Unit.

Final Project Status Update as of August 1, 2015:

Activity 1: The Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. (MVT) acquired 154.6 acres of priority habitat to expand the St. Lawrence Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on January 14, 2015. Of that, 95.1 acres were acquired with the ENRTF grant and 59.5 acres were acquired with other, non-state funds. This property joins two prior acquisitions for this unit, one of which was acquired in part with a prior ENRTF grant (ML2010 - MeCC V Supplemental). The total land acquired for this unit now stands at 445 acres.

It was necessary to pay 10% above the appraised value for this property, as it was assessed by the county at a rate much higher than it appraised (and still above the agreed-upon purchase price). The signed offer letter discussing this is attached for information.

About 60 acres of this acquisition that had been actively-farmed cropland are being restored to its historic alluvial plain and slope wetland habitat with a 2015 Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. This will restore the native wetland habitat with local ecotype vegetation, promote plant diversity to provide a suite of pollinator habitat, prime nesting cover and expanded forage options, and reclaim a unique ecosystem lost to agricultural practices. The project will increase sediment and nutrient entrainment to the Minnesota River, increase water storage and create additional habitat for wildlife, including game species.

Another 3.5 acres were acquired in July 2012 for the nearby Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge as leverage, and 176.5 acres were received in donation in December 2011 to create a new Waterfowl Production Area associated with the Refuge. The latter property was just 1 mile outside the corridors of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, so does not technically qualify as leverage acres, but was a priority for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District and is reported here for information purposes.

Activity 2:

The following work was completed for this activity:

- Oak savanna remnant at Long Meadow Lake Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on the 15 acres.
- Oak savanna remnant at Louisville Swamp Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres.
- Mesic prairie at the Jessenland Unit – Prescribed fire on 300 acres.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Description: The Minnesota Valley Trust will complete fee title acquisition of at least 125 acres to expand one or more of the following units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge –

- Blakely Unit (Scott County)
- Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County)
- Jessenland Unit (Sibley County)
- Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County)
- Rapids Lake Unit (Carver County)
- St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County)
- San Francisco Unit (Carver County)
- A prospective new unit between Henderson and LeSueur as delineated by USFWS (LeSueur and Sibley Counties).

At least 125 additional acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the MN Valley Trust using other, non-state funds.

The Refuge units have been prioritized and delineated by the USFWS in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands are along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. The CCP was updated in 2011.

The prospective lands offer significant habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands run along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain, cropland and bluffs. Some are adjacent to lands already in public ownership (USFWS, DNR) or previously acquired by the MN Valley Trust for the Refuge expansion.

These acquisitions will connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.

This project will improve water quality by retiring cropland in the Minnesota River Valley and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. Some of these lands include

property on which the Minnesota State Trail currently is (Louisville Swamp parcel) or prospectively will be located (two Bloomington Ferry Unit parcels).

When donated to the USFWS, the public will be given access to the lands for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

Following acquisition, the MN Valley Trust (MVT) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will develop a restoration and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie, as appropriate to the parcel. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken. The MVT is the source of funds for this restoration and management work; the funds are secure.

The lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Increased operations and maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the MVT and USFWS.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget:	\$ 500,000
Amount Spent:	\$ 500,000
Balance:	\$ 0

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Acquire fee title to 125 acres for priority expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge</i>	June 30, 2015	\$ 500,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012: Minnesota Valley Trust is in discussions with multiple landowners who are interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units. Appraisals and surveys are being ordered for some parcels.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012: Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013: Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013: Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units. The Minnesota Valley Trust may need additional time to complete this work and requests an amendment to extend this grant one additional year to June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of April 21, 2014: Outreach and discussions continue with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within the Blakely, Jessenland and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, several opportunities to acquire in-holdings to complete the Refuge within the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit have been identified. Acquisition of these lands for the Refuge is a high priority. They all include Minnesota River frontage, floodplain forest and the following: (a) Two of the parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit will allow for completion of the

Minnesota State Trail by the DNR. (b) One Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel contains a south facing slope goat prairie remnant, a rare and disappearing habitat within the metropolitan area. (c) The Louisville Swamp Unit includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: Appraisals, surveys and negotiations are underway with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within its Bloomington Ferry and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, outreach continues with landowner within other Refuge Units. Acquisition of these lands for the Refuge is a high priority. The properties under active negotiation include the following: (a) two parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit will allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail by the DNR, (b) one Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel contains a south facing slope goat prairie remnant, a rare and disappearing habitat within the metropolitan area, (c) a parcel in the Louisville Swamp Unit includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015: Appraisals, surveys and negotiations are underway with landowners interested in selling their land for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge within its Bloomington Ferry and St. Lawrence Units. In addition, outreach continues with landowners within other Refuge Units. The properties under active negotiation include the following: (a) two parcels in the Bloomington Ferry Unit that will allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail by the DNR and (b) a parcel in the Louisville Swamp Unit that includes the State Trail and will enable the FWS to manage a large wetland complex that is not partially in private and public ownership. All lands are within the delineated boundaries of the Refuge and will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Refuge. MVT was not able to complete acquisition of a parcel previously reported for the Bloomington Ferry Unit.

Final Report Summary:

Activity 1: The Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. (MVT) acquired 154.6 acres of priority habitat to expand the St. Lawrence Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on January 14, 2015. Of that, 95.1 acres were acquired with the ENRTF grant and 59.5 acres were acquired with other, non-state funds. This property joins two prior acquisitions for this unit, one of which was acquired in part with a prior ENRTF grant (ML2010 - MeCC V Supplemental). The total land acquired for this unit now stands at 445 acres.

It was necessary to pay 10% above the appraised value for this property, as it was assessed by the county at a rate much higher than it appraised (and still above the agreed-upon purchase price). The signed offer letter discussing this is attached for information.

About 60 acres of the acquired lands that had been actively-farmed cropland are being restored to its historic alluvial plain and slope wetland habitat with a 2015 Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. This will restore the native wetland habitat with local ecotype vegetation, promote plant diversity to provide a suite of pollinator habitat, prime nesting cover and expanded forage options, and reclaim a unique ecosystem lost to agricultural practices. The project will increase sediment and nutrient entrainment to the Minnesota River, increase water storage and create additional habitat for wildlife, including game species.

Another 3.5 acres were acquired in July 2012 for the nearby Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge as leverage, and 176.5 acres were received in donation in December 2011 to create a new Waterfowl Production Area associated with the Refuge. The latter property was just 1 mile outside the corridors of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, so does not technically qualify as leverage acres, but was a

priority for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District and is reported here for information purposes.

ACTIVITY 2: Restore & Enhance Remnant Oak Savannas and Native Prairie

Description: Restoration and enhancement of 405 acres of oak savanna and remnant native prairie communities on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge units near Jordan and Belle Plain. Work has been designed by the USFWS and will include removal of invasive and non-native species on a 15 acre oak savanna on Long Meadow Lake Unit (Hennepin County) and 190 acre oak savanna on Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), as well as prescribed fire on those two units and a 200 acre mesic prairie on the Jessenland Unit (Sibley County) of the Refuge.

Ecological restoration plans have been developed or will be developed by the USFWS consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for these sites. An initial restoration evaluation will be provided at completion of this grant appropriation as part of the final report, and a second evaluation will be completed three years after completion of the project.

The restoration and enhancement work in this project will be completed using mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire methods. The Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be contracted for chemical and mechanical removal, when available. Other qualified contractors will be used for prescribed fire and for chemical and mechanical removal, when needed.

Restoration and enhancement of native grassland and oak savanna communities requires multiple treatment phases over several years. Work to be accomplished with this proposal represents several restoration phases, depending on the specific project area. Long-term maintenance and management will be accomplished as part of the Refuge budget (federal funds), although other funds may be sought as needs are identified.

The savanna and native prairie remnants targeted for restoration in this project are recognized as rare ecosystems in the Minnesota State Action Plan, *“Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare”* (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2006). They support several species occurrences documented in the DNR’s *Minnesota County Biological Survey Heritage Database*, and are listed as critical habitat types in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (2004).

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 100,000
Amount Spent: \$ 99,630
Balance: \$ 370

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
2. Restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on 405 acres of existing units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	June 30, 2015	\$ 100,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012: Planning is underway to restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on 405 acres of existing units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This work will begin in 2012.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012: A request for proposals has been issued to qualified contractors. Work is expected to commence in fall 2012.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013: (1) Mechanical removal and treatment of woody species for habitat restoration has started using FWS-directed volunteer crews (this is non-grant funded work). A contract is being developed with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for the bulk of the mechanical cutting and herbicide application, which is funded by the grant. (2) Requests for proposals were issued to self-certified prescribed fire contractors for work to begin fall 2012. Respondents to the initial RFP were unable to meet requirements of the USFWS, so additional contractors being prequalified by USFWS. Working on having prescribed fire plans complete and contractor(s) selected for work in spring 2013. Actual ability to complete the work in 2013 will be dependent on contractor availability and qualifications, as well as weather.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013: Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

CCM will be contracted for additional mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. Qualifications of possible prescribed fire contractors are being reviewed. If a qualified contractor cannot be identified, we will increase the amount of mechanical invasive species removal by contractors on the three tracts and supplement USFWS crews with qualified individuals to complete all prescribed burns in fall 2013 or spring 2014.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

MN Valley Trust has contracted again with CCM for additional hand and mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. We were not able to find any prescribed fire contractors who could meet the USFWS qualifications, so all prescribed fire will be completed by USFWS crews on an in-kind basis. MN Valley Trust will reimburse the USFWS with non-grant funds for fire department personnel to supplement USFWS crews, so that the work may be completed.

All grant funds will be expended and, weather-permitting, all work should be complete by June 30, 2014. However, given that weather may not allow the prescribed fire during the spring of 2014, the Minnesota Valley Trust hereby requests an amendment to extend the grant period by one additional year to June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of April 21, 2014: Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. Work consisted of mechanical removal of invasive and aggressive woody species, stump treatment with herbicides, and supplemental seeding with native savanna grass and wildflower species. Woody material removed was chipped and eight dump truck loads (64 cubic yards total) were used as biofuel by District Energy of St. Paul, Minnesota.

MN Valley Trust has contracted again with CCM for additional hand and mechanical removal and herbicide application on the Long Meadow Lake and Louisville Swamp Unit tracts. This work is underway.

A prescribed fire plan for the 200-acre Jessenland Unit tract has been prepared by a private contractor. We were not able to find any prescribed fire contractors who could meet the USFWS qualifications, so all prescribed fire will be completed by USFWS crews on an in-kind basis. MN Valley Trust will reimburse the USFWS with non-grant funds for fire department personnel to supplement USFWS crews, so that the work may be completed.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: Previously, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) completed habitat work on 7 acres of oak savanna at Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge under a contract. During this reporting period, CCM completed mechanical and chemical removal of invasive and non-native species on Long Meadow Lake Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit. In addition, USFWS burn crews conducted a prescribed burn on the Jessenland Unit and a portion of the Louisville Swamp Unit. Unfavorable weather conditions prevented prescribed fire operations on a portion of the Louisville Swamp Unit and on the Long Meadow Lake Unit, so these will be attempted in the future.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015: Since this grant's inception in February 2012, the following work has been completed for this activity:

- Oak savanna remnant at Long Meadow Lake Unit: Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on 7 acres.
- Oak savanna remnant at Louisville Swamp Unit: Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres.
- Mesic prairie at the Jessenland Unit: prescribed fire on 300 acres.

During the upcoming (final) reporting period, we will be providing a supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species to another 8 acres of oak savanna remnant at the Long Meadow Lake Unit.

Final Report Summary:

The following work was completed for this activity:

- Oak savanna remnant at Long Meadow Lake Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 7 acres; additional prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on the 15 acres.
- Oak savanna remnant at Louisville Swamp Unit -- Mechanical removal and chemical treatment of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres.
- Mesic prairie at the Jessenland Unit – Prescribed fire on 300 acres.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases and the Trust website.

Status as of February 1, 2012: NA

Status as of August 1, 2012: NA

Status as of February 1, 2013: NA

Final Report Summary: Upon completion of the restoration activities, the St. Lawrence Unit property will be posted open for public use and announced through news releases and the MVT website. Signage at the unit will include reference to the ENRTF.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Service Contracts	\$ 90,000	Contracts with Minnesota Conservation Corps and other qualified private restoration organizations, as appropriate to perform prescribed fire operations, herbicide application and mechanical invasive tree and other woody species removal.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 10,000	Herbicide and equipment rental for treatment of invasive trees and other woody species after removal to prevent re-sprouting. Seed for areas where invasive species have smothered native species, if needed.
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 500,000	Fee title acquisition of 125 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 600,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
MN Valley Trust funds, other non-state funds	\$ 500,000	\$ 318,428	Fee title acquisition of 125 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
State	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), all Metro Conservation Corridors Partners, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, local communities

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of a long-term strategy to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by up to 10,000 acres and restore and enhance the Refuge’s forest, wetland and prairie habitat for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation. The expansion and restoration strategy was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge, completed September 2004 after a thorough public input process. The CCP was updated by the USFWS in 2011.

This project will further acquisition work completed previously by the Minnesota Valley Trust with support from the ENRTF. The benefits of the project include the following:

- Connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife. It will increase the breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants and other species, including non-migratory resident species.
- Improve water quality of the Minnesota River by retiring cropland and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.
- Expand the public's access to and enjoyment of public lands in and near the Twin Cities metropolitan area for wildlife-dependent recreational activities of birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing. Allow for completion of the Minnesota State Trail.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF – MeCC	\$ 230,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 325,000
Other non-state funds, including MN Valley Trust and private contributions	\$ 428,000	\$ 376,473	\$ 197,019	\$ 225,000	\$ 325,000

VIII. ACQUISITION / RESTORATION LIST: Attached

IX. MAP(S): Attached

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013 and February 1, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Project Title: 2.6/3.3 - MeCC 6 Priority Expansion and Restoration MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2, Subd. 4(i) Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VI

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 600,000

Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Date of Update: August 1, 2015

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Acquisition</i>			<i>Restoration</i>				
Service contracts <i>Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and other qualified private restoration organizations to perform prescribed fire operations, herbicide application and mechanical invasive tree and other woody species removal.</i>				90,000	89,989	11	90,000	11
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>Herbicide and equipment rental for treatment of invasive trees and other woody species after removal to prevent re-sprouting. Seed for areas where invasive species have smothered native species.</i>				10,000	9,641	359	10,000	359
Fee Title Acquisition <i>Fee title acquisition of 154.6 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (95.1 acres with ENRTF grant and 59.5 acres with other, non-state funds). Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.</i>	500,000	500,000	0				500,000	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$99,630	\$370	\$600,000	\$370

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: 2.6/3.3 MeCC 6 Priority Expansion and Restoration MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 600,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Blakely Unit of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR)	44°34'40"N	93°52'29"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
2	Jessenland Unit of MVNWR	44°34'28"N	93°54'20"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
3	St. Lawrence Unit of MVNWR	44°38'53"N	93°42'40"W	Sedge Meadow	Rare ecosystem (MCBS)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Completed acquisition of 154.6 acres with grant (95.1 acres) and other private non-state funds (59.5 acres)
4	San Francisco Unit of MVNWR	44°41'34"N	93°40'50"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
5	Rapids Lake Unit of MVNWR	44°42'38"N	93°38'9"W	Oak Savanna	Rare ecosystem (MCBS)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
6	Prospective new unit of MVNWR between Henderson & LeSueur	44°30'2"N	93°53'25"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	125		USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
7	Bloomington Ferry Unit of MVNWR (bankruptcy)	44°48'49"N	93°26'13"W	Goat Prairie, Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	16.4	0.30	USFWS	Another party acquired this property
8	Bloomington Ferry Unit of MVNWR (Anderson)	44°47'52"N	93°23'01"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	0.5	0.03	USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
9	Bloomington Ferry Unit of MVNWR (Ikes)	44°47'24"N	93°22'09"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	21	0.21	USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
10	Louisville Swamp Unit of MVNWR (Barnd)	44°41'38"N	93°37'48"W	Floodplain Forest	Critical Habitat Type (MNV)	Fee title acquisition	80	0.70	USFWS	Not acquired with this grant
10	Long Meadow Lake Unit of MVNWR	44°51'34"N	93°12'58"W	Oak Savanna	Rare ecosystem (MCBS)	Removal of non-native, invasive species and prescribed fire	15		USFWS	Completed removal of woody invasive plant species on 15 acres; prescribed fire on 15 acres; supplemental seeding of native grass and wildflower species on the 15 acres
11	Louisville Swamp Unit of MVNWR	44°44'14"N	93°36'3"W	Oak Savanna	Rare ecosystem (MCBS)	Removal of non-native, invasive species and prescribed fire	190		USFWS	Completed removal of woody invasive plant species on 149 acres; prescribed fire on 155 acres
12	Jessenland Unit of MVNWR	44°35'44"N	93°54'10"W	Tallgrass Prairie	Rare ecosystem (MCBS)	Prescribed fire	200		USFWS	Completed prescribed fire on 300 acres.

NOTES: Acquisition will be completed from within this prospective parcel list (#1-9), as delineated by the USFWS for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge expansion.

R 7 W R 6 W

93°43'0"W

93°42'0"W

93°41'0"W

T 9 N

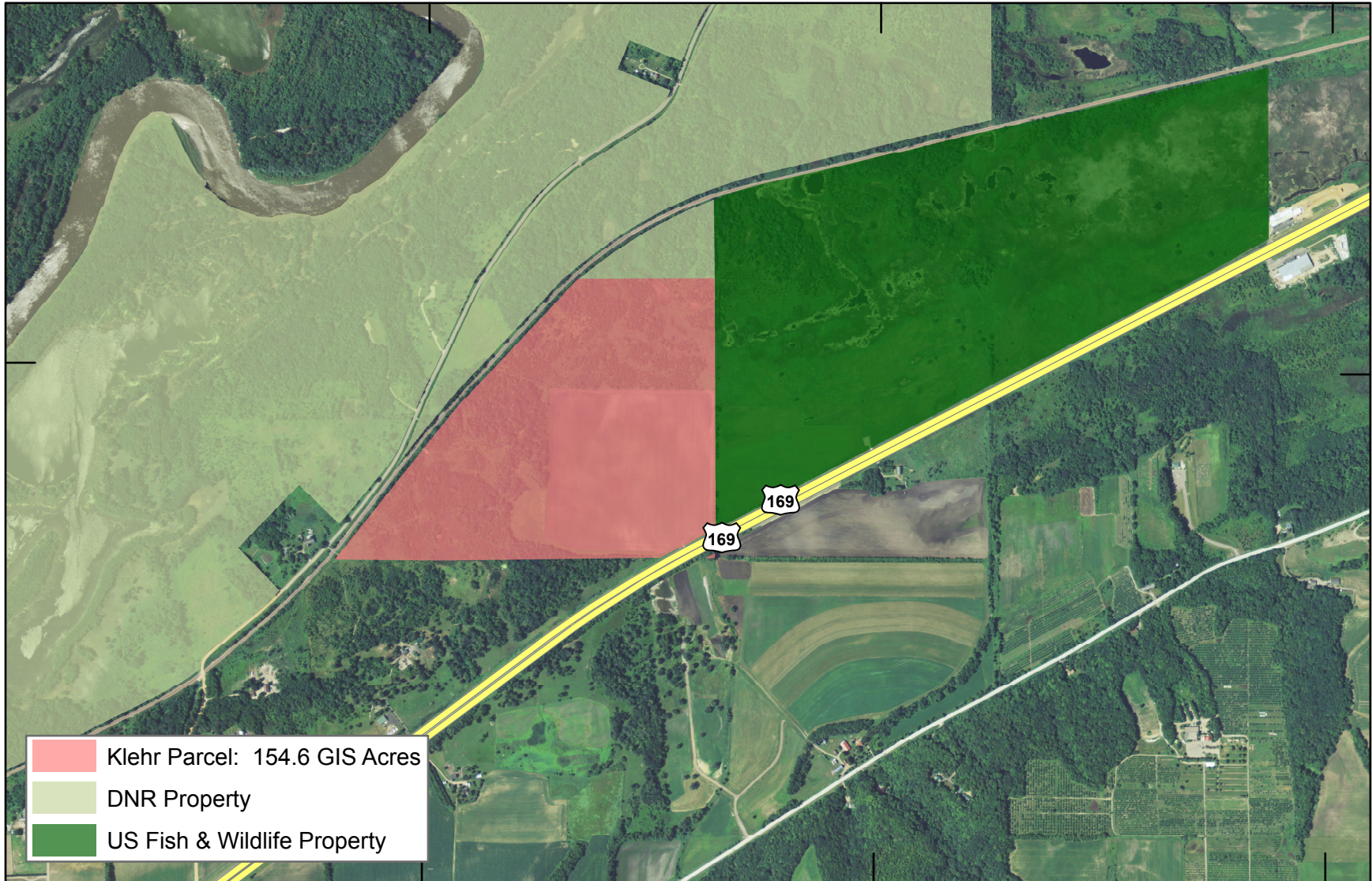
T 8 N

44°39'0"N

T 9 N

T 8 N

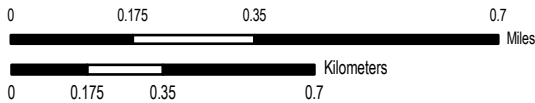
44°39'0"N



- Klehr Parcel: 154.6 GIS Acres
- DNR Property
- US Fish & Wildlife Property

R 7 W R 6 W

PRODUCED BY MINNESOTA VALLEY NWR
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
5/29/2014
J. Miller



UTM ZONE 15
NAD 83

M.L. 2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection (2.7 / 3.7)
PROJECT MANAGER: Lisa West
AFFILIATION: Dakota County
MAILING ADDRESS: 14955 Galaxie Ave
CITY: Apple Valley **STATE:** MN **ZIP CODE:** 55124
PHONE: (952) 891-7018
E-MAIL: lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us
WEBSITE: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us>
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.7/3.7
M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 19

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$1,035,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The project goal was to acquire permanent conservation easements along rivers, streams, and undeveloped lakeshore in Dakota County; prepare Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) for conservation easements; and restore/enhance protected land. The project scope encompassed some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region. A sound fiscal and ecological conservation approach was taken, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners, with public concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

In November 2011, the Dakota County Board adopted a comprehensive Land Conservation Vision that included establishing permanent vegetative buffers along all rivers, streams and undeveloped lakeshore and protecting quality natural areas. The County's land conservation programs targeted specific areas in the County and mailings were issued to determine landowner interest. Program applications were reviewed and evaluated using County Board-approved criteria; and top-ranking projects were considered for permanent protection. Appraisals were conducted for recommended projects. NRMPs and baseline Property Reports were prepared for projects where landowners accepted purchase offers; and landowners agreed to cash or in-kind restoration and management contributions. Restoration projects were also completed on existing easement properties.

The project goals were to acquire an estimated 28 permanent conservation easements, totaling 287 acres, and restoring/enhancing 75 acres of protected land. Although the County's efforts generated a large number of potential projects, a wide variety of issues prevented projects from being completed. Landowner challenges included requesting unacceptable project changes during the acquisition process, inflated land/easement value expectations, and reluctance to commit to long-term or even short-term restoration/management. As a result, the County only acquired four conservation easements, totaling 195 acres, not meeting its goal; and completed NRMPs and/or restoration projects on eight properties, totaling 98 acres, which exceeded its goal. Approximately 4 miles of shoreline were permanently protected through this project.

M.L. 2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information about the specific projects funded through this State appropriation is integrated with information about the County's comprehensive land conservation efforts that were initiated in 1998, with a farmland and natural areas protection plan partially funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Implementation of the initial plan and subsequent revisions resulted in the permanent protection of 10,362 acres of natural areas and agricultural land and 51.5 miles of shoreland outside of the regional park and greenway system.

This project informed and improved internal and external County land conservation practices, procedures and policies. County staff has provided numerous local, regional and national presentations about how Dakota County has developed and implemented its successful programs. Information has appeared on TV and radio, as well as metropolitan newspapers and residential newsletters. Information can also be found on the County's web site at:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/LandConservation/Pages/default.aspx>



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Status Update: 8/14/2015

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection (2.7 / 3.7)

Project Manager: Lisa West

Affiliation: Dakota County

Address: 14955 Galaxie Ave

City: Apple Valley **State:** MN **Zip code:** 55124

Telephone Number: (952) 891-7018

Email Address: lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us

Web Address: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Dakota

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	1,035,000
	Amount Spent \$:	<u>288,230</u>
	Balance \$:	746,770

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.7/3.7
M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 19

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may

not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered. M.L. 2014, Chapter 226, Section 2, Subdivision 19 extended the availability of this appropriation funding until June 30, 2015.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC6 Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The history of settlement and long-accepted agricultural land use practices have resulted in the loss, degradation and fragmentation of our natural resource systems. In Dakota County, only 3% of the pre-settlement plant communities remain intact. Despite increased public awareness of water-quality issues and improvement methods, as well as multi-agency efforts to assist landowners in implementing best management practices for water quality and habitat, nearly every river, stream and lake in Dakota County is listed as impaired for its designated uses.

In recent decades, the County has experienced substantial population increases and rapid residential development. Residential development is attracted to the natural features near which people want to live – especially lakes, rivers, and streams – a trend that contributes to the disappearance of habitat and deterioration of water quality. The County has a wealth of high-quality soils and a vibrant agricultural economy, but with recently high commodity prices, the pressure on agricultural producers to plant corn and soybeans fence row to fence row has never been greater. This combination of large-scale impacts and trends require a comprehensive, long-term, and collaborative approach if we are to maintain and improve our natural resource heritage and its many associated benefits.

At the same time, there are tremendous opportunities to proactively and successfully address these challenges. The economic downturn has slowed residential development and significantly lowered land prices. Intensity of storm events and localized flooding in Dakota County during the past few years has led agricultural landowners to reconsider planting in low-lying or wet areas. Sound plans have been developed and adopted that focus energy and resources on protecting and improving our natural infrastructure. The County has an excellent track record of working effectively with a wide variety of agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and individuals to acquire and manage conservation easements and implement increased natural resource stewardship.

The goal of this project will be to acquire an estimated 27 permanent conservation easements, totaling 266 acres from willing landowners, along the Vermillion River and North, Middle and South Creeks, South Branch and their tributaries; and the Cannon River and its primary tributaries within the County (Dutch, Mud, Chub, Darden and Pine Creeks, and Trout Brook); to acquire permanent easements totaling 21 acres along Marcott Lakes in Inver Grove Heights; to prepare natural resource management plans on 287 acres; and to restore/enhance 75 acres of protected property.

The scale and scope of this project is both feasible and significant. It encompasses some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region across a combination of urban, suburban and rural landscapes. It takes a precise and sound fiscal and ecological systems approach to conservation while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners with the public's concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 2012:

In November 2011, the County Board adopted a comprehensive Land Conservation Vision that includes acquisition of inholdings and buffers of five regional parks and accelerated restoration within the five regional parks; a 200-mile multi-purpose greenway system that includes wildlife habitat, water quality and recreational trails; permanent vegetative buffers along all rivers, streams and undeveloped lakeshore; land cover-derived natural areas; and agricultural conservation zones. The County Board also adopted a dedicated stewardship fund as part of the 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program budget for easement monitoring and natural resource management.

The new County staff person assigned to the project had to delay his involvement due to a number of state and federal issues involving the Lake Byllesby dam on the Cannon River. The contracted real estate person has not been able to devote as much time as anticipated. The staff real estate person is down to two days per week due to health reasons and is retiring in March. We hope to have a full-time replacement by the end of March. In summary, while there has been progress in a number of areas, we have not made as much progress on projects as we would have liked.

Project Status as of August 2012:

A one-year, term-limited real estate person was hired in April and the previously assigned person is now expected to devote more time to land conservation projects beginning in September. There has been internal recognition that land conservation has inadequate resources so a significant divisional reorganization is now underway to build additional staff capacity and should be implemented in the final quarter of 2012. The County Board has adopted "A Clean and Green County" as one of the five major goals of its overall vision. Preliminarily, the County Board will budget \$900,000 per year for land conservation for the next five years.

Amendment Request 02/1/2013:

While the County continues to make significant progress on a number of projects, a number of significant organization and staffing changes have occurred within the County that have created delays, prompting this amendment request to extend this project to 2014.

The Land Conservation Section was transferred from Parks and Open Space to Water Resources in the third quarter of 2012 in recognition of the critical relationship between land protection and management and water quality and the emphasis on working with private lands. In January, the Water Resources Department (Land, Groundwater, Surface Water and the Vermillion River Watershed) were merged with Environmental Management (Solid and Hazardous Waste, Recycling, and Contaminated Sites) to form a new Environmental Resources Department. During this process, the Water Resource Department Director retired. Positions have been and are continuing to be evaluated based on skills and priorities. The Real-estate Specialist, which had been a one-year, term-limited position has now been converted to a permanent, full-time position. A new supervisory position that will oversee shoreland zoning and riparian buffers has been established. Additional County staff will be reassigned to assist with land conservation efforts.

Other factors are involved in these delays. The key staff person responsible for the riparian buffer component of the project had to prioritize duties away from this project to deal with Lake Byllesby dam related projects including unanticipated repairs and improvements required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The County works with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on farmland protection projects that often include buffers and habitat areas. Due to an unanticipated change in their appraisal review process, eight 2011 projects involving 1,226 acres and millions of dollars had to be reappraised, renegotiated and documents updated in order to meet agreement timelines. This resulted in staff having to reprioritize projects and also created workload and timeline issues with appraisers.

While most of the issues have been or will be satisfactorily addressed, these many challenges, and the resulting new opportunities for more significant natural resource protection and management, require an extension of time period for completing this project.

Amendment Approved by the LCCMR June 24, 2013.

Project Status as of February 2013:

In addition to the ongoing efforts to protect the Marcott Lakes Area in Inver Grove Heights, and the progress made on the projects described in the Activity I Status section, 54 new riparian landowners who have property along the Vermillion River, Cannon River, and Chub Creek were contacted by the County since August 2012, to determine their interest in voluntarily participating in the buffer initiative. These landowners were identified based on an analysis of the river/stream quality and habitat on their property, their stewardship practices, likely interest in the initiative, and other factors. Each received a newly developed information package that included an introductory letter from the County, fact sheet explaining the overall project, County-generated map of the landowner's property with proposed easement boundaries and as many as six polygons representing the different landcover components, preliminary compensation amount (based on an incremental valuation formula tied to specific landcover components), a fact sheet explaining conservation easements, and a self-addressed, stamped postcard for interested landowners to return.

Follow-up phone calls have been made to approximately half of the initial 54 mailings. In addition to the projects described under Activity I results, two landowners have agreed to sell an easement using the formula and five other landowners have expressed strong interest and are in various stages of information exchange between themselves and the County. Several other interested landowners have requested that discussions wait until they return from their winter homes in the south.

Several property owners that were called after the initial mailing expressed no interest. Some stated the valuation formula tied to specific land classifications was too low, or in one case, "insulting." Others expressed concern that despite the potential receipt of payment for a conservation easement, they would still be burdened with paying taxes on the land, still have to maintain the land under easement, and lose some of their rights of ownership. Others stated they have no interest in an easement, but if the "price was right," they would consider selling the land to the County. Staff will complete follow-up calls with the remaining land owners in the next few weeks and distribute the information package to the next set of landowners.

