



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2017 LCCMR Work Plan

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Date of Submission: 12/22/20

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 07/17/2018

Project Completion Date: August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Leech Lake Acquisition

**Project Manager:** Joseph Fowler **Organization:** Leech Lake Division of Resource Acquisition

**Mailing Address:** 190 Sail Star Drive NE.

**City/State/Zip Code:** Cass Lake/MN/56633

**Telephone Number:** (218) 335-7400

**Email Address:** [Joseph.fowler@llojibwe.org](mailto:Joseph.fowler@llojibwe.org)

**Web Address:**

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**Location:** Ottertail Peninsula Township, Cass County

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**Total ENRTF Project Budget:**

**ENRTF Appropriation:** \$1,500,000

**Amount Spent:** 1,497,000

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**Balance:** \$2,900

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to acquire approximately 45 acres, including 0.67 miles of shoreline of high-quality aquatic and wildlife habitat at the historic meeting place between Henry Schoolcraft and the Anishinabe people. The land must be open to public use including hunting and fishing. The band must provide a commitment that land will not be put in a federal trust through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

## 1. PROJECT TITLE: LEECH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION ACQUISITION

**II. PROJECT STATEMENT:** The proposed project will include the strategic acquisition of 45.27 acres of high quality wildlife habitat, historic village site where the meeting between Henry Schoolcraft and Anishinabe people occurred, also comprising of 0.67 miles of shoreline that is important aquatic habitat on the third largest lake in Minnesota and one of the most pristine fisheries in North America. Success of this project will not only show a joint commitment among local governments but will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Leech Lake Association Management Plan. The project will be a step towards attaining the vision statement of this plan which states “Our vision for the future of Leech Lake and its shore lands is that they retain the characteristics of largely undisturbed ecosystems in spite of increasing pressures to provide more habitation, water access, recreation, and enjoyment for more people. This vision follows from our which is to be good stewards of the lake and environs, recognizing the vulnerability of the lake, and the need of citizen-individually and collectively – to assume responsibility for its care”.

The Leech Lake area is a retirement magnet which makes it one of the fastest developing areas in the State of Minnesota with projection indicating that Cass, Crow Wing and Aitken Counties could grow by 64% by 2030 as compared to 27% growth state wide. Increase development pressures are challenges that every water shed face but it is the believe that good management and a concerted effort to protect the natural resource investments being made by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Leech Lake Division of Resource Management (LLDRM) and Chippewa National Forest will benefit all users of Leech Lake and terrestrial users of the proposed property who also will have a consolidated terrestrial area to utilize.

The proposed project will have multiply benefits which include; long term access, protection of water quality, riparian areas, reduction in forest fragmentation, wild life habit connectivity, world class recreation opportunities and protection of an important historical site. Achievement of goals will be reached through fee title acquisition and ensured access for all users that maintain the integrity of the property.

### III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

**Project Status as of December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017:** LCCMR waived

**Project Status as of June 3, 2018:** Appraisal now completed, needs to be certified and a funding amendment is being submitted to LCCMR staff.

**Amendment Request: July 17, 2018:** LLDRM originally requested to pay for professional services in total of \$5,000.00 but we were informed by MNDNR Appraisal staff that this service must be paid for thru the grant. We are requesting that an amendment be granted allowing \$5,000.00 to be moved from Fee acquisitions to professional services. Also we have requested a completion date to be amended to August 12, 2018 because we missed the appraisal window for the fall of 2017.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR: 07/17/2018

**Project Status as of December 1, 2018 (submitted April 17, 2019):** Issues regarding language in the appropriations raised have been rectified per legal counsel through the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the MN DNR attorneys. A change in leadership did affect the overall timelines of the project and the appraisal certification has been off to a slow start but has since made progress and is moving along smoothly and will update LCCMR staff.

**Amendment Request: April 17, 2019 (revised 6/10/19):** Request a change in Project Manager from Levi Brown to Joseph Fowler as reflected in the Work plan to be submitted to LCCMR Staff. LLDRM is requesting an

amendment for the extension beyond the project end date of August 12, 2018 and the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 appropriation end date. Because we have a binding purchase agreement that expires 7/31/19, we are requesting an extension to 7/31/19 to close on the purchase of the property. The final outcome, cost report, and initial land acquisition report would be submitted to LCCMR within 45 days after closing.

