

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation

Funds Requested: \$4,580,900

Manager's Name: Jon Roeschlein

Title:

Organization: Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Street Address: 704 Highway 75 South

City: Wheaton, MN 56296

Telephone: 320-563-4185

E-Mail: bds wd@frontiernet.net

Organization Web Site: www.bds wd.com

County Locations: Grant, and Traverse.

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Prairie

Activity Type:

- Restore
- Protect in Fee

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

This habitat project presents a unique opportunity within the prairie region to convert 5.5 miles of ditched river to 8+ mile long stream channel within a 260 acre fish and wildlife habitat corridor composed of riparian wetlands and grasslands.

Design and Scope of Work:

In the past 100 years, thousands of miles of rivers and streams in Minnesota were straightened and thousands of acres of riparian wetland and grassland habitat has been lost in the interest of improving drainage. The Mustinka River was first channelized as a state ditch in 1896 and again as an Army Corps of Engineers project in the early 1950's. This channelization resulted in a direct conversion of about 43 miles of natural sinuous channel and floodplain corridor to about 25 miles of straightened channel without a functional riparian corridor. The Mustinka River (Judicial Ditch 14) currently provides little functional aquatic or riparian corridor habitat. This stream corridor project will rehabilitate a 5.5 mile portion and directly provide both fish and wildlife habitat benefits in the prairie region.

This stream corridor rehabilitation project will convert 5.5 miles of the upper reaches of the Mustinka River to a more functional 8 to 9 mile long meandering channel within a 300 foot wide, 260 acre floodplain corridor. The stream rehabilitation will be based on the principles of natural channel design with an understanding of the hydrology and fluvial geomorphology at the site. The enhanced stream and associated riparian wetland habitats will provide seasonal spawning and nursery habitat to a variety of fish species including northern pike and walleye and some of the other 30+ fish species that are found in the Lake Traverse watershed.

In addition to the fish habitat directly provided in the 8 to 9 mile stream channel, the associated floodplain grassland and wetland habitat elements in the restored and protected 260 acre river corridor will provide year-round wildlife habitat. An estimated 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been lost due to agricultural drainage and development. The land adjacent to the Mustinka river was historically wet prairie and wetlands but was converted to farmland more than 80 years ago.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District has led the development of this project through a "project team" process. This process has been a collaborative effort with members of the project team including the Traverse County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, MN DNR, MPCA, USFWS, conservation groups, and landowners. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District will continue to lead the project and the MNDNR, as a non-funded collaborator, will provide technical assistance during the structure design phase and the development of the operating plan as well as ongoing project monitoring and evaluation of the operation, outcomes, and user groups.

The watershed district will be responsible for final design, engineering, and construction of the project. Minnesota Department of Natural Resource stream habitat experts will be consulted throughout project development and implementation. If funding for this corridor rehabilitation is not secured, the opportunity to rehabilitate this reach of the Mustinka River Corridor will be lost and it will remain a ditch.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams
- H7 Keep water on the landscape
- LU6 Reduce Upland and gully erosion through soil conservation practices

Plans Addressed:

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Minnesota Sustainability Framework
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregion: A River and Stream Conservation Portfolio
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- Minnesota Fish Habitat Plan, Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan; Minnesota DNR Stream Habitat Program Restoration Priority List

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Attempts to ensure conservation benefits are broadly distributed across the LSOHC sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work; provides the most cost-effective use of financial resources; and where possible takes into consideration the value of local outreach, education, and community engagement to sustain project outcomes
- Leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Restore or enhance habitat on permanently protected land
- 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

LSOHC Prairie Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes
- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District initiates projects based on priority problems, including natural resource issues that are identified in their comprehensive plan. The watershed district sets priorities in this plan and initiates projects to meet those priorities as opportunities for land acquisition become available and when there is landowner interest. Projects that restore and protect stream, riparian, wetland and upland habitats are identified as desired projects in the district's plan.

The Minnesota DNR prioritizes stream restoration projects statewide based on their ecological benefit, degree of impact, merit, and feasibility. The Mustinka River ranks number 7 among streams on the DNR's stream restoration list.