Dakota County administers the DNR shoreland rules through the Dakota County Shoreland Zoning and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Staff is entering the third year of a three-year education-to-enforcement initiative to achieve compliance with maintaining a 50-foot permanent vegetated riparian buffer along DNR designated shoreland areas. It is anticipated that this buffer initiative will be effective in helping offset some of the land production value lost by landowners who are required to comply with the 50-foot permanent vegetated buffer requirement by providing compensation for adjacent areas outside of the buffer. Many of the shoreland landowners identified in the 50-foot buffer requirement have either complied or are willing to establish a buffer in 2013. Those landowners who achieved compliance represent a potentially receptive group for additional buffer easements.

Since the long-term County goal is to establish vegetative buffers along all rivers and streams, the County has now modified the scoring system to evaluate projects. The revised system is more objective and easier to apply and includes a minimum score for eligibility. See attached.

Project Status as of December 2013:

Significant progress has been made on the numerous acquisition projects that are in varying stages of completion. Appraisals have been completed or are underway. Negotiations have resulted in landowner agreements for many easements. Finalizing easements, completing Environmental Assessments, Property Reports, Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP)/Stewardship Plans, securing federal

approval, updating title commitments and other documentation is now the next step for the majority of the acquisition projects.

The restoration projects have been delayed due to the associated delays in the acquisition projects and staffing constraints at the County. The primary staff person responsible for NRMPs has had to focus more time on groundwater and associated nitrate issues than anticipated. We are in the process of reassigning staff and reprioritizing projects to meet the agreement objectives.

The number, diversity and complexity of land conservation projects; including natural area protection, agricultural easements, park and greenway acquisition and shoreland easements, continues to be a challenge to manage.

Project Status as of March 2014:

The County has continued to approach shoreland landowners to assess their interest in working with the County on a conservation easement. By the end of 2013, each of 47 additional landowners had received an updated information package that included an introductory letter from the County, fact sheet explaining the overall project and current County Board approved compensation formula, County-generated map of the landowner's property with proposed easement boundaries and as many as six polygons representing different land-cover components, preliminary compensation estimate (based on an incremental valuation formula tied to specific land-cover components for those properties estimated at less than \$50,000), a fact sheet explaining conservation easements, and a self-addressed, stamped postcard for interested landowners to return. Staff made follow-up phone calls to landowners to gauge interest, answer any questions, and establish personal contact.

Of these landowners, 12 are now in some stage of the acquisition process that includes an appraisal (for acquisitions exceeding \$50,000), environmental site assessment, title search, and development of a Natural Resources Management Plan. Several other landowners continue to express interest in working with the County on conservation easements, but cite the need to consult with involved family members, renters, attorneys, or other trusted advisors. Six additional landowners were interested in larger-scale protection through the County's Farmland and Natural Areas (FNAP) program, but have shoreland that would also be eligible for funding through this program. The riparian properties currently "in the pipeline" include easements totaling an estimated 170 acres, including 19,600 feet of shoreland, at an estimated cost of \$378,000. These estimates do not include the FNAP natural area acquisitions in progress, which tend to be larger tracts of land.

The past reporting period has been challenging on several levels. Changes among the County staff occurring during the past six months include: 1) a new department manager; 2) departure of our real estate specialist; 3) recruitment and training of a replacement; 4) retirement of staff member responsible for environmental site assessments and easement monitoring; and 5) re-assignment of a new staff member working on NRMPs. In addition, a shortage of real-estate appraisers experienced in easement acquisition has lengthened timeframes, as well as recent guidance requiring that easements must be sent to the LCCMR 10 days before closing. All of these factors have made it difficult to complete all of the required steps to closing.

An additional barrier to moving projects forward is the quantity of the projects versus the size of the easements acquired. The County has a well-developed process for completing larger farmland and natural area easements, most of which require an appraisal, environmental site assessment, title search, NRMP and Landowner Agreement, document drafting, County Board approval and closing. The ShoreHolders program systematically markets to individual landowners with proposed easement areas that can be as small as five to ten acres. While small-acre easements do not require an appraisal, all of the other acquisition steps must still be completed. With temporary reductions in staff capacity, the number of acres and expense may not meet expected goals. There continues to be some ambivalence on the part of landowners related to taking cultivated land out of production and the permanent loss of revenue and then still having to pay taxes on the property. However, the County plans to complete as many of these projects as possible before the grant is completed.

Amendment Request (06/13/2014)

Dakota County is requesting that the ability to expend funds from M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec.2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7 MeCC Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection be extended until June 30, 2015. There are several reasons for this requested extension:

Dakota County has been without a land acquisition specialist since November of 2013 when the incumbent took a new position outside of the County. The County posted the position within two weeks and went through the interview and selection process with three fine candidates. After negotiations, none of the candidates accepted offers. The County revised the job description to reduce the qualifications. Twenty-six applications were received and twenty-four did not meet the minimum qualifications of having two-years of acquisition. The position remains unfilled and we are now pursuing a Request for Qualifications for a Land Acquisition Specialist.

The County has been involved in complicated and controversial land condemnation court proceedings with acquiring critical private properties in Spring Lake Park Reserve to protect high quality natural resources, culturally significant resources and to secure land control to prevent the loss of \$2+ million in federal funds to complete the second last segment of the 27-mile long Mississippi River Regional Trail. These proceedings have required re-prioritization of existing staff time.

The County has been undertaking extensive nitrate studies of the groundwater through additional Department of Agriculture funding. The results indicate a more wide-spread problem than anticipated. This public health issue has resulted in County natural resource staff being reallocated to work on this project.

The federal Farm Bill changed the farmland protection program and requirements. In order to meet a very short timeframe for submitting requests for \$1M+ in reimbursement funds, staff was diverted to this work.

Finally, the ongoing unresolved issues with the complicated and controversial Grannis property easement need to be discussed to determine the fate of this project.

This amendment request was approved by LCCMR June 30, 2014, to extend the availability of the funds until June 30, 2015, with the condition that specific parcels be amended to the acquisition list within the waterways approved in the original work plan.

Amendment Request (07/29/2014)

The County requests that the following projects be approved as additions to the acquisition list: Bastien, Blair, Boucher, Dahl, S. Gergen, Grannis, Lindell Trust, Marthaler, Nicolai, G. Olson, D. Peterson, Robinson, M. Smith, R. Stoffel and Wergin/Renlund. Descriptions of these projects are included in previous and current status reports. These projects total 260 acres.

The County requests increasing the amount of funds available for appraisal services from \$20,000 to \$60,000. The anticipated number of projects with projected costs greater than the \$50,000 formula is higher than expected, the complications on the Grannis property valuation, and the DNR's \$20,000 limit for non-appraised projects requires more appraisal expenditures.

The County requests that the following projects be approved as additions to the restoration list: Betzold, Boucher, D. Gergen, P. Gergen Jr., S. Gergen, Grannis, Juenke, Lindberg, Lindell Trust, G. Olson, Robinson, Rowan, R. Stoffel and Wergin/Renlund. These projects include Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP) on 309 acres and a minimum restoration of 120 acres. Descriptions of these projects are included in previous and current status reports.

The County requests that the amount of funds available for equipment and supplies (seed) for restoration be reduced from \$86,000 to \$46,000. The cost for seed was significantly less than anticipated for restoring more acres than projected in the workplan.

This amendment request was withdrawn, revised and resubmitted as the 4/7/15 amendment request.

Project Status as of July 2014:

A revised shoreland easement template incorporating LCCMR-recommended language has been completed and is being submitted for review by LCCMR staff as an addendum to this status report.

A land acquisition specialist was hired by the County on July 28, 2014. A Request for Qualifications was developed and distributed to potential land acquisition contractors with a July 7, 2014, due date. The County received five responses and is in the process of contracting for their services - some of which will be utilized for projects included in this work plan.

Dedicated staff and new business practices have been established within the Land Conservation Unit of the Environmental Resources Department to provide additional assistance in tracking and administering grant agreements and funding reimbursements.

The County Board authorized revisions to the easement valuation formula for properties classified as residential to address significant differences in tax-assessed value for these parcel for those parcel classified as agricultural. County staff intend to meet with DNR staff to see if the state grant agreements can be amended to allow the use of the County's easement valuation formula similar to what is allowed for Reinvest in Minnesota projects.

A new NRMP template is nearly finalized for updating previous NRMPs and as the basis for current and future NRMPs on all easements. This template is designed to be landowner friendly, more consistent, easier to develop for each project and better utilize internal staff and contractor expertise. Information menus, including photos and maps, for various sections have been developed and the appropriate sections can then be selected for individual projects. The template includes the following sections:

- Plan Purpose
- General Conservation Easement Information
- Executive Summary
- Introduction to County Land Conservation Goals and Activities
- Landscape Context
- Physical Conditions (geology, soils, topography, hydrology, ground and surface water)
- Vegetation (historical, ecological subsections, noxious and invasive species, and land cover types,
- Ecological Impacts (fire, disease, exotic species, climate change
- Plant Community Assessment (Rated as healthy, mixed, or unhealthy)
- Wildlife (existing populations of mammals, Birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need)
- Other Considerations referenced in the easement
- Target Vegetation Communities
- Management Priorities
- Recommended Methods
- Five-Year Work Plan
- Long-Term Work Plan

Project Status as of April 2015

Projects Withdrawn

Dakota County staff has spent a significant amount of time working to acquire permanent conservation easements on several properties that are not moving forward for a variety of reasons. There are also some projects that are moving forward, but are not likely be finished in time to receive funding approval

for acquisition under this agreement. Should any of these projects re-emerge with renewed landowner interest, County staff will request appropriate amendments to active funding agreements.

The following projects, for which activity updates have been provided in past workplan updates, are not moving forward at this time: Bastien, W/L Bauer, Blair, M. Boyum, Clubb Family, J. Curry, Dahl, N. Girgen, W. Hallcock, Juenke, Kasel Estate, Lace Trust, Marthaler, G. Olson, Ozment/Seehusen, D. Peterson, Robinson, Ryan, and D. Stanton.

Although the Boucher, Grannis and Lindell Trust projects are still moving forward, they are being deleted from this agreement and are no longer included in the activity updates or on the Acquisition/Restoration List.

The County continues to experience substantial challenges to shoreland easement appraisals and valuation, successfully negotiating acquisition costs and securing landowner commitment to implementing natural resource management on the acquired easements.

- 1) Valuation: Despite the work plan approval of the sophisticated easement valuation formula for rural easements, with an estimated value of \$50,000 or less, the DNR agreement requires appraisals for projects valued at \$20,000 or more. This required that some of the formula-based projects in progress would need to be appraised.

The number of appraisers experienced and qualified to appraise these types of projects remains very limited, with extensive scheduling delays due to their work loads. Further, there are virtually no comparables for these types of appraisal projects. DNR appraisal standards require the larger parcel analysis, when these shoreland easements are a very small portion of these larger parcels. As a result, the appraisal process is more expensive and more time consuming and often results in values that are too low to be attractive to landowners. Finally, the appraisal process does not take into account the public benefits, such as protecting and enhancing water quality, wildlife habitat, open space, etc., being protected as a result of the easement, because those benefits are not included in the financial analysis.

- 2) Negotiations: As noted above, some landowners are rejecting the easement values as being too low. In part, many landowners believe their agricultural land is more valuable than current market trends and actual comparable sales. They're also having difficulty recognizing and acknowledging that the majority of the easement area, which is untillable, does not have a high value, and thus the overall value of the easement appears too low. Even when it's explained and sometimes separated within the overall value, they're focused on what they think they're being paid for the agricultural portion and reject the offer.
- 3) Natural Resource Management: The County requires development of a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) with every easement. Initially, landowners were not required to implement the NRMP. Within the last several years, the County has worked with landowners to require that they contribute a modest amount of cash or in-kind services to begin implementing priority activities. Despite a willingness to include minimal amounts and be flexible, the combination of general landowner disinterest in management, the low easement value, and the older age or health constraints of some landowners – especially if they're not living on the land – has resulted in multiple landowners rejecting offers to purchase an easement, even if the value is acceptable.
- 4) General Acquisition Issues: There have been the usual and unusual complications associated with acquisitions, including, landowner health issues, family dynamics, landowner changes or delays resulting in necessary appraisal updates, staff workloads and priorities. For each offer accepted, we have perhaps three that are not accepted, recognizing time and resources spent on all of them with unequal returns.

Amendment Request (4/7/2015)

Conservation Easement Acquisition

The County requests that the following projects be approved as additions to the acquisition list:

S. Gergen, Nicolai, Smith, R. Stoffel, and Wergin/Renlund.

Project summary information, estimated costs and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status report.

As a result of a decrease in the number of acquisition projects, the County is requesting that the appraisal expenses be reduced from \$60,000 to \$15,000.

Restoration

The County requests that the following projects be approved as additions to the restoration list retroactive to June, 2014:

Betzold, D. Gergen, P. Gergen Jr., S. Gergen, Rowan, R. Stoffel and Wergin/Renlund.

The County also requests that the following projects be approved as additions to the restoration list:

Nicolai and Smith.

Project summary information, estimated or actual costs, and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status report.

Due to acquisition issues and other delays, the County requests a reduction in professional/technical contracts from \$45,000 to \$15,000 for this budget component.

The County anticipated restoring 75 acres of existing or newly protected properties. Additional opportunities allowed the County to restore an additional 55 acres. The equipment/tools/supplies costs are considerably less than originally estimated. For clarification purposes, the County requests addition of an Equipment/Tools/Supplies budget line item to the A. ENRTF BUDGET table on page 21, and an amount of \$25,000 for this budget component.

A \$46,000 amount has been incorrectly listed in the A. ENRTF BUDGET table on page 21 as Service Contracts. The Service Contracts amount should have been listed as \$50,000 per Attachment A. This change is noted in the table.

With the proposed budget reductions for Professional/Technical Contracts, Service Contracts, and Equipment/Tools/Supplies and appraisal costs, the County proposes to increase the easement acquisition component from \$834,000 to \$930,000. However, the County anticipates expending an estimated \$200,000 of Trust Funds to acquire the proposed acquisition projects. This would result in an estimated \$570,000 that will not be needed and can be returned to the Trust Fund account.

Amendment Approved by the LCCMR April 8, 2015.

Final Report Summary:

The project goal was to acquire permanent conservation easements from willing landowners, along rivers, streams, and undeveloped lakeshore in Dakota County; to prepare Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) for conservation easements; and to restore/enhance protected land. The project scope encompassed some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan area, across combined urban, suburban and rural landscapes. A sound fiscal and ecological systems approach to conservation was taken, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners, with the public's concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

In November 2011, the Dakota County Board adopted a comprehensive Land Conservation Vision that included establishing permanent vegetative buffers along all rivers, streams and undeveloped lakeshore and protecting land cover-derived natural areas. The County's new and existing land conservation programs targeted fairly specific areas in the County, where mailings were issued to determine landowner interest. Program applications were reviewed and evaluated; and top-ranking

projects meeting County Board-approve criteria were considered for permanent protection. Appraisals were conducted for recommended projects. NRMPs and baseline Property Reports (PRs) were prepared for each project where landowners accepted purchase offers; and landowners agreed to cash or in-kind contributions toward protected property restoration and management. Restoration projects were also completed on existing easement properties.

The project goals were: acquiring an estimated 28 permanent conservation easements, totaling 287 acres; and restoring/enhancing 75 acres of protected land. County staff worked hard to get easements in place and restoration projects implemented, while rebuilding staff capacity during periods of staff turnover. However, a variety of issues also often derailed the acquisition process, including: landowner project changes; unforeseen financial challenges/roadblocks; and reluctance to commit to long-term restoration and/or inflated land value expectations that lead to rejected purchase offers. Consequently, the County was only able to acquire four conservation easements, totaling 195 acres, which did not meet its goal; and complete PRs and NRMPs and/or restoration projects for eight properties, with total restored acreage of 98 acres, which surpassed its goal. Through this project, approximately 3.9 miles of waterway shoreline was protected.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquisition of Conservation Easements

Description:

This shoreline corridor initiative is part of a comprehensive Dakota County Land Conservation Vision that also includes regional parks, multi-purpose greenways and the protection of high quality natural areas and working lands.

The completed, LCCMR-funded Vermillion River Corridor Plan provides the basis for land protection within the Vermillion River system. The plan integrates and prioritizes the combined protection and improvement of water quality, wildlife habitat and appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities. A system of established criteria including reducing non-point pollution; improving stream channel, floodplain and wetland functions; ecological quality and size; length of shoreline; proximity to other protected land; landowner commitment to current and future stewardship; cost and leveraged funds; improving appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities; and other considerations will be used to evaluate and rank projects. The easements do not require public access, but projects including public access receive higher scores. In addition, payment for public access easements, similar to the DNR Angler Access Easement Program, will be available to landowners. Easements will be written in a way so as to not preclude public trails at a future date to reflect changes in demographics and local land use. A similar plan and criteria system is being developed for the north Cannon River system. A technical staff team from the County's Park and Open Space and Water Resources Departments and the Dakota County SWCD will review and rank projects and forward recommendations to the County Board for approval. See Attached: Criteria

The most significant and expensive easement is part of the 250-acre Marcott Lakes project in Inver Grove Heights. This project involves multiple landowners, phases and funding sources including Dakota County, state Outdoor Heritage, and landowner donation. This phase involves acquiring an easement on 10 platted lots with lakeshore and/or lake views. The remainder of the projects will involve riparian buffers. GIS and outreach efforts have and will identify critical and willing landowners interested in protecting and managing important parcels as part of the County's comprehensive initiative to provide buffers along all rivers and streams.

Easement values for projects in cities or with an estimated cost exceeding \$50,000 will be based on an independent fair market appraisal. Due to the lack of sale comparables for small riparian easements in the metro region and increased staff and financial efficiency, a formula based on rural agricultural tax assessed value and variably adjusted according to regulatory conditions, floodplain, amount of cultivated land taken out of production, and vegetation types will be used to determine per acre

easement value. Updated aerial photography and Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data, official FEMA floodplain boundaries, and site visits will be used to determine the following respective acreage components of each easement:

- Agricultural Land - within and outside of 50 feet from shoreline
- Woodlands - within and outside of 100-year floodplain
- Fields and wetlands - within and outside of 100-year floodplain

These acreages will then be multiplied by the relevant valuation amount to determine the value of each respective component to produce the overall easement value. Payment for public access will be based upon \$5/foot for stream length or lakeshore within the easement. This process was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney’s Office, County Assessor’s Office, County Administration and the County Board of Commissioners. In addition, the process was reviewed by three independent appraisers and their comments were integrated within the approach. See Attached: Valuation Formula.

Phase I Environmental Assessments will be completed for all projects and all solid waste will have to be removed as a condition of participation. Easements are surveyed by the County Surveyor’s Office and the resulting information is used for legal documents and boundary markers. Baseline Property Reports, referenced in the easement deed, are reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County and completed prior to acquisition. All information is entered into a land management data base. As previously adopted by the County Board, the County’s standard practice is to monitor each easement on an annual basis. A combination of remotely reviewing the easement using available technology and then scheduling a site visit is used for determining easement compliance. Each written monitoring report is reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County and then entered into the data base. Monitoring and future enforcement, if necessary, is an ongoing County obligation and is budgeted accordingly.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget:	\$960,000
Amount Spent:	<u>\$253,052</u>
Balance:	\$706,948

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Permanent protection of estimated 27 properties totaling an estimated 287 acres of high priority natural resource lands through acquisition of perpetual conservation easements.	June 30, 2015	\$960,000

Activity Status as of February 2012:

- The Marcott Lakes project has been progressing. The appraised value of the 103 acres of platted lots is significant and will require a combination of funds from the County, FY10 and FY11 Outdoor Heritage Funds, and the FY12 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund. A contingent offer on the entire property has now been made. The draft NRMP has been completed and reviewed by the landowner who winters in Florida. The property has been previously taxed on an assessed as determined by enrollment in Green Acres. With changes in the law and associated eligibility requirements and new rates, a detailed tax analysis has now been completed in terms of deferred taxes and likely assessed value if a conservation easement is in place. The owner is consulting with various financial professionals to determine options. We are estimating approximately 30 acres will be funded exclusively with these ENRTF funds.
- Continuing to make progress on 11 riparian projects totaling 288 acres.
- In February, the County Board approved the following:
 - Acquiring a 300-acre farmland property that will include ~60 acres of riparian buffers
 - Advancing four new riparian projects totaling 110 acres

- Advancing two new farmland projects with ~35 acres of riparian areas
- At the invitation of a bank, the County is working on protecting nearly .5 miles of shoreline on an undeveloped lake in Rosemount prior to residential development.

Activity Status as of August 2012:

- The 103-acre Lindberg easement project (#6) was acquired on August 6, 2012, after three closed executive sessions with the County Board and controversy with the city of Inver Grove Heights related to a proposed youth shooting range on the adjoining Grannis property. 14.2 acres of the project were funded with a combination of ENRTF and County matching funds.
- An option agreement has been signed for the 117-acre Grannis property easement adjacent to the Lindberg easement and new appraisal begins in September.
- We are continuing to make varying progress on eighteen riparian projects totaling 493 acres.
- The County Board approved appraising the Horseshoe Lake project (#11) which involves the County, City of Rosemount, Klein Bank, and residential developer in a lakeshore buffer, multipurpose greenway, a neighborhood park and the purchase of several potential residential lots.

Activity Status as of February 2013:

- The appraisal of the Grannis property adjacent to the Lindberg property as part of the larger Marcott lakes project, has been underway, but delayed due to appraiser workloads and at the request of the landowner. It is scheduled to be completed in mid-May. In January, the Inver Grove Heights City Council unanimously passed a resolution of support for the Marcott Lakes protection project.
- In December, the County Board approved appraising and negotiating third principle landowner property with wetland and upland habitat adjacent to both the Lindberg and Grannis properties.
- Project #2 required an appraisal update to meet federal farmland protection program requirements and has now been completed. Appraisal review has been completed and approved. Negotiations will ensue shortly. Negotiations with landowners of Project #3 and #4 are underway.
- The owner of Project #5 has decided not to sell an easement based on a lower than expected appraised value. Landowner #6 has withdrawn. A contract for appraising Project #7 will be signed in February.
- After an initial unsuccessful attempt, the DNR has now obtained an option on Project #10 so funding will not be necessary for this project.
- Negotiations continue to take place between the bank owner of a 150-acre property (project #11) that includes the virtually undeveloped Horseshoe Lake, a national homebuilder interested in developing 159 lots, the City of Rosemount, and the County to permanently protect 3,100 feet of shoreline as a separate, but associated component of protecting portions of two, multi-purpose, regional greenways.
- In January, the County Board approved appraising and negotiating easements for projects #12, #13 and #16 which include significant portions of Chub Creek, the South Creek tributary to Vermillion River and Chub Creek respectively.
- Appraisals have been completed for projects #17, #18, and #19.

Activity Status as of December 2013:

The County's Real Estate Specialist has left to take a new position with a non-profit organization in early December and the County is in the process of posting the position. The County staff person responsible for completing Environmental Assessments and Property Reports for all land conservation projects retired on December 2nd. The Coordinator for the shoreland easement projects had to be re-assigned back to the Byllesby Dam upgrade project due to complications related to the multi-million dollar spillway project and turbine replacement. These staff changes have resulted in delays and the recent transfer of new personnel which will require considerable training. As a result, we have had to re-prioritize and delay projects. Nevertheless significant progress has been made on the following projects:

- Project #1 (Grannis): Mr. Grannis has worked with the City of Inver Grove Heights to revise the current comprehensive plan that would allow the associated visitor center and assisted living facility

(to be located outside of the easement) that would provide some of the necessary operating funds for the outdoor skills center. The draft appraisal of the Grannis property was completed in August and required significant revisions. It was revised in late September and the County and the landowners met in late September to discuss values. The landowners were not pleased with the methodology and resulting easement value and requested that the County Board release the full appraisal which the Board did in early November. Recent discussions indicate that the landowners will contract for a separate appraisal and the County will be contracting for a new appraisal.

- Project #2 (Rowan): Negotiations were successfully completed and the 285.4-acre agricultural easement in Greenvale Township was acquired on October 29, 2013. The shoreland portion of the easement along Dutch Creek and a tributary total 45.9 acres, of which 5.8 acres will be planted to native vegetation in spring 2014.
- Project #3 (Nicolai): The landowner of this wetland and stream easement in Castle Rock Township was not willing to sell an easement at the appraised value so the project is withdrawn.
- Project #4 (Wergin/Renlund): Negotiations were successful on this 37-acre easement along Chub Creek in Waterford Township. There is a recording issue associated with a four-acre, recently acquired parcel that is included in the easement delaying the closing until late December or early January.
- Project #7 (N. Girgen): The appraisal was completed in July. Negotiations have been very challenging for this significant easement along the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township and the City of Vermillion. Despite repeated alterations to the easement configuration that would reduce the amount of land being taken out of cultivation, the landowner decided not to sell an easement. This project is being withdrawn.
- Project #8 (G. Olson): The County Board authorized an appraisal of this 3.5-acre easement containing 520 feet of North Creek Blair in the City of Lakeville in September. At the landowner's request, the appraisal meeting is scheduled for mid-December.
- Project 11 (Klein Bank): Due to banking regulations, Klein Bank transferred the property to RIOU Property 2, LLC (RIOU), a wholly owned subsidiary. The City of Rosemount approved the subdivision plat. The County Board approved the acquisition of the 25-acre municipal shoreland easement along Horseshoe Lake from RIOU on July 30, 2013. The Metropolitan Council (MC) approved the associated municipal greenway easement on August 27, 2013, as part of the overall project. After finalizing the numerous complicated transactions and documents involving the County, the MC, City of Rosemount, RIOU and the developer (Lennar/U.S Homes) the shoreland easement was acquired on October 16, 2013.
- Project #12 (S. Gergen): The County Board authorized the appraisal. Negotiations were successful for acquiring this 25-acre easement along Chub Creek in the City of Randolph. The local school district subsequently requested that the landowner consider selling a 2± acre portion of the proposed easement for an expanded athletic complex. The landowner is now considering the request. It is uncertain whether the easement will remain at 25 acres. If the easement is reduced by the proposed amount, the appraisal will have to be updated.
- Project #13 (D. Peterson): After substantial negotiations between the landowner and the City of Farmington regarding the floodplain boundary and what the city would allow under its comprehensive plan, the County Board subsequently authorized the appraisal of a shoreland easement along the South Creek tributary to the Vermillion River. An appraisal meeting was in the process of being scheduled when we were informed that the landowner had sustained serious injuries from an accident and we have not been able to proceed due to his condition.
- Project #16 (Marthaler): The appraisal of this 27-acre shoreland easement along Chub Creek in Randolph Township was delayed due to the appraiser schedule and is now scheduled to be completed in December.
- Project #17 (Juenke): The appraisal was completed and negotiations were successful. The County Board approved the acquisition of this 94.1-acre agricultural easement along the South Branch of the Vermillion River in Castle Rock Township. The easement includes 7.1 acres of stream buffer and a 24-acre portion of the very high quality Hampton Woods. At the request of the landowner, the closing will take place in January 2014.

- Project #18 (Lace): The appraisal was completed and negotiations were successful. The County Board approved the acquisition of this 162-acre agricultural easement along Chub Creek in Greenville Township and was acquired on November 6, 2013. However, the relatively small, 8-acre natural area portion of the larger easement does not warrant the staff time required to include it in the overall project so it is being withdrawn from further consideration.
- Project #19 (Ozment/Seehusen): The appraisal was completed and negotiations were successful. The County Board approved the acquisition of this 102.7-acre agricultural easement in Castle Rock Township, of which 49 acres is a small lake and tributary to the south Branch of the Vermillion River and associated buffer. The easement was acquired on November 1, 2013.
- Project #20 (M. Smith): The landowner, County and the City of Lakeville have had preliminary discussions about the design of a multi-purpose land protection project. The landowner requested that we delay further discussions and the appraisal until January 2014.
- Project #21 (W/L Bauer): The landowner has decided not to consider selling an easement at this time so this project is withdrawn.

The following new projects have resulted from landowner outreach efforts:

- Project #28 (Boucher): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire an 11.3-acre easement that includes 975 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township.
- Project #29 (Lindell): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire a 5.0-acre easement that includes 975 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Marshan Township.
- Project #30 (R. Stoffel): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire a 9.5-acre easement that includes 2,260 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township.
- Project #30 (Bastien): The County Board approved appraising a 16-acre easement that includes 1,880 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township.
- Project #31 (Blair): The County Board approved appraising a 13-acre easement that includes 2,370 feet of shoreline along the South Creek tributary to the Vermillion River in the City of Farmington.

Activity Status as of March 2014:

The County has interviewed three potential land acquisition specialist candidates on January 31, 2014. The County has now reassigned an existing Environmental Resources Department staff member to coordinate Shore holder projects.

- Project #1 (Grannis): The landowners have now contracted for their own appraisal, and the County has contracted for a new appraisal of this proposed easement that will include a residential subdivision plan to assist the appraiser and the County to better determine fair market value for this unique property. As proposed, there will be three exception areas on the property that will not be included in the easement: an assisted living facility on the edge of the easement that is planned so that the leased land can provide operating funds for the new Outdoor Skills Center; a 2+ acre which is the proposed site of a future visitor center (the owner has agreed to place restrictions on this area to prevent non-compatible future uses if the visitor center is not constructed); and an area that includes the owners current house and barns that would eventually be used for Outdoor Skills Center facilities. The appraisal should be completed in mid-April. A legal description of the proposed easement has been prepared based on survey completed by the County. The Easement Deed has been drafted (with LCCMR-related language), and the Purchase Agreement has been drafted without the acquisition cost, a preliminary Natural Resource Management Plan has been completed, and the environmental assessment has been completed with no issues.
- Project #4 (Wergin/Renlund): A recording issue associated with a four-acre, recently acquired parcel by the landowner has now been resolved so this 37-acre easement along Chub Creek in Waterford Township can proceed toward closing.
- Project #8 (G. Olson): The appraisal of this 3.5-acre easement containing 520 feet of North Creek Blair in the City of Lakeville has been completed and negotiations are scheduled for late February.

- Project #12 (S. Gergen): The landowner is no longer interested in working with the local school district and has agreed to sell the 27-acre easement along Chub Creek in the City of Randolph. The project will be going to the County Board for approval in April.
- Project #13 (D. Peterson): The landowner continues to heal from a serious injury sustained from a significant fall and we have not been able to proceed due to his condition. However, he called last week and staff is planning to meet with him in two weeks.
- Project #16 (Marthaler): The appraisal of this 30-acre shoreland easement along Chub Creek in Randolph Township has been completed and approved. Landowner negotiations will begin in March.
- Project #17 (Juenke): The 94.1-acre agricultural easement along the South Branch of the Vermillion River in Castle Rock Township, which includes 7.1 acres of stream buffer and a 24-acre portion of the very high quality Hampton Woods was acquired on January 9, 2014.
- Project #20 (M. Smith): The landowner, County and the City of Lakeville have had preliminary discussions about the design of a multi-purpose land protection project. The landowner requested that we delay further discussions and the appraisal. A meeting with the landowner has been scheduled in late-March.
- Project #28 (Boucher): The NRMP for this 11.3-acre easement that includes 1,200 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to close in April.
- Project #29 (Lindell Trust): The NRMP for this 5.0-acre easement that includes 975 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Marshan Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to close in April.
- Project #30 (R. Stoffel): The NRMP for this 9.5-acre easement that includes 2,260 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to be closed in April.
- Project #31 (Bastien): The appraisal for this 16-acre easement that includes 1,880 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township is underway.

