

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



July 22, 2016

Mr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Room 95, State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As the LSOHC launches its proposal review and selection process, I want to take this occasion to thank you for the opportunity to submit proposals to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) in response to the 2017 Call for Requests and highlight DNR priorities for 2017.

DNR's priorities and proposals directly meet LSOHC's priorities for 2017. Below is a brief thematic summary of our programs this year:

- Continue to address high priority prairie grassland by implementing the Governor's Pheasant Summit Plan and the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan;
- Continue to accelerate proven, effective conservation programs such as WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, Native Prairie Bank, State Forests, Stream Restoration, Forests for the Future, and Shallow Lakes;
- Address large, legacy opportunities such as habitat restoration in St. Louis River Estuary;
- Continue the success of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program with statewide, metro, and expedited opportunities available to help build Minnesota's capacity for conservation.

A list of DNR proposals is attached to this letter.

We appreciate the hard work you and Council members do to protect, restore, and enhance Minnesota's habitat for future generations and look forward to working together throughout this important process. If you have any questions about this letter or our proposals, please feel free to contact me or Grant Wilson (DNR Liaison to LSOHC, at 651-259-5186 or grant.wilson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

cc: Chair Robert Anderson



**Department of Natural Resources' Proposals for Consideration
by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council 2017 Call for Requests**

- DNR Grasslands, Phase IX
- DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase IX
- Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection, Phase III
- MN DNR Aquatic Protection and Enhancement, Phase IX
- DNR Stream Habitat, Phase II
- St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Phase IV
- Minnesota Forests for the Future, Phase V
- State Forest Acquisition – Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest, Phase IV
- Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement, Phase IX
- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, Phase IX (including statewide, metro, and expedited projects)
- Restoration Evaluations
- Contract Management

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (interagency effort; proposal submitted by BWSR)

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Outdoor Heritage Fund Projects & Leverage

August 3, 2016

A Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) member requested information related to leverage for Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve projects administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Two projects include leverage that BWSR has included in LSOHC approved Accomplish Plans including –

- The RIM-WRP Partnership (ML09, ML10, ML11 and part of ML12) utilizes OHF RIM funds with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Federal Farm Bill funds.
- RIM Buffers (ML11, ML12, ML13 and ML14) leverages OHF funds with both RIM Clean Water Fund (CWF) and RIM Capital Investment (Bonding) funds.

BWSR tracks OHF dollars to the penny and is required to utilize the SWIFT State Financial system for all transactions. The progress towards completing each project is reported in twice a year status reports. Leverage is not reported until the time of a final report. Upon direction of LSOHC staff final reports cannot be completed until all easements are recorded AND restored and all bills are paid. Leverage is known to the penny for RIM Buffers, because leveraged funds (CWF and Bonding) are appropriated directly to BWSR and it is all in SWIFT. The RIM-WRP leverage utilizes exact information on easement payments and estimates as provided to BWSR from USDA NRCS for other expenses.

<u>RIM WRP OHF Leverage</u>					
Approp	RIM-WRP	Acres	Total OHF	Total WRP	Leverage Non-OHF:OHF
ML 2009	Phase 1	7,276	\$ 7,916,074	\$ 13,100,210	1.65:1
ML 2010	Phase 2	4,166	\$ 6,895,000	\$ 9,805,195	1.42:1
ML 2011	Phase 3	5,747	\$ 13,810,000	\$ 13,218,989	0.96:1
ML 2012	Phase 4 (partial)	<u>2,244</u>	<u>\$ 5,300,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,131,758</u>	0.97:1
	Totals	19,432	\$ 33,921,074	\$ 41,256,151	
				Avg Leverage	1.25:1
<u>RIM Buffers OHF Leverage</u>					
Approp	Buffers	Acres	Total OHF	Total Non-OHF	Leverage Non-OHF:OHF
ML 2011	Phase 1	1,595	\$ 2,249,000	\$ 4,950,796	2.20:1
ML 2012	Phase 2	1,337	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 5,043,964	2.41:1
ML 2013	Phase 3	1,208	\$ 3,520,000	\$ 4,167,987	1.18:1
ML 2014	Phase 4	<u>607</u>	<u>\$ 2,200,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,200,000</u>	1.00:1
	Totals	4,746	\$ 10,059,000	\$ 16,362,746	
				Avg Leverage	1.70:1