This project presents the greatest opportunities that we are aware of in Minnesota to convert a ditch back to a functional natural channel. Final engineering is complete under watershed law. Environmental review, permitting, and the land acquisition associated with this project is in process. Without additional funding for the stream and riparian wetland habitat benefits of this project, the district will likely proceed to improve the ditch using established methods in ditch law rather than restore and protect 260 acres of a functional riparian corridor to this area.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District will be responsible for long term maintenance of this project. Sustainability and maintenance of this channel rehabilitation is required within watershed district law (Minnesota Statutes 103D). Long term project maintenance is authorized and funded through established watershed district construction and maintenance funds.

The watershed district is leading the land acquisition, project development, and engineering of this project with full cooperation of a watershed-based "project team" composed of landowners and representatives of local, state, and federal agencies.

Government Approval:

*Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition? - **Yes***

Permanent Protection:

*Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection? - **Yes***

Hunting and Fishing Plan:

Is this land open for hunting and fishing? - **Yes**

No variation from state regulations.

Permanent Protection:

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15? - **Yes (Public Waters)**

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Environmental Review	December, 2013
Land Acquisition	December, 2014
Permitting (USACE 408 and 404; Public Waters Work Permit; MPCA 401)	December, 2014
Finalize Plans and Specifications	December, 2014
Construction	December, 2015

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected *Several parcels along proposed corridor are currently enrolled in CRP. The amount of CRP converted to permanent protection will be reported.*
- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *The amount of riparian wetland restored and protected will be measured and reported.*
- Restored and enhanced upland habitats *The amount of riparian grassland acres restored and protected will be measured and reported.*
- Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems *Pre and post project amounts of agricultural lands will be measured and reported.*
- Increased wildlife productivity *The project will restore and protect 260 acres of fish and wildlife habitat including conversion of a 5.5 mile ditch into 8-9 miles of meandering channel. Fish and wildlife use of these habitats will be monitored and reported.*
- Water is kept on the land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat *Creating the 260 acre stream corridor will provide additional floodplain storage not currently present along the ditch. The amount of floodplain storage will be measured and the increase in stream habitats and stream stability will be assessed.*
- The enhanced stream channel and associated riparian wetland and grassland habitats will provide seasonal spawning and nursery habitat to a variety of fish species including northern pike and walleye and some of the other 30+ fish species that are found in the Lake Traverse watershed.

This project presents the greatest opportunities that we are aware of in the prairie region of Minnesota at this time to convert a ditch back to a functional stream channel. If funding for this corridor rehabilitation is not secured, the opportunity to rehabilitate this reach of the Mustinka River Corridor will be lost and it will remain a ditch.

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$4,580,900

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$2,902,300	\$0		\$2,902,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,300,000	\$0		\$1,300,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$378,600	\$0		\$378,600
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$4,580,900	\$0	-	\$4,580,900

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	260	260
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	260	260
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	520	520

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,280,900	\$3,280,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,580,900	\$4,580,900

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	260	0	260
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	260	0	260
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	520	0	520

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,280,900	\$0	\$3,280,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,300,000	\$0	\$1,300,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,580,900	\$0	\$4,580,900

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

108 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Grant

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Tract 1	12844219	18	\$91,900	No	Full	Full
Tract 2	12844219	20	\$101,200	No	Full	Full

Traverse

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Tract 10	12845223	37	\$187,000	No	Full	Full
Tract 11	12845224	11	\$57,300	No	Full	Full
Tract 12	12845224	11	\$56,600	No	Full	Full
Tract 13	12845224	23	\$113,400	No	Full	Full
Tract 3	12845214	1	\$3,000	No	Full	Full
Tract 4	12845215	31	\$153,700	No	Full	Full
Tract 5	12845215	27	\$136,700	No	Full	Full
Tract 6	12845216	29	\$143,300	No	Full	Full
Tract 7	12845216	14	\$70,500	No	Full	Full
Tract 8	12845216	14	\$72,300	No	Full	Full
Tract 9	12845223	23	\$117,100	No	Full	Full

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.

Prioritized Stream Restoration Projects Scoring Worksheet

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the Stream Restoration Prioritization Criteria. Select a score from the Stream Restoration Prioritization Criteria and give a justification. The Stream Habitat Program will determine final scores. Criterion without written justification will be scored with the lowest possible score for that criterion. Concise, brief answers are appreciated.