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results (submit before November 1, 2019):**

The strategic acquisition of 45.27 acres of high quality wildlife habitat, historic village site where the meeting between Henry Schoolcraft and Anishinaabe people occurred, also comprising of 0.67 miles of shoreline that is an important aquatic habitat on the third largest lake in Minnesota and one of the most pristine fisheries in North America. “Our vision for the future of Leech Lake and its shore lands is that they retain the characteristics of largely undisturbed ecosystems in spite of increasing pressures to provide more habitation, water access, recreation, and enjoyment for more people. This vision follows our Stewardship Guide for Leech Lake Lands which is to be good stewards of the lake and environment, recognizing the vulnerability of the lake, and the need of citizen-individually and collectively –to assume responsibility for its care”.

Many benefits which include; long term access, protection of water quality, riparian areas, reduction in forest fragmentation, wild life habit connectivity, world class recreation opportunities and protection of an important historical site.

The site was considered for purchase by several entities including MNDNR, MN Lands for trust, Leech Lake band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and after consultation with the (LLBO) it was agreed the lands Historical, uniqueness, water resource and importance of public access that acquisition by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was the priority. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will hold title, designate as a Wildlife Management area and be managed under the philosophy of Leech Lake Association Lake Management Plan.

Natural shoreline areas and wetlands have unique and sensitive ecosystems which are impossible to replicate and even harder to restore when disturbed. The strategy for LLDRM and other local governing bodies has been to consolidate natural areas and solidify human development areas. Human development can change not only terrestrial resources but can devastate aquatic ecosystems or introduce invasive species both terrestrial and aquatic. Under the vision and goals put forward by the Leech Lake Association these natural areas would not be subject human development and would be left as natural shoreline. Natural shoreline acquisition now is the most cost effective time to purchase because there is no initial restoration needed.

A large part of the long term economic sustainability of the Leech Lake watershed area is depended on and the quality of those natural resources. Preservation and acquisition of strategic shoreline is in itself is the strongest and best tool that can be used when proposing long term strategy or to promote economic sustainability to an area especially when trying to achieve resource preservation and general public wellbeing.

This project is only one component of multiple ongoing management goals which includes preservation of Natural shorelines which in turn protects other investments like; Fishery protection and enhancement, quality recreation access, invasive species prevention and maintaining outstanding biodiverse areas. All Governments tend to be responsive in matters of natural resource preservation which is not the most cost effective way to manage natural resources and with the amount of Tribal, Federal, State and County government funds that are invested to protect the Leech Lake watershed, this proposals budget is only a fraction of what the costs would be to repair such a historical, diverse and unique shoreline ecosystem.

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Acquisition of fee title lands in sensitive, historical and unique land

**Description:** 47 acres of fee title acquisition, with unique historical and natural resources. There has been a preliminary purchase agreement put in place and for the last ten years different entities including MNDNR have shown interest the conservation of the Two Points Property. The property has been appraised in the last ten years at which time the appraisal shown a value of \$2,400,000. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has a signed Purchase Agreement Valid till July 2018; there will be a new appraisal according to MNDNR standards and an appraisal review. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will not pay more than the certified appraised value.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$1,500,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$0  
**Balance:** \$ 1,500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 47 acres of sensitive, historical and unique land will be protected through fee title acquisition	07/31/19

See section III above for updates and amendment requests

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Provide information to community members through government information and new outlets.

**Dissemination Status as of December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017:** Press release of project update. This will be provided to Cass Lake Times, Walker Pilot and Bemidji Pioneer. All Project Information will also be available on the Website at [www.ildrm.org](http://www.ildrm.org) which includes maps and contact info for project manager.

**Dissemination Status as of June 3, 2018:** Press release of project completion. This will be provided to Cass Lake Times, Walker Pilot and Bemidji Pioneer. All Project Information will also be available on the Website at [www.ildrm.org](http://www.ildrm.org) which includes maps and contact info for project manager.

Press release of project completion. This will be provided to Cass Lake Times, Walker Pilot and Bemidji Pioneer. All Project Information will also be available on the Website at [www.ildrm.org](http://www.ildrm.org) which includes maps and contact info for project manager.

**Final report summary of dissemination activities (submit before November 1, 2019):** (Please be sure that ENRTF if appropriately acknowledged in all dissemination products, any signage on the property, etc.)