Notes on the information being provided related to RIM OHF projects and leverage includes:

1. Non-OHF to OHF leverage means, for example with ML2009, that one dollar of OHF funds brought \$1.65 in Federal money thus we were able to do 2.65 times as much as we would have done without leverage.
2. The data was extracted from SWIFT on specific dates and is constantly changing as additional invoices are paid.
3. Once all easements are recorded and restored and the last invoice is paid final reports will be completed including leverage on all of these 8 projects.
4. A number of projects have all of the easements recorded and restoration well underway, others have both recorded and unrecorded easements as well as restorations completed and not completed. Therefore the data that is being supplied includes a combination of actual invoices paid and solid estimates for work to be completed in the future.
5. RIM-WRP Partnership Leverage
 - a. Easement payments – exact numbers are known for leverage
 - b. Professional Services – average numbers are supplied by NRCS for leverage
 - c. Restoration – RIM pays 25% and WRP pays 75%, the numbers represent the long-term averages for the type of restoration to be completed.
 - d. Personnel – NRCS reports that they receive 10% of the total WRP funds for personnel, benefits and support. This is the number that is used for leverage.
 - e. Other items – NRCS expends additional resources on the RIM-WRP Partnership but that data is not readily available so it is not reported.

Amanda Brazee

From: Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR) <brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Jane Kingston; Jennings, Martin (DNR); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Mark Johnson; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee
Subject: RE: DNR Stream Restoration Priority List
Attachments: 2016 Stream Restoration Priority List Final.xlsx

Jane,

Attached is the 2016 DNR Stream Habitat Priority List. It is compiled annually in the spring by the DNR's Stream Habitat Program based on submissions from DNR staff as well as external partners. Because of the timing of when it was created, you'll see that several projects in blue that appear on the list have now been funded by LSOHC via the DNR or other applicants. In addition, the projects in grey were not selected for submission by DNR because other partners were planning to submit them, or because issues with project-readiness caused us to decide to wait for a later year.

Regarding your other question regarding the "Roscoe WMA" vs. "North Branch Middle Fork Zumbro River", yes they are one and the same project. I had tried to standardize the names of projects in the application so that they referred to the stream or lake, rather than other names such as the WMA where they are located. I obviously missed that one in the table. You'll see that it is referred to as Roscoe WMA in the stream habitat priority list as well. Sorry for the confusion.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Brian Nerbonne
 Stream Habitat Consultant, DNR Fisheries
 500 Lafayette Rd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 (651)259-5205

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Jennings, Martin (DNR); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Johnson Mark; Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Smith Sandy; Pavelko Joe; Brazee Amanda
Subject: Re: DNR Stream Restoration Priority List

Hello, Grant & Martin!
 May I please get an updated — or current (get it?) — priority list?
 Thank you!
 -Jane

On Jul 14, 2015, at 8:56 AM, Jennings, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Jennings@state.mn.us> wrote:

Ms. Kingston,

The most recent version of the list is attached. With Mr. Nerbonne on vacation until 7/27, questions about specific projects can be directed to Ms. Hillman, the EWR Stream Restoration Coordinator.

Martin Jennings
Fisheries Habitat Program Manager
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St Paul, MN 55155

651-259-5176
martin.jennings@state.mn.us

From: Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 6:45 AM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Johnson Mark; Jennings, Martin (DNR); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR)
Subject: RE: DNR Stream Restoration Priority List

Thanks for the question, Jane!

Martin, could you please follow up with Jane (as Brian is out for a while) to make sure she has access to the list?