Stream Name: Mustinka River
Proposer: Norm Haukos, MN DNR Ortonville Area Fisheries Supervisor
Location (county, nearest town, twp/range/section, UTM coordinates, etc.): Traverse County 9 miles NW of Wheaton T128, R44, sec. 19,20 T128, R45, sec. 7,8,17,20-24 T128, R46, sec. 1,2,11,12,14,23
Estimated cost: Total – \$5.5 million DNR -- \$5.5 million
Priority within your region (1 being the highest priority): 1
1) Restoration project type Score: 10 Justification (e.g., Is this project a channel restoration, dam removal and restoration, dam modification, or fish passage? What problems are being addressed?): The Mustinka River was channelized as a state ditch in 1896 and again as a project in the early 1950's. This channelization resulted in a direct conversion of approximately 43 miles of natural sinuous channel to approximately 25 miles of straightened channel without a functional corridor. The channelization not only cut through the meandering natural channel it also bypassed an entire 8.8 mile reach of natural channel. The current Mustinka River (Judicial Ditch 14) provides little functional aquatic or riparian corridor habitat. Stream restoration components included in this project are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore 5 miles of ditch to 8.3 miles of stream channel to its original dimension, pattern and profile and re-establish a 400 foot, re-vegetated stream corridor,• Restore streamflow to an additional 8.8 miles of abandoned channel• Convert 2 miles of ditch to a two-stage channel with a 400 foot vegetated corridor.

2) Resource potential Score: 10

Justification (e.g., What are the ecological benefits of this project? What is the potential for stream improvement?):

This project will re-establish a stable stream channel with a healthy, naturally functioning riparian corridor to approximately 8 miles of riverine habitat from what is now a 5.3 mile segment of ditch with adjacent farmland using natural channel design principles. Aquatic habitats will be restored to an additional 8.8 miles of river channel and corridor habitats by restoring stream flow through a stream reach that was cutoff and abandoned by creation of the ditch. Another two miles of ditch will be converted to a two-stage, functional channel with 80 acres of associated floodplain habitat. All in all, the project will replace an existing 9.3 mile segment of ditch with 19 miles of naturalized stream channel with a 400 foot riparian corridor. Once established, these habitats will be protected and maintained and provide high quality aquatic and riparian corridor habitats to variety of fish and wildlife species.

3) Scale of impact Score: 8

Justification (e.g., What is the scale of the project and are there impacts beyond the immediate project area?):

On-the-ground channel restoration will occur along a 10-mile stream segment and stream flow restored to an additional 9 miles. However, biological and hydrological impacts will extend longitudinally upstream and downstream within the channel, as well as laterally as the adjacent upland prairie and wetland functions are restored.

4) Critical habitat Score: 5

Justification (e.g., What species will benefit? Are there any rare, state or federally listed species that will benefit? Is the habitat reconnected or restored?):

- The stream restoration activities associated with this project will benefit a number of fish species that have been found upstream and downstream of the project area including: northern pike, walleye, and the Iowa darter.
- Two species listed as Minnesota Species of Special Concern have been documented in the project area and will directly benefit including the upland sandpiper and small white lady slipper.
- Three high-quality natural communities with only remnant representation within the Red River basin will also benefit including: wet prairie, mesic prairie and saline prairie. Corridor grasslands will benefit waterfowl breeding pairs, pheasants and other grassland birds.
- The project will restore the hydrology of the prairie wetlands located in the vicinity and benefit the plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that depend on this prairie wetland ecosystem.

5) Community support/acceptance Score: 3

Justification (e.g., Who in the community has expressed support and to what degree?):

The Bois de Sioux watershed district, landowners, conservation organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies have worked through a “project team” process to put this project together. There is widespread acceptance of the project from the local community, including potentially affected landowners.

6) Timing Score: 2

Justification (e.g., How does timing play into the success of this project?):

This habitat restoration is an added natural resource enhancement component to an adjacent, larger, flood damage reduction project (impoundment). The impoundment is totally separate from the attributes of this project. If the habitat restoration components of this project are not funded the watershed district will move forward with flood control impoundments adjacent to the ditch channel and will not restore a meandering natural channels, the habitat corridor, or reconnection of the cutoff channel. It is unlikely that this opportunity would ever present itself again if funding for this habitat project is not secured now.