For dissemination we were planning to do a full press release and also a ceremony commemorating this acquisition and to talk about the significances this means to our Nation. Due to unforeseen circumstances such as our government servers being hacked, Covid shutting down any and all planning. We were unable to hold any type of significant notice of any type.

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$1,495,000.00	
Utilize MNDNR Appraisal Services	\$5,000.00	We cannot pay MNDNR directly we must use LCCMR grant funds
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: 0

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: All funds will be used for fee lands acquisition.

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$5,000	\$0	<i>Professional costs and closing costs</i>
	\$0	\$0	
State			
	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Cass County and Leech Lake Association

Partners receiving ENRTF funding

- none

Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

- All

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

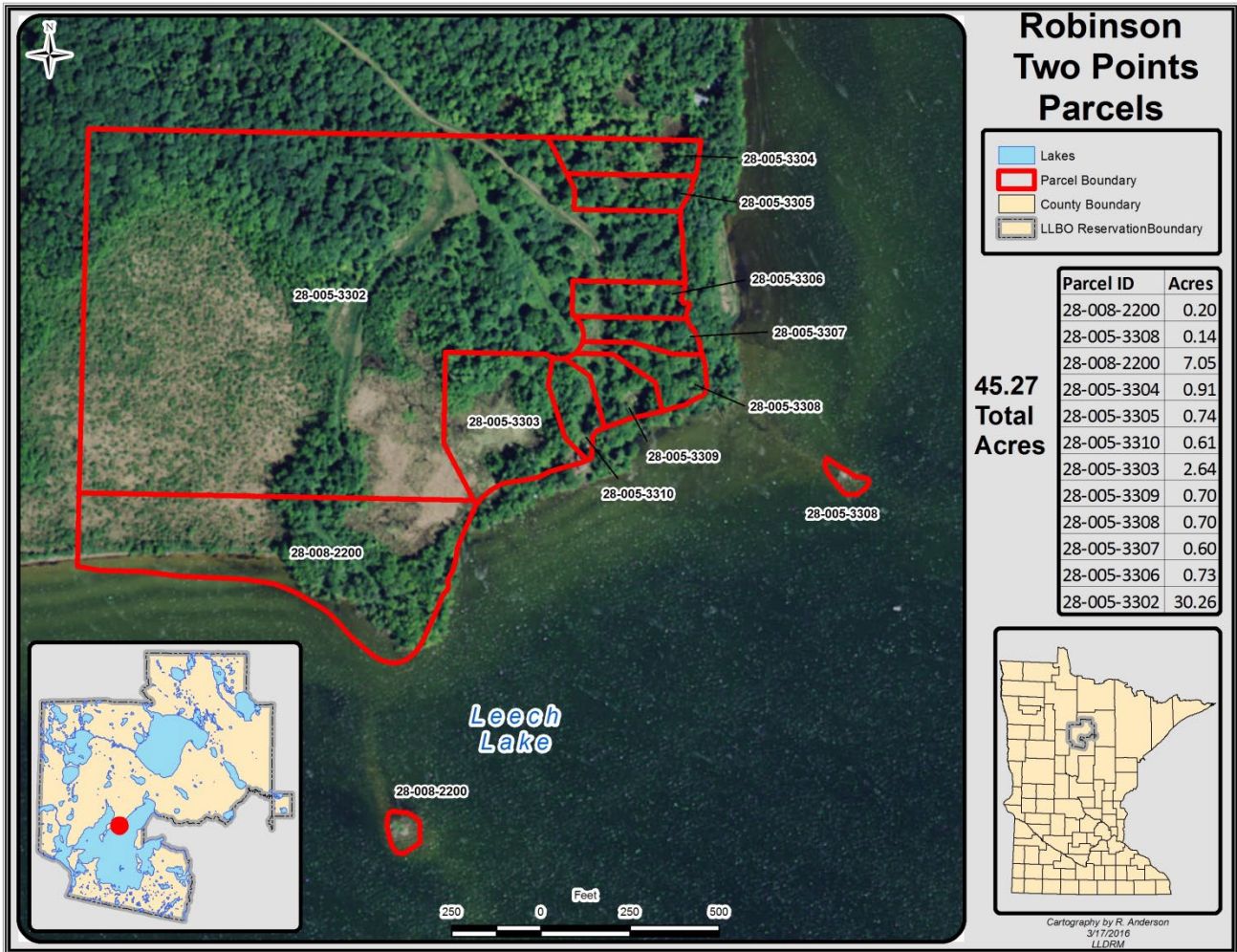
**C. Funding History:**

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
Staff Time for multiple disciplines	10 years	\$N/A
		\$0
		\$0

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- The project is for 2017 years, will begin on 7/01/17, and end on ~~8-12-18~~ 7-31-19.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted *August 1st* of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between October 1 and November 1, 201789.

**IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):**



**X. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS: Land will be held in fee status.**

**A. Parcel List: Cass County Parcel ID #s:**

1. 28-008-2200
2. 28-005-3308
3. 28-008-2200
4. 28-005-3304
5. 28-005-3305
6. 28-005-3310
7. 28-005-3303
8. 28-005-3309
9. 28-005-3308
10. 28-005-3307
11. 28-005-3306
12. 28-005-3302

**B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:**

## **Fee Title Acquisition**

**1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.**

- ✿ The decision making process to proceed with project proposal was made at the highest levels within both the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The parcels have been surveyed for tribal historical properties and the site was found to have many artifacts along with a unique shoreline which includes to natural islands. These characteristics alone met the criteria of parcels that needed preservation and protection

**2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.**

- ✿ <http://www.leechlakeassociation.com/>

**3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.**

- ✿ Leech Lake Division of Resource Management will manage the property as pristine undisturbed shoreline which will have protection from development and resource degradation from any man made impacts.

**4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

- ✿ County and Ottertail Peninsula both support the project and will be providing formal resolutions solidifying this position.

**5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.**

- ✿ Not Applicable

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
FINAL REPORT M.L. 2017 Project Budget**

**Project Title:** LEECH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION ACQUISITIO

**Legal Citation:** *M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f.*

**Project Manager:** Joseph Fowler

**Organization:** Leech Lake Division of Resource Management

**M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$1,500,000.00

**Project Length and Completion Date:** *August 30th, 2019 if amendment is accepted*

**Date of Report:** **12/22/20**



<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Revised Activity Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Activity 1 Balance</b>
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b>	\$1,495,500	\$1,495,500	\$0
<i>47 acres and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will hold titles</i>			
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b>	\$5,000	\$2,100	\$2,900
<i>Utilize MNDNR Appraisal services</i>			
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500,500</b>	<b>\$1,497,600</b>	<b>\$2,900</b>



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
FINAL M.L. 2017 Parcel List**

Project Title: Leech Lake Acquisition

Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f

Project Manager: *Levi Brown*

Organization: Leech Lake Division of Resource Management

M.L. 2016 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 1,500,000.00

Project Length and Completion Date: 1 year, Completion date October 1st, 2017.

Date of Report: 12/22/20

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	28-008-2200	47° 13' 14.009" N	94° 22' 46.660" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.20	0.06	Private	LLBO	Acquired
2	28-005-3308	47° 13' 24.062" N	94° 22' 29.123" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.14	0.06	Private	LLBO	Acquired
3	28-008-2200	47° 13' 21.292" N	94° 22' 49.557" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with high quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	7.05	0.28	Private	LLBO	Acquired
4	28-005-3304	47° 13' 32.394" N	94° 22' 36.264" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.91	0.02	Private	LLBO	Acquired
5	28-005-3305	47° 13' 31.408" N	94° 22' 36.118" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.74	0.02	Private	LLBO	Acquired
6	28-005-3310	47° 13' 25.497" N	94° 22' 38.209" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.61	0.02	Private	LLBO	Acquired
7	28-005-3303	47° 13' 25.045" N	94° 22' 41.157" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with high quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	2.64	0.06	Private	LLBO	Acquired
8	28-005-3309	47° 13' 25.998" N	94° 22' 36.479" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.70	0.03	Private	LLBO	Acquired
9	28-005-3308	47° 13' 26.502" N	94° 22' 34.799" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.70	0.04	Private	LLBO	Acquired
10	28-005-3307	47° 13' 27.516" N	94° 22' 35.495" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.60	0.02	Private	LLBO	Acquired
11	28-005-3306	47° 13' 28.428" N	94° 22' 36.110" W		\$ -	Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.73	0.02	Private	LLBO	Acquired
12	28-005-3302	47° 13' 28.226" N	94° 22' 48.571" W		\$ -	Cass	High quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	30.26	0.04	Private	LLBO	Acquired
<b>NOTES:</b>													