The following new projects have resulted from landowner outreach efforts within the last reporting period:

- Project #32 (Blair): The County Board approved appraising a 21-acre easement that includes 2,370 feet of shoreline along the South Creek tributary to the Vermillion River in the City of Farmington.
- Project #33 (Dahl): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire a 5-acre easement that includes 490 feet of shoreline along Chub Creek (tributary to the Cannon River) in the Greenvale Township. An offer has been presented.
- Project #34 (Robinson): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire a 6-acre easement that includes 1,525 feet of shoreline along the Vermillion in Vermillion Township. An offer has been presented.

An additional 41 landowner packages, including map development, have been developed and are distributed in February. The County has received eight positive responses and landowner meetings are being scheduled.

Activity Status as of August 2014:

Project #2 (Grannis): Due to a number of issues raised by LCCMR staff, and presumably Commission members, and Outdoor Heritage Fund staff, use of Trust Funds for this project is on hold until further review by the Commission. General issues include using public funds to pay for easements when the easement value is close to the fee title value and the lack of or acceptable levels of public access/use. These concerns are further heightened by its complex nature, expense, uncertainty about the viability of the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills Center and the potential future use of the three proposed easement exception areas.

Although funding is on-hold, a number of activities have continued. As referenced in the previous status report, the County and the Grannis family each contracted with new appraisers to determine the Before,

After, and Conservation Easement Values of the 134-acre Grannis family property. County staff, including the Assessor's Office, had concluded that it was in the public interest to complete a second appraisal and to base the new appraisal on a residential subdivision plan to provide additional quantitative analysis to determine the highest and best use of the property as opposed to using qualitative adjustments to other "comparable" properties.

The County's appraiser and the Grannis family contracted with the same private development company to develop a legally, physically and financially feasible sub-development plan that would likely be approved by the City of Inver Grove Heights (and Dakota County since the potential development would directly connect to a County road). The development plan would then be used by both appraisers to determine the location, size and number of lots and also estimate the associated development costs. An issue arose during the County Plat Commission review of the plan and the Commission determined that two proposed cul-de-sacs would have to be connected to meet transportation guidelines. This resulted in the loss of a three potential lots and added development expenses thereby reducing both the gross and Before Value of the property.

The appraisers would choose one of three residential development scenarios ranging between 29 and 39 lots with two outlots and use the following considerations to determine the Before Value: number and value of the lots less the site development costs, time for city approval, absorption rate, taxes, closing costs, insurance, contingency, profit (risk during permitting, development and marketing), discount rate and internal rate of return. The After Value would be based on the value of the land with the proposed easement in place. This value would be based on removing development potential for all portions of the property either not encumbered by the 16.8-acre existing easement or the proposed exception areas and the types of uses still allowed by the easement. The difference between the Before Value and the After Value is the Easement Value.

County staff reviewed this appraisal and found that it is acceptable. After a closed session with the County Board to discuss this project on May 20, 2014, the County Board by Resolution on July 8, 2014, authorized the release of the second appraisal to the Grannis family and also authorized the release of the first and second Grannis property appraisals to the LCCMR and the LSOHC for review. The County is waiting for the Grannis appraisal to be completed and available for County review before sharing its appraisal.

The County requested that Mr. Grannis provide a status update on the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills Center. He provided the following:

- A. Incorporation approved as 501c3 by IRS and State of MN
- B. City Of Inver Grove Heights resolution supporting the easement and approval of Local Comp Plan amendments to allow proposed facilities.
- C. Contracted with the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota to review his business plan. Their conclusion was that this was a viable plan and to begin operating before major capital investments.
- D. Renovated 1,700 sq. ft. building located in one of the proposed exception areas that included new concrete floor with in-floor heat, insulation, incinerating toilet, glass doors, gravel parking area, energy efficient lighting, and donated furnishings.
- E. Completed preliminary design plans for visitor center
- F. Discussions with three different companies/organizations for the proposed Independent Senior Center and Pre-School to be located within one of the proposed exception areas. Further studies are on-hold until the land can be secured.)
- G. Held discussions with the Independent School District 199 Superintendent. Her comment was "If you build it, we will fill it."
- H. The Board of Directors of both the Dodge Nature Center and Carpenter Nature Center are interested in partnering or potentially operating the Center.

- I. 5.9 miles of trails are being maintained.
 - J. There is ongoing natural resource management with materials taken to St. Paul District Energy
 - K. The Wildlife Resource Center in Roseville is considering making investments in the existing barns to allow for the rehabilitation and release of wildlife on the property.
 - L. On-site programs have been conducted for Simley High School, Inver Hills Community College, Boy Scouts, youth turkey hunts, and DNR gun safety classes. On April 30, 2014, 44 neighbors attended a program on Center plans and habitat restoration on the property and habitat suggestions for their properties.
- Project #3 (Nicolai): The landowner of this wetland and stream easement in Castle Rock Township has reconsidered on selling a reconfigured easement and the appraisal is being revised.
 - Project #4 (Wergin/Renlund): This 37-acre easement along Chub Creek in Waterford Township is still proceeding toward closing.
 - Project #8 (G. Olson): The appraisal of this 3.5-acre easement containing 520 feet of North Creek in the City of Lakeville had to be revised and negotiations are scheduled for August.
 - Project #12 (S. Gergen): The County Board approved acquisition of this 25-acre easement that includes 2,700 feet of shoreland along Chub Creek in the City of Randolph on May 6, 2014. A NRMP and Property Report are being developed prior to closing.
 - Project #13 (D. Peterson): The landowner continues to heal from a serious injury sustained from a significant fall and we have not been able to proceed with an appraisal of his property along the South Creek tributary to the Vermillion River in the City of Farmington due to his condition.
 - Project #16 (Marthaler): The landowner of this 30-acre shoreland easement along Chub Creek in Randolph Township rejected the County's offer in April. This project may still be undertaken as part of a related acquisition project on adjacent property.
 - Project #20 (M. Smith): The County Board authorized appraisal and negotiations of a 11-acre shoreland easement along both sides of the North Creek tributary to the Vermillion River in the City of Lakeville.
 - Project #28 (Boucher): The NRMP and Property Report for this 11.3-acre easement that includes 1,200 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to close in September.
 - Project #29 (Lindell Trust): The NRMP and Property Report for this 5.0-acre easement that includes 975 feet of shoreline on both sides of the Vermillion River in Marshan Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to close in September.
 - Project #30 (R. Stoffel): The NRMP and Property Report for this 9.5-acre easement that includes 2,260 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township is being finalized and the easement is expected to be closed in September.
 - Project #31 (Bastien): The appraisal for this 16-acre easement that includes 1,880 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township has been completed and approved by the County. Negotiations will take place in August.
 - Project #32 (Blair): The appraisal for this 21-acre easement that includes 2,370 feet of shoreline along the South Creek tributary to the Vermillion River in the City of Farmington has been completed and approved by the County. Negotiations will take place in August.
 - Project #33 (Dahl): The landowner of the 490 feet of shoreline along Chub Creek (tributary to the Cannon River) in the Greenvale Township has rejected the County's offer based on the primarily on the natural resource management requirements associated with an easement.
 - Project #34 (Robinson): The project to acquire a 6-acre easement that includes 1,525 feet of shoreline along the Vermillion in Vermillion Township was delayed due to the need for the County Board to revising easement valuation formula for residentially classified property. A revised offer has been presented and is being considered.

Activity Status as of April 2015

- Dakota County staff has spent a significant amount of time working to acquire permanent conservation easements on several properties that are not moving forward for a variety of reasons. There are also some projects that are moving forward, but are not likely be finished in time to

receive funding approval for acquisition under this ML 2011 agreement. Should any of these projects re-emerge with renewed landowner interest in the future, County staff will request appropriate amendments to active funding agreements. The following projects, for which activity updates have been provided in past workplan updates, are not moving forward at this time: Bastien, W/L Bauer, Blair, M. Boyum, Clubb Family, J. Curry, Dahl, N. Girgen, W. Hallcock, Juenke, Kasel Estate, Lace Trust, Marthaler, G. Olson, Ozment/Seehusen, D. Peterson, Robinson, Ryan, and D. Stanton.

Although the Boucher, Grannis and Lindell Trust projects are still moving forward, they are being deleted from this agreement and are no longer included in the activity updates or on the Acquisition/Restoration List.

- Line 12 (S. Gergen): Although the County Board approved acquisition of this 28-acre easement that includes 2,600 feet of shoreland along Chub Creek in the City of Randolph, the landowner decided to sell the eastern two acres of the proposed easement area to the adjoining landowner. This necessitated revising the existing maps, the legal description and documents. In the meantime, the appraisal valuation date expired, and an appraisal update was needed. The appraisal update for the new proposed 26.1-acre easement was just received and is being reviewed by County staff. Finalization of the appraisal is expected in April.
- Line 4 (Nicolai): The landowner of this wetland/stream easement that includes the South Branch of the Vermillion River, reduced the proposed easement area by three acres of land. A new appraisal was undertaken and is expected to be finalized in April.
- Line 5 (Smith): This complicated project includes an 11-acre shoreland easement along 0.6 miles of the North Creek tributary to the Vermillion River and a separately funded, adjacent, four-acre regional greenway easement in the City of Lakeville. Portions of the shoreland easement are adjacent to City property. The easement area includes delineated wetlands, floodplain, woodland, and cultivated land. The easement area is part of a 103-acre property zoned for residential development and the only unprotected land in a 1.1-acre segment between East Lake and 3.2 miles of already protected creek corridor within the 14-mile long, multi-purpose greenway from Lebanon Hills Regional Park to the Vermillion River Modified Wildlife Management Area. Portions of the easement are not developable and other portions are developable. The overall goal is to create a 300-foot wide habitat corridor area. There are multiple issues and discussions between the landowner, City of Lakeville staff and the County that had to be resolved prior to proceeding with the appraisal. The draft appraisal has now been completed, but requires significant revisions.
- Line 6 (R. Stoffel): The County Board approved using the easement valuation formula to acquire a 9.5-acre easement that includes 2,260 feet of shoreline on the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township. Since the value exceeded the \$20,000 DNR limit, an appraisal was required. Due to appraiser time conflicts, the appraisal was delayed until very recently when County staff and the appraiser met with the landowner. A draft appraisal is expected in early April.
- Line 14 (Wergin/Renlund): This 37-acre easement along Chub Creek in Waterford Township had been proceeding toward closing. However, the landowner delayed the recording of documents needed to clear the title. Subsequently, the appraisal needed to be updated and the decision was made to reduce the easement area to 34.2 acres to eliminate the recently acquired, unrecorded parcel. A new appraisal was completed in February 2015, and a revised value will be presented to the landowner in April.

Final Report Summary:

Previous Activity Status updates contained numerous projects that were not officially approved by LCCMR staff, with the exception of the Lindberg conservation easement acquisition. In working most recently with LCCMR staff, County staff reduced the project acquisition list to five easement projects that it believed could be acquired by the June 30, 2015, funding deadline for this appropriation. Over the years, staff has come to understand that many factors within the acquisition process can significantly delay or derail a project (e.g., unconfined utility easements; financial issues, including necessary bank subordinations and mortgages, and undisclosed bankruptcy proceedings; landowner uncertainty and family dynamics; and changes to the easement configuration, including last-minute partial land sales). County staff does its best to anticipate and incorporate time for these potential delays; however, success in the timing of the lengthy acquisition process is not always achievable. Of

the six projects remaining on this appropriation acquisition list, four were acquired by the June 30, 2015, funding deadline, and two were not. The fact that several easement acquisition projects were removed from this appropriation for reasons previously stated, including a large easement project anticipated to be very expensive, relative to other proposed easements, resulted in the significant amount of unexpended grant funds.

Acquisition project updates:

- Line 1 (Lindberg): The 21.0-acre easement, including 0.50 miles of Marcott Lake shoreline in Inver Grove Heights, was acquired August 6, 2012. Of the total acquisition costs, the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) contribution was \$1,777,878 (57%), the landowner donation was \$900,000 (29%), the Dakota County contribution was \$271,000 (9%), and the ENRTF contribution was \$151,122 (5%). An Initial Land Acquisition Report was submitted for this project on May 11, 2015 (ID #
- Line 4 (Nicolai): The 27.4-acre easement along 0.25 miles of the South Branch of the Vermillion River in Castle Rock Township was acquired on June 23, 2015. Of the total acquisition costs, the Dakota County contribution was \$26,003 (42%), the landowner donation of value and closing costs was \$6,251 (10%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$29,003 (47%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 11-acre easement along 0.60 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. The landowner most recently placed a condition on his acceptance of an offer to purchase an easement that cannot be met under current city ordinance. County staff learned that regardless of how much time is built into the process to allow landowners to make final project decisions, sometimes it is just not enough time, and not legally possible.
- Line 6 (R. Stoffel): The 9.5-acre easement along 0.43 miles of the designated trout stream, Main Stem of the Vermillion River in Vermillion Township was not acquired by the June 30, 2015, funding deadline because the landowner did not disclose an in-progress bankruptcy action that was not discovered until recent bank inquiries by County staff. County staff intends to request an amendment to add the acquisition of this project to the M.L. 2013 LCCMR appropriation, if the bankruptcy action can be resolved in a reasonable amount of time. In the future, landowners will be required to disclose financial issues, other than mortgages, at the beginning of the acquisition process.
- Line 10 (S. Gergen): The 26.1-acre easement along 0.49 miles of Chub Creek in the City of Randolph was acquired on June 26, 2015. Of the total acquisition costs, the Dakota County contribution was \$22,353 (48%), the landowner closing costs contributed were \$520 (1%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$23,853 (51%).
- Line 11 (Wergin/ Renlund): The 38.3-acre easement along 1.14 miles of Chub Creek in Waterford Township was acquired on June 23, 2015. Of the total acquisition costs, the Dakota County contribution was \$35,705.25 (45%), the landowner donation of value and closing costs was \$5,911 (7%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$38,405 (48%).

There is a substantial amount of money that was left unspent from this total appropriation; the amount was estimated as part of the County's April 7, 2015, general amendment request on page 9, for the reasons noted above and on page 8. Of the approximate \$200,000 the County anticipated it would spend before the June 30, 2015, funding deadline, acquisition reimbursement for just over \$84,000 will be requested. The balance of the anticipated acquisition funding will not be requested for the Smith and R. Stoffel projects for the reasons previously stated.

ACTIVITY 2: Development and Implementation of Natural Resource Management Plans

Description:

All easements require the completion of a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) jointly developed by the County and the landowner. The NRMP describes the current and preferred habitat and other conditions with recommendations on how to achieve mutual goals. A detailed, three-year work plan, describing priority activities and responsibilities, is also completed as a core element of the NRMP. Due to the two-year time constraint and staff limitations, an estimated 50 percent of the easements will have final NRMPs completed by June 30, 2013 with the remaining 50 percent having

preliminary NRMPs. Easement deed language requires completion of the final NRMP within six months of closing and funds are escrowed until the plan is completed.

In addition, restoration and enhancement activities will take place on existing 75 acres of public land and private lands already encumbered by a conservation easement.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$75,000
Amount Spent: \$35,178
Balance: \$39,822

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Final Natural Resource Management Plans and work plans for 150 acres of new easement acquisitions. Preliminary Natural Resource Management Plans for 150 acres for new easement acquisitions.	June 30, 2015	\$50,000
2. Restoration and enhancement of 125 acres of previously protected areas or early easement acquisitions.	June 30, 2015	\$25,000

Activity Status as of February 2012:

- Completion of the preliminary NRMP for the 103-acre Lindberg project.
- Completion of NRMPs for 116 acres of previously acquired buffer easements.

Activity Status as of August 2012:

- Finalization of NRMP for the 103-acre Lindberg project.
- Beginning implementation of NRMPs on previously acquired easements.
- Preliminary NRMP on the 100+ acre P. Gergen Jr. natural Area complex which includes the headwaters of Pine Creek in Hampton Township.

Activity Status as of February 2013:

- Completion of the final NRMP for the Lindberg project. Landowner has committed to expending \$50,000 for priority activities.
- Completion of the preliminary P. Gergen Jr. natural area easement NRMP.

Activity Status as of December 2013:

- The 100-acre P. Gergen Jr. easement NRMP should be finalized by the end of the month.
- Preliminary NRMP on the 37-acre Wergin/Renlund easement has been completed.
- Implementation of the NRMP on previously acquired Lindberg easements is ongoing, primarily through landowner activity.

Activity Status as of February 2014:

- The P. Gergen Jr. NRMP was enlarged to include contiguous cropland because of associated hydrology and other factors. The draft final plan has been complete and is being reviewed and will then be shared with the family to develop a Landowner Agreement for implementation.
- The NRMP on the 37-acre Wergin/Renlund easement has been completed.
- The NRMPs on Boucher, Stoffel and Lindell easements are expected to be finalized by mid-April with work commencing as weather allows
- A preliminary NRMP on the S. Gergen easement is now underway.

Activity Status as of July 2014:

- Project #1 (Lindberg): The owners continue to manage the extensive buckthorn infestation within portions of the easement as a precondition to the family committing up to \$50,000 in cash or in-kind services to implement the NRMP.
- Project # 2 (Grannis): The owner continues to manage portions of the property where the most significant buckthorn growth exists. Planned restoration has been delayed due to the acquisition issues.
- Project # 3 (Wergin/Renlund): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 4 (G. Olson): The NRMP will be developed contingent on negotiations.
- Project # 5 (S. Gergen): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 6 (D. Gergen): The 77-acre area adjacent to Pine Creek that had a previous long history of cultivation was to be seeded in spring with a diverse grass and forb mix. However, the soils were and continue to be too wet to plan so the plant will be delayed until this fall.
- Project # 7 (P. Gergen Jr.): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 8 (Boucher): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 9 (Lindell Trust): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 10 (R. Stoffel): The NRMP is being adopted into the new template and implementation will be determined.
- Project # 11 (Blair): The NRMP will be developed contingent on negotiations.
- Project # 12 (Bastien): The NRMP will be developed contingent on negotiations.
- Project # 13 (Rowan): Fourteen, non-contiguous areas, totaling 6.4 acres along .64 miles of Dutch Creek were seeded with a diverse grass and forb mix in late July to establish a continuous, minimum 150-foot wide vegetative buffer.
- Project # 14 (Betzold): 6.6 acres along a tributary to Chub Creek were seeded with a diverse grass and forb mix in mid-July to establish and enlarge a vegetative buffer and to convert former cultivated land.
- Project #15 (Juenke): 3 acres along .03 miles of the South Branch of the Vermillion River were seeded with a diverse grass and forb mix in June to establish a minimum 150-foot wide vegetative buffer. This project was also important because the agricultural easement on the property also includes 12 acres of the high quality Hampton Woods and this small project was an initial phase of a more comprehensive implementation strategy.

Activity Status as of April 2015

- **Withdrawn Projects:** Dakota County staff has spent a significant amount of time working to acquire permanent conservation easements on several properties that are not moving forward for a variety of reasons. There are also some projects that are moving forward, but will likely not be finished in time to receive funding approval for restoration under this ML 2011 agreement. Should any of these projects re-emerge with renewed landowner interest; County staff will request appropriate amendments to active funding agreements. The following projects, for which activity updates have been provided in past workplan updates, are not moving forward at this time or will be closed too late in this funding cycle to allow time for restoration activities to occur: Bakken, Bastien, W/L Bauer, Blair, City of Hastings, G. Olson, M/J Otte, Ozmun, Robinson, R. Stoffel, and Wergin/Renlund.
Although the Boucher, Grannis and Lindell Trust projects are still moving forward, they are being deleted from this agreement and are no longer included in the activity updates or on the Acquisition/Restoration List.
- **Line 10 (Betzold):** This 6.6-acre area along a tributary to Chub Creek is the required buffer portion of a recently acquired permanent conservation easement. The area was seeded with a diverse grass and forb mix, following pollinator guidelines, to establish, enhance and enlarge a vegetative buffer and to convert former cultivated land on June 25, 2014.

- Line 16 (D. Gergen): This 77-acre area includes 960 feet of Pine Creek as part of a 199-acre permanent conservation easement, and is adjacent to 65 acres of habitat already protected through two other permanent conservation easements. This area was “snow seeded” between December 29, 2014, and January 2, 2015. Prairie Restorations, Inc., located near the project site, had the proper equipment and experience in snow seeding; their services were secured for the project.
- Line 17 (P. Gergen Jr.): The Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) for this 304-acre natural area complex within the 485 acres of permanently protected property was drafted in September 2014. The natural area includes portions of Pine Creek, mixed hardwood swamp, flooded shrubland, and grasslands, wet meadow, lowland hardwood forest, and aspen forest. The County is currently completing the acquisition of an additional 25-acre natural area easement and the first phase of the NRMP implementation will likely begin on that portion this spring.
- Line 11 (S. Gergen): This 26.1-acre area along 2,500 feet of Chub Creek has been undergoing changes due to landowner negotiations with the adjacent school district and one other adjacent landowner. An appraisal was completed, and offer accepted by the landowners, and a NRMP and Property Report (PR) were drafted in June 2014. Land sold to an adjacent landowner prior to closing and previous project delays during negotiations with the school district, triggered an update of the appraisal and will necessitate updates to the NRMP and PR.
- Line 12 (Rowan): This permanent conservation easement includes .69 miles of Dutch Creek in Greenvale Township, a tributary to the State Scenic Cannon River. A total of 14 acres of a 46-acre buffer area were seeded with a mix of native grass and forbs, following pollinator guidelines on June 29, 2014.
- Line 6 (R. Stoffel): This 9.5-acre area along 2,260 feet of the Vermillion River was previously approved by the County Board using the approved valuation formula. A NRMP and PR were drafted in June 2014. However, the value exceeded the \$20,000 DNR threshold and an appraisal needed to be done. The appraisal is underway and a draft is expected in late April.
- Line 13 (Wergin/Renlund): This 34.2-acre area along Chub Creek was appraised, an offer accepted, and then significantly delayed by the landowner’s inaction regarding recording of a 4-acre land purchase that was part of the easement area. A NRMP and PR were drafted in November 2014, which will need updates to reflect the acreage that no longer includes the unrecorded land purchase.

Final Report Summary:

As noted in the previous April 15 status update, several restoration projects were withdrawn from consideration, resulting in a significant amount of unexpended grant funds. However, the proposed restoration work for the Betzold, D. Gergen, P. Gergen Jr., S. Gergen, Rowan, R. Stoffel, and Wergin/Renlund projects is complete. Additional detailed restoration project updates are as follows:

- Line 17 (P. Gergen Jr.): This project has still not closed, due to landowner concerns about ongoing restoration commitments. However, as noted in the April 2015 update, the NRMP was prepared. County staff is hopeful that the landowner will ultimately agree to sell an easement.
- Line 11 (S. Gergen): The NRMP and PR for this 26.1-acre easement were updated per the revised easement boundary and this easement was acquired on June 26, 2015.
- Line 4 (Nicolai): The 27.4 acre easement along 0.25 miles of the South Branch of the Vermillion River was acquired on June 23. A PR and NRMP were completed by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District staff.
- Line 6 (R. Stoffel): The 9.5-acre easement was derailed by an undisclosed bankruptcy proceeding, but not before the PR and NRMP were prepared following the landowner’s acceptance of a purchase offer. This project is on hold and may still move forward if the bankruptcy is resolved.
- Line 5 (Smith): The 11-acre easement along 0.60 miles of the North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. As a result, no restoration activity was completed for this project. County staff attempts to minimize the time and resources spent on projects prior to landowner decisions and County Board approvals.
- Line 13 (Wergin/Renlund): The NRMP and PR for this 34.2-acre easement were updated per the revised easement boundary and this easement was acquired on June 23, 2015.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Information about the project will be included on the Dakota County web page, the Vermillion River Watershed web page, press releases, newsletters, Dakota County Township Officers meetings, and other venues.

Activity Status as of February 2012:

The County Board receives periodic updates on the status of all land conservation projects. However, since no acquisition projects have been completed, there has not been significant information to disseminate.

Status as of August 2012:

There were major articles about the Lindberg easement and Dakota County's land conservation efforts in the Star Tribune and St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Status as of February 2013:

There has been no significant information to disseminate.

Status as of December 2013:

There has been no significant information to disseminate.

Status as of February 2014:

- The County revised and updated the website to include a description and materials for the ShoreHolders program and added project summaries to Lands Protected category of the website.
- The County developed a fact sheet on the ShoreHolders program, benefits of shoreland buffers, approved formula for easement acquisition, discussion of public access issues, and contact information. The fact sheet was updated in 2013 to include changes to the formula.
- In addition, the County developed a fact sheet on easements, to give landowners an overview of their rights and responsibilities if they determine to sell an easement.
- During the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) annual tour for local elected officials from Dakota and Scott counties, one of the "stops" was the Dakota County Agricultural Society easement (acquired with ENRTF), which has undergone substantial restoration and is a center for local environmental education. Dakota County's land conservation programs, FNAP and ShoreHolders, were discussed.

Status as of July 2014

Due to staffing issues, we have delayed additional outreach to shoreland owners. With the new staff resources, this will be accelerated in late summer.

Status as of April 2015

Due to the aforementioned issues, we have not acquired any easements and have delayed additional outreach to shoreland landowners.

Final Report Summary:

During the timeframe covered by this appropriation, information about the County land conservation efforts, including new and ongoing programs available, have been noted on County and watershed websites, and local and regional newspapers. There was a significant time gap between project acquisitions included in this appropriation, and with the most recent project acquisitions occurring in late June, the dissemination of information to date has been articles about specific projects in local town newspapers. One example being the article that appeared in the Cannon Falls Beacon regarding the winter seeding of the Dolores Gergen property in Hampton Township. Moving forward, County and watershed webpages will be updated as appropriate. In addition, the County ordered metal signs of the ENRTF logo to be posted with the County's land conservation signs to acknowledge our State funding partnership with LCCMR and advertise the presence of protected properties.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$15,000	.2 FTE Real Estate Specialist for two years .2 FTE Natural Resource Specialist for two years
Service Contracts:	\$50,000	Natural resource restoration and enhancement
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$25,000	Primarily native grass/forb seed and seed drill
Easement Acquisition:	\$930,000	Permanent conservation easements
Professional Services for Acquisition	\$15,000	Appraisals
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$1,035,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:

- Acquisition of the S. Gergen natural area conservation easement: \$22,000
- Acquisition of the Lindberg natural area conservation easement: \$151,122
- Acquisition of the Nicolai natural area conservation easement: \$25,650
- Acquisition of the Wergin-Renlund natural area conservation easement: \$35,340
- Seed and equipment rental for establishing buffers: \$12,879
- Natural Resource Management Plan and restoration plan preparation: \$22,089
- Easement Before and After analysis appraisals: \$14,500

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: .4

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Dakota County (included in the budget)	\$485,000	\$124,435	Acquisition funds, NRMPs, and restoration projects
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (included in their budget)	\$150,000	\$0	Acquisition funds
Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Funds (allocated to the County)	\$150,000	\$59,339	Acquisition funds
Landowner Donation (estimated)	\$250,000	\$85,708	Acquisition funds
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$1,035,000	\$269,482	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

This proposal will be part of the Metro Conservation Corridor Partnership proposal. Dakota County has used a very collaborative approach to its land conservation efforts over the past seven years. All land acquisition has been done on the basis of willing sellers- most often on a bargain sale basis. The cities of Lakeville, and Hastings, Farmington and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization have contributed funds or in-kind services on past and current projects and are likely to continue those productive partnerships during this project phase. All eleven townships have been very supportive. The Soil and Water Conservation District and the Friends of the Mississippi River have been a critical partner in providing outreach, technical assistance and easement monitoring services. The County has

worked very cooperatively with the DNR on a number of land conservation projects from contributing funds for state acquisitions and transferring County lands for a new WMA to jointly managing the Vermillion Highlands complex. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has been a critical partner in facilitating the use of over \$10M of federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) funds to the County for acquiring permanent easements along waterways each year since 2003. Budgeted 2011 FRPP funds are available for conservation corridor projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The County is currently finalizing an ambitious, comprehensive, long-term approach to land and water conservation vision and strategic implementation plan. This vision and plan will integrate acquisition of regional park in-holdings, development of a 200-mile multi-purpose greenway system, and protecting and improving riparian and lakeshore buffers, and natural area and agricultural conservation zones. County staff has preliminarily estimated an additional 15,000 acres will need to be protected and managed to fully achieve a variety of public benefits at an estimated cost of \$45M.

The County Board of Commissioners adopted the protection of riparian and lakeshore buffers as one of its top 25 county wide goals for 2011 and has included an additional \$2 million of Environmental Fund balance over the next five years to augment the \$1.3M of remaining Farmland and Natural Areas Program bond funds.

Protection of approximately 2,200 acres through the County’s Farmland and Natural Areas Program and FY 2010 and 2011 Outdoor Heritage funding are currently underway. Acquisition of an easement on a 193.2-acre restored upland and wetland prairie that is the headwaters for the South Branch of the Vermillion River will be completed on June 29, 2011.

The County will continue to work proactively with landowners and numerous partners to strategically protect the highest quality natural resource lands that provide multiple public benefits.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
County bond funds	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000
Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	\$800,000	\$750,000	\$600,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,000,000
Vermillion River Corridor Plan and Acquisition (ENRTF)			\$549,965		
Vermillion River Watershed JPO	\$50,000	\$119,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$70,000
Outdoor Heritage funds					\$1,000,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

Acquisition: Easement on the Lindberg property on Marcott Lakes in Inver Grove Heights; and various parcels along the Mississippi, Vermillion and Cannon rivers; along Chub, Darden, Mud, and Pine creeks; and along Trout Brook: S. Gergen, Nicolai, and Wergin/Renlund.

Restoration: Nicolai.

Retroactive Restoration: Betzold, D. Gergen, P. Gergen Jr., S. Gergen, Rowan, R. Stoffel and Wergin/Renlund.