7) Technical feasibility Score: 5

Justification (e.g., What are the technical and logistical problems?):

Although there are no foreseeable technical and/or logistical problems, projects of this magnitude often encounter minor logistical problems that periodically surface, but rarely delay or postpone a project for an inordinate amount of time. Stream restoration projects similar to this have been successfully completed in the past. As with all stream restoration projects, a particularly wet weather pattern could delay construction activities and/or vegetation establishment in the corridor along the newly meandered channel.

8) Compatibility with other resource initiatives Score: 3

Justification (e.g., How does this project fit in with what others are doing? Are there any partnership opportunities?)

The stream restoration activities associated with this project are being done adjacent to and in conjunction with a flood damage reduction impoundment. With technical assistance from DNR Fisheries, Wildlife and Ecological Services staff, the impoundment has built in natural resource enhancement features that will provide 320 acres of northern pike spawning habitat and seasonally flooded wetlands, 640 acres of managed moist soil units for waterfowl, 160 acres of type 4/5 wetlands, and 640 acres of seasonally flooded cropland for waterfowl.

Other partners include: the Bois de Sioux watershed district, Traverse County SWCD, USFWS, NRCS and local landowners.

9) Professional Judgment Score: 0 –

Justification (e.g., What are the unique qualities of this project that are not addressed by the other Stream Restoration Criteria?)

The stream channel and corridor habitat restoration/enhancement activities, coupled with the natural resource enhancement features built into the flood damage reduction impoundment, provides a unique opportunity to achieve multiple objectives along a large segment of stream.

This project has been given special attention by the NW Region RMT and the Commissioner's Office. It is intended to be used as an example of a cooperative project between Red River Basin watershed districts and the DNR that successfully integrates both flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement objectives.

2012: Unique opportunity has passed.

Additional Comments:

MN DNR Stream Habitat Program 2013 Stream Restoration Priority List

Stream Name	Project Type	Project Type	Resource Potential	Scale of Impact	Critical Habitat	Community Support/Acceptance	Timing	Technical Feasibility	Compatibility with other initiatives	Professional Judgment	Total Score	Total Project Cost	DNR Share of Project Cost	estimated total cost	Region Priority	Region	Proposer(s) and date
Knutson Dam	Dam Modification	8	8	9	10	5	3	5	3	3	54	\$1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$1,500,000	1		Todd Tisler, USDA Forest Service (2013)
Stewart River	Channel Restoration	10	10	7	5	5	5	3	3	4	52	\$600,000	\$ 500,000	\$500,000		NE	Karl Koller (DNR EWR Reg 2) and Lake County (2013)
Buffalo River- Hawley	Channel Restoration	10	10	7	6	4	3	5	3	3	51	\$500,000	\$ 500,000	\$500,000		NW	Detroit Lakes Area Fisheries (before 2011)
Sand Hill River	Dam Modification (4 dams)	8	9	10	10	4	2	5	3		51	\$3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000		2	NW	Jim Wolters Detroit Lakes Area Fisheries 05/07
Mission Creek	Channel Restoration	10	8	8	6	4	5	3	3	4	51	\$2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$2,000,000	1	NE	Kirsten Stutzman and Karl Koller(2013)
Mustinka River	Channel Restoration	9	10	10	8	3	3	3	3	0	49	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000		1	NW	Norm Haukos, MN DNR Area Fisheries
Chester Creek Dam	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration	10	8	6	5	5	5	3	2	3	47	\$150,000	\$ 150,000			NE	Deserae Hendrickson, Fisheries (2012)
Cannon River- Malt-O-Meal Dam	Dam Modification	8	8	8	6	2	3	5	3	3	46	\$2,300,000	\$ 500,000	\$2,300,000	2	SE	Southern Region Fisheries and Eco
Deer Creek Removal	Dam Modification	8	8	8	6	4	4	5	3		46	\$250,000	\$ 250,000	\$250,000		NE	Chris Cavanaugh, Fisheries (2012)
North Branch Carley State Park	Channel Restoration	6	8	6	8	5	3	3	3	4	46	\$300,000	\$ 300,000				Jan Wolfe-Shaw (2012)
Platte River	Dam Removal	8	10	8	8	2	2	4	3		45	\$120,000	\$ 50,000	\$50,000		NE	Sara Strassman American Rivers (2013)
Otter Tail River- Phelps Mill Dam	Fishway	4	8	8	8	4	3	4	3	3	45	\$300,000	\$ 300,000			NW Region	Arlin Schalekamp Fergus Falls Area Fisheries 03/09
Whisky Creek	Dam Modification	7	7	8	6	5	3	5	3		44						
Pine River	Dam Modification	4	6	8	6	4	5	4	3	3	43	\$200,000	\$ 150,000				Marc Bacigalupi, Fisheries (2012)
Tischer Creek Removal	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration	10	8	8	5	2	1	3	2	3	42	\$750,000	\$ 750,000			NE	Deserae Hendrickson, Fisheries (2012)
Trout Brook	Channel Restoration	8	8	5	6	3	2	3	3	3	41	\$240,000	\$ 240,000		2	SE	Nick Proulx, EWR (2013)
Cottonwood River low head dam - Springfield	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration Off Dam Modification, Fish Passage, and Bank Stabilization	10	8	8	5	2	1	3	3		40	\$200,000 - \$300,000		\$250,000	5	Southern Region	Southern Region (Alan Robbins-Fenger), 1/7/05
Cottonwood River low head dam - Sanborn Park	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration Off Dam Modification, Fish Passage, and Bank Stabilization	10	8	8	5	2	1	3	3		40	\$200,000 - \$300,000		\$250,000	5	Southern Region	Southern Region (Alan Robbins-Fenger), 1/7/05
Cottonwood River low head dam - Sanborn Golf Course	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration Off Dam Modification, Fish Passage, and Bank Stabilization	10	8	8	5	2	1	3	3		40	\$200,000 - \$300,000		\$250,000	5	Southern Region	Southern Region (Alan Robbins-Fenger), 1/7/05
Cottonwood River low head dam - Lamberton	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration Off Dam Modification, Fish Passage, and Bank Stabilization	10	8	8	5	2	1	3	3		40	\$200,000 - \$300,000		\$250,000	5	Southern Region	Southern Region (Alan Robbins-Fenger), 1/7/05
Cedar Creek	Channel Restoration	10	10	6	3	3	1	3	3		39	\$254,000			2	Central Region	Wayne Barstad EWR (Before 2011)
Clearwater Creek at Wabana Lake Outlet	Dam Modification	6	8	8	5	3	1	3	3		37	\$250,000	\$ 250,000				
Third River	Channel Re-alignment	4	4	2	1	4	3	3	2		23						