Grant

Grant L. Wilson
Fish & Wildlife Policy and Planning
Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
651.259.5186
Grant.Wilson@state.mn.us

From: Jane Kingston [<mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 3:28 PM
To: Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Johnson Mark
Subject: DNR Stream Restoration Priority List

Hi, Grant!

Several of this year's LSOHC applications (various Red River Area Watersheds) reference the above list in their proposals (Lower Wild Rice, Sand Hill, Wolverton).

I found it mentioned on this DNR page <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/streamhab/about.html> but couldn't find a link to the list itself.

Can you provide?

Thanks,

Jane

<Stream Restoration Priority List July 2015.xlsx>

Project ID	Stream Name	Project Type	Project Type	Resource Potential	Scale of Impact	Critical Habitat	Invasive Species	Community Support/Acceptance	Timing	Technical Feasibility	Compatibility with other initiatives	Professional Judgement	Total Score	DNR Share of Project Cost	Total Project Cost	Region Priority	Region	Current Contact and Year Submitted	Township	Range	Section
	Blue Mounds Dam	Dam Removal/Channel Restoration	10	10	8	10	10	4	5	5	3	5	70	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000		SW	Brooke Hacker, EWR (2016)	103	45	24
	Wild Rice River	Channel Restoration	10	10	10	8	9	5	4	4	3	4	67	\$46,000,000	\$46,000,000	1	NW	Jamison Wendel, FAW (2015)	144	46	29, 30
	Otter Tail River	Channel Restoration	10	10	10	9	9	3	3	3	3	4	64	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000		NW	Jamison Wendel, FAW (2014)	143	45	33, 32, 31+
	Otter Tail River- Phelps Mill Dam	Dam Modification	7	10	8	10	9	5	3	4	3	5	64	\$500,000	\$500,000		NW	Jim Wolters FAW (2009)	134	41	35
	Miller Creek	Channel Restoration	10	10	8	7	9	4	5	4	3	2	62	\$600,000	\$750,000		NE	Jeff Tillma, FAW (2015)	500	14	17
	N.F. Watonwan Dam Removal	Dam Removal/Channel Restoration	8	9	8	10	9	5	3	3	3	3	61	\$200,000	\$200,000		SW	Scott Bohling, Watowan County (2016)	107	33	14
	Wolverton Creek (Phase 1)	Channel Restoration	10	7	10	8	9	5	4	5	3	0	61	\$2,000,000	8,000,000		NW	Bruce Albright, BRRWD (2016)	137	48	8,16,22,27,34+
	Whetstone	Channel Reconnection	10	9	7	10	9	5	2	5	3	0	60	\$2,000,000	\$6,600,559		SW	SHP and Chris Domeier (2016)	121	46	16
	Hallock Dam	Dam Modification	7	10	8	9	9	4	3	3	3	0	56	\$375,000	\$375,000		NW	Jamison Wendel, FAW (2015)	161	49	13
	Gorman Creek Part 2	Channel Restoration	10	9	6	7	9	4	3	5	3	0	56	\$250,000	\$250,000		SE	Kevin Stauffer/Melissa Peterson, FAW (2015)	109	11	1