IX. MAP(S): See maps of acquired easements and restoration projects in Attachment B.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 2012, August 2012, February 2013, August 2013, February 2014, August 2014, and February 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2015, as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: MeCC6 Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection								
M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.7/3.7								
M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7								
M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 19								
Project Manager: Lisa West								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,035,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2015								
Date of Update: Augustg 14, 2015								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised 4/7/15 Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Revised 4/7/15 Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Easement Acquisition			Natural Resource Management				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)								
Professional/Technical Contracts A 0.2 FTE Real Estate Specialist will be contracted by Dakota County to do real estate acquisition work associated with acquiring conservation easements. This work will include, but not be limited to landowner meetings, appraisal, negotiation, documentation and closings.	15,000	3,170	11,830				15,000	11,830
Service Contracts A 0.2 FTE Natural Resource Specialist will be contracted by Dakota County to develop and implement natural resource management plans according to the project work plan on existing or newly protected property.				50,000	21,995	28,005	50,000	28,005
Equipment/Tools/Supplies Native seed, trees, shrubs, erosion control materials, rental equipment use, and other related expenses for restoration,				25,000	13,183	11,817	25,000	11,817
Easement Acquisition	930,000	235,382	694,618				930,000	694,618
Professional Services for Acquisition	15,000	14,500	500				15,000	500
TOTALS	960,000	253,052	706,948	75,000	35,178	39,822	1,035,000	746,770

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

APPENDIX 2

M.L. 2011 Acquisition List (7/30/15)

Project Title: MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

Project Manager Name: Lisa West

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,035,000

#	Acquisition Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Lindberg Acquisition	44°48'58.355"N	93°4'3.402"W	Lakeshore	Very high water quality and undeveloped lakeshore	Easement Acquisition	103.0	0.50	Dakota County	Easement acquired
2	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem	44°36'53.022"N	93°13'44.82"W	Riparian	Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
3	2. South, Middle, and North Creek and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44°39'13.485"N	93°8'2.475"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	In process
4	2.a. Nicolai			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	27.4	0.25	Dakota County	Appraisal underway Easement acquired
5	2.b. Smith			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	11.0	0.60	Dakota County	Appraisal underway Project delayed by unfeasible easement condition requested by landowner
6	2.c. R. Stoffel			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	9.5	0.43	Dakota County	Appraisal underway Project delayed by undisclosed bankruptcy
7	3. Vermillion River South Branch	44°37'27.688"N	93°3'1.348"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
8	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44°41'9.871"N	92°57'18.638"W	Riparian		Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
9	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks	44°30'26.843"N	93°8'4.189"W	Riparian	Streams and tributaries to the State Scenic Cannon River	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
10	5.a. S. Gergen			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	26.1	0.49	Dakota County	Appraisal underway Easement acquired
11	5.b. Wergin/Renlund			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	38.3	1.14	Dakota County	Appraisal underway Easement acquired
12	6. Cannon River	44°30'12.29"N	93°4'47.368"W	Riparian	Scenic State River	Easement and restoration	36.0		Dakota County	In process
13	7. Pine and Darden Creeks	44°32'35.935"N	92°56'1.554"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	In process
14	8. Trout Brook	44°33'56.491"N	92°49'29.346"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	20.0		Dakota County	In process

NOTES:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2011 Restoration List (7/30/15)

Project Title: MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

Project Manager Name: Lisa West

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,035,000

#	Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Lindberg Acquisition	44°48'58.355"N	93°4'3.402"W	Lakeshore	Very high water quality and undeveloped lakeshore	Easement Acquisition	103.0	0.50	Dakota County	Easement acquired
2	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem	44°36'53.022"N	93°13'44.82 "W	Riparian	Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
3	2. South, Middle, and North Creek and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44°39'13.485"N	93°8'2.475"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	In process
4	2.a. Nicolai			Riparian		Restoration	27.4	0.25	Dakota County	NRMP & PR needed-completed
5	2.b. Smith			Riparian		Restoration	11.0	0.60	Dakota County	NRMP & PR needed
6	2.c. R. Stoffel			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	9.5	0.43	Dakota County	NRMP & PR needed-completed
7	3. Vermillion River South Branch	44°37'27.688"N	93°3'1.348"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
8	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44°41'9.871"N	92°57'18.638"W	Riparian		Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
9	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks	44°30'26.843"N	93°8'4.189"W	Riparian	Streams/tributaries to the State Scenic Cannon River	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	In process
10	5.a. Betzold			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	6.6	0.21	Dakota County	Buffer installed 6/14
11	5.b. S. Gergen			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	26.1	0.49	Dakota County	NRMP & PR drafted 6/14; needs update
12	5.c. Rowan			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	46.0	0.69	Dakota County	Buffer installed 6/14
13	5.d. Wergin/Renlund			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	38.3	1.14	Dakota County	NRMP & PR drafted 11/14, needs update
14	6. Cannon River	44°30'12.29"N	93°4'47.368"W	Riparian	Scenic State River	Easement and restoration	36.0		Dakota County	In process
15	7. Pine and Darden Creeks	44°32'35.935"N	92°56'1.554"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	In process
16	7.a. D. Gergen			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	77.0	0.18	Dakota County	Buffer installed 12/14 - 1/15
17	7.b. P. Gergen Jr.			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	25.0	0.41	Dakota County	NRMP & PR drafted 9/14
18	8. Trout Brook	44°33'56.491"N	92°49'29.346"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	20.0		Dakota County	In process

NOTES: NRMP = Natural Resource Management Plan and PR = Property Report or baseline report.

ATTACHMENT B



**M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.7/3.7
MeCC VI - Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection (2.7 / 3.7)**

Acquisition Maps

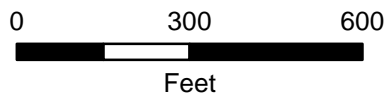
Stephen R. & Victoria Gergen Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (26.1 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information, and data located in various city, county, and state offices and other sources, affecting the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only. Dakota County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained. If discrepancies are found, please contact this office.



Prepared by the
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Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

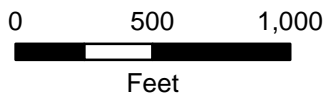
Lindberg Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (103.1 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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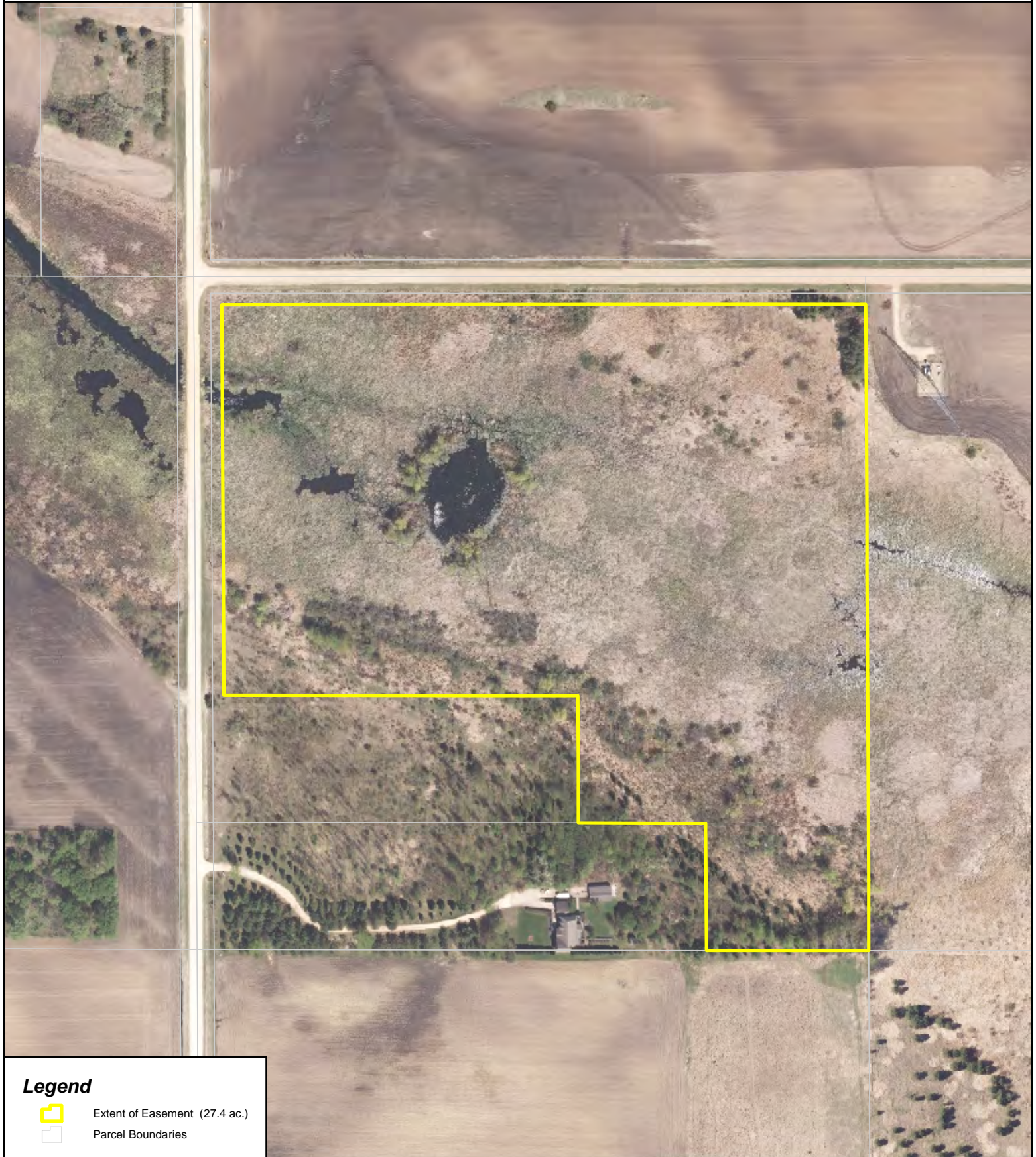


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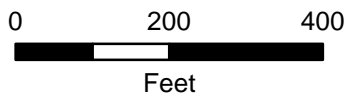
David & Michelle Nicolai Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (27.4 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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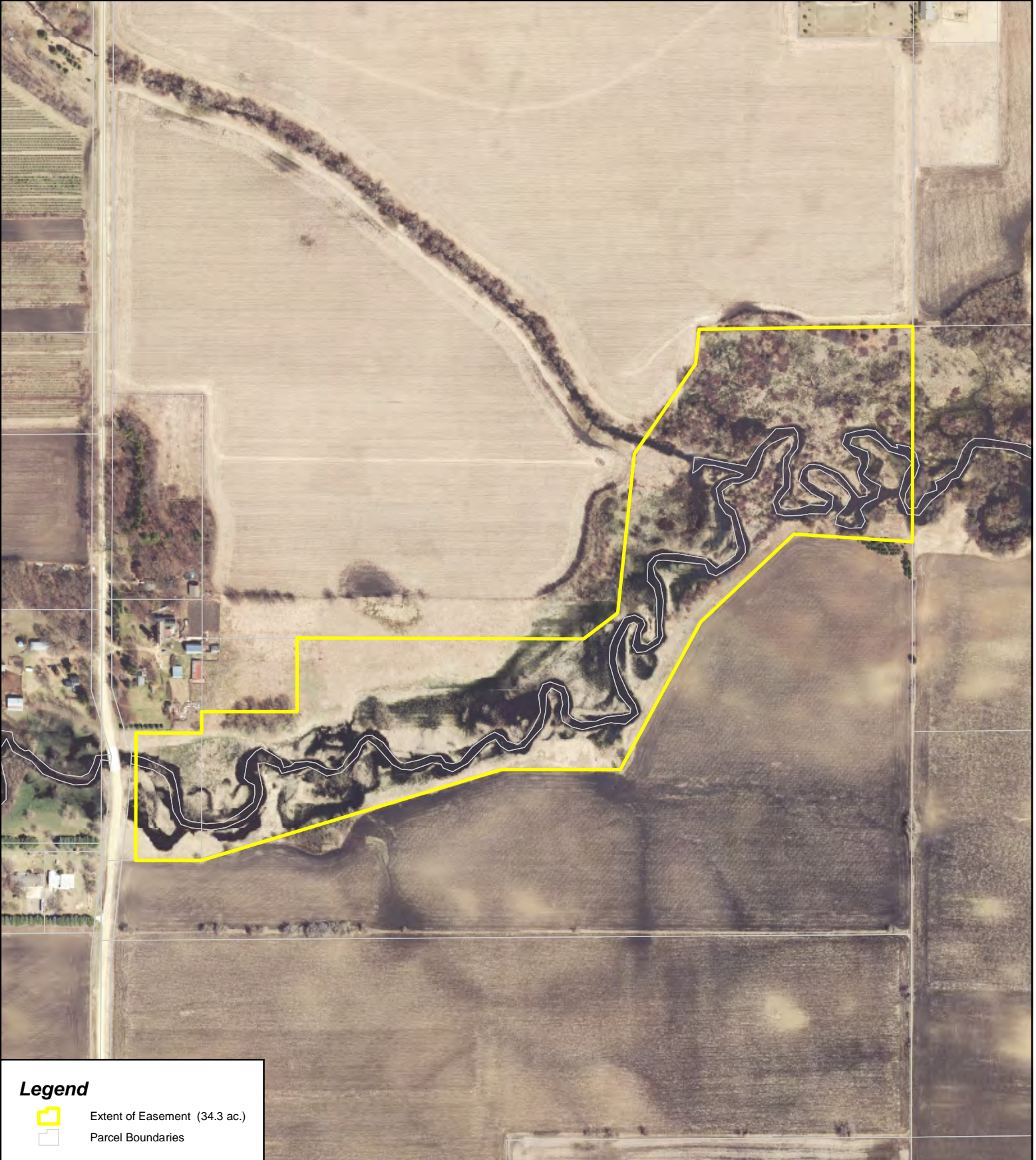


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Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

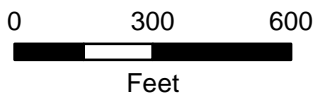
Wergin / Renlund Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (34.3 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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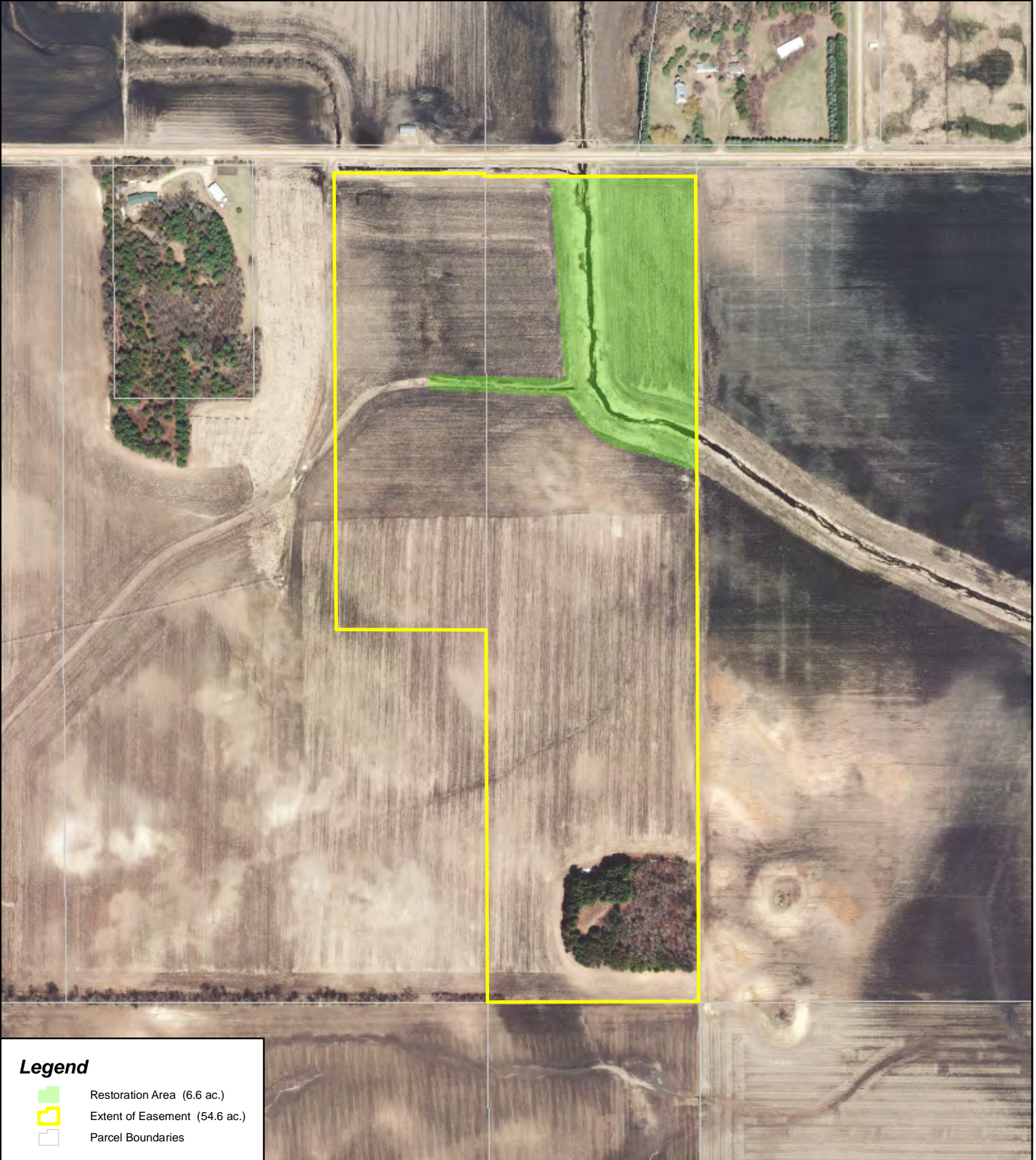
Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

ATTACHMENT B




**M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.7/3.7
MeCC VI - Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection (2.7 / 3.7)**

Restoration Maps

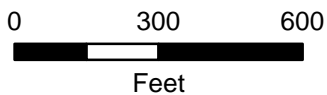
Betzold Property



Legend

-  Restoration Area (6.6 ac.)
-  Extent of Easement (54.6 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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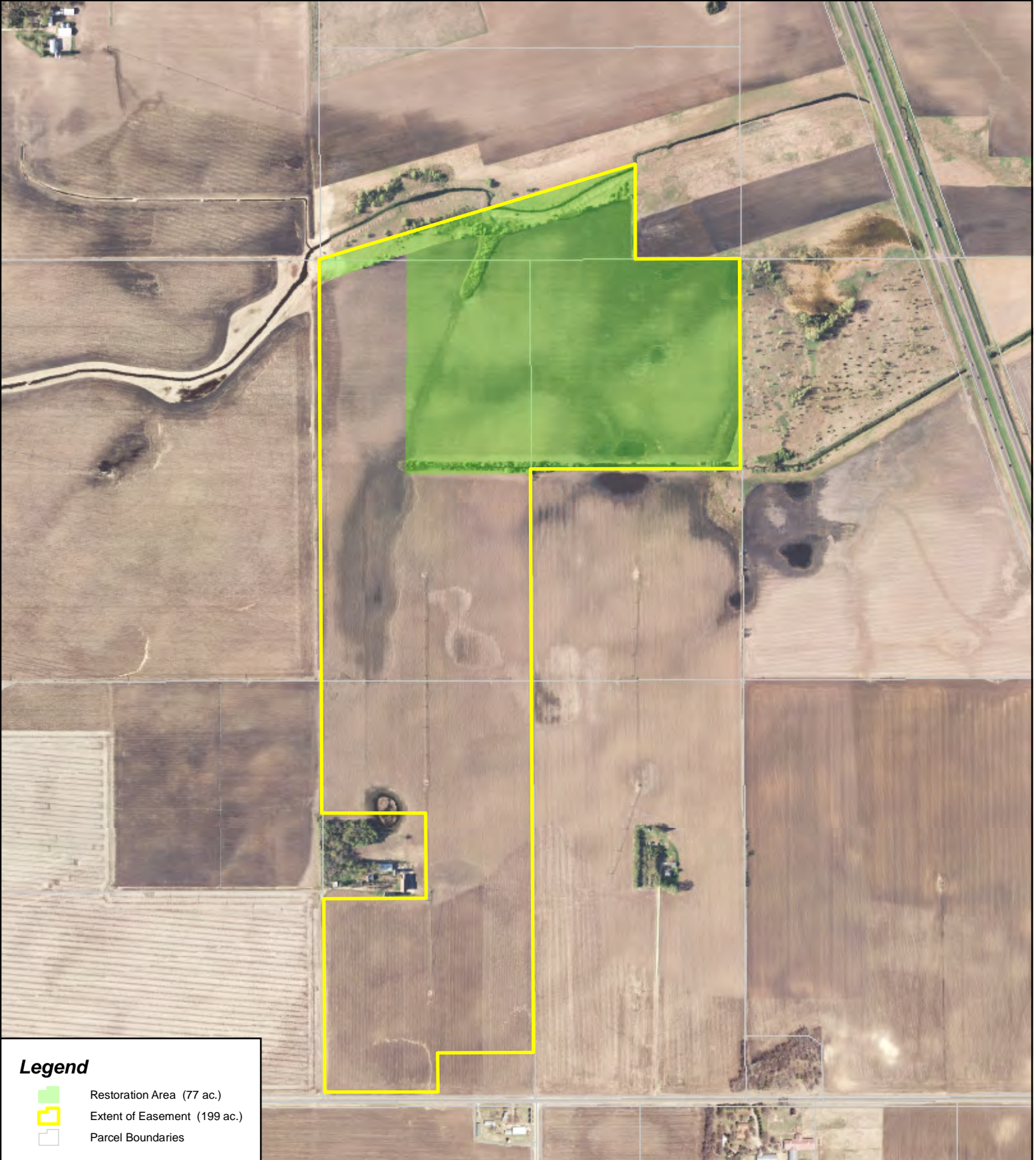


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Map Date: 4/1/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

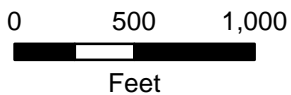
Dolores Gergen Property



Legend

-  Restoration Area (77 ac.)
-  Extent of Easement (199 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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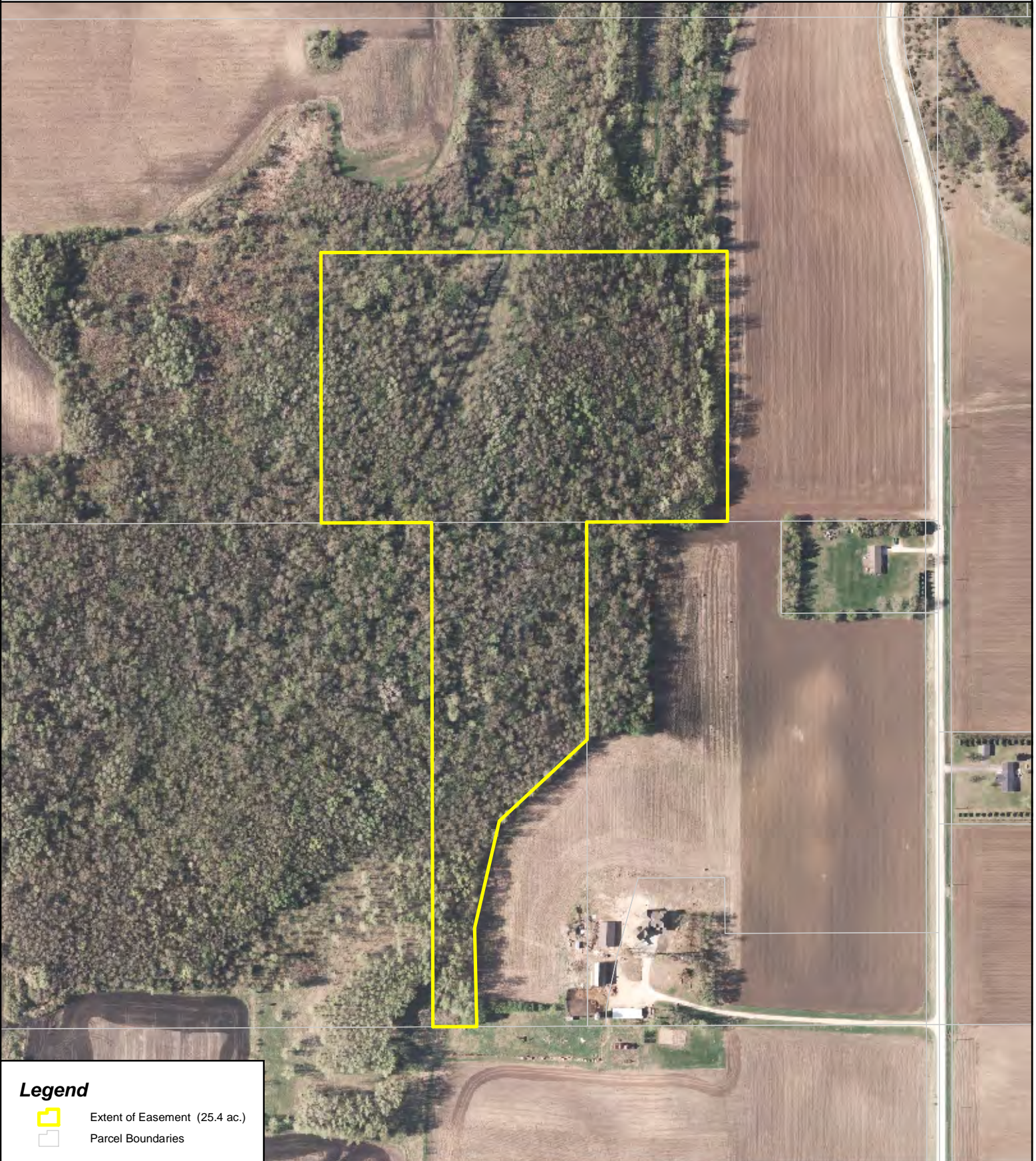


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Map Date: 4/1/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

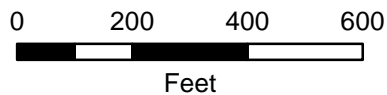
Paul Jr. & Lorri Gergen Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (25.4 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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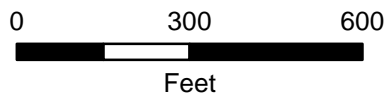
Stephen R. & Victoria Gergen Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (26.1 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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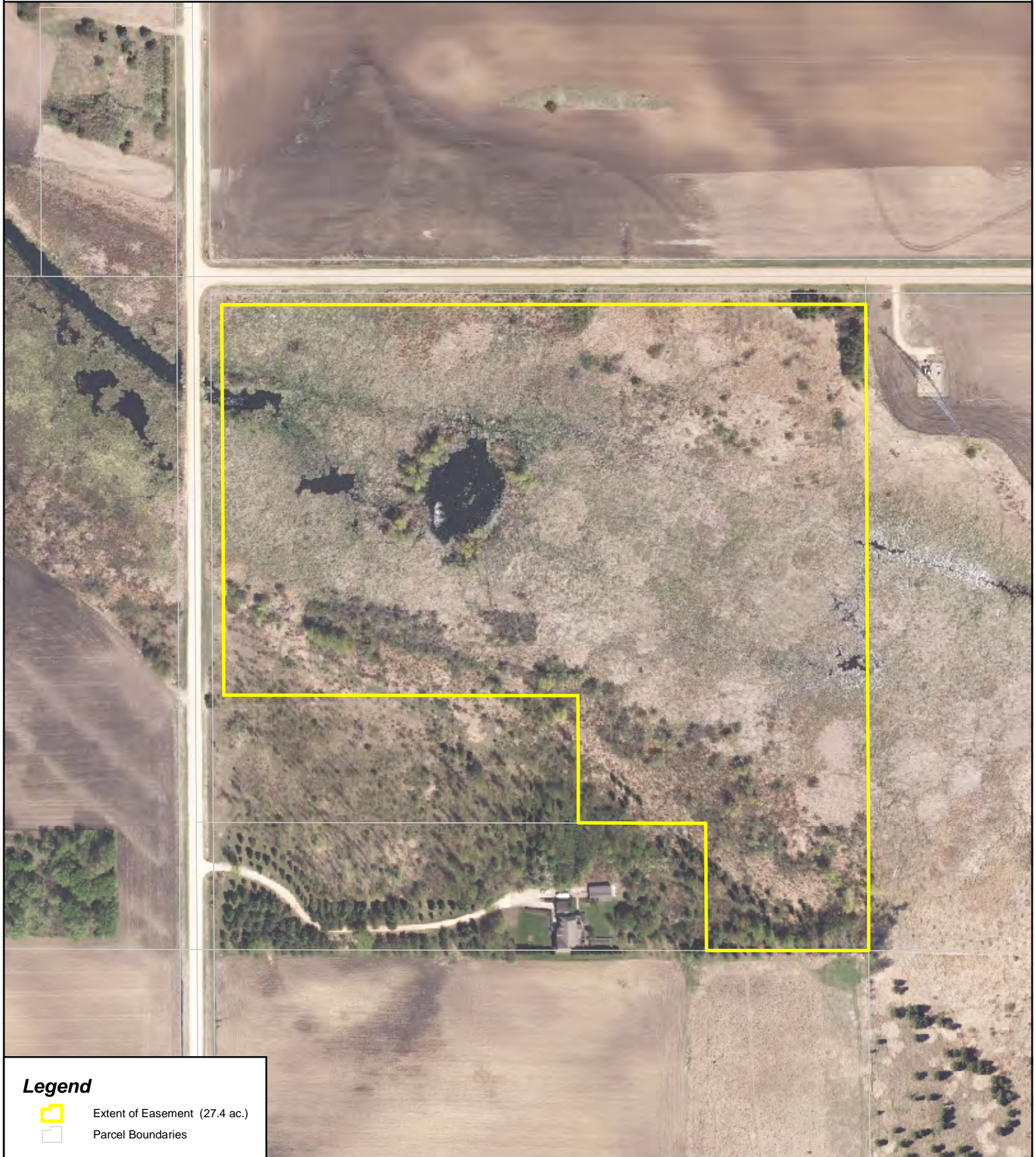


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Date of Photography: 2013

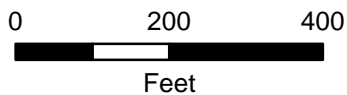
David & Michelle Nicolai Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (27.4 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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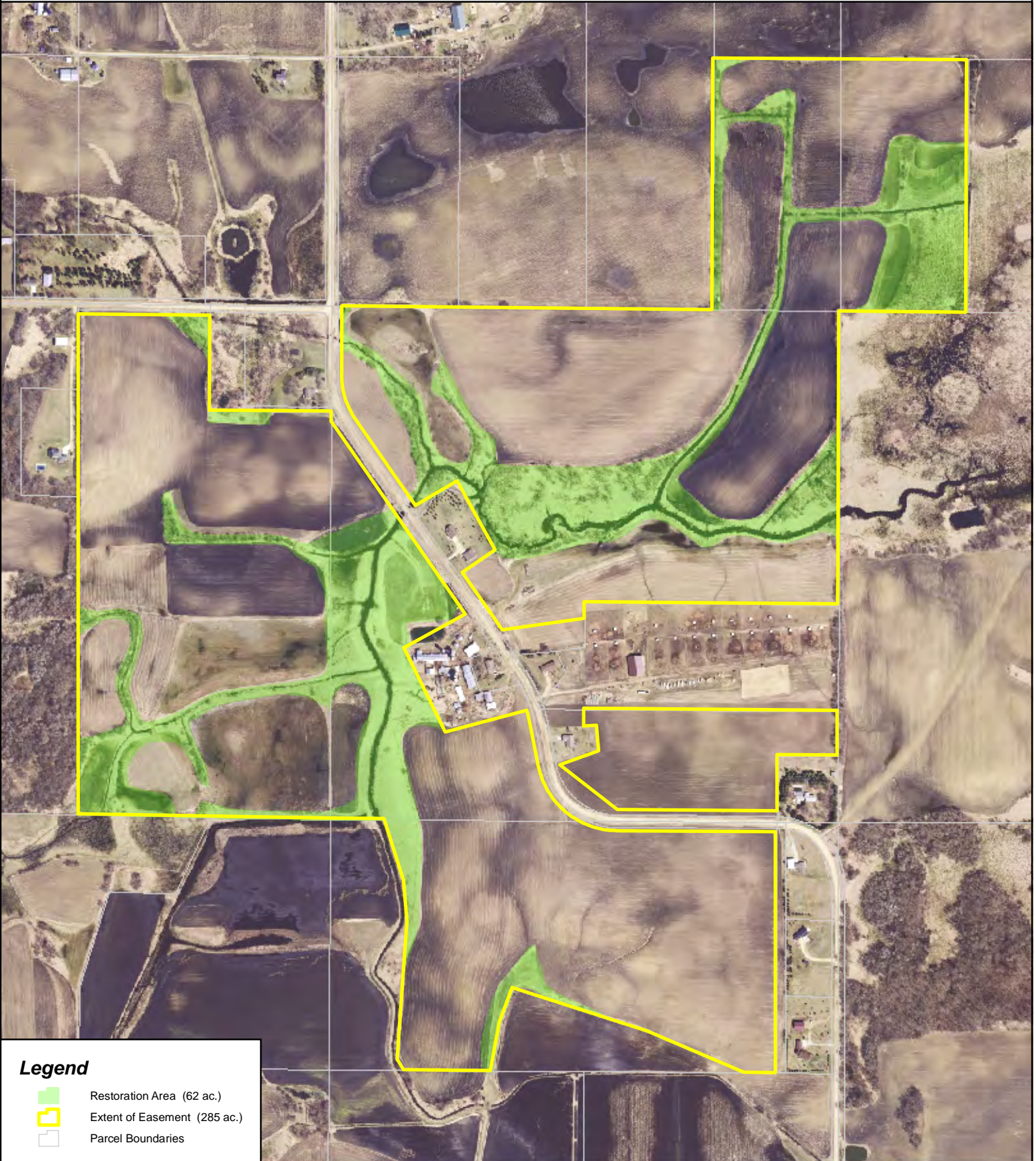