Redpath Stream Habitat Corridor Project

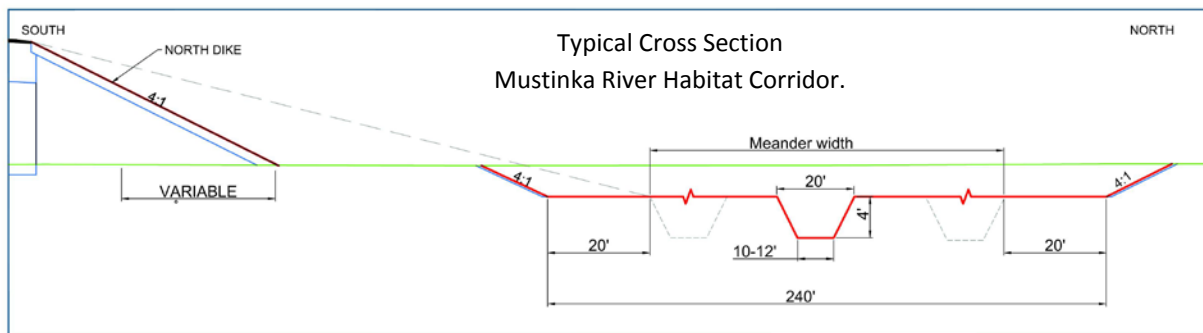
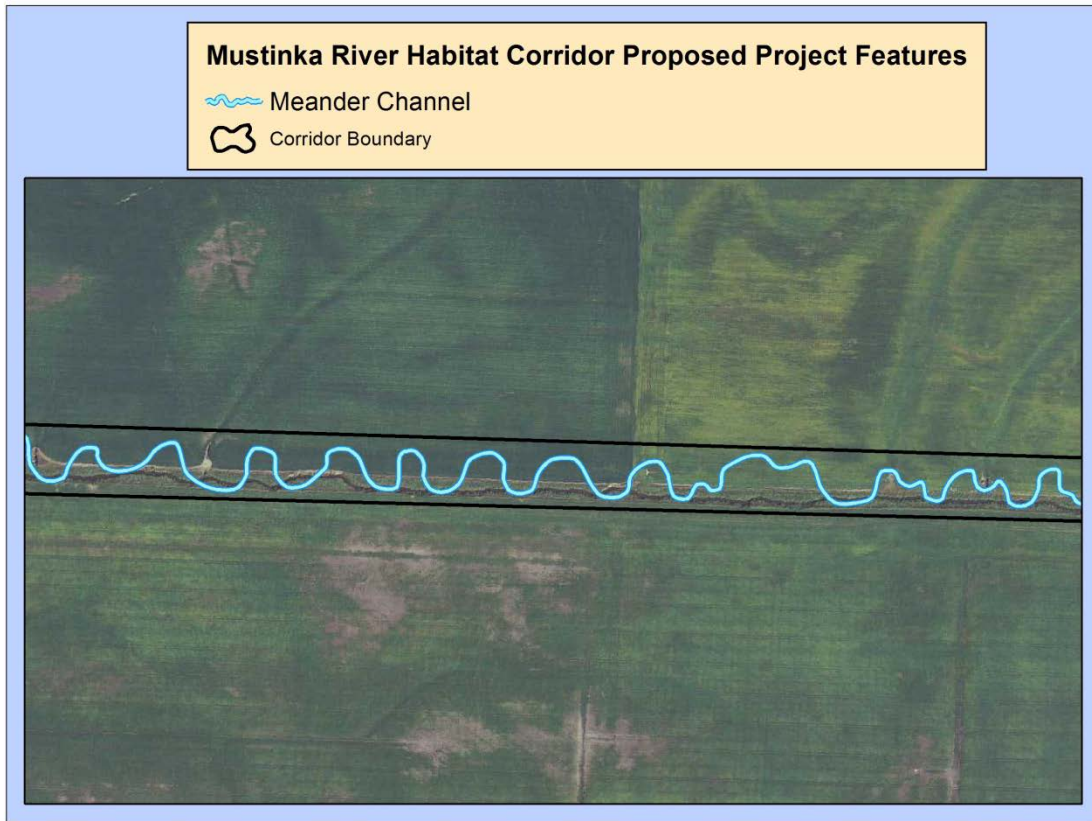
Existing condition of the Mustinka River Corridor (Judicial Ditch 14)



Mustinka River Existing Conditions



Expected post project condition of the Mustinka River Corridor



RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP

May 22, 2013

Board of Managers
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
704 Highway 75 South
Wheaton, MN 56296

RE: Support for Redpath Project Stream Corridor Habitat Rehabilitation Project

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, we wish to state the full support of the Work Group for the implementation of the stream corridor restoration components of the Redpath Project. The Work Group was constituted on the basis of the 1998 Mediation Agreement that seeks to achieve effective flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement.

The stream corridor habitat rehabilitation components of the project are consistent with the goals of the mediation agreement and represent the type of natural resource project features in term of both design and process that exemplifies the Work Group's objectives for the Red River Basin. At our March, 2013 meeting, the Work Group re-affirmed this support and recommended that the watershed district pursue funding for the project through the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

The Work Group recognizes the unique natural resource enhancement opportunity that this project represents. We are not aware of any other ready to build opportunities in the Red River basin to convert a ditched section of river to a more functional stream corridor.

The Work Group commends the Bois de Sioux watershed district for their persistent efforts to involve local landowners and local government in the project design process. These efforts are also consistent with the highest standards of the project development process envisioned by the mediation agreement.

The Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group fully supports the stream corridor habitat restoration components of the Redpath Project and recommends that the Board continue to pursue funding for these important natural resource enhancement features.