	Adrian Dam	Dam Removal	8	9	8	10	9	4	2	4	2	0	56	\$85,000	\$130,000		SW	Brian Nyborg, EWR (2014)	102	43	13
	Fish Lake on Pelican River	Dam Modification	6	9	7	10	9	4	2	5	3	0	55	\$400,000	\$443,245		NW	Moriya, Rnter, PGLID (2016)	137	42	17,20
	Lake Carlos Dam	Dam Modification	7	8	7	8	9	4	1	5	3	2	54	\$180,000	\$180,000		NW	Chris Weir-Koetter, PAT (2016)	129	37	16
	Drywood Creek	Dam Removal/Channel Restoration	8	6	6	8	9	5	5	4	3	0	54	\$50,000	\$75,000		NW	Ryan Bjerke, EWR (2015)	122	43	1
2005Apr46	Cottonwood Dam - Sanborn Golf Course	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration	10	8	8	10	8	2	1	3	3	0	53	\$300,000	\$300,000	5	SW	Lucas Youngsma, EWR, Lee Sundmark FAW (2005)	109	36	26
2005Apr46	Cottonwood Dam - Lambertson	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration	10	8	8	10	8	2	1	3	3	0	53	\$300,000	\$300,000	5	SW	Lucas Youngsma, EWR, Lee Sundmark FAW (2005)	109	37	15
2005Apr46	Cottonwood Dam - Sanborn Park	Dam Removal with Channel Restoration	10	8	8	10	8	2	1	3	3	0	53	\$300,000	\$300,000	5	SW	Lucas Youngsma, EWR, Lee Sundmark FAW (2005)	109	36	36
	Fish Creek	Dam removal with Channel Restoration and Culvert Replacement	10	8	6	5	9	3	3	4	3	2	53	\$83,525	\$84,825			Eric Altana, FAW (2016)	127	32	29
	Pine River/Norway Lake	Dam Modification	4	8	8	7	8	5	4	4	3	1	52	\$850,000	\$1,000,000		NE	Marc Bacigalupi, FAW (2012)	138	29	31
	Crane Lake Culvert	Culvert Modification	8	5	5	6	9	4	2	4	3	5	51	\$65,000	\$65,000		NW	Brian Nerboine, FAW (2016)	132	40	25
	Red Sand Lake	Dam Modification	8	6	5	6	9	4	4	4	2	0	48	\$68,000	\$68,000		NW	Marc Bacigalupi, FAW (2016)	133	29	1
	Tischer Creek Removal	Dam Removal with Channel	10	8	8	5	7	2	1	3	2	1	47	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		NE	Deserae Hendrickson, FAW (2012)	50	14	2, 3
	North Branch Carley State Park	Channel Restoration	6	8	4	7	7	5	3	3	3	1	47	\$300,000	\$300,000		SE	Jan Wolfe-Shaw PAT (2012)	108	11	32
	Cannon River- Malt-O-Meal Dam	Dam Modification	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	3	3	1	46	\$500,000	\$2,300,000	2	SE	Southern Region FAW and EWR (before 2010)	111	20	1
	Clearwater Creek at Wabana Lake Outlet	Dam Modification	6	5	8	6	8	1	1	3	3	0	41	\$250,000	\$250,000			Chris Kavanaugh, FAW (before 2010)	570	25	23
	Pine Creek	Habitat Enhancement	4	4	4	5	8	5	1	3	3	1	38	\$300,000	\$300,000		SE	Ron Benjamin, FAW (2026)	105	06	13
	Roscoe WMA	Toe-Wood	2	2	4	7	8	3	1	3	2	0	32	\$65,000	\$65,000		SE	Jeff Weiss, FAW (2016)	109	16	33