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Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

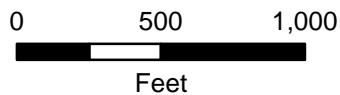
Rowan Property



Legend

-  Restoration Area (62 ac.)
-  Extent of Easement (285 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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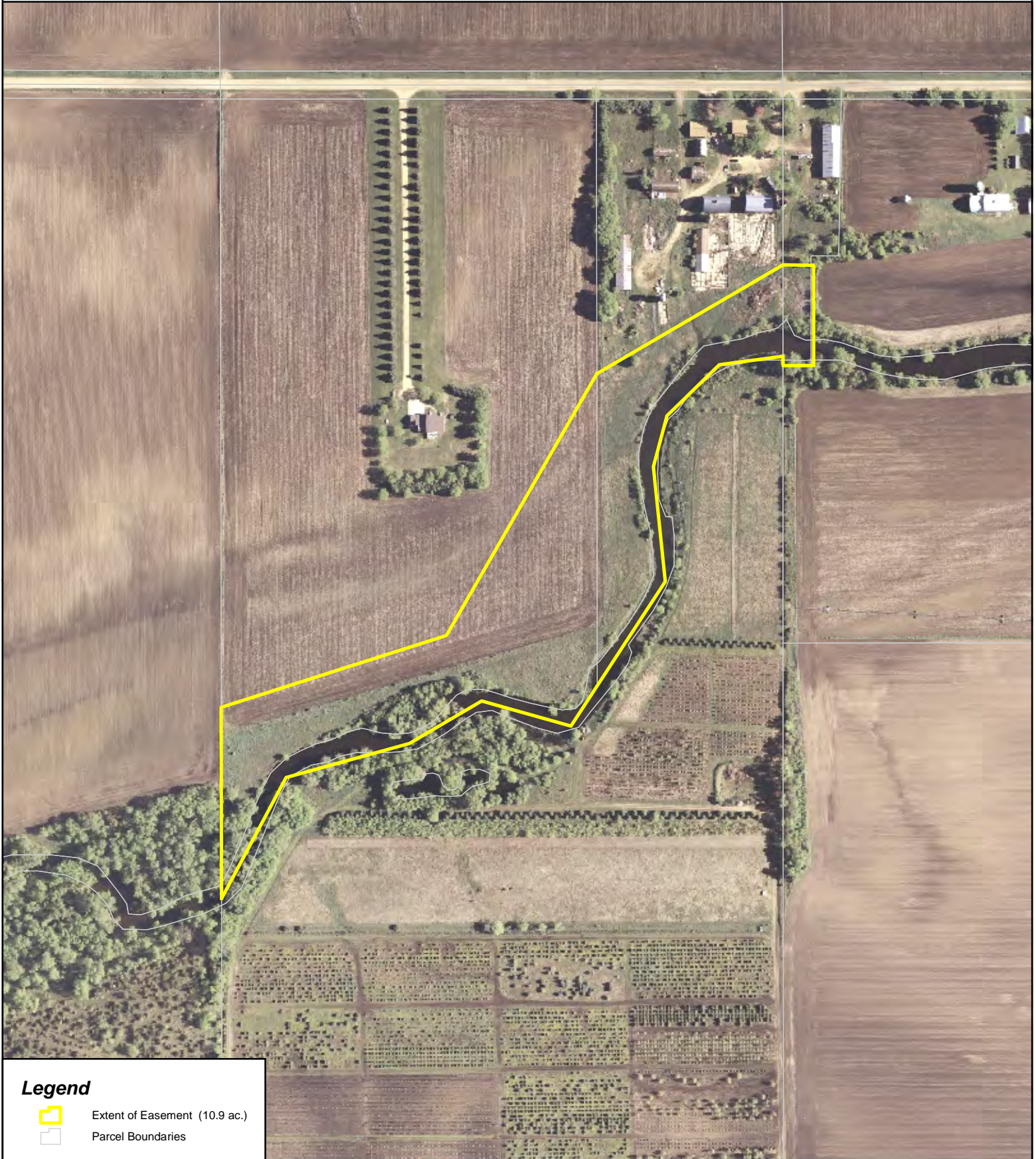


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Dakota County
Office of GIS





Map Date: 4/1/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

Ralph & MaryAnn Stoffel Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (10.9 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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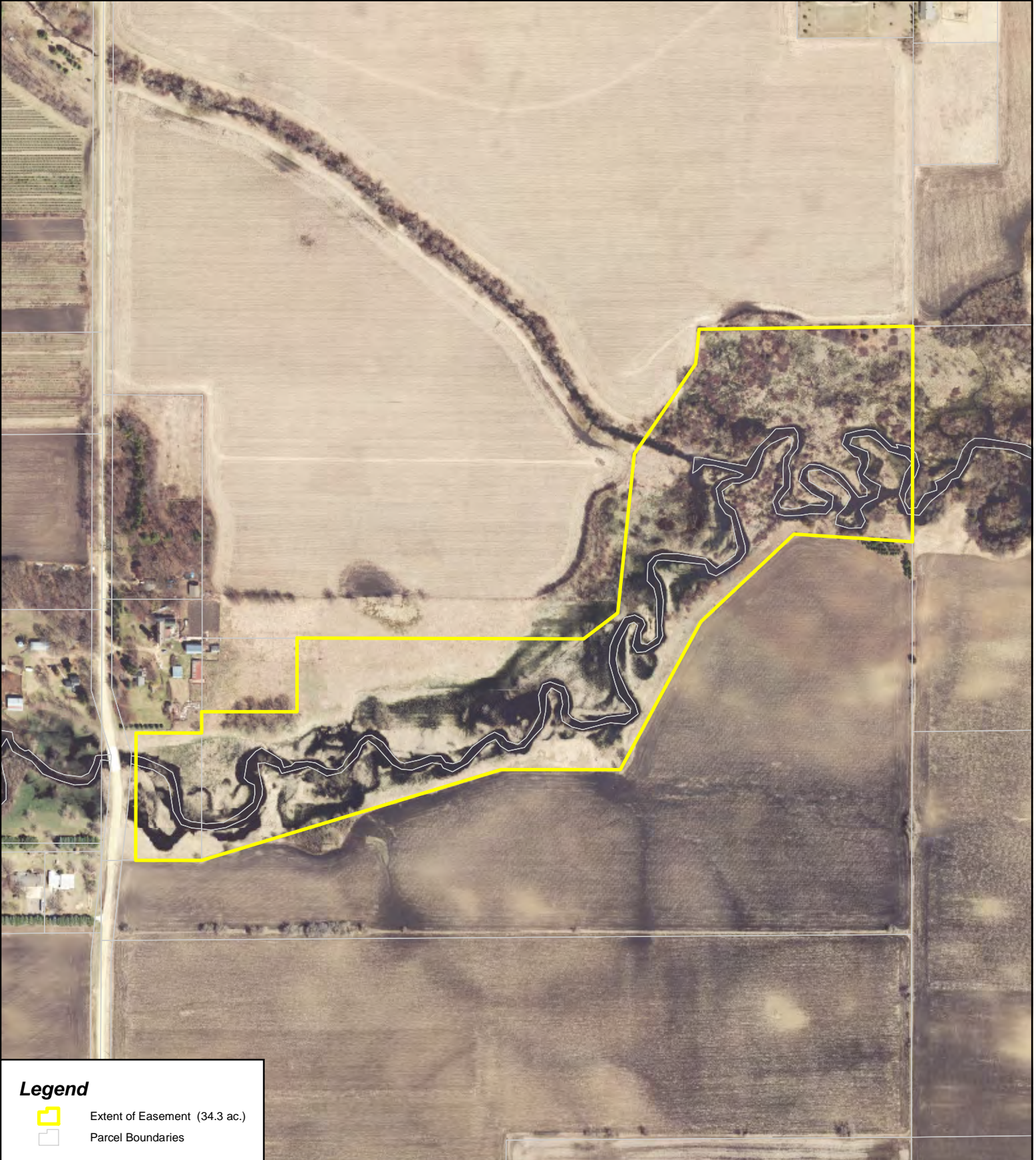


Prepared by the
Dakota County
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Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

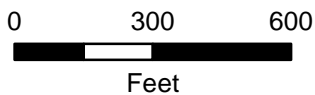
Wergin / Renlund Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (34.3 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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Prepared by the
Dakota County
Office of GIS



Map Date: 3/30/2015
Date of Photography: 2013

2013 Dakota County ShoreHolders Program

Shoreland Easement Evaluation and Scoring Criteria - 180 points

1. Is the parcel located on an impaired water?
 - Yes, more than one impairment: 20 points
 - Yes, only one impairment: 10 points
 - No: 0 points

2. Is the parcel is located along a DNR-designated trout stream or MPCA class 2A water?
 - Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points

3. Is the existing shoreline stable and in good overall condition (i.e. no eroding or slumping banks)?
 - Yes: 20 points Note: If yes, then skip question 4.
 - No: 0 points

4. If the shoreline needs restoration, is it likely that it could be easily restored?
 - Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points

5. Does the existing property have an intact riparian habitat on ≥ 75 percent of the riparian area?
 - Yes and is good to high quality (mostly native vegetation): 20 points
 Note: If yes, then skip question 6.
 - Yes, but is fair to poor quality (invasive, noxious vegetation): 10 points
 Note: If yes, then skip question 6.
 - No: 0 points

6. If the riparian habitat needs restoration, is it likely that it could be restored easily?
 - Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points

7. Does the existing property have good in-stream habitat quality on ≥ 50 percent of the stream reach?
 - Yes and is good to high quality: 20 points Note: If yes, then skip question 8.
 - Yes, but it is fair to poor quality: 10 points Note: If yes, then skip question 8.
 - No: 0 points

8. If the in-stream habitat needs restoration, is it likely that it could be restored easily?
 - Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points

9. Would this easement achieve optimal buffer width over 75 percent of the riparian area?
- Yes: 5 points
 - No: 0 points
10. The estimated shoreline length within the proposed easement area is:
- >2000 feet: 30 points
 - 1,000 – 2,000 feet: 15 points
 - <1,000 to 300 feet: 8 points
 - <300 feet: 0 points
11. Does the property have exiting or potential natural areas directly adjacent to the preferred buffer width that could provide additional water quality wildlife habitat, connectivity or recreational benefits?
- Yes: 15 points
 - No: 0 points
12. Is the property adjacent to other public lands or conservation easements?
- Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points
13. Does the property owner have a history of non-compliance with County or the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization VRWJPO requirements/ordinance/regulations?
- No: 0 points
 - Yes: -10 points

Bonus Points

- A. Would the landowner provide public access?
- Yes: 20 points
 - No: 0 points
- B. Is the property within a ¼ mile distance or one parcel away from other public lands or conservation easements?
- Yes: 5 points
 - No: 0 points
- C. Do other restoration opportunities (wetlands or grasslands) exist on the property?
- Yes: 10 points
 - No: 0 points
- D. Are there other values or circumstances (ecological, aesthetic, financial, planning, etc.) that make the property a higher priority for protection?
- Yes: Up to 20 points
 - No: 0 points

*Minimum score to be considered for funding is 60 points.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

APPENDIX 2

M.L. 2011 Acquisition List (8/14/15)

Project Title: MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

Project Manager Name: Lisa West

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,035,000

#	Acquisition Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Lindberg Acquisition	44'48'58.355"N	93'4'3.402"W	Lakeshore	Very high water quality and undeveloped lakeshore	Easement Acquisition	103.0	0.50	Dakota County	Easement acquired
2	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem	44'36'53.022"N	93'13'44.82"W	Riparian	Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	
3	2. South, Middle, and North Creek and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44'39'13.485"N	93'8'2.475"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	
4	2.a. Nicolai			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	27.4	0.25	Dakota County	Easement acquired
5	2.b. Smith			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	11.0	0.60	Dakota County	Project delayed by unfeasible easement condition requested by landowner
6	2.c. R. Stoffel			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	9.5	0.43	Dakota County	Project delayed by undisclosed bankruptcy
7	3. Vermillion River South Branch	44'37'27.688"N	93'3'1.348"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	
8	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44'41'9.871"N	92'57'18.638"W	Riparian		Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	
9	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks	44'30'26.843"N	93'8'4.189"W	Riparian	Streams and tributaries to the State Scenic Cannon River	Easement and restoration	40.0		Dakota County	
10	5.a. S. Gergen			Riparian		Easement Acquisition	26.1	0.49	Dakota County	Easement acquired
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13	7. Pine and Darden Creeks	44'32'35.935"N	92'56'1.554"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	
14	8. Trout Brook	44'33'56.491"N	92'49'29.346"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	20.0		Dakota County	

NOTES:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2011 Restoration List (8/14/15)

Project Title: MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

Project Manager Name: Lisa West

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,035,000

#	Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
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3	2. South, Middle, and North Creek and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River	44'39'13.485"N	93'8'2.475"W	Riparian	Portions of a Designated Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	
4	2.a. Nicolai			Riparian		Restoration	27.4	0.25	Dakota County	NRMP & PR completed
5	2.b. Smith			Riparian		Restoration	11.0	0.60	Dakota County	NRMP & PR needed
6	2.c. R. Stoffel			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	9.5	0.43	Dakota County	NRMP & PR completed
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15	7. Pine and Darden Creeks	44'32'35.935"N	92'56'1.554"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	25.0		Dakota County	
16	7.a. D. Gergen			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	77.0	0.18	Dakota County	Buffer installed 12/14 - 1/15
17	7.b. P. Gergen Jr.			Riparian		Retroactive Restoration	25.0	0.41	Dakota County	NRMP & PR drafted 9/14
18	8. Trout Brook	44'33'56.491"N	92'49'29.346"W	Riparian	Trout Stream	Easement and restoration	20.0		Dakota County	

NOTES: NRMP = Natural Resource Management Plan and PR = Property Report or baseline report.



April 27, 2015

Stephen and Victoria Gergen
 6710 296th Street East
 Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Subject: Statement of County Certified Value and Contingent Offer to Acquire a Permanent Shoreland Conservation Easement

Dear Steve and Victoria:

Dakota County has undertaken an independent appraisal of your property for the purpose of acquiring a permanent shoreland conservation easement through the ShoreHolders Program. This appraisal was completed by a qualified, independent appraiser. Staff has completed a review of the appraisal.

A summary of the project is as follows:

- (a) General property location and parcel number(s):
 Section 7, Township 112 North, Range 18 West
 Parcel(s): 32-82100-01-061; 32-82100-02-010; and 32-00700-20-021
- (b) Type of interest being acquired: Permanent Shoreland Conservation Easement
- (c) Identification of real property improvements, if any, to be acquired: None
- (d) Summary of County Certified Value:

1. Acres Of Property Ownership	34.2
2. Acres Excluded from Easement (Buildings, Road ROW, etc.)	8.1
3. Easement Acres (24.2 land acres and 1.9 submerged acres)	26.1
4. Total Easement Value	\$44,000.00
5. Easement Value Per Acre (26.1 acres)	\$1,685.82
6. Easement Value Per Land Acre (24.2 acres)	\$1,818.18

Dakota County hereby offers to all parties who may have a legal interest in the easement to be acquired the sum of \$44,000, which has been estimated to be just compensation for such property and rights based on the fair market value of the property. The sum noted here may be adjusted based on the final survey of the easement area.

It is important to take adequate time to consider this offer and consult with professional advisors. If you believe the value is not accurate, you may wish to secure your own appraisal. However, this will delay the acquisition process by two or more months and could jeopardize non-County funding.

The offer and compensation set forth in this letter is contingent on Dakota County Board approval of the easement, as evidenced by a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners.

Physical Development Division

Dakota County
 Western Service Center
 14955 Galaxie Avenue
 Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579

952.891.7000
 Fax 952.891.7031
 www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Resources

Land Conservation
 Groundwater Protection
 Surface Water
 Waste Regulation
 Environmental Initiatives

Office of Planning

Operations Management

Facilities Management
 Fleet Management
 Parks

Transportation

Highways
 Surveyor's Office
 Transit Office

If you accept the contingent offer, please complete the Confirmation of Project Elements form provided by County staff and return it within 21 days of the date at the top of the form. Please retain a copy of the form for your records. County staff will then present the project to the County Board for its consideration and final approval. After approval by the County Board, formal documentation will be prepared to complete the easement acquisition in accordance with the approval.

If the offer is unacceptable, please discuss your concerns and how we might work to resolve any issues with County staff at the meeting at which this certified value and contingent offer is presented.

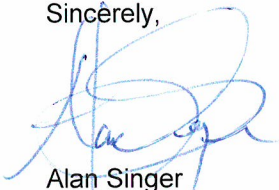
Please date, sign below and return one copy of this offer letter.

Your signature on this contingent OFFER TO PURCHASE is only to verify that this contingent offer was made to you.

If you have any questions or concerns about the acquisition process, please call Lisa West at (952) 891-

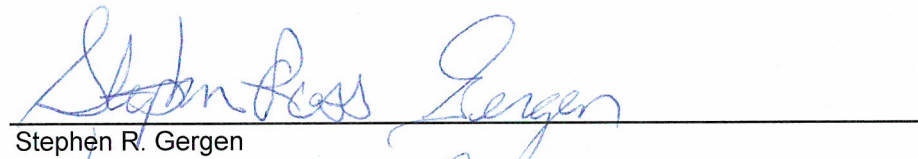
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

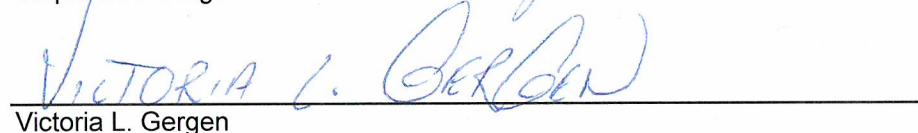


Alan Singer
Land Conservation Manager
Dakota County Environmental Resources Department

I CERTIFY THAT, on this 8 day of May, 2015, a copy of this document was delivered to me.



Stephen R. Gergen



Victoria L. Gergen



May 8, 2015

Date

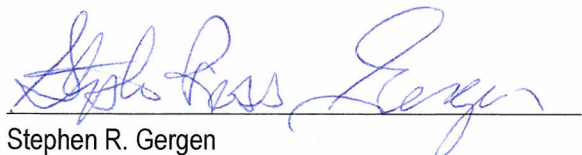
FARMLAND AND NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM CONFIRMATION OF FINAL PROJECT ELEMENTS

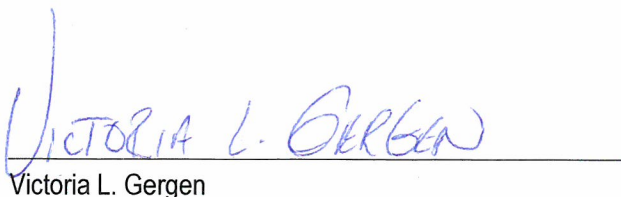
Stephen and Victoria Gergen

The purpose of this document is to confirm the final details of your ShoreHolders Program permanent shoreland conservation easement. Please review each item, fill in all of the blanks, signify your approval by signing this form, and return one, signed Confirmation of Project Elements form within 21 days of the date above.

1. Size. Final easement size: 26.1 acres (NOTE: The easement acres may be adjusted following the final survey of the easement boundary.)
2. Project Changes. On the reverse side of this form, describe any changes to the project, including configuration, and township issues (e.g., subdividing a parcel, etc.). Please provide a map, if necessary, to show changes you want to make to your project. (Please note that if your changes are significant enough to trigger a needed amendment to your appraisal, the appraisal amendment will be at your expense.)
3. Easement Issues. On the reverse side of this form, describe any issues you have with the terms of the permanent easement. (Refer to the draft copy provided by Dakota County staff.)
4. Financial. By signing this form, you are attesting that, in your interest and in the interest of Dakota County, you were encouraged by County staff to consult with a registered financial planner, accountant and/or tax attorney regarding this potential easement acquisition and the financial implications.
5. Easement Value. \$ 44,000.00 (NOTE: This easement value may be adjusted following the final survey of the easement boundary.)
6. Management/Maintenance. By signing this form, you are acknowledging your willingness to work with Dakota County and/or its contractors or partners to jointly develop and begin implementing a Natural Resource Management Plan.

Date: 08-05-2015


Stephen R. Gergen


Victoria L. Gergen

Please return one copy of this signed Confirmation of Final Project Elements form to:

Dakota County PDD, 3rd Floor
Attn: Lisa West
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124



March 15, 2012

E. Leland Lindberg
8965 Alfa Lane
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Physical Development Division
Lynn Thompson, Director

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952-891-7000
Fax 952-891-7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Mgmt Dept
Office of GIS
Parks & Open Space Department
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office
Transportation Department
Water Resources Department

Subject: Real Property Interest Offer

Dear Lee:

Dakota County has undertaken an independent appraisal of your property for the purposes of permanently protecting it through a Dakota County permanent natural area conservation easement.

A summary of the project is as follows:

- (a) Identification of the 103± acres of real property: Meadowwood on Marcott Subdivision Block 2 (Lots 1-9) Block 4 (Lots 1-27) and Block 5 (Lots 1-5), all in Section 17 Township 27 N and Range 22 W.
- (b) Type of interest being acquired: permanent natural area conservation easement
- (c) Identification of real property improvements, if any, to be acquired: None
- (d) Summary of County Opinion of Easement Value:

Parcel 1 - 31.4 acres:	\$756,750 or \$24,076/acre
Parcel 2 - 71.7 acres:	<u>\$1,720,000</u> or \$23,989/acre
Total	\$2,476,750 or \$24,023/acre

Dakota County hereby offers all parties who may have a legal interest in the real estate to be acquired the sum of **\$2,480,000** for Parcel 1 and Parcel 2, which has been estimated to be just compensation for such property and rights based upon the fair market value of the property and available funding.

The offer and compensation set forth in this letter is contingent upon the 2012 Minnesota Legislature approving the FY 13 Outdoor Heritage fund allocation for Dakota County, and for Dakota County Board of Commissioner approval as evidenced by a resolution adopted by the County Board. If you accept the offer, Park and Open Space Department staff will present the project to the Legislative-Citizen Commission of Minnesota Resources and Dakota County Board of Commissioners for final approvals.

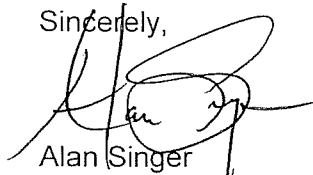
If you decide to accept the offer, County staff will contact you in the near future to arrange a time to discuss the offer and next steps. If the offer is unacceptable, please contact me to discuss your concerns and how we might work to resolve any issues. Due to funding deadlines, the purchase would be split into two phases with one phase prior to June 30, 2012 and the other phase after July 1, 2012.

Your signature on the OFFER TO PURCHASE LETTER is only for the verification that the offer has been made to you. It does not in any way diminish your right to have the final amount determined through subsequent negotiations.

If you have any questions about the acquisition process, please call me at (952) 891-7001.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Singer
Land Conservation Manager

Please date and sign below and return one copy of this letter.

I certify that this document was received and discussed.

E. Leland Lindberg

Date

Mary Lou Lindberg

Date

This offer letter was signed by the Lindberg's, but a fully executed copy could not be located in the project file. No Confirmation Of Final Project Elements form was completed. In lieu of that form, the County Board Resolution 12-330 is provided. The Lindberg's were aware of the full appraised value of their conservation easement and agreed to the bargain sale.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

June 19, 2012

Motion by Commissioner Harris

Resolution No. 12-330

Second by Commissioner Egan

Rescission Of Resolution No. 12-299 And Authorize New Terms For Acquiring Permanent Natural Area Conservation Easement On E. Leland And Mary Lou Lindberg Property In Inver Grove Heights

WHEREAS, E. Leland and Mary Lou Lindberg own 103+ acres of high quality natural resource land, including undeveloped portions of the Marcott Chain of Lakes, in Inver Grove Heights; and

WHEREAS, the Lindberg property includes 41 residential lots as part of the Meadowood On Marcott, a Planned Unit Development platted and recorded in 1990; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 12-299 (June 5, 2012), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the acquisition of a 98-acre permanent conservation easement on the E. Leland and Mary Lou Lindberg property in Inver Grove Heights subject to the conditions stated therein; and

WHEREAS, staff from the County Attorney's Office has determined that the streets identified within the undeveloped portions of the Meadowood on Marcott plat on the Lindberg property are easements and not dedicated public rights of way, and said easements would be vacated if the undeveloped Meadowood On Marcott plat is vacated; and

WHEREAS, the proposed conservation easement on the Lindberg property is therefore 103 ± acres not 98 ± acres as previously approved and would not require conveyance of a second easement to subsequently include the existing platted streets if an easement is acquired on the Lindberg property and the undeveloped Meadowood on Marcott plat is vacated; and

WHEREAS, staff has determined that E. Leland and Mary Lou Lindberg recorded restrictive covenants on all lots in the Meadowood On Marcott plat; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned restrictive covenants give the owners of lots within Meadowood On Marcott and the owners invited guests exclusive rights to use the existing trails on the Lindberg property; and

WHEREAS, the County Board wishes to ensure that the public will have access to the Lindberg property after the County acquires a permanent conservation easement over the property; and

WHEREAS, County Board authorization to acquire an easement on the Lindberg property as included in Resolution No 12-299 included a requirement that, regardless of the status of the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills and Environmental Education Center currently operating on property adjacent to the Lindberg property, the public will have access and the right to use the lake and the existing trails on the Lindberg property no later than five (5) years from the date of County acquisition of a conservation easement on the Lindberg property; and

WHEREAS, the Lindberg family wishes to retain the intent of the recorded restrictive covenants currently in place on the Lindberg property; and

WHEREAS, the Lindberg family will allow the public to use existing trails on the Lindberg property when the public is participating in programs, classes and events provided through the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills and Environmental Education Center located on the adjoining Grannis property; and

WHEREAS, access for such public use of the Lindberg property would be through the adjoining Grannis property and would not require the Lindberg family to construct additional access from public roads or provide a vehicle parking area on their property; and

WHEREAS, if the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills and Environmental Education Center ceases to function, the Lindberg family and the County will establish an alternative route for public access to and use of the property that is mutually agreeable to the Lindberg family and the County; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Lindberg easement is \$2,200,000 and the estimated settlement costs for closing the easement is \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, approval of the Lindberg easement acquisition is conditional upon the execution of an option and license agreement on the Grannis property that describes the intentions of the County and the Grannis family in protecting the property through the acquisition of conservation easements and providing public use of the Grannis property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the expenditure of up to \$2,210,000, including \$10,000 for associated closing costs, to acquire the 103-acre Lindberg natural area conservation easement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Physical Development Division Director or the County Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the purchase agreement for the Lindberg permanent conservation easement, subject to inclusion of terms for public use and natural resource management consistent with this resolution; subject to review and approval as to form by the County Attorney's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the authority to execute the purchase agreement is conditioned upon the full execution of the purchase agreement occurring on or before June 30, 2012; and also conditioned upon the execution of an option and license agreement on the adjoining Grannis property on or before June 30, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Board Chair is hereby authorized to execute the permanent natural area conservation easement on the Lindberg property, consistent with the terms of this resolution, subject to review and approval as to form by the County Attorney's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Board Chair is hereby authorized to execute the LSOHC and LCCMR-required Notice of Funding Restrictions on behalf of Dakota County, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That following completion of the Lindberg natural area easement acquisition, Dakota County will submit the necessary forms and documentation to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to receive a total of \$1,929,000 in reimbursement funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That reimbursement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Lindberg easement will be returned to the Park and Open Space Capital Improvement Program fund balance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution No. 12-299 adopted by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners on June 5, 2012, is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Park and Open Space Capital Improvement Program budget is hereby amended as follows:

Expense	
Acquisition of the Lindberg easement	\$2,200,000
Closing and other associated acquisition costs	\$10,000
Total Expenses	\$2,210,000

Revenue

Parks and Open Space CIP	\$281,000
FY 10 Outdoor Heritage Funds	777,878
FY 11 Outdoor Heritage Funds	1,000,000
FY 12 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Funds	151,122
Total Revenue	\$2,210,000

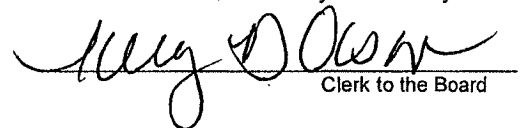
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Dakota County will increase the 2012 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council grant proposal request by \$800,000.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
County of Dakota

	YES		NO
Harris	<u> X </u>	Harris	<u> </u>
Gaylord	<u> </u>	Gaylord	<u> X </u>
Egan	<u> X </u>	Egan	<u> </u>
Schouweiler	<u> X </u>	Schouweiler	<u> </u>
Workman	<u> </u>	Workman	<u> X </u>
Krause	<u> X </u>	Krause	<u> </u>
Branning	<u> </u>	Branning	<u> X </u>

I, Kelly Olson, Clerk to the Board of the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Dakota County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 19th day of June 2012, now on file in the County Administration Department, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal of Dakota County this 21st day of June 2012.


Clerk to the Board



April 27, 2015

David and Michelle Nicolai
23110 Biscayne Avenue W.
Farmington, Mn 55024

Physical Development Division

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579

952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Resources

Land Conservation
Groundwater Protection
Surface Water
Waste Regulation
Environmental Initiatives

Office of Planning

Operations Management

Facilities Management
Fleet Management
Parks

Transportation

Highways
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office

Subject: Statement of County Certified Value and Contingent Offer to Acquire a Permanent Shoreland Conservation Easement

Dear David and Michelle:

Dakota County has undertaken an independent appraisal of your property for the purpose of acquiring a permanent shoreland conservation easement through the ShoreHolders Program. This appraisal was completed by a qualified, independent appraiser. Staff has completed a review of the appraisal.

A summary of the project is as follows:

(a) General property location and parcel number(s):

Section 9, Township 113 North, Range 19 West
Parcel(s): 07-00900-26-011

(b) Type of interest being acquired: Permanent Shoreland Conservation Easement

(c) Identification of real property improvements, if any, to be acquired: None

(d) Summary of County Certified Value:

1. Acres Of Property Ownership	34.3
2. Acres Excluded from Easement (Buildings, Road ROW, etc.)	6.9
3. Easement Acres	27.4
4. Total Easement Value	\$57,000.00
5. Easement Value Per Acre	\$2,080.29

Dakota County hereby offers to all parties who may have a legal interest in the easement to be acquired the sum of \$57,000, which has been estimated to be just compensation for such property and rights based on the fair market value of the property. The sum noted here may be adjusted based on the final survey of the easement area.

It is important to take adequate time to consider this offer and consult with professional advisors. If you believe the value is not accurate, you may wish to secure your own appraisal. However, this will delay the acquisition process by two or more months and could jeopardize non-County funding.

The offer and compensation set forth in this letter is contingent on Dakota County Board approval of the easement, as evidenced by a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners.