Sincerely,

Mike Carroll
FDRWG Co-chair

Jerome Deal
FDRWG Co-chair



Red River Basin Commission

Manitoba • Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota

Moorhead Office: 119 5th St. S. • PO Box 66 • Moorhead, MN 56561-0066
Phone 218-291-0422 • FAX 218-291-0438 • staff@redriverbasincommission.org

Winnipeg Office: 410 – 112 Market Ave. • Winnipeg, MB R3B 0P4
Phone 204-982-7250 • FAX 204-982-7255 • staff@redriverbasincommission.org
www.redriverbasincommission.org

2013-2015

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Sen. Luick
Rep. Peterson - Wally Sparby
Sen. Thune - Judy Vrchota
MP James Bezan
MP Vic Toews

June 8, 2013

Jon Roeschlein
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
704 Highway 75 South
Wheaton, MN 56296

RE: Support for Redpath Project Stream Corridor Habitat Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mr. Roeschein:

The Board of Directors of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is happy to provide this letter of support regarding application to the LSOHC for the restoration of the Mustinka River. This letter signifies support for the overall concept of the project.

This project fits within several of the 13 goals the RRBC has identified as part of our Natural Resources Framework Plan, specifically:

- Goal #6 – *Reduce risk of flood damages for people, property and the environment in the main stem floodplain and in tributary waters.*
- Goal # 9 – *Maintain, protect and restore surface and ground water quality in the Red River Basin.*
- Goal #12 – *Conserve, manage and restore diversity and viability of native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.*

Objectives related to these goals include implementing flood mitigation strategies in the upper basin to reduce flood damage risk locally and downstream; protection of surface and ground water quality; maintaining, enhancing and protecting aquatic and terrestrial populations; enhancing, protection or restoring natural systems; and identifying and protecting unique species, habitats and plant communities.

RRBC supports the Bois de Sioux Watershed District in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Lance Yohe
Executive Director



Red River Watershed Management Board

June 13, 2013

Board of Managers
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
704 Highway 75 South
Wheaton, MN 56296

RE: Support for Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014 Proposal) "Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation"

Dear Board of Managers:

Please accept this letter acknowledging the Red River Watershed Management Board's (RRWMB's) support for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014 Proposal) "Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation" project as proposed by Jon Roeschlein, Administrator - Bois de Sioux Watershed District.

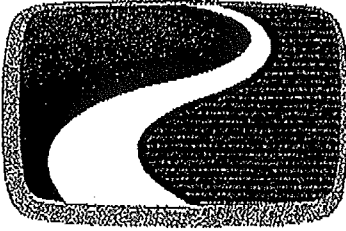
We anticipate that this project will help our board in its mission to institute, coordinate and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River and its tributaries. As a member of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, the RRWMB has significant interest in supporting projects that seek to achieve the flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement goals included in the 1998 Mediation Agreement. The stream corridor habitat restoration components of the Redpath Project are consistent with objectives of the Work Group to incorporate natural resource enhancements within flood damage reduction projects.

The RRWMB has authorized funding assistance for the Redpath Project in the amount of \$3,925,000.00 and supports this proposal to advance our efforts to utilize comprehensive approaches for flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancements in the Red River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Naomi Erickson".

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator



RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

1405 Prairie Parkway - Suite 311
West Fargo, ND 58078 Phone: 701-356-6644

June 13, 2013

Board of Managers
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
704 Highway 75 S.
Wheaton, MN 56296

RE: Repath Project -- Stream Restoration Component -- Support

Dear Watershed Board,

On behalf of the Red River Retention Authority Board and its members, we would like to offer our support for this stream restoration project as a great addition to the retention aspects of your project. This project as planned will be win for all; -- people -- plants -- animals and all other creatures.

It is wonderful when we can marry significant environmental improvements with flood reduction improvements. Funding for such projects is difficult to obtain. It is even more difficult from the local financing level to add these type of habitat and wildlife improvements as well. The Outdoor Heritage Council funding will be essential to restore the meandering stream features and habitat corridor in the plan.

We certainly hope the Outdoor Heritage Council Board can see the merits and fund your project request. We fully support your application for Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding. We believe the citizens of Minnesota, when they voted for this funding mechanism would concur this project would be a worthy investment of these funds and the project is of the type they envisioned for the use of these funds.

If we can offer additional assistance or support, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Pat Downs, Executive Director
Red River Retention Authority