

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Final Report



Date: July 14, 2015

Program or Project Title: Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership , Phase 2

Funds Recommended: \$480,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a)

Appropriation Language: \$480,000 in the second year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements on land adjacent to the Nokasippi River and the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Army compatible use buffer (ACUB). A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. Up to \$4,800 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund and a description of annual monitoring and enforcement activities

County Locations: Crow Wing, and Morrison.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie

Abstract:

Two permanent RIM Easements on 494 acres of high quality, riparian habitat in the Little Nokasippi WMA area of influence have been recorded and will provide lasting wildlife habitat.

Design and scope of work:

Four hundred ninety four (494) acres of recorded RIM easements protect the Nokasippi River, deepwater aquatic habitat DNR protected lakes, 63 acres of prairie, 103 acres of wetlands, and 328 acres of forested hardwoods and softwoods. These properties lie within the ACUB (Army Compatible Use Buffer) zone as it was reassessed . These easements continue the Phase 2 effort of buffering the Little Nokasippi WMA complex, which is the largest public hunting opportunity adjacent to the Mississippi between Brainerd and Anoka. It includes the largest single owner parcel in the WMA buffering initiative, but also a unique opportunity to protect one parcel that has had only 2 owners in 120 years. The area lends itself to prime development if not protected since it is vulnerable for development because it is made up of the type of waters, hills, and forest that are highly desired for residential development. In addition the property is very near black top infrastructure of Co. Rd. 2 and MN State Hwy 371. The interagency interdisciplinary project

review team ranked these parcels as having the highest habitat value.

The landscape within which the projects are located is designated as one of the highest biodiversity landscapes in the state. The designation resulted from an eco-regional planning process through The Nature Conservancy which defined the landscape as the most functional/intact landscape within the Prairie Forest Eco-region. Also unique to the project area is the position within a larger habitat complex that encompasses the Mississippi River Corridor including the Mississippi Flyway and the rugged Eastern Bluff shoreline. What's more the WMA includes the confluence of the Little Nokasippi River and the Nokasippi River which occupies 4,498 feet and 13,161 feet of river shoreline, respectively. The confluence of the Nokasippi River with the Mississippi River is located about 1,000 feet west of the WMA. The habitat value of the project is reflected in the science based planning process that included the entire area as an Important Birding Area (IBA) according to the Audubon Society. The Little Nokasippi River WMA expansion ranks 10 among all WMA projects for the MNDNR.

7-14-2015 - LSOHC made change to database to add "Rate Set" check box for each parcel. Therefore the Final Report has now been submitted.

4-23-2015 - Changes have been made as requested by LSOHC staff and the Final Report will now be submitted.

1-21-2015 - Corrective NOFRs have now been recorded and uploaded to the LSOHC database for each parcel. The Final Report is now being submitted.

Final Report 11/13/2014 -

Accomplishments -

2 easements were recorded on 494.0 acres utilizing \$480,000 of OHF funding.

The National Guard Bureau, County Governments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, DNR, BWSR, and local landowners are all extremely satisfied with this project and we have been held up as a national model for both ACUB and wildlife habitat outcomes. The accomplishments of this project shows the success of a federal, state and local partnership working together with private landowners for multiple social and environmental outcomes.

A few LSOHC Database reporting notes -

1. Numbers are automatically rounded after they are entered which causes challenges with tracking budgets and progress.
2. In the approved Accomplishment Plan all acres and dollars were planned to be conducted in the Forest-Prairie Transition Ecological Section. In the end one easement for 44.9 acres is in the Forest-Prairie Transition Section and the remaining easement for 449.0 acres is located in the Northern Forest Section (along with the corresponding funding). In the Final Report Output Tables we are unable to enter data into the Northern Forest Section.
3. Easement 49-01-13-04 was split funded between ML10 and ML12 OHF funded ACUB projects. Only the acres and dollars corresponding to the ML12 OHF funding have been reported in this report.
4. In the original Accomplishment Plan some of the same acres were reported both as under Protect and Habitats categories. Subsequent LSOHC staff guidance was given to only show easement accomplishments in the Protect line. Therefore the Output Table appears to show less acres than was originally planned but in fact more acres of easements were secured than was originally planned.

Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest:

- Not Listed

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

Not Listed

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Not Listed

How will they be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- These are protection easements prohibiting conversion of the high quality habitat or any future structure development. Since BWSR easements are perpetual, there can never be any changes to land use. Preserving the rural and natural aesthetics of Crow Wing and Morrison Co, 2) Long-term protection within Audubon IBA

How will they be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$480,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$2,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$461,200	\$473,900	\$0	\$0		\$461,200	\$473,900
Easement Stewardship	\$4,800	\$1,800	\$0	\$0		\$4,800	\$1,800
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$1,900	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$1,900
Direct Support Services	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$14,000	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$0	\$0		\$480,000	\$480,000

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	39	103	69	63	325	328	55	0	488	494
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	39	103	69	63	325	328	55	0	488	494

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$38,700	\$99,800	\$68,100	\$61,500	\$319,500	\$318,700	\$53,700	\$0	\$480,000	\$480,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$38,700	\$99,800	\$68,100	\$61,500	\$319,500	\$318,700	\$53,700	\$0	\$480,000	\$480,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SEForest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	488	449	0	0	0	0	0	45	488	494
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	488	449	0	0	0	0	0	45	488	494

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$480,000	\$436,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$43,700	\$480,000	\$480,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$480,000	\$436,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$43,700	\$480,000	\$480,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)

5.53

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

5.53

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
18-02-12-04	04331218	449	\$415,564	No	No	No

Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
49-01-13-04	13029229	45	\$62,597	No	No	No

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: 18-02-12-04

# of Total Acres:	449
County:	Crow Wing
Township:	043
Range:	31
Direction:	2
Section:	18
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	91
# of Acres: Forest:	296
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	62
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	BWSR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Dan Steward
Annual Reporting Address:	1601 Minnesota Drive
Annual Reporting City:	Brainerd
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	56455
Annual Reporting Email:	dan.steward@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	(218) 828-2598
Purchase Date:	April 12, 2013
Purchase Price:	\$411,856
Appraised Value:	\$0
Professional Service Costs:	\$3,708
Assessed Value:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$415,564
Donations:	\$0
Easement Holder Organization Name:	BWSR
Easement Holder Manager Name:	Bill Penning
Easement Holder Address:	520 Lafayette Road North
Easement Holder City:	St. Paul
Easement Holder State:	MN
Easement Holder Zip:	55155
Easement Holder Email:	bill.penning@state.mn.us
Easement Holder Phone:	651-2971894
Responsible Organization Name:	BWSR
Responsible Manager Name:	Bill Penning
Responsible Address:	520 Lafayette Road North
Responsible City:	St. Paul
Responsible State:	MN
Responsible Zip:	55155
Responsible Email:	bill.penning@state.mn.us
Responsible Phone:	651-2971894
Underlying Fee Owner:	Mervin Eisel

Completed Parcel: 49-01-13-04

# of Total Acres:	45
County:	Morrison
Township:	130
Range:	29
Direction:	2
Section:	29
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	11.9
# of Acres: Forest:	31.7
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	1.3
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	BWSR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Dan Steward
Annual Reporting Address:	1601 Minnesota Drive
Annual Reporting City:	Brainerd
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	56455
Annual Reporting Email:	dan.steward@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	(218) 828-2598
Purchase Date:	September 19, 2014
Purchase Price:	\$62,045
Appraised Value:	\$0
Professional Service Costs:	\$552
Assessed Value:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$62,597
Donations:	\$0
Easement Holder Organization Name:	BWSR
Easement Holder Manager Name:	Bill Penning
Easement Holder Address:	520 Lafayette Road North
Easement Holder City:	St. Paul
Easement Holder State:	MN
Easement Holder Zip:	55155
Easement Holder Email:	bill.penning@state.mn.us
Easement Holder Phone:	651-297-1894
Responsible Organization Name:	BWSR
Responsible Manager Name:	Bill Penning
Responsible Address:	520 Lafayette Road North
Responsible City:	St. Paul
Responsible State:	MN
Responsible Zip:	55155
Responsible Email:	bill.penning@state.mn.us
Responsible Phone:	651-297-1894
Underlying Fee Owner:	Thomas Goebel

Parcel Map

Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership , Phase 2