If you accept the contingent offer, please complete the Confirmation of Project Elements form provided by County staff and return it within 21 days of the date at the top of the form. Please retain a copy of the form for your records. County staff will then present the project to the County Board for its consideration and final approval. After approval by the County Board, formal documentation will be prepared to complete the easement acquisition in accordance with the approval.

If the offer is unacceptable, please discuss your concerns and how we might work to resolve any issues with County staff at the meeting at which this certified value and contingent offer is presented.

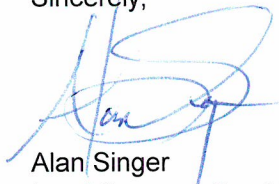
Please date, sign below and return one copy of this offer letter.

Your signature on this contingent OFFER TO PURCHASE is only to verify that this contingent offer was made to you.

If you have any questions or concerns about the acquisition process, please call Lisa West at (952) 891-

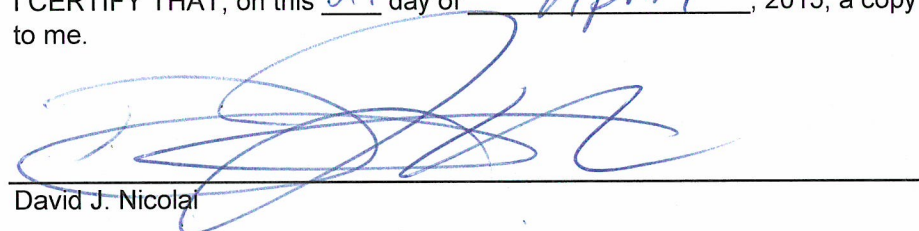
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

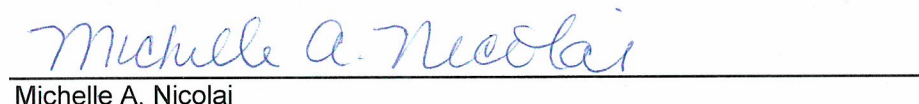


Alan Singer
Land Conservation Manager
Dakota County Environmental Resources Department

I CERTIFY THAT, on this 29 day of April, 2015, a copy of this document was delivered to me.



David J. Nicolai



Michelle A. Nicolai



April 29, 2015
Date

FARMLAND AND NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM CONFIRMATION OF FINAL PROJECT ELEMENTS

David and Michelle Nicolai

The purpose of this document is to confirm the final details of your ShoreHolders Program permanent shoreland conservation easement. Please review each item, fill in all of the blanks, signify your approval by signing this form, and return one, signed Confirmation of Project Elements form within 21 days of the date above.

1. Size. Final easement size: 27.4 acres (NOTE: The easement acres may be adjusted following the final survey of th easement boundary.)
2. Project Changes. On the reverse side of this form, describe any changes to the project, including configuration, and township issues (e.g., subdividing a parcel, etc.). Please provide a map, if necessary, to show changes you want to make to your project. (**Please note** that if your changes are significant enough to trigger a needed amendment to your appraisal, the appraisal amendment will be at your expense.)
3. Easement Issues. On the reverse side of this form, describe any issues you have with the terms of the permanent easement. (Refer to the drafat copy provided by Dakota County staff.)
4. Financial. By signing this form, you are attesting that, in your interest and in the interest of Dakota County, you were encouraged by County staff to consult with a registered financial planner, accountant and/or tax attorney regarding this potential easement acquisition and the financial implications.

5. Easement Value.

Donation. Easement value donation percent: 10 %

Easement Value \$ 57000.00 - Donation \$ 5700.00 = Net Easemnt Value \$ 51300.00

(NOTE: This easement value may be adjusted following the final survey of the easement boundary.)

DJN MAM

6. Management/Maintenance. By signing this form, you are acknowledging your willingness to work with Dakota County and/or its contractors or partners to jointly develop and begin implementing a Natural Resource Management Plan.

Date: 4-29-15

David J. Nicolai

Michelle A. Nicolai

Please return one copy of this signed Confirmation of Final Project Elements form to:

Dakota County PDD, 3rd Floor
Attn: Lisa West
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124



April 21, 2015

Physical Development Division

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579

952.891.7000
Fax 952.891.7031
www.dakotacounty.us

Environmental Resources

Land Conservation
Groundwater Protection
Surface Water
Waste Regulation
Environmental Initiatives

Office of Planning

Operations Management

Facilities Management
Fleet Management
Parks

Transportation

Highways
Surveyor's Office
Transit Office

Francis Wergin and Bridget Renlund
30468 Canada Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057

Subject: Statement of County Certified Value and Real Property Interest Offer

Dear Mr. Wergin and Ms. Renlund:

Dakota County has undertaken an independent appraisal of your property for the purpose of acquiring a permanent natural area conservation easement through the Farmland and Natural Areas Program (FNAP). This appraisal was completed by a qualified, independent appraiser. County staff has completed a review of the appraisal.

A summary of the project is as follows:

(a) Identification of the real property to be acquired:

Legal description: Part of the NE 1/4 of Section 17, Township 112 North, Range 19 West.

(b) Type of interest being acquired: Permanent Natural Area Conservation Easement

(c) Identification of real property improvements, if any, to be acquired: None

(d) Summary of County Certified Value:

1. Acres Of Property Ownership	40.4
2. Acres Excluded from Easement (Buildings, Road ROW, etc.)	6.2
3. Easement Acres	34.2
4. Total Easement Value	\$76,000.00
5. Easement Value Per Acre	\$2,222.22

You committed to a 15 percent donation in your FNAP application. This was a significant factor in the project ranking and County Board preliminary approval. Using this percentage, the value of the easement would be reduced by \$11,400. Dakota County hereby offers to all parties who may have a legal interest in the easement to be acquired the sum of \$64,600, which has been estimated to be just compensation for such property and rights based on the fair market value of the property, less the indicated donation amount.

The offer and compensation set forth in this letter is contingent on Dakota County Board approval of the easement, as evidenced by a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners.

It is important to take adequate time to consider this offer and consult with professional advisors. If you believe the value is not accurate, you may wish to secure your own appraisal. However, this will delay the acquisition process by two or more months and could jeopardize non-County funding.

If you decide to accept the offer, please complete the Confirmation of Final Project Elements form provided by County staff and return it within 21 days of the date at the top of the form. Please retain a copy of the form for your records. County staff will then present this easement acquisition project to the County Board for its consideration and approval. After approval by the County Board, formal documentation will be prepared to complete the easement acquisition in accordance with the approval.

If the offer is unacceptable, please discuss your concerns and how we might work to resolve any issues with County staff at the meeting at which this certified value and contingent offer is presented, or schedule a meeting to discuss your concerns at a future date.

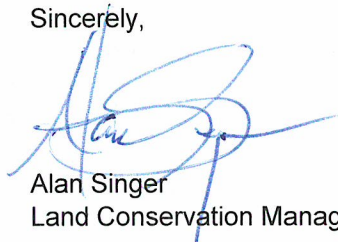
Please date, sign below and return one copy of this offer letter.

Your signature on this contingent OFFER TO PURCHASE is only to verify that this contingent offer has been made to you.

If you have any questions or concerns about the acquisition process, please call Lisa West at (952) 891-7018.

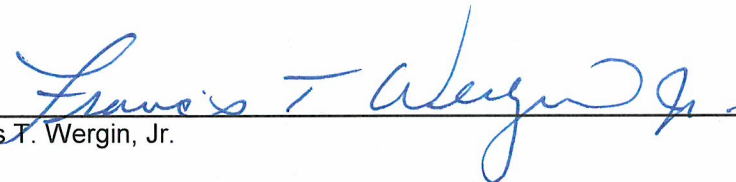
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

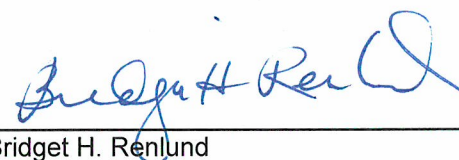


Alan Singer
Land Conservation Manager

I CERTIFY THAT, on this 23rd day of April, 2015, a copy of this document was delivered to me.



Francis T. Wergin, Jr.



Bridget H. Renlund



April 23, 2015
Date

FARMLAND AND NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM CONFIRMATION OF FINAL PROJECT ELEMENTS

Francis Wergin and Bridget Renlund

The purpose of this document is to confirm the final details of your Farmland and Natural Areas Program permanent conservation easement. Please review each item, fill in all of the blanks, signify your approval by signing this form, and return one, signed Confirmation of Final Project Elements form within 21 days of the date at the top of the form.

- Size. Final easement size: 34.3 acres
- Project Changes. Describe any changes to the project, including configuration, exception areas, and township issues (e.g., subdividing a parcel, etc.). Please use the enclosed map to show changes you are making to your project.

- Building Rights. Number of building rights being conveyed to Dakota County or retained by you. (The number of available building rights must be confirmed by the township.)
Available Building Rights: 0 Building Rights Conveyed: 0 Building Rights Retained: 0
- Financial. By signing this form, you are attesting that, in your interest and in the interest of Dakota County, you have consulted with a registered financial planner, accountant and/or tax attorney regarding this potential easement acquisition and the financial implications.
- Donation. Easement value donation percent: 7 %
Easement Value \$ 76,000 - Donation \$ 5,320 = Net Easement Value \$ 70,680
The Net Easement Value is the amount you should expect to receive at closing.
- Easement Issues. On the reverse side of this form, describe any issues you have with the terms of the permanent easement. (Refer to draft copy provided by Dakota County staff.)
- Management/Maintenance. By signing this form, you are acknowledging your willingness to work with Dakota County and/or its contractors (e.g., SWCD, Friends of the Mississippi River, Minnesota Conservation Corps, or others) to jointly develop and begin implementing a Natural Resource Management Plan.

Date: Apr. 23, 2015

Francis T. Wergin
Francis T. Wergin

Bridget H. Renlund
Bridget H. Renlund

Please return one copy of this signed Confirmation of Final Project Elements form to:

Dakota County PDD, 3rd Floor
Attn: Lisa West
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI – TPL’s Critical Land Protection Program

PROJECT MANAGER: Robert McGillivray

AFFILIATION: The Trust for Public Land

MAILING ADDRESS: 2610 University Avenue W, Suite 300

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Saint Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-999-5307

E-MAIL: rjm@tpl.org

WEBSITE: www.tpl.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec.2, Subd 04i3.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$500,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Trust for Public Land used Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VI funding to acquire two high quality habitat properties in the Metro Area – Rice Creek Headwaters in Anoka County, and Lindstrom Peninsula in Chisago County.

The Trust for Public Land acquired 343 acres of open space at the headwaters of Rice Creek in the eastern part of Anoka County on December 21, 2012, and conveyed this property to Anoka County on January 3, 2013. This acquisition protected nearly all of the shoreline of Columbus Lake and a half mile of Rice Creek, and has helped to complete public ownership of a 20+ mile conservation corridor along Rice Creek to the Mississippi River. The land provides habitat for many species in conservation need, and has connected large tracts of habitat in Anoka County. Anoka County is managing 258 acres of the land as a new public hunting area called Columbus Lake Conservation Area and the remaining 85 acres has been added to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve. The Trust for Public Land used \$67,000 of its M.L. 2011 MeCC funding, which acquired 14.7 acres, as well as \$940,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, which acquired 206.1 acres, and \$169,000 from Anoka County, which acquired 37.2 acres, to purchase the 258 acres for the Columbus Lake Conservation Area. **The remaining 85 acres of the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve was funded by the Metropolitan Council’s Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant Program and Anoka County. Please note that the remaining \$10,000 of the appropriated \$500,000 from ML 2011 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in the Project Budget Summary, and the approved Work Plan.**

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula **contains approximately 5,600 feet** of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City’s park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area. The Trust for Public Land used \$423,000 of its M.L. 2011 MeCC acquisition funding and all of its M.L. 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000) with \$82,000 from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Trust for Public Land disseminates information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcasts emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distributes press releases, and includes information in TPL's newsletters and publications as appropriate.

The Columbus Lake Conservation Area is highlighted in The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<http://www.tpl.org/our-work/land-and-water/columbus-lake-conservation-area>

Anoka County, with assistance from The Trust for Public Land, developed a press release that resulted in several newspaper articles about the Columbus Lake Conservation Area/Rice Creek Headwaters project. Links are below.

<http://abcnewspapers.com/2013/01/15/land-protected-for-conservation-in-eastern-anoka-county/>

<http://forestlaketimes.com/2013/01/09/anoka-county-adds-350-acres-for-conservation/>

http://www.presspubs.com/quad/news/article_474e24ae-64db-11e2-8700-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://www.startribune.com/local/north/186635221.html>

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemansratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Main Document

Date of Status Update:	11/4/2015	
Date of Next Status Update:	Final Report	
Date of Work Plan Approval:	8/11/2011	
Project Completion Date:	6/30/2015	Is this an amendment request? <u> N </u>

Project Title: MeCC VI - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program (3.1)

Project Manager: Robert McGillivray

Affiliation: The Trust for Public Land

Address: 2610 University Ave W, Ste 300

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 999-5307

Email Address: rjm@tpl.org

Web Address: <http://www.tpl.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Chisago, Scott

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	500,000
	Amount Spent \$:	500,000
	Balance \$:	\$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.1;
M.L. 2014, Chapter 226, Section 2, Subdivision 19

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management,

and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Carryforward: The availability of the appropriations for the following projects are extended to June 30, 2015: (3) Laws 2011, First Special Session chapter 2, article 3, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (i), Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VI.

I. PROJECT TITLE: 3.1 - MeCC 6 - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Trust for Public Land used Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VI funding to acquire two high quality habitat properties in the Metro Area – Rice Creek Headwaters in Anoka County, and Lindstrom Peninsula in Chisago County.

The Trust for Public Land acquired 343 acres of open space at the headwaters of Rice Creek in the eastern part of Anoka County on December 21, 2012, and conveyed this property to Anoka County on January 3, 2013. This acquisition protected nearly all of the shoreline of Columbus Lake and a half mile of Rice Creek, and has helped to complete public ownership of a 20+ mile conservation corridor along Rice Creek to the Mississippi River. The land provides habitat for many species in conservation need, and has connected large tracts of habitat in Anoka County. Anoka County is managing 258 acres of the land as a new public hunting area called Columbus Lake Conservation Area and the remaining 85 acres has been added to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve. The Trust for Public Land used \$67,000 of its M.L. 2011 MeCC funding, which acquired 14.7 acres, as well as \$940,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, which acquired 206.1 acres, and \$169,000 from Anoka County, which acquired 37.2 acres, to purchase the land. Please note that the remaining \$10,000 of the appropriated \$500,000 from ML 2011 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in the Project Budget Summary, and the approved Work Plan.

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula contains approximately 5,600 feet of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City's park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area. The Trust for Public Land used \$423,000 of its M.L. 2011 MeCC acquisition funding and all of its M.L. 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000) with \$82,000 from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 29, 2012: Active negotiations are currently under way at Rice Creek Headwaters, the Lindstrom Natural Area, St. Croix- Franconia, and Pike Lake II properties. Budget and timing information will be provided when these details become more defined.

Project Status as of August 1, 2012: Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix- Franconia corridor. Agreement has been reached for purchase of the Pike Lake II property. Closing is anticipated by December 31, 2012, however, TPL will not be using ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds for this acquisition. Agreement has been reached for purchase of the Rice Creek Headwaters property with closing anticipated by December 31, 2012.

Amendment Request as of August 1, 2012: TPL would like to add the Blakely Bluffs area of southern Scott County as a potential protection area. TPL is working with the County and the DNR to protect Big Woods forest, bluff lands, and streams that drain to the Minnesota River. Targeted lands are adjacent

to existing protected areas and also include Regionally Significant Ecological Areas with the highest ranking by DNR. Amendment Approved: 10/3/2012.

Project Status as of February 1, 2013: The Pike Lake II property was acquired and conveyed to the City of Prior Lake on 11/15/2012 using funding other than TPL's ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds. The Rice Creek Headwaters property was acquired on 12/21/2012 and conveyed to Anoka County on 1/3/2013. Allocated acres purchased at Rice Creek with ENRTF funds were 14.7. See details below. The landowner of the Blakely Bluffs property has signed a letter of intent. Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix- Franconia corridor.

Amendment Request as of February 1, 2013: TPL requests that Robert McGillivray be substituted as Project Manager for this Project as Becca Nash has left The Trust for Public Land. TPL also requests that its Project Completion Date be changed to June 30, 2014 to align with the appropriation and grant contract language and as a result of projects taking longer to complete than originally contemplated. Amendment Approved by the LCCMR on February 7, 2013.

Project Status as of August 1, 2013: One of the Blakely Bluffs properties was acquired and conveyed to the DNR on 6/27/2013 using funding other than TPL's ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds. Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix-Franconia corridor.

Amendment Request as of November 18, 2013: TPL requests that its Project Completion Date be changed to June 30, 2015. Since ENRTF funding was approved in 2011, using a variety of funding sources, TPL has completed a number of projects on its acquisition list – including acquisition of parcels at Savage Fen, Rice Creek, Blakely Bluffs and Pike Lake II. However, negotiations on Lindstrom, St. Croix Franconia, and Rum River are still underway, and are taking longer than anticipated, due to landowner considerations. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/9/14.

Project Status as of February 1, 2014: TPL does not have any acquisitions to report at this time. Discussions with landowners are still underway on Lindstrom and St. Croix Franconia.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014: The owners of the Lindstrom property have agreed to sell it at a price below its appraised fair market value. We hope to acquire the property and convey it to the City of Lindstrom this fall. Additional details are given below.

Amendment Request as of August 1, 2014: The Lindstrom property has two dilapidated residential structures on it which the appraisal found to have no contributory value. TPL seeks permission from the LCCMR to acquire the land with those buildings on it. One of the structures is from approximately 1900, has not been lived in for many decades and is falling down. The other is a rambler from about 1970 that is also in poor shape that has not been lived in for several years. Both buildings will likely be torn down and removed from the site. There is some possibility that the 1900 house could be used for historical interpretive purposes, and the rambler could be considered for an interpretive center or caretaker's residence. But given available funding and the poor condition of the structures, removal is far more likely. The City will make a final decision on the structures after it acquires the property. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will not be responsible for any costs associated with the buildings or their removal. TPL plans to use the remainder of its ML 2011 ENRTF MeCC funds and all of its ML 2013 ENRTF MeCC funds on this acquisition, and accordingly, also asks permission to spend these two appropriations concurrently. It should also be noted that the acquisition list submitted with the initial work plan incorrectly stated the acreage and shoreline of the Lindstrom land. The correct acreage is 30 acres with approximately 5600 feet of shoreline as stated in the current acquisition list. Amendment Approved: 7/28/14.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area

Description: Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Attached as Exhibit A is a list of the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request. TPL will prioritize potential land protection projects within the Metro Conservation Corridors based on the priorities established by the public agencies with which we work and on landowner willingness to sell. Priority will also be given to high quality natural resources and on lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. We will also consider resource mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. TPL will work with the long-term steward to ensure a restoration and management plan consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the site is developed and that funding is identified for creation of a management plan.

Unless necessary to protect priority lands and subject to work plan amendment at that time, TPL will not acquire residential structures.

TPL will:

1. Seek County board approval for each acquisition going to DNR
2. Ensure a restoration and management plan is prepared for each acquisition
3. Identify funding source to implement such plans
4. Provide or have the final title holder provide an analysis of increased operations and maintenance cost likely to be incurred and how these costs will be covered
5. Obtain Commissioner approval for lands to be acquired by the DNR

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$500,000
Amount Spent: \$500,000
Balance: \$0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Approximately 30 acres of habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline protected</i>	December 31, 2014	\$500,000

Activity Status as of February 29, 2012: Active negotiations are currently under way at Rice Creek Headwaters, the Lindstrom Natural Area, St. Croix- Franconia, and Pike Lake II properties. Budget and timing information will be provided when these details become more defined.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012: Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix- Franconia corridor. Agreement has been reached for purchase of the 18-acre Pike Lake II property. Closing is anticipated by December 31, 2012, however, TPL will not be using ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds for this acquisition. Agreement has been reached for purchase of the 263- acre Rice Creek Headwaters property with closing anticipated by December 31, 2012. The funding package is estimated as the following:

Rice Creek Headwaters, Anoka, MN				
Funding Source*	Partner on project	Amount of funding for land acquisition costs	Allocated Acreage	Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)
State Funds				
M.L.2012 OHF	Anoka County	\$940,000	204.85	Anoka County
ENRTF - Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase VII 2011 (TPL)	TPL	\$67,000	14.60	TPL
	Sub Total	\$1,007,000		
Local Government Funds				
Anoka County	Anoka County	\$199,818	43.55	N/A
	Sub Total	\$199,818		
	TOTAL	\$1,206,818	263.00	
*Please note that total ENRTF funding is		\$67,000		
total other state funding is		\$940,000		
total non-state public funding is		\$199,818		
TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of property is		\$1,206,818		

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013: The Pike Lake II property was acquired and conveyed to the City of Prior Lake on 11/15/2012 using funding other than TPL's ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds. The Rice Creek Headwaters property was acquired on 12/21/2012 and conveyed to Anoka County on 1/3/2013. Allocated acres purchased at Rice Creek with ENRTF funds were 14.7. See details below. The landowner of the Blakely Bluffs property has signed a letter of intent. Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix- Franconia corridor.

Rice Creek Headwaters Acquisition: Nearly 350 acres have now been permanently protected for conservation purposes in the eastern part of Anoka County. Two acquired tracts of open space at the headwaters of Rice Creek now connect several existing public conservation lands in a fast growing part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Trust for Public Land acquired the land on December 21, 2012 and conveyed the property to Anoka County on January 3, 2013.

The acquisition of this headwaters creek corridor just south of the Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area (WMA) provides multiple water quality benefits, protecting nearly all of the shoreline of Columbus Lake and half a mile of Rice Creek. It also helps complete public ownership of a 20+ mile conservation

corridor extending from the WMA and along Rice Creek to the Mississippi River. Previously, there was no connection between the WMA and these other large tracts of publicly owned habitat.

The land has a rich mixture of wetland habitat, including some of the last remaining high quality natural communities in the Twin Cities, which provide critical habitat for many species in conservation need. It also provides excellent hunting opportunities for waterfowl, pheasant, turkey and deer within 20 minutes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. The project had broad support from many sportsmen’s groups including the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and Pheasants Forever.

Anoka County will manage 258 acres of the land as a new public hunting area called Columbus Lake Conservation Area. This is the portion of the acquisition that was funded with TPL’s ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funding. Additional funding was provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Anoka County. See funding chart below. The conservation area will be open to the public following the development of parking and access areas.

(The remaining 85 acres will be added to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve to connect existing parcels and provide improved public access for nature observation and hiking. Funding for this portion of the acquisition was provided by the Metropolitan Council’s Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant Program and Anoka County. This portion of the acquisition was not funded with TPL’s ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funding, and is not reflected in the funding chart below.)

Rice Creek Headwaters, Anoka, MN				
Funding Source*	Partner on project	Amount of funding for land acquisition costs	Allocated Acreage	Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)
State Funds				
M.L.2012 OHF	Anoka County	\$940,000	206.1	Anoka County
ENRTF - Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase VII 2011 (TPL)	TPL	\$67,000	14.7	TPL
	Sub Total	\$1,007,000		
Local Government Funds				
Anoka County	Anoka County	\$169,000	37.2	N/A
	Sub Total	\$169,000		
	TOTAL	\$1,176,000	258	
*Please note that total ENRTF funding is		\$67,000		
total other state funding is		\$940,000		
total non-state public funding is		\$169,000		

TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of property is	\$1,176,000		
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Note that the slight acreage and price differences between the final funding chart directly above and that submitted with the August 2012 update are due to a survey reflecting slightly less acreage.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013: One of the Blakely Bluffs properties was acquired and conveyed to the DNR on 6/27/2013 using funding other than TPL's ENTRF MeCC M.L. 2011 funds. Negotiations are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix-Franconia corridor.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: TPL does not have any new acquisitions to report at this time. Discussions with landowners are still under way at Lindstrom Natural Area and the St. Croix-Franconia corridor, but are taking longer than expected due to landowner considerations.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: The owners of the Lindstrom property have agreed to sell it at a price below its appraised fair market value. We hope to acquire the property and convey it to the City of Lindstrom this fall. This 30 acre peninsula is adjacent to the approximately 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The new peninsula land contains thousands of feet of sensitive shoreline and would be added to the existing natural area and managed as part of the City's park program.

The property appraised for \$1,030,000 approximately one year ago. We are currently in the process of having an updated appraisal performed. The landowners have graciously agreed to sell the property for conservation at a reduced price of \$900,000. (The land had been listed for sale earlier this year for \$1,500,000). TPL plans to use the remainder of its ML 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its ML 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000) (total of \$818,000 ENRTF funding), together with \$82,000 from the City to purchase the land for \$900,000. The landowners will donate the value between \$900,000 and the final appraised fair market value.

Final Report Summary: March 10, 2015:

Rice Creek Headwaters Acquisition: Nearly 350 acres have now been permanently protected for conservation purposes in the eastern part of Anoka County. Two acquired tracts of open space at the headwaters of Rice Creek now connect several existing public conservation lands in a fast growing part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Trust for Public Land acquired the land on December 21, 2012 and conveyed the property to Anoka County on January 3, 2013.

The acquisition of this headwaters creek corridor just south of the Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area (WMA) provides multiple water quality benefits, protecting nearly all of the shoreline of Columbus Lake and half a mile of Rice Creek. It also helps complete public ownership of a 20+ mile conservation corridor extending from the WMA and along Rice Creek to the Mississippi River. Previously, there was no connection between the WMA and these other large tracts of publicly owned habitat.

The land has a rich mixture of wetland habitat, including some of the last remaining high quality natural communities in the Twin Cities, which provide critical habitat for many species in conservation need. It also provides excellent hunting opportunities for waterfowl, pheasant, turkey and deer within 20 minutes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. The project had broad support from many sportsmen's groups including the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and Pheasants Forever.

Anoka County will manage 258 acres of the land as a new public hunting area called Columbus Lake Conservation Area. This is the portion of the acquisition that was funded with TPL's ENRTF MeCC

M.L. 2011 funding. Additional funding was provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Anoka County. See funding chart below. The conservation area will be open to the public following the development of parking and access areas.

(The remaining 85 acres was added to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve to connect existing parcels and provide improved public access for nature observation and hiking. Funding for this portion of the acquisition was provided by the Metropolitan Council's Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant Program and Anoka County. This portion of the acquisition was not funded with TPL's ENRTF MeCC M.L. 2011 funding, and is not reflected in the funding chart below.)

Rice Creek Headwaters, Anoka, MN				
Funding Source*	Partner on project	Amount of funding for land acquisition costs	Allocated Acreage	Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)
State Funds				
M.L.2012 OHF	Anoka County	\$940,000	206.1	Anoka County
ENRTF - Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase VII 2011 (TPL)	TPL	\$67,000	14.7	TPL
	Sub Total	\$1,007,000		
Local Government Funds				
Anoka County	Anoka County	\$169,000	37.2	N/A
	Sub Total	\$169,000		
	TOTAL	\$1,176,000	258	
*Please note that total ENRTF funding is		\$67,000		
total other state funding is		\$940,000		
total non-state public funding is		\$169,000		
TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of property is		\$1,176,000		

Note that the slight acreage and price differences between the final funding chart directly above and that submitted with the August 2012 update are due to a survey reflecting slightly less acreage.

Lindstrom/Allemansratt Acquisition: On October 28, 2014 TPL acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemansratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The new peninsula land contains **approximately 5,600 feet** of sensitive shoreline will be added to the existing natural area and managed as part of the City's park program.

The landowners agreed to sell the property at a reduced price of \$900,000 (it appraised at \$1,000,000). TPL used the remainder of its ML 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its ML 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000), together with \$82,000 from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land for \$900,000. The landowners donated the value of \$100,000.

Lindstrom/Allemansratt Acquisition			
Funding Source	Partner	Amount	Allocated Acreage
State Funds			
ENRTF – Metro Conservation Corridors VI 2011	TPL	\$423,000	12.7
ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VII 2013	TPL	\$395,000	11.9
	Sub Total	\$818,000	
Non State Funds			
City of Lindstrom	City of Lindstrom	\$82,000	2.4
Land Value Donation	Landowners	\$100,000	3.0
	Sub Total	\$182,000	
	TOTAL	\$1,000,000	30
*Please note that total ENTRF Funding is		\$818,000	
Total non-state public funding is		\$82,000	
Total funding and appraised fair market value is		\$1,000,000	

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As conservation transactions are completed, The Trust for Public Land will disseminate information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcast emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distribute press releases, and include information in TPL’s newsletters and publications as appropriate. TPL will also work with the long-term steward to ensure information is distributed to its listserves and on its website as well.

Dissemination Status as of February 29, 2012: No dissemination activities have been completed.

Dissemination Status as of August 1, 2012: No dissemination activities have been completed.

Dissemination Status as of February 1, 2013: Anoka County, with assistance from The Trust for Public Land, developed a press release that resulted in several newspaper articles about the Columbus Lake Conservation Area/Rice Creek Headwaters project. Links are below. TPL is in the process of adding information about this project to its website.

<http://abcnewspapers.com/2013/01/15/land-protected-for-conservation-in-eastern-anoka-county/>

<http://forestlaketimes.com/2013/01/09/anoka-county-adds-350-acres-for-conservation/>

http://www.presspubs.com/quad/news/article_474e24ae-64db-11e2-8700-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://www.startribune.com/local/north/186635221.html>

Dissemination Status as of August 1, 2013: No additional dissemination activities have occurred.

Dissemination Status as of February 1, 2014: No additional dissemination activities have occurred.

Dissemination Status as of August 1, 2014: No additional dissemination activities have occurred.

Final Dissemination Report Summary: March 10, 2015:

The Columbus Lake Conservation Area is highlighted in The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<http://www.tpl.org/our-work/land-and-water/columbus-lake-conservation-area>

Anoka County, with assistance from The Trust for Public Land, developed a press release that resulted in several newspaper articles about the Columbus Lake Conservation Area/Rice Creek Headwaters project. Links are below.

<http://abcnewspapers.com/2013/01/15/land-protected-for-conservation-in-eastern-anoka-county/>

<http://forestlaketimes.com/2013/01/09/anoka-county-adds-350-acres-for-conservation/>

http://www.presspubs.com/quad/news/article_474e24ae-64db-11e2-8700-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://www.startribune.com/local/north/186635221.html>

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemansratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY: ENRTF funds will be spent between July 2011 and June 2015.