Not requesting funding for ML2017
 Awaiting Legislative decision for 2016

Amanda Brazee

From: Lindgren, John P (DNR) <john.lindgren@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 8:13 AM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Larson Kris; Wilson, Grant (DNR); MacGregor, Molly (DNR); Kavanaugh, Chris M (DNR); Amanda Brazee; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson
Subject: RE: LSOHC HRE03 Proposal

Well, that will take a few sentences.

The phragmites will mostly be removed on the Grassy site by leveraging another program that is being applied in the estuary for phragmites control. MNDNR help direct St. Louis County to apply the Legacy Amendment funds they received to develop a partnership to control this exotic invasive. We will coordinate closely with their group and treat any phragmites they are not able to address with our funds.

The narrowleaf cattail will be mechanically removed at both Kingsbury and Grassy. The above ground material will be burned in the Hibbard Bio-fuel plant next to Grassy Point after removal during the winter. The root masses and substrate will be placed on top of the wood waste islands at Grassy Point to convert them to upland islands supporting more woody vegetation. The material will also contribute to the extension of the existing island at Grassy Point to form a baymouth bar protecting a sheltered bay. Establishment of cattail within the project site will be monitored and controlled during and after the construction project.

Thanks,

John Lindgren

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 8:02 AM
To: Lindgren, John P (DNR)
Cc: Larson Kris; Wilson, Grant (DNR); MacGregor, Molly (DNR); Kavanaugh, Chris M (DNR); Brazee Amanda; Smith Sandy; Pavelko Joe; Johnson Mark
Subject: Re: LSOHC HRE03 Proposal

WOW - this is great!

One thing leads to another.....so what's the removal method for the cattails & phragmites?

Thanks, John!

On Aug 19, 2016, at 7:30 AM, Lindgren, John P (DNR) <john.lindgren@state.mn.us> wrote:

Jane:

Sorry for the delay. Busy week with construction issues at Knowlton Creek. We will be having a media event next week to promote the good work at Knowlton Creek. We also look forward to presenting information on our initiative next week.

Thank you,

John Lindgren
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources St. Louis River AOC Coordinator

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:32 PM
To: Lindgren, John P (DNR)
Subject: Re: LSOHC HRE03 Proposal

I never pass along stuff without the originator's permission first.....
Thanks, John!

On Aug 16, 2016, at 4:29 PM, Lindgren, John P (DNR) <john.lindgren@state.mn.us> wrote:

Yes. Good to know that you want to share with Council. I will make it look appropriate.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Lindgren, John P (DNR)
Subject: Re: LSOHC HRE03 Proposal

awesome - i'd like to share with LSOHC staff with your approval.....ok?

On Aug 16, 2016, at 3:22 PM, Lindgren, John P (DNR) <john.lindgren@state.mn.us> wrote:

Jane:

Thank you for the inquiry. I will produce that information for you by tomorrow. I will also provide information on removal of exotic plant species, which is an indicator that we are using to quantify outcomes at Grassy Point and Kingsbury Bay. Removal of exotic invasive monocultures and replacement with more desirable plant assemblages increases potential to support SGCN's.

John Lindgren
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources St. Louis River AOC Coordinator

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 3:09 PM
To: Lindgren, John P (DNR)
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Subject: LSOHC HRE03 Proposal

Hello, John,

Could you please get more specific about how your proposal “addresses habitats that have significant value for wildlife species or greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?”
I don’t see that itemized on Page 3. I get it - intuitively - but a list of SGCN would be of benefit.
You have listed indicator species, but I’m looking for more than the fish listed there.

Thanks!
-Jane

<SGCN's for St. Louis River Restoration Initiative.docx>

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:56 PM
To: loren_e@co.kandiyohi.mn.us
Cc: Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Mark Johnson; Amanda Brazee
Subject: LSOHC HRE06 Proposal

Dear Mr. Engelby,

In addition to questions/comments already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please be prepared during your presentation next week to address the following:

What's the ownership around the lake's perimeter?

What are the historical sources of pollution and how have they been eliminated or mitigated?

Thanks for your efforts!

-Jane Kingston

Vice-Chair, LSOHC

Amanda Brazee

From: Bruce Albright <BALbright@brrwd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:47 PM
To: 'Jane Kingston'
Cc: Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson; 'Gerry Van Amberg (vanambur@gloria.cord.edu)'; Erik Jones
Subject: RE: LSOHC HRE07 Proposal

Thanks for the heads up, we'll make sure we have answers to these and hopefully any other questions the Committee has. See you next Tuesday.

Bruce E. Albright, Office Administrator
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District
1303 4TH AVE NE
Barnesville, MN 56514-0341
Telephone # (218) 354-7710
Fax # (218) 354-2503
E-mail address: BALbright@brrwd.org
Website Address: www.brrwd.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Bruce Albright <BALbright@brrwd.org>
Cc: Smith Sandy <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Pavelko Joe <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Brazee Amanda <amanda.brazee@lsohc.leg.mn>; Johnson Mark <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: LSOHC HRE07 Proposal

Dear Mr. Albright,

In addition to questions/comments already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please be prepared during your presentation next week to address the following:

What's the ultimate, overall project construction timeline including \$\$ breakdown? Will you be re-applying for Phases 2 & 3? Where do those Phases fit on the timeline?

Please rethink your response to science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors & complexes, etc.

Please revise your response as to how your project addresses habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, etc.

How likely is the imposition of local tax levy to fund the project? When would it go into effect?

Thanks for your efforts!

-Jane Kingston
Vice-Chair, LSOHC

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:07 PM
To: ashleybrenke@frontier.com
Cc: Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson
Subject: LSOHC HRE08 Proposal

Dear Mr. Katzenmeyer,

In addition to questions already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please be prepared during your presentation next week to address the following:

What is the impairment status of these five lakes?
Have they been surveyed and/or sampled?
What are the pollutants and what is the source?
Have the pollution sources been eliminated or mitigated?
Regarding Outcomes, who will measure what, and how?
Why did you not apply for a Clean Water Legacy grant?

Thanks for your efforts!

-Jane Kingston
Vice-Chair, LSOHC

From: [Mark Johnson](#)
To: [Amanda Brazee](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Joe Pavelko](#)
Subject: FW: LSOHC proposal
Date: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 3:03:15 PM

FYI

From: Ashley Brenke [mailto:ashleybrenke@frontier.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 1:13 PM
To: 'Julie A. Blackburn' <Julie.Blackburn@respec.com>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
Cc: 'Mike and Linda Katzenmeyer' <mlkatz@midco.net>
Subject: RE: LSOHC proposal

Hi Julie,

Thank you for your questions. Please see answers below in blue. Feel free to contact me and Mike (who is CC'ed on this email) with any additional questions.

Thanks again!
Ashley

From: Julie A. Blackburn [mailto:Julie.Blackburn@respec.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2016 3:07 PM
To: ashleybrenke@frontier.net
Cc: mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn
Subject: LSOHC proposal

Hi Mike/Ashley,

I'm on the LSOHC and am reviewing the proposal for Dutch Creek Habitat Restoration. I have a few questions for you in regards to your application.

First off regarding the wetlands, can you please provide a better sense of where these wetlands are that will be restored? Your description under "Design and Scope of Work" describes that the basins will be restored with wetland hydrology, but later under the discussion on timing you describe removing sediment. Please explain what type of wetland this is and how excavation will be performed to restore that wetland type. Have you worked with the DNR or wetland specialist to develop a plan that restores that specific wetland type? Many of the wetlands indicated on the national wetland inventory for this area are dominated by brushy/woody vegetation without a lot of standing water.

We have been working with staff from the DNR to develop this project proposal. The existing wetland type is a result of sedimentation and filling of floodplain and oxbow wetlands. Excavation will provide wetlands the proper depth and with other wetland characteristics suitable for northern spawning habitat. Type 1 and Type 2 wetlands that exist will be avoided and new wetlands will be established in areas adjacent to remaining wetlands. The excavation will remove the alluvial fan that has filled the western part of the PEM1B wetland basin located on 255-Mayer loam soils, 336-Delft loam soils and on the edge of 1834-Coland loam, frequently flooded soils. The waterway coming from the south over Delft soils has delivered the soil from cropland, filling spawning habitat.

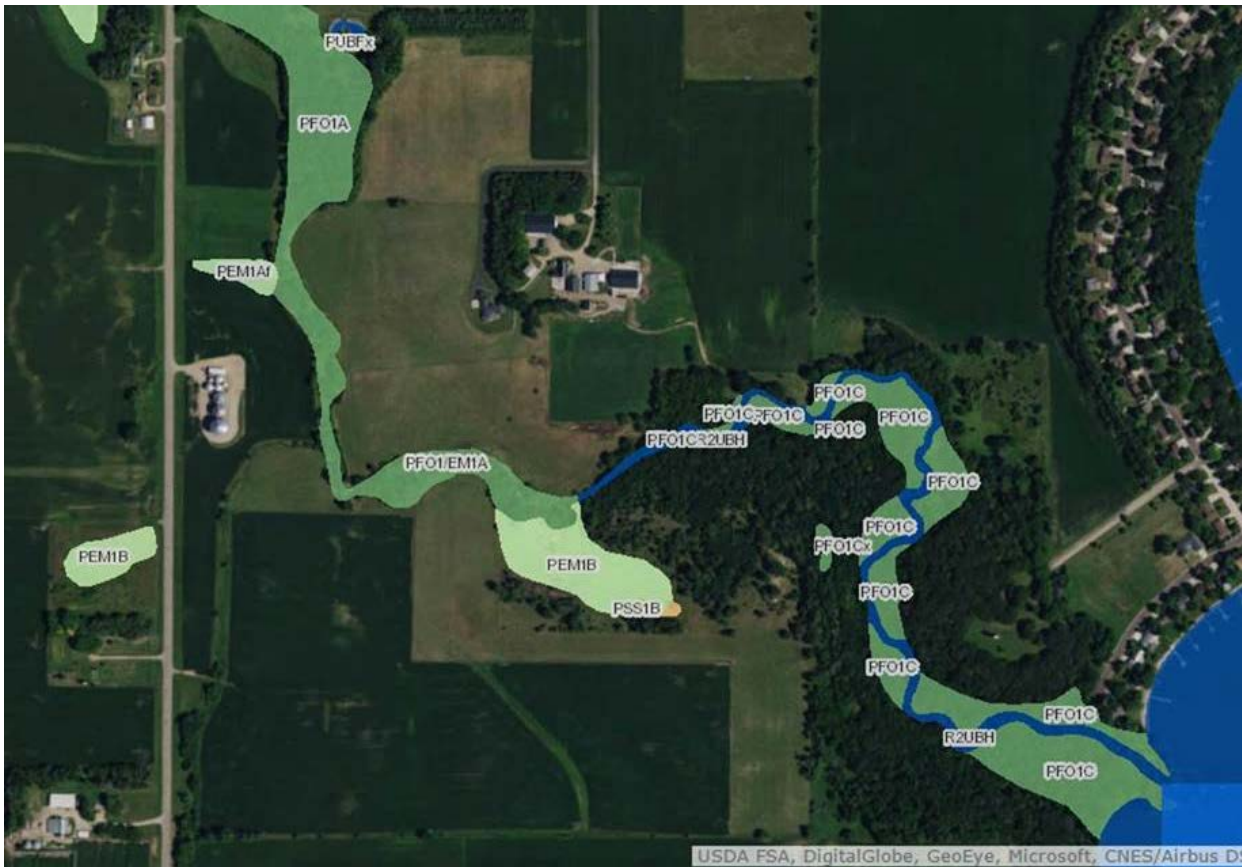
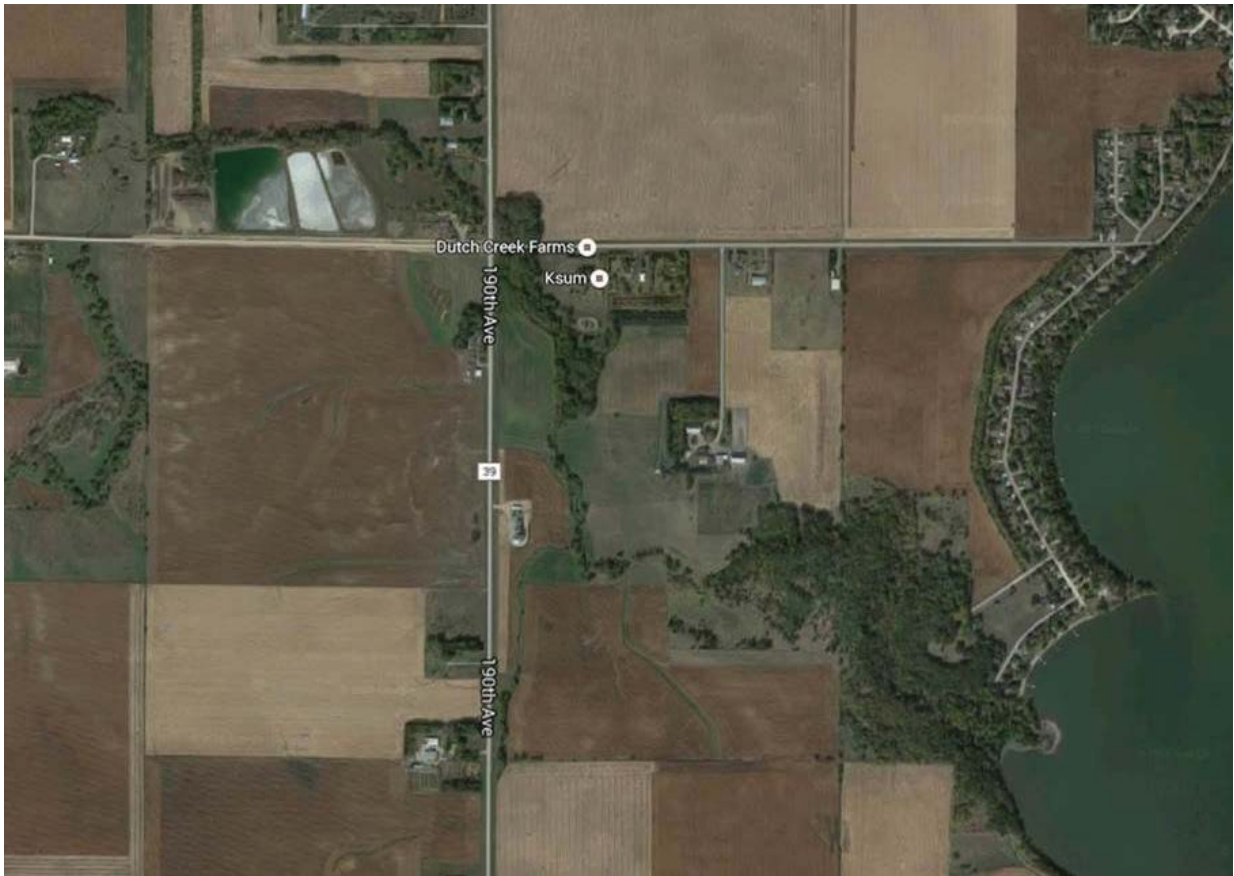
Secondly, can you help me understand the location of the diversion weir as it relates to these wetlands? This creek looks very shallow and occasionally dry, but it's been hard to find information on it except that it's impaired for turbidity and fecal coliform. Do you expect northerns to spawn in these wetlands by putting in these weir structures?

It was DNR staff's suggestion to install a diversion weir to facilitate fish passage. The location of the weirs would allow for water to be diverted into wetlands specifically designed for northern spawning habitat. The weirs would not impact the integrity of the Creek channel.

Lastly, although I'm not 100% sure and will need Mark to weigh in, but I do not think that previous investments made by the city can be counted as match. Typically match only includes investments made during the life of the grant.

Thank you for this information.

Thank you, Julie



Julie Blackburn, Minnesota Area Manager

Amanda Brazee

From: Hoch, Greg (DNR) <Greg.Hoch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR); Mark Johnson; Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee; Anderson Bob
Subject: RE: LSOHC PRE01

Hi Jane,

I may be able to provide more detail Mon, but here's a first shot.

I'm not sure why some of the parcels are in Section 3. I only uploaded one group of data. Is there any chance I had too many on the list and Sect 1 defaulted to Sect 3 for the remaining?

I have an email out to Judy Schulte about Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA.

Eran Sandquist will be emailing you about the Gun Lake parcel. I think that may be a miscommunication due to staff turnover in both the DNR and PF. We'll probably pull that for now and let PF complete the restoration.

The Douglas County line is a spreadsheet error. I'll dig that up over the weekend and