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$490,000.00	Please see attached Acquisition List for specific entities that will hold title to the land acquired
DNR acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as needed	\$10,000.00	As required by Attachment E of the grant agreement, the appraisal was required to be reviewed by DNR and these funds were released to cover these costs of DNR. However, it has come to TPL's attention that DNR did not spend \$6,211.50 of this amount.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$500,000.00	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: Capital expenditures will only be for fee title to land acquired as specified in this work program

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N./A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Various local, regional, federal or private funds (Anoka County, City of Lindstrom, Land value donation)	\$250,000	\$351,000	Matching land acquisition funds
State			
Various bonding, and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funds (M.L. 2012 OHF)	\$250,000	\$940,000	Matching land acquisition funds
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$500,000	\$1,109,000	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: TPL works closely with private landowners and with the public agency or non-profit partner to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land interest that TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. Long-term stewards and other project partners may include local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. We also work closely with citizen groups and coordinate our work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners, which each receives its own appropriation under the program. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This proposal is a component of a larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, begun in 2003, to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16-county area that is expanding with the result of land and water habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and permanent conversion to urban uses. MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF (TPL)	620,000 Subd 5(b)	420,000 Subd 4(c)	475,000 Subd 3(a)	380,000 Subd 4(f)	890,000 Subd 4(g)
ENRTF (Partners)	300,000	46,328	53,672	200,000	358,493

Other state (bonding, RIM), local, private, or federal	1,361,558	1,491,877	1,725,564.97	911,579	3,325,321
OHF (TPL)				294,500	1,500,000
OHF (Partners)					1,605,500

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See Acquisition List attachment

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, February 1, 2014, August 1 2014, and February 1, 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Project Title: <i>TPL's Critical Land Protection Program</i>					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.1; M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 19					
Project Manager: Robert McGillivray					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: 4_years; 2011-2015					
Date of Update: 11/4/2015					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Acquisition</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition	490,000	490,000	0	490,000	0
Other DNR acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0

Date: 7/18/2014

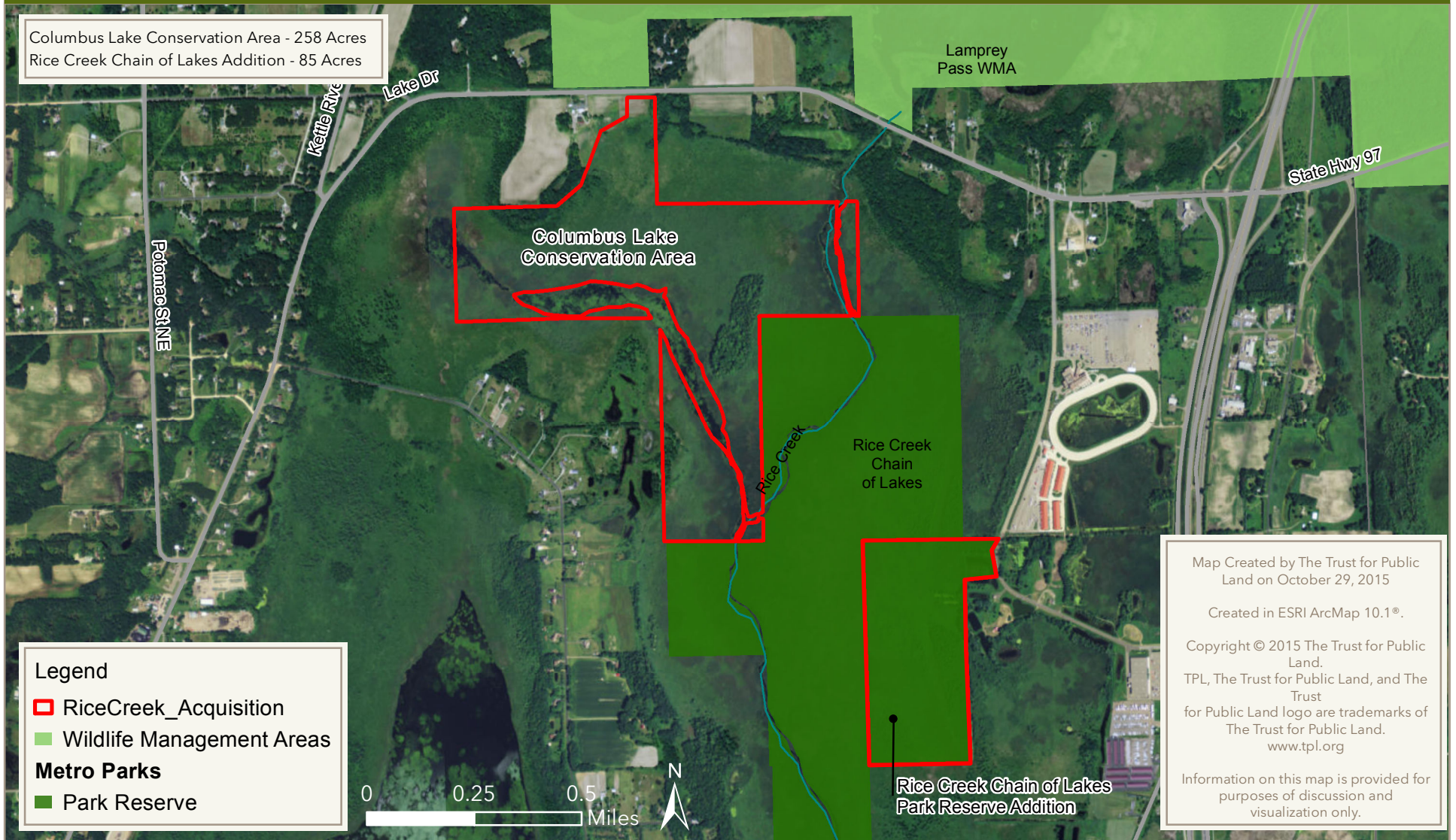
Project Title: TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program
 Project Manager Name: Robert McGillivray
 M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000

Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres (total)	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
	Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
Savage Fen SNA additions	44 46'2 N	93 22'6. W	prairie, forest, wetland, savanna	A significant amount of land has become available for acquisition and at possibly half of its pre-economic downturn value. Acquired land would provide protection to existing Scientific and Natural Area lands as well as to currently unprotected sugar maple-basswood forests, seepage meadow, fen, and alkaline seeps and spring—all within the Minnesota River Valley. Acquisition will also entail provision of a multi-use trail through an existing disturbed corridor. Signage will be placed along corridor to educate the public about the unique landforms found here and about the cultural history of the area. Protection is supported through local and regional plans.	Fee title acquisition	20		DNR- SNA	Potential Project
Rice Creek Headwaters	43 2' 32" N	93 2" 59" W	forest, wetland	TPL is working with Anoka County and several landowners to conserve a key connection at the headwaters of the Rice Creek conservation corridor, which extends for over 20 miles from Lamprey Pass WMA to the Mississippi River. The 320-acre area has a rich mixture of habitat types including cattail marsh, emergent marsh, shrub swamp, mixed hardwood swamp, basswood/maple islands, rich fen and poor fen. Much of the area is identified in the state's County Biological Survey and Metro Regionally Significant Ecological Areas as containing some of the last remaining high-quality natural communities in the metro area. Local support has already been obtained for conservation of this high quality habitat less than 20 miles from downtown St. Paul.	Fee title acquisition	263	9200 ft	Anoka County	Acquisition completed
Lindstrom Natural Area	45 24'10. N	92 49'56.W	forest, grassland, wetland	In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second phase of an effort that has been made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,600 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans.	Fee title acquisition	30	5600 ft	City of Lindstrom	Under contract
Rum River-Boy Scouts	45 17'24. N	93 22'30.W	forest, wetland	In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route.	Fee title acquisition	170	1400 ft	City of Ramsey	Potential Project
St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia SNA	45 20'14. N	92 42'36.W	forest	TPL is building on its past successful acquisitions with the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program to protect more critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR's Division of Ecological Services. Acquisitions will be targeted toward lands of high biodiversity significance and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state, and federal plans.	Fee title acquisition	80		DNR- SNA	Negotiations underway
Pike Lake II	44 45'9. N	93 25'51.W	forest, wetland	Building on its past successful acquisition of 30 acres for a natural area, TPL is again working with the City of Prior Lake to acquire land to extend this habitat corridor along the shoreline of Pike Lake. Acquisition of this land is critical for protecting wildlife (including nesting bald eagles), for protecting water quality, and for providing the public an opportunity to enjoy nature nearby in this rapidly growing area of the metro.	Fee title acquisition	18	1645 ft	City of Prior Lake	Acquisition completed with other funding
MN River / Blakely Bluffs	44 34'5. N	93 53'4.W	forest, wetland, grassland	Minnesota River Corridor: Big Woods Forest, streams, and bluffs less than 1/4 mile from MN River. Adjacent to existing DNR and USFWS protected lands	Fee title acquisition	300	1800 ft	DNR	Acquisition of one parcel completed with other funding

NOTES:

MECC VI - RICE CREEK PROJECT

ANOKA COUNTY, MN



THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND
LAND FOR PEOPLE

MECC VI AND MECC VII - LINDSTROM PENINSULA PROJECT

CHISAGO COUNTY, MN



THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND
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2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

PROJECT MANAGER: John Brosnan

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Land Trust

MAILING ADDRESS: 2356 University Ave W, Suite 240

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Saint Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-917-6297

E-MAIL: jbroshnan@mnland.org

WEBSITE: www.mnland.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.2

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$420,000.00

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

During the sixth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area to permanently protect important lands and Minnesota's remaining natural areas. Three perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protected 317 acres of land and more than 4,300 feet of shoreline, exceeding the grant obligations by 167 acres. Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

- Sunrise Lake (Chisago County): A 79-acre property of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA.
- Tennyson Lake (Isanti County): A 158-acre property of wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook.
- Rush River (Sibley County): A 79-acre property of open fields, wooded bluffslands, sloping ravines, and lowland forest lying adjacent to the Minnesota River and Rush River County Park.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,000 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre. Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,989 acres of critical habitat and 80,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$453 per acre. The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of using conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Land Trust continued to gain more experience with conservation easements, easement management, and issues unique to protecting land in a metropolitan area. This experience and information was shared with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, and policy makers. The Land Trust also disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, annual report (4,200 pieces), web site, and press releases. Additionally, the MeCC Partnership maintains an interactive public web map that shows the locations of MeCC projects over time. This web map can be accessed at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/MeCC/mapper.html



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Status Update: 8/17/2015

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2015

Project Title: MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

Address: 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zip Code:** 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 917-6292

Email Address: wostlie@mnland.org

Web Address: <http://www.mnland.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	420,000.00
	Amount Spent \$:	352,794.83
	Balance \$:	67,205.17

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.2

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management,

and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region's most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. In particular, we will focus outreach to landowners along three of the region's Wild and Scenic Rivers – the St. Croix, the Rum, and the Cannon – and prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. The conservation easements may be either purchased or donated, or a combination of the two (bargain purchase). These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program. In order to fulfill these stewardship obligations, grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures and as described in the documents attached to the initial work plan for this appropriation. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status and performance of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and monitoring activity associated with easements acquired with funds from this grant. This reporting includes submitting an annual financial audit of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Proposed activities under Activity 1 of this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements. Activity 2 of this project provides mapping, coordination and leadership for the partnership by Minnesota Land Trust staff.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

In December of 2014, the Land Trust closed on the Rush River project, which protected 79 acres of grasslands, hardwood forest and floodplain forest in Sibley County. The property is immediately adjacent to the Rush River County Park, creating a complex of over 360 acres of protected land. The Trust continues to work with the landowners of the Carnelian Creek property. That conservation easement has been drafted and received DNR Commissioner approval.

On Mapping, a new ecological analysis has recently been completed as part of the overall MeCC Mapping work. This work entailed creating new MLCCS data, combining MLCCS data with the most recent National Land Cover Dataset information, and refining habitat models for the specific

characteristics of the MeCC area. Results will be posted soon and will provide guidance for new MeCC focus areas.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

In June of 2014, the Land Trust closed on the Tennyson Lake (Barrett) project, which protected 158 acres of mixed hardwood forest, grasslands, wetlands and 12 acres of agricultural fields. This project also protected approximately 2,990 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline on Tennyson Lake and 1,385 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline along Spencer Brook. The Land Trust continues to pursue completion of projects at the Carnelian Creek and Rush Lake sites. The Carnelian Creek project has already received DNR Commissioner approval.

Amendment Request (6/11/14):

The Land Trust is requesting to change the project manager to reflect a staff transition. The Land Trust is also requesting an extension of the funds until June 30, 2015.

Amendment Approved: June 26, 2014

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

In December of 2013, the Land Trust closed on the Sunrise Lake (Barnes) project which protected 79 acres of mixed forest, grassland, wetland property and included 10 acres of agriculture. The additional properties that were expected to close by the end of 2013 (Rush Lake, Tennyson Lake and Carnelian Creek) are still likely candidates to close before the next Status Update. The Tennyson Lake landowner and the Moose Lake landowner are negotiating bargain sales. Depending on their willingness to negotiate, the Land Trust may have to request moving some funds from Staff to Acquisition in order to make both projects fit within this grant.

Amendment Request (11/1/13):

The Land Trust is requesting to add the Sunrise Lake property to the Parcel List. The property lies immediately to the east of Sunrise Lake and to the north of North Center Lake near the town of Lindstrom in Chisago County. The property is 2.5 miles east of the Sunrise River and the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. It is located within the Mille Lacs Uplands ecological subsection and is within the established priority areas for Metro Conservation Corridors as defined by Minnesota Laws 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2, Subdivision 4(i). The 80 acre property is a mix of forest, woodland, grassland, wetland and approximately 9.6 acres of agriculture.

Amendment Approved: November 15, 2013.

Project Status as of August 1, 2013:

The Land Trust anticipates that we will complete three projects by the end of 2013. We continue to focus on these three critical projects (Rush Lake, Tennyson Lake and Carnelian Creek), two of which are to be donated.

Additionally, we continue to work with several other landowners, and we have identified one new project that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of July 16, 2013:

Request to Amend Work Plan:

The Land Trust is requesting an amendment to change the project manager due to a staff transition. Amendment approved July 19, 2013.

Project Status as of February 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues to work on several projects, with particular emphasis on three that we believe could potentially close under this grant. Additionally, as indicated by the ~~strikeout~~ and underline above and on the Work Plan attachments, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change

the project manager due to a staff transition. Finally, the reporting schedule under the Reporting Requirements section and appropriate areas throughout the document were amended to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014, as consistent with the appropriation language. Amendment approved April 3, 2013.

Additionally, we have identified two new projects that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one conservation easement protecting 80 acres in Anoka County in June 2012. This easement was purchased at a bargain price using funds from our 2010 (Phase 5 Supplemental) grant. We did dedicate some funds from this 2011 grant to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund, so while the project deliverables are counted under our 2010 final report, the project results are described in more detail below.

Additionally, we continue to work with several other landowners, and we have identified one new project that we're requesting be added to our project list.

Project Status as of February 1, 2012:

At this point in time, we have not yet incurred any expenses from the 2011 grant. While we do anticipate that some of the projects the Land Trust currently is pursuing will require funds from both the 2010 and 2011 grants, we have not yet needed any 2011 funds.

Project Status as of October 5, 2011:

Request to Amend Budget and Work on Grants Concurrently

The Land Trust currently is working to complete the 2010 grant. While we have projects identified that will complete our grant obligations, timing needs of certain projects make it necessary for us to adjust our 2010 budget to reduce the acquisition category and increase the personnel category. To balance out this 2010 adjustment, we also are requesting an adjustment to the 2011 budget to reduce personnel and increase acquisition.

Additionally, our plan for completion of both grants requires that we work on the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently, as some projects may require funds from both grants. Therefore, we are requesting approval to be able to work on both the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently. An updated Attachment A is attached as part of this request. Request approved on: October 6, 2011.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

During the sixth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area to permanently protect important lands and Minnesota's remaining natural areas. Three perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protected 317 acres of land and more than 4,300 feet of shoreline, exceeding the grant obligations by 167 acres. Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

- Sunrise Lake (Barnes): A 79-acre property of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA in Chisago County.
- Tennyson Lake (Barrett): A 158-acre property in Isanti County comprising wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook.
- Rush River (Amberson): A 79-acre property comprising open fields, wooded bluffs, sloping ravines, and lowland forest adjacent to the Minnesota River and Rush River County Park in Sibley County.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,500 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre. Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,989 acres of critical habitat and 80,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$453 per acre. The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of using conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements

Description:

The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors with an emphasis on Wild and Scenic River protection by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-5 permanent conservation easements on 150 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 400,000.00
Amount Spent: \$ 335,693.96
Balance: \$ 64,306.04

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 150 acres by completing 4-5 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2015	\$ 400,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity on this grant has not yet commenced.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one project in June 2012 as part of our Phase 5 Supplemental (2010) MeCC grant. Because we did use some 2011 funds for Stewardship and Enforcement, the project is described below; however all deliverables have been included in our 2010 final report.

Additionally, we are requesting to amend our project list to include one new project. The project, which lies adjacent to Wood-Rill SNA, is further described on the attached Project Summaries document. Request to add project approved: August 2, 2012.

Completed Projects:

Project: Emmans Farm, Anoka County

Description: Located in the City of St. Francis, this 80-acre property is adjacent to an additional 80-acre parcel protected in 2005 by the same family. The property is comprised of a mix of wetland types interspersed with hardwood forest, supporting a large array of terrestrial and aquatic species. Additionally, the property lies in a regionally significant ecological area as identified by the MN DNR.

The easement prohibits residential use and division of the property. Agricultural use is limited to a very small portion of the property where it currently occurs and will no longer be allowed following any future restoration of that area.

The Land Trust purchased this easement for \$80,000, a price below the fair-market value of \$192,000. Funds for the purchase price came from 2010 ENRTF funding. \$13,000 of ENRTF funds (\$2,500 from 2010 and \$10,500 from 2011) was used to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues working on approximately 12 potential projects. Special emphasis is on the following two projects that we anticipate will be completed within the next few months:

- Carnelian Creek (previously referred to as Wilder Forest): 38 acres, Washington County
The Land Trust is working with the landowners on a donated conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural communities of oak forest on the property which have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of high biodiversity significance.
- Wood-Rill: 16 acres, Goodhue County
The Land Trust is working with the landowners on a donated conservation easement that will protect the natural communities of hardwood forest and wetlands on the property, as well as a palustrine open water pond that connects with Wood-Rill SNA to the south. The entire southern line of the property borders Wood-Rill SNA.

Additionally, the Land Trust has been pursuing a potential purchase of a conservation easement on a unique parcel of land on Tennyson Lake in Isanti County which contains significant native plant communities of hardwood swamp, oak-maple woodland and northern mixed cattail marsh that have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013:

The Land Trust continues to work on three projects we anticipate closing by the end of 2013: Tennyson Lake, Rush Lake, and Carnelian Creek. Two of these projects will be donated, and one will be a bargain purchase.

Additionally, the Land Trust has an exciting opportunity to protect a 42-acre parcel of land on Moose Lake in Wright County which not only contains significant habitat and shoreline along Moose Lake, but connects two pieces of Stanly Eddy County Park.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

The Land Trust closed on one project during this phase of MeCC 6 and continued to pursue three additional easements while also processing additional landowner inquiries.

Completed Projects:

Project: Sunrise Lake, Chisago County

Description: The 79-acre Sunrise Lake (Barnes) easement is a mix of forest (30 acres), grassland (10 acres), wetland (29 acres) and agriculture (10 acres). There are three distinct wetlands on the Protected Property: the largest dominates the western half of the property (to the south and west of the residence); a second large wetland is on the very northeast end of the property and extends southeasterly; the third is a very small wetland just at the southeast corner of the property. The wetlands are surrounded by forestland which is typically older upland deciduous (hardwood-pine). Grasslands are concentrated primarily in the southeast portion of the property with a small distribution surrounding the residence in the center-north of the property. Agricultural land is in three small areas on the eastern half of the property.

The easement prohibits development and division of the property. Agricultural use is limited to a very small portion of the property where it currently occurs and will no longer be allowed following any future restoration of that area.

This easement was donated by the landowner. Funds for stewardship are being sought from the MeCC 6 grant and total \$15,000 based on the Land Trust's Stewardship Evaluation Worksheet.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

The Land Trust closed on one project during the most recent phase of MeCC 6 and continues to pursue two additional easements.

Completed Projects:

Project: Tennyson Lake, Isanti County

Description: The Tennyson Lake (Barrett) tract is located in Spencer Brook Township in Isanti County. This 158-acre property consists of 78 acres of wetlands, 40 acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest, 19 acres of open water, 6 acres of woodlands, 3 acres of grassland, and 12 acres of cultivated agricultural land. The forests, grasslands and wetlands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, black bear, and smooth green snake. Additionally, the property provides scenic views of the wooded landscape from Tennyson Drive NW.

The conservation easement limits division of the property and agricultural uses. Industrial and commercial uses are prohibited. Residential uses are limited in size and scope and confined to a building envelope. Any vegetative management and/or forest stewardship must be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Minnesota Land Trust.

The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$157,080, below the fair-market value of \$170,000. Funds for the purchase price came from ENRTF funding. ENRTF funds provided \$15,000 to cover easement monitoring, management and enforcement of the easement.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

The Land Trust closed on one project during the most recent phase of MeCC 6 and continues to pursue one additional easement.

Completed Project:

Project: Rush River, Sibley County

Description: The Rush River tract is located in Henderson Township in Sibley County. This 79-acre property consists of 45 acres of grassland and 34 acres of hardwood and floodplain forest. The forests and grasslands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including red-shouldered hawks and a number of migratory birds. The open and natural character of the property provides scenic views enjoyed by the general public from Rush River County Park, the Rush River and 316th Street.

The conservation easement limits division of the property and agricultural uses. Industrial and commercial uses are prohibited. Residential uses are limited in size and scope and confined to a building envelope. Any vegetative management and/or forest stewardship must be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Minnesota Land Trust.

The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$52,000, below the fair-market value of \$97,000. Funds for the purchase price came from ENRTF funding. ENRTF funds provided \$15,000 to cover easement monitoring, management and enforcement of the easement.

Final Report Summary:

Under Phase VI of the Metro Conservation Corridors program, the Land Trust met project goals and exceeded acreage goals by completing three conservation easements collectively protecting 317 acres of land, and 4,375 feet of lake and stream shoreline. Acres protected by the Land Trust under this grant exceeded grant obligations by 167 acres.

Two easements were purchased, both as bargain sales; one easement was donated. All three projects were unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat and riparian areas. These projects include:

Project: Sunrise Lake (Barnes)

Description: The 79-acre property is located along Sunrise Lake in Chisago County and consists of mixed hardwood and conifer forest, wetland, grassland and agricultural field. The property lies in close proximity to Carlos Avery WMA. There are three distinct wetlands on the Protected Property. The property is located within the Sunrise River Watershed, where the Sunrise River has been identified as a key river reach in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

The easement was donated. The value of the easement is unknown. ENRTF funds amounting to \$15,000 were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Project: Tennyson Lake (Barrett)

Description: The 158-acre property is located along Tennyson Lake in Isanti County and comprises wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, grasslands, and agricultural land, with 4,375 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook. The forests, grasslands and wetlands on the property provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, and smooth green snake, and potentially black bear. Of the three projects completed during this phase, the Tennyson Lake project builds upon prior protection work completed under previous phases of

MeCC project work, specifically within the Rum River Watershed. The Rum River is a critical landscape previously identified by the Land Trust to focus conservation easement work. To date the Land Trust has conservation easements on 1,682 acres of land within this crucial watershed.

The value of the easement is \$170,000. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$157,080 using funds from ENRTF. In addition, \$15,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Project: Rush River (Amberson)

Description: A 79-acre property is located adjacent to the Rush River and Rush River County Park in Sibley County, and comprises open fields, wooded bluffs, sloping ravines, and floodplain forest. The forests and grasslands on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including red-shouldered hawks and a number of migratory birds.

The value of the easement is \$97,000. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$52,000 using funds from ENRTF. In addition, \$15,000 in ENRTF funds were used to cover Stewardship and Enforcement on this project.

Each of these three parcels were also in line with the MeCC project selection criteria:

1. Habitat: The quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protection of riparian areas and buffering of water resources;
2. Context: Proximity and relationship to other protected lands;
3. Opportunity: Landowners are available to participate now;
4. Cost/Benefit Ratio: Maximization of amount of impact per dollar spent;
5. Other Benefits: Meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Baseline property reports were prepared for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. LCCMR provided \$55,500 in grant funds to the Land Trust's dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for this required perpetual obligation. \$45,000 was for the three new projects under this phase of the Metro Corridors project, while \$10,500 was for an easement project from the previous phase of the Metro Corridors project. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on both the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds through this grant.

Total appraised value for the two purchased easements was \$267,000, with the grant providing \$209,080; donated value of these bargain sales was \$57,920. No appraisal was completed for the donated easement. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was \$801 per acre.

The grant ended with \$64,306 remaining as a balance for this activity as a result of staff turnover during the course of the project.

ACTIVITY 2: Coordination, Mapping & Outreach

NOTE: MLT's contract was amended on April 29, 2014 to combine MeCC VI - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Cons. Easements (3.2) AND MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach. Previous Activity Status updates were submitted under separate cover, under MeCC VI - 1.1 - Coordination, Mapping & Outreach.

Description:

The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 17,100.87
Balance: \$ 2,899.13

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2014	\$ 7,500
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2014	\$ 7,500
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2014	\$ 5,000

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

DNR continues to make refinements to the database, focusing on the partner project maps, and ensuring the partners enter data such that it can be used by DNR to map project accomplishments.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

The DNR has not been working on the MeCC database this timeframe, but will be working with partners this spring to add in new MeCC projects from this phase to the online map as completed.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2013:

The DNR has begun a landscape scale analysis to help the partners prioritize worksites.

Project Status as of February 2, 2014:

The DNR and MLT continue to work on a landscape scale analysis to help the partners prioritize worksites. The main focus recently has been on creating detailed land cover data (MLCCS) to improve the analysis.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

The DNR and MLT continue development of a landscape-scale analysis to be used in assisting the Metro Conservation Corridors partners prioritize project sites. DNR staff has developed a preliminary MeCC Priority Analysis map for use by project partners. That product continues to be refined and GIS work is ongoing. MLCCS land cover data was added to the analysis. The preliminary map is included as an attachment to this work plan update.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Land Trust staff continues to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Land Trust staff also assisted in the compiling of reports for this appropriation.

A new ecological analysis has recently been completed. This work entailed creating new MLCCS data, combining MLCCS data with the most recent National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) information, and refining habitat models for the specific characteristics of the MeCC area. Results will be posted soon and will provide guidance for new MeCC focus areas.

The MeCC database at the DNR is undergoing a software update. The application has been moved over to the new software and it is currently in a testing and debugging stage. Once the system is fully upgraded, the DNR will assist the partners in entering and updating their project information in the database.

Final Report Summary:

The DNR began refinements to the MeCC projects database application in 2012. The updating and revision work continued through the spring of 2015. Application updating has been completed by the DNR, but it is currently not available to MeCC partners. It is estimated that the database will be up and running in September 2015 for use by the partners.

Ecological analysis to assist MeCC partners in prioritizing project sites was initiated in summer 2013. The analysis drew upon existing Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data and combined that with the most recent National Land Cover Data information to create a new layer of MLCCS data. The new MLCCS data was then used to refine habitat models for the localized characteristics of the overall MeCC area. The new data and revised habitat models will be used to provide guidance to the project partners for new MeCC focus areas to concentrate conservation efforts.

The Land Trust staff continued to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Future meetings are planned, with the Land Trust continuing the coordination of partner conservation efforts in the MeCC program area as successive funding has been appropriated through a MeCC Phase VII grant. Land Trust staff also compiled MeCC Partnership reports for this appropriation.

The grant ended with \$2,899 remaining as a balance for this activity as a result of staff turnover during the course of the project.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The Land Trust will disseminate results in our publications and on our web page. We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which projects are located. Additionally, we will participate when possible in broader efforts of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership. These efforts may include emails to people on the Embrace Open Space (EOS) database, through the EOS quarterly meetings and jointly held county meetings, and on the partnership website.

Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity on this grant has not yet commenced.

Status as of August 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed one new project in June 2012, for which we drafted a press release (attached to this report). We also publicized this project on our website and Facebook page and sent the information to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of February 1, 2013: The Land Trust has not completed any additional projects since the last update for this grant, but will continue to disseminate results as projects reach completion.

Status as of August 1, 2013: The Land Trust has not completed any additional projects since the last update for this grant, but will continue to disseminate results as projects reach completion.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one new project in December of 2013, for which we drafted and disseminated a press release. We also publicized this project on our website and Facebook page and sent the information to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one new project in June 2014. The press release has been drafted but has not yet been disseminated. The press release will be sent to media outlets, project partners, and

shared on the Land Trust's website and Facebook page. Information will be sent to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

The Land Trust completed one new project in December 2014. The press release has been drafted but has not yet been disseminated (the interview with the landowner was not completed until January 2015). The press release will be sent to media outlets, project partners, and shared on the Land Trust's website and Facebook page. Information will be sent to LCCMR staff for publication on the ENRTF Facebook page.

Final Report Summary:

For all three projects, the Land Trust completed press releases which were sent to local media outlets, project partners, and shared on the Land Trust's website and Facebook page. Sunrise Lake and Tennyson Lake were also highlighted in the Land Trust's 2014 Annual Report, which was disseminated as a 4,200-piece mailing. The portion of the annual report highlighting the two easement projects is included as an attachment to this work plan final report. The Rush River easement will be a focus of the 2015 Annual Report, which will go out in the first quarter of 2016.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 70,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$252,000	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 150 acres of land.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 3,000	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50 per mile and \$300 for meals.
Conservation Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Fund:	\$ 75,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.
MeCC Partnership Mapping, Coordination and Outreach	\$ 20,000	Develop up to date maps of the MeCC Corridors, convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work, compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly, and conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 420,000	

*Per discussion with LCCMR staff, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipate outcomes.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1 for two years

B. Other Funds:

Although we don't anticipate any cash funds at this time, we do anticipate providing leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project.

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust's identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF – MeCC	\$230,000	\$134,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, and February 1, 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 1, 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2, Subdivision 04i3.2								
Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$420,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2015								
Date of Update: 8/17/15								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements</i>			<i>Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$70,000.00	\$45,890.48	\$24,109.52	\$20,000.00	\$17,100.87	\$2,899.13	\$90,000.00	\$27,008.65
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>								
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>								
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>								
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>								
Easement Acquisition <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$252,000.00	\$232,250.50	\$19,749.50				\$252,000.00	\$19,749.50
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$3,000.00	\$2,052.98	\$947.02				\$3,000.00	\$947.02
Easement Monitoring & Enforcement Fund <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$75,000.00	\$55,500.00	\$19,500.00				\$75,000.00	\$19,500.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000.00	\$335,693.96	\$64,306.04	\$20,000.00	\$17,100.87	\$2,899.13	\$420,000.00	\$67,205.17

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List
Final**

Project Title: MeCC VI-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

Project Manager Name: Wayne Ostlie

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

Restoration #	Parcel Name	Geographical		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	Shore line	Title or Easement	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Emmans Farm	475419	5025598	Anoka	woodland, grassland, wetland, agriculture	parts of the property lie within a regionally significant ecological area, also in MCBS site of biodiversity significance	conservation easement acquisition	80		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
2	Rum River	476605	5049201	Isanti	forest, grassland, wetland, shoreline	part of Rum River corridor - Wild and Scenic River	conservation easement acquisition	36	4,267	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
3	Rum River	479612	5051732	Isanti	forest, wetland, prairie, ponds	part of Rum River corridor - Wild and Scenic River	conservation easement acquisition	40	500	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
4	Rice Lake	437261	4980942	Carver & Wright	forest, wetland, shoreline	MCBS sugar maple forest native plant community	conservation easement acquisition	128	1,937	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
5	Schendel Lake	447080	4994399	Hennepin	forest, wetland, agriculture	parts of the property lie within a regionally significant ecological area, undeveloped wooded shoreline along Schendel Lake	conservation easement acquisition		TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
6	Lurton Park	451774	4982186	Hennepin	forest, grassland, wetland, pond	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area	conservation easement acquisition	30		Minnesota Land Trust	Public owner City of Orono	Donation. Initial contact complete
7	Carnelian Creek (previously referred to as "Wilder Forest")	514276	5004133	Washington	forest, woodland, wetland	MCBS oak (red maple) woodland, site of high biodiversity significance	conservation easement acquisition	38		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Likely donation. Initial contact complete
8	Crow River	345827	5015058	Hennepin	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along state designated wild & scenic river, Crow River	conservation easement acquisition	97	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
9	Trout Brook	514691	4967409	Washington	forest, woodland, grassland, shoreline	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area	conservation easement acquisition	35	2,812	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
10	Oak Lake	436427	4977756	Carver	forest, grassland, wetland, shoreline	lies within a DNR regionally significant ecological area, shallow lake = DNR key habitat in state action plan	conservation easement acquisition	91	8,612	Minnesota Land Trust	Non-profit organization - Phyllis Wheatley CC	Purchase - funding source not yet identified.

12	Bullard Creek	541896	4930355	Goodhue	forest, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Bullard Creek, a DNR trout stream	conservation easement acquisition	60	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact complete
13	Wood-Rill	457189	4982025	Hennepin	Big Woods, wetland	Big Woods remnant; adjacent to Wood-Rill SNA	conservation easement acquisition	17		Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
14	Tennyson Lake	461976	5040955	Isanti	forest, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Tennyson Lake and Spencer Brook, as well as four native plant communities mapped by	conservation easement acquisition	158	4,375	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
14	Rush Lake	495625	5061833	Chisago	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, agriculture,	undeveloped shoreline along Rush Lake	conservation easement acquisition	152	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
15	Moose Lake	403075	5008144	Wright	forest, woodland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Moose Lake, connects two pieces of Stanley-Eddy Regional Park	conservation easement acquisition	42	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Bargain purchase. Negotiations underway
16	Sunrise Lake	511944	5031434	Chisago	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	and forested-wetlands within the Chisago Lakes complex. Close proximity to Sunrise Lake, Sunrise River and the Carlos Avery Wildlife	conservation easement acquisition	79	NA	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete
17	Rush River	427028	4928417	Sibley	grassland, forest	Undeveloped grassland, hardwood forest and floodplain forest adjacent to Rush River	conservation easement acquisition	79	NA	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Complete

NOTES: The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will n

**Metro Conservation Corridors
Phase VI**
MINNESOTA LAND TRUST COMPLETED PROJECTS



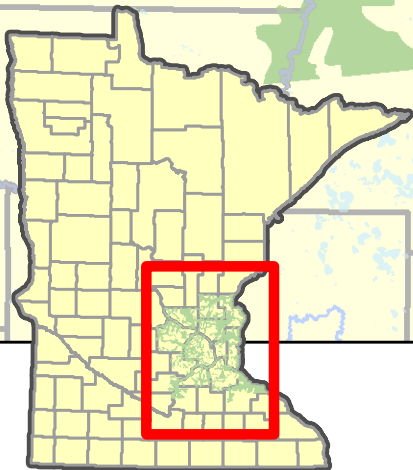
Tennyson Lake



Sunrise Lake



Rush River



-  Metro Conservation Corridors
-  Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects



Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects

LCCMR Metro Corridors 2011 - Phase VI

Rush River: This 79-acre property is located within Sibley County. The property consists of a mixture of open fields, wooded bluffslands, sloping ravines, and lowland forest near the river. The lowland forest on the south side of the property has been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of moderate biodiversity significance by the DNR. The property lies adjacent to Rush River County Park, which is to the south and west. The property is located one mile east of Minnesota Valley State Recreational Area, and is within a five-mile radius of three wildlife management areas and four other Minnesota Land Trust conservation easements.

Sunrise Lake: This 79-acre property in Chisago County consists of mixed hardwood forest and coniferous forest, wetlands, grasslands, and approximately 10 acres of row crop agriculture. It is in close proximity to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. While there are no known adjacent landowners interested in a conservation easement at present, the Sunrise River could become an important complex and priority area for the Land Trust similar to Valley Creek in Washington County. The property is located within the Sunrise River Watershed, where the Sunrise River has been identified as a key river reach in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tennyson Lake: This 158-acre property in Isanti County is comprised of a combination of wetlands, mixed hardwood and pine forest, open water, woodlands, grassland, and 12 acres of cultivated agricultural land. The Protected Property also includes approximately 2,990 linear feet of undeveloped riparian shoreline on Tennyson Lake and 1,385 linear feet of riparian shoreline along Spencer Brook. Rare habitats including oak and pine forest interspersed with grassland, sedge meadow, tamarack swamp, and cattail marsh are found on the property and have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a site of moderate biodiversity significance by the DNR. The property is located approximately one and a half miles southwest of one of the Land Trust's Rum River conservation easements. The Tennyson Lake project builds upon prior protection work completed under previous phases of MeCC project work, specifically within the Rum River Watershed. The Rum River is a critical landscape previously identified by the Land Trust to focus conservation easement work. To date the Land Trust has conservation easements on 1,682 acres of land within this crucial watershed. Seven other conservation easements within approximately an eight-mile radius of the property are held by the Land Trust. The property is also approximately two miles northwest of the MN DNR Crooked Lake Wildlife Management Area.

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

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NEWS & EVENTS

OUR WORK

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"BIG WOODS" NOW PROTECTED FOREVER



Landowners Marjorie and Darrell Amberson, with Project Manager Maggie Karschnia.

Darrell and Marjorie Amberson recently realized a dream come true: permanently preserving their 79 acres along the north side of the Rush River in Sibley County, a few miles north of Le Seuer.

Their land lies within the Big Woods Ecological Subsection of the state. Historically, the predominant vegetation was hardwood forest, including red oak, sugar maple and American elm. Today, only a small fraction of the "Big Woods" forests remain.

The Amberson's land includes grassland as well; both the hardwood forest and the grassland provides exceptional habitat for many species of wildlife and migratory birds. Coyote, bald eagles and deer are frequent visitors to the land, which lies adjacent to the 285-acre Sibley County Rush River Park, thus creating a 364-acre complex of wildlife habitat.

Darrell early memories were formed from fishing trips with his grandfather as a boy. Later, Darrell and Marjorie both lived in Carver County and began to see the effects of urban sprawl. Before long, they began their search for acreage that would give them room to spread out.

It was love at first sight: next to a park, it had beautiful bluffs, rolling hills, open & wooded areas.

The Ambersons were inspired to contact the Minnesota Land Trust because, as they researched options, it seemed to line up with what they had envisioned for their land.

Darrell put it this way: "The easement restrictions described the way we were going to take care of our land anyway, and it's good to perpetuate what we had intended to do with the land."

Funding for this project was provided by members of the Minnesota Land Trust and by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

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Minnesota Land Trust

2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240

Saint Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: (651) 647-9590

1-877-MLT-LAND

Located on the Green Line, near Randolph Station

General email inquiries: mnland@mnland.org

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

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NEWS & EVENTS

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SANDHILL CRANES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ASSURED HABITAT FOREVER

Lindstrom landowner Joan Barnes once fought for the rights of a resident beaver in the Minnesota Supreme Court – and won. Now she has taken her passion for conservation to a different level by protecting her 79-acre property from development forever.

Joan has reason for concern. From 2000 to 2010 the population of Chisago County increased over 30 percent, with increasing competition for limited space between landowners and wildlife. The beavers who won their right to maintain their den in wetlands on Joan's property are now gone, trapped by neighbors. While Joan no longer finds beaver on her property, she does see bear, fox, grouse and sandhill cranes.



Landowner Joan Barnes signs documents that create a lasting legacy in the form of a conservation easement for her property near Lindstrom.



The shallow wetlands on Joan's property are part of a major migratory route for waterfowl and songbirds.

The natural and undisturbed forests, grasslands and wetlands of this property create attractive habitat to support a wide range of species such as bald eagle, common tern, osprey, wood turtle, trumpeter swan, yellow rails and sharp-tailed sparrow. It is part of a major migratory corridor for waterbirds and serves as one of the state's most critical areas for spotted salamander and other amphibians.

"We're fortunate to be able to

protect quality of habitat so close to the metro area," says Kris Larson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Land Trust adding, "This is not only a great legacy for the landowners, it is also a very wise—and cost effective—investment by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund with tremendous benefits for migratory birds and other wildlife."

Funding for the project was made possible by members of the Minnesota Land Trust and through the Metro Conservation Corridors, a project funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Natural Resources and approved by the legislature.



Joan regularly sees bear, fox, turkeys, grouse and sandhill cranes on her property despite being surrounded by explosive residential growth.

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Clean Water/Critical Habitat Program

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THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE FUNDED BY LAND TRUST MEMBERS AND WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES (LCCMR).



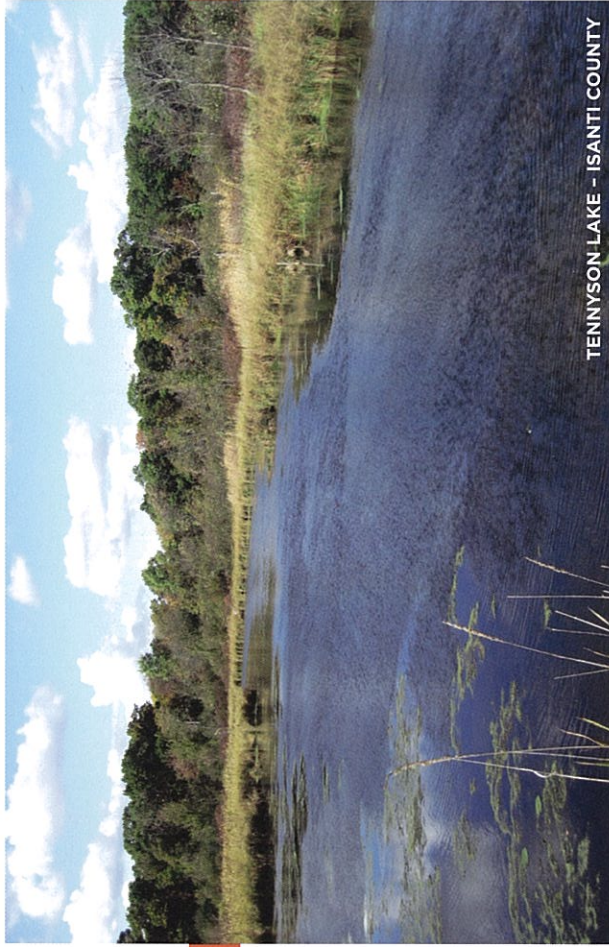
SUNRISE LAKE - CHISAGO COUNTY

FISCHER LAKES - BECKER COUNTY

Three generations of one family have protected their 475-acre Century Farm, located in a very important migratory area for forest birds and waterfowl. Wildlife species documented on the property include several species of greatest conservation need: trumpeter swan, prairie chicken, sandhill crane, great blue heron, bald eagle, sharp-tailed grouse, and upland sandpiper. Over 18,000 feet of shoreline along five lakes, as well as remnant oak savannah, prairie and forest located adjacent to the city of Frazee are protected forever.

SUNRISE LAKE - CHISAGO COUNTY

The forests, grasslands and wetlands on this 79-acre property provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including the wood turtle, trumpeter swan and spotted salamander.



TENNYSON LAKE - ISANTI COUNTY

BLACK LAKE - BELTRAMI COUNTY

This 145-acre property consisting of forest, wetlands, and grasslands also includes over 10,000 feet of shoreline. The mosaic of forest, wetlands and grasslands support bald eagles, northern goshawks, great gray owls, red-shouldered hawks, black-backed woodpeckers, gray wolves, loons, and other species of greatest conservation need.

TENNYSON LAKE - ISANTI COUNTY

Over 4,300 feet of sensitive shoreline are protected on this 158-acre property. Rare habitats including sedge meadow, tamarack swamp, and cattail marsh are found on the property. The land provides significant habitat for species in greatest conservation need, supporting such species as sandhill crane, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, black bear, and smooth green snake.

M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

Project Title: MeCC VI - Aquatic Management Area Acquisition (3.5)

Project Manager: Rick Walsh

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5232

Email Address: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

WEBSITE: www.mn.dnr.gov

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This appropriation provided funding to acquire land in fee title within the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership (MeCC) areas. It focused on habitat linkage projects along the Vermillion River in southern Dakota County that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. Parcels acquired will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). This funding also supported the finalization of three parcels acquired with a previous MeCC appropriation, but for which professional services bills were still needed. A total of \$8,080 was spent on completion of the three previously acquired parcels. The remaining \$292,000 was spent on acquisition of two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA. These two parcels closed in late 2013 and added 114 acres of land which provide permanent protection and public hunting, fishing, and trapping along almost 11,000 feet of stream. The AMA now consists of 450 acres and 27,650 feet (over 5 miles) of stream. The Vermillion River is known for production of large brown trout and is a popular angler destination. The acquisition of these two parcels relied on other public funding in addition to this appropriation. Dakota County contributed \$40,000 and another \$108,600 came largely from a 2011 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to DNR. Both of the new sites have been surveyed and the boundaries posted in time for the 2014 trout opener. Costs for boundary posting and other initial development were paid from other DNR budgets.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

A press release announcing the two new parcels was issued in early April 2014:

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2014/04/08/dnr-adds-2-miles-metro-trout-fishing-opportunities-along-vermillion-2/>. The story was picked up by at least two local media outlets – [CBS Minnesota](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/) (<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/>) and [Pioneer Press](http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/) (<http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/>). In addition to this news release and subsequent stories, information about these and other AMA recreation opportunities is published on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html) (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html>) on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 8/15/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 9/28/2012
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

Project Title: MeCC VI - Aquatic Management Area Acquisition (3.5)

Project Manager: Rick Walsh

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5232

Email Address: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

Web Address: www.mndnr.gov

Location:

Counties Impacted: Dakota, Scott, Carver, Goodhue, Washington, and Chisago

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	300,000
	Amount Spent \$:	299,959
	Balance \$:	41

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This appropriation provided funding to acquire land in fee title within the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership (MeCC) areas. It focused on habitat linkage projects along the Vermillion River in southern Dakota County that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. Parcels acquired will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). This funding also supported the finalization of three parcels acquired with a previous MeCC appropriation, but for which professional services bills were still needed. A total of \$8,080 was spent on completion of the three previously acquired parcels. The remaining \$292,000 was spent on acquisition of two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA. These two parcels closed in late 2013 and added 114 acres of land which provide permanent protection and public hunting, fishing, and trapping along almost 11,000 feet of stream. The AMA now consists of 450 acres and 27,650 feet (over 5 miles) of stream. The Vermillion River is known for production of large brown trout and is a popular angler destination. The acquisition of these two parcels relied on other public funding in addition to this appropriation. Dakota County contributed \$40,000 and another \$108,600 came largely from a 2011 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to DNR. Both of the new sites have been surveyed and the boundaries posted in time for the 2014 trout opener. Costs for boundary posting and other initial development were paid from other DNR budgets.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

A press release announcing the two new parcels was issued in early April 2014: <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2014/04/08/dnr-adds-2-miles-metro-trout-fishing-opportunities-along-vermillion-2/>. The story was picked up by at least two local media outlets – [CBS Minnesota](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/) (<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/>) and [Pioneer Press](http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/) (<http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/>). In addition to this news release and subsequent stories, information about these and other AMA recreation opportunities is published on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html) (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html>) on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2012. Work on this project has been 1)finalizing two acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations, but still have some final details to wrap up. 2) Initiating acquisition of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA that will protect 4,100 feet of stream and adjoins the existing Vermillion River WMA/AMA.

Project Status as of Aug 1, 2012. Work on this project has been 1) Progressing with acquisition (a purchase option has been signed) of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA that will protect 4,100 feet of stream and adjoins the existing Vermillion River WMA/AMA. 2) Finalizing AMA acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations, but still have some final costs to be paid for such as recording, abstracting fees, taxes, and final AGO title opinion.

Amendment Request (9/11/12)

Amendments to this work plan are being requested to shift funding to the Professional Services for Acquisition budget category, and to expand the scope of work into other MeCC counties in order to expand acquisition opportunities under Activity 1. Details are provided in following sections.

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2013. Work during this period has been 1) Continued efforts toward acquisition of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA. This acquisition is being

surveyed and is under option; it is expected to close before 6/30/13. 2) Efforts toward acquisition of a 62-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. 3) Finalizing AMA acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations.

Project Status as of Aug 1, 2013. Work during this period focused on wrapping up acquisition of a 50-acre parcel on the main stem of the Vermillion River and a 62-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. Both of these parcels are now under option and surveys have been completed. Funding has been encumbered for both, and transactions are expected to be finalized soon. Both acquisitions are partially funded by MeCC and partially by other state funds or partner funds. Since this budget has been exhausted, expenses for professional services and related costs are being borne by other state budgets. Minor amounts of time and funding were spent finalizing AMA acquisitions funded by previous MeCC grants.

Amendment Request (8/20/13). A change in budget is requested to move funding from the Initial Development budget item to Fee Title Acquisition and Professional Services budget items. The \$5,000 from Initial Development will be allocated \$2,200 to Fee Title Acquisition and \$2,800 to Professional Services (see Attachment A and Table A in Section VI). Initial development work such as parking lots and signing will still occur on these parcels as needed, but funding will be from other sources such as Legacy appropriations that also have one or more of these parcels listed in their work plans. Approved by the LCCMR 8-22-2013.

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2014. Both of the remaining parcels being acquired with this funding closed in this period. These are a 50-acre parcel on the main stem of the Vermillion River and a 62 acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. Both acquisitions are partially funded by MeCC money. Since this budget has been exhausted, expenses for professional services and related costs are being borne by other state budgets.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Land Acquisition

Description: This project will secure fee title on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and leverage about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. This request includes \$30,000 for professional services to be used for appraisals, legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$5,000 will be used to insure that all parcels meet minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking.

Projects will occur primarily on the Vermillion River in Dakota County, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Currently, there is one new acquisition in Dakota County being pursued with this funding, and one other potential. Should opportunities arise within the MeCC in other counties that will enable timely and appropriate use of funds, these may be substituted if Dakota County projects are lacking. Specific projects will be amended onto this plan in Part VIII – Acquisition List. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 50 acres and 0.8 miles of critical shoreline habitat.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 300,000
Amount Spent: \$ 299,959
Balance: \$ 41

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. This project will have secured fee title on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and have leveraged about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds.	June 30, 2014	\$ 300,000

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2012 Spending to date has amounted to \$5,897. This had been for an appraisal on a prospective new parcel for the Vermillion River AMA, and for expenses such as recording fees, abstracting fees, and Attorney General Office staff time associated with two Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired with funds previously appropriated to the MeCC project.

Activity Status as of Aug 1, 2012. Spending to date has amounted to \$20,862. This has been for two appraisals, professional services on a prospective new parcel for the Vermillion River AMA, and costs such as recording fees, abstracting fees, deed or property taxes, and Attorney General Office staff time associated with four Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired or pursued with funds previously appropriated to the MeCC project. The following table provides details on spending to date.

Acquisition name	Appraisal charge	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				\$42
Vermillion River P8		\$263	\$739	\$4,180
Vermillion River P9	\$3,794 & \$6,250			\$3,362
Vermillion River P10		\$92	\$1,370	\$479
S. Branch Vermillion				\$291
Total	\$10,044	\$355	\$2,109	\$8,354

Two appraisals were needed because the initial appraisal relied on inadequate comparable sales. The first appraisal was certified since the dollar amount was below the threshold that requires a technical review. An administrative review was conducted, but this type of review typically will not catch the types of problems that later became evident in the comparable sales.

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2013. Spending to date has amounted to \$25,918. The \$5,057 spent during this period is summarized in the table below.

Acquisition name	Appraisal charge	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				\$42
Vermillion River P8			\$747	
Vermillion River P9				\$3,313
Vermillion River P10				
S. Branch Vermillion				\$955
Total			\$747	\$4,310

Activity Status as of Aug 1, 2013. Spending to date from this appropriation has amounted to \$299,959. The \$274,041 spent during this period is summarized in the table below. Spending from other state budgets has occurred to augment this budget since it has been exhausted (see Table B in Section VI). Ongoing spending for completion of acquisitions and initial development will also be from other state budgets.

Acquisition name	Land Payment	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				
Vermillion River P8				\$84
Vermillion River P9				\$3,569
Vermillion River P10	\$95,000			\$208
S. Branch Vermillion	\$172,2000			\$2,980
Total	\$267,200			\$6,841

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2014. No spending occurred from this appropriation in this time period. Ongoing spending for completion of acquisitions and initial development has been from other state budgets.

Final Report Summary: Two more parcels for the Vermillion River AMA were acquired with this funding. These parcels added 114 acres and 11,000 feet of stream to the area protected in this AMA. Money from Dakota County and the Outdoor Heritage Fund augmented this funding to make the acquisitions possible. Other DNR funds were used for initial development and posting. The new parcels were acquired in late 2013 and were open for public use by the 2014 trout opener.

Some of this funding (\$8,000) was used to pay for professional services related to the finalization of three other Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired with prior MeCC appropriations. These parcels are also now open for public use.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment will be reported through DNR press releases, and acquisitions will be added to Statewide PRIM maps and the [DNR Recreation Compass](#). Acquired parcels will also be found on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org.

Status as of Feb 1, 2012. No results to date.

Status as of Aug 1, 2012. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Feb 1, 2013. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Aug 1, 2013. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Feb 1, 2014. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above. A spring news release is planned to coincide with trout opener.

Final Report Summary: A press release announcing the two new parcels was issued in early April 2014. Here is a link to that: <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2014/04/08/dnr-adds-2-miles-metro-trout-fishing-opportunities-along-vermillion-2/>. The story was picked up by at least two local media outlets. Here are links to those stories by [CBS Minnesota](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/) (<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/>) and [Pioneer Press](http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/) (<http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/>). In addition to this news release and subsequent stories, information about these

and other AMA recreation opportunities is published on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html) (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html>) on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A total of \$10,000 was shifted from Fee Title Acquisition to Professional Services for Acquisition because AGO and LAM staff time have exceeded expectations, and because a second appraisal was necessary for parcel 9 of the Vermillion River AMA as explained previously.

A total of \$200,000 was added to the projection of other State funds to be used in the acquisition of these parcels. If acquired, the Sunrise Lake AMA and the South Branch Vermillion River AMA will rely on OHF funding as well as this funding.

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$267,200	Fee title Acquisition on Vermillion River Watershed
Professional Services for Acq:	\$32,800	Lands & Minerals, AGs Office, Survey, etc.
Initial Development	\$0	Minimum Maintenance Standards
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 300,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	Fee Title Acquisition
State			
	\$ 280,000	\$ <u>108,600</u>	Fee Title Acquisition, Survey, Lands & Minerals, AGs Office, Appraisal review, Initial develop.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 330,000	\$ <u>148,600</u>	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Dakota County and local fundraising for non-state funding. Bonding or OHF for other potential State funding.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The Vermillion River is one of the last remaining trout streams in the Seven County core Metropolitan Area and provides quality fishing for brown trout, where anglers are able to access the river. The Vermillion River AMA/WMA complex provides a large hunting/angling area within a 30 minute drive of downtown St. Paul. The complex provides recreation on nearly 4,000 acres, with 3.75 miles of troutstream, acquired in part with ENRTF dollars. The plan is to build on this complex as long as there is still quality habitat available, and provide a legacy that will forever be appreciated by future anglers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	570,000	672,000	650,000	600,000	100,000
Bonding	1,050,000		1,000,000		500,000
OHF				5,748,000	1,775,000

VIII. ACQUISITION LIST:

Amendment Request (9/11/12)

Two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA that were pursued with MeCC funding have been added so they are eligible for payment of some final costs. One additional parcel (Sunrise Lake AMA) in Chisago County was added to capture additional opportunity for acquisition within the MeCC area.

AMA Name	Property Owner	Feet of Shoreline	Acres
Vermillion River AMA P9	Kamen	3,900	52
Vermillion River AMA P8	Petrofsky	3,400	32
S Br. Vermillion River AMA P1	Kasel	6,500	62
Vermillion River AMA	Additional Parcels as Available		
Vermillion River AMA P10	Kamen	3,030	31
Vermillion River AMA P2A&B	Otting	1,820	8
Sunrise Lake AMA	Loeffler	6,600	46

IX. MAP(S): See attached

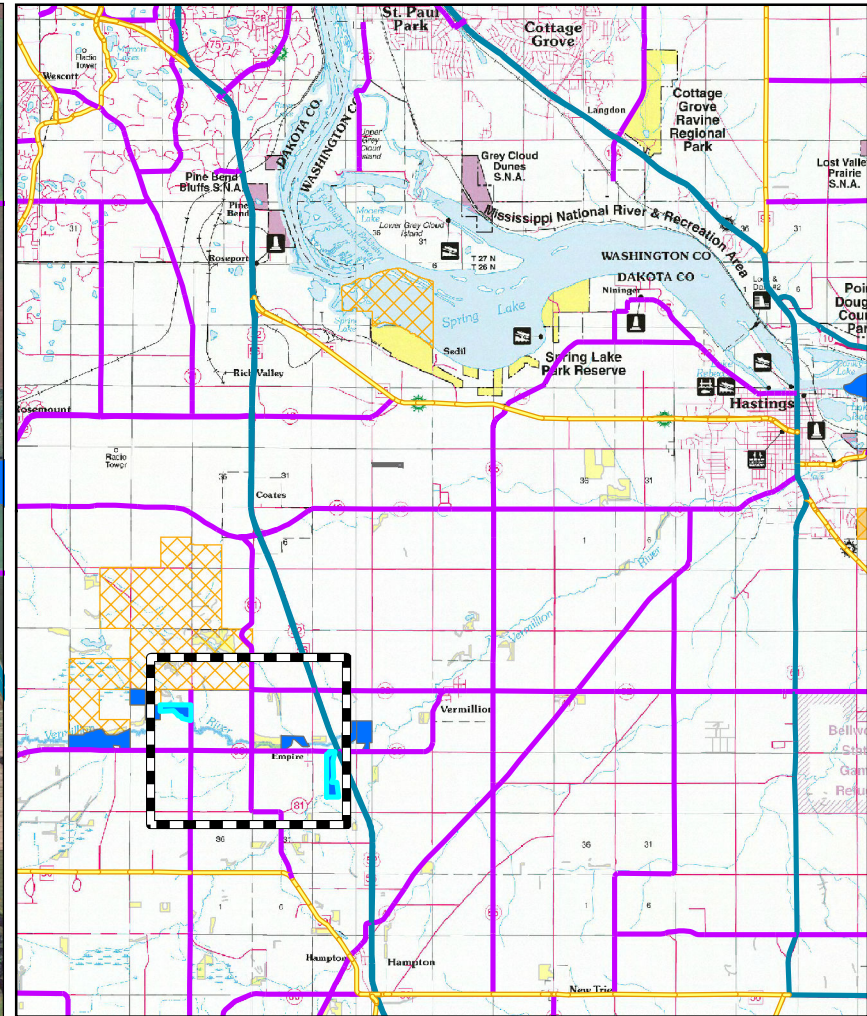
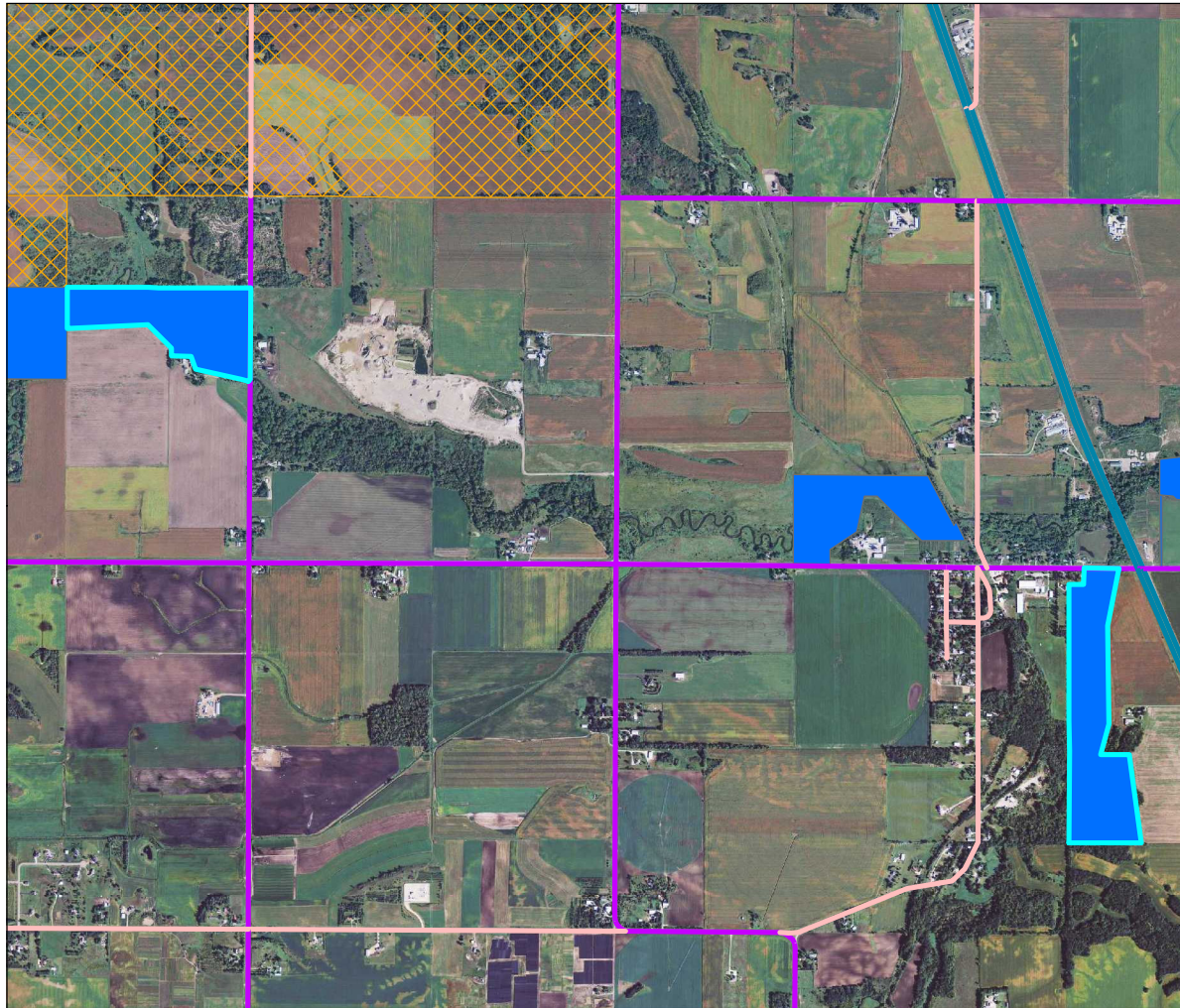
X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than Feb 1, 2012, Aug 1, 2012, Feb 1, 2013, and Aug 1, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.




Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition					
Legal Citation: Pending					
Project Manager: Rick Walsh					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 300,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: August 15, 2014					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget 8/2013	Amount Spent	Balance	Revised TOTAL BUDGET 8/20/13	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM					
Fee Title Acquisition	267,200	267,200	0	267,200	0
Professional Services for Acquisition	32,800	32,759	41	32,800	41
Initial Development	0	0	0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$300,000	\$299,959	\$41	\$300,000	\$41







Vermillion River AMA parcels funded by 2011 ENRTF



0 1,000 Feet

0 1 2 Miles

-  State Aquatic Management Areas
-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  Subject Properties

-  Interstate Trunk Highway
-  U.S. Trunk Highway
-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Municipal Road
-  Township or Other Road



Note: This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries and other features but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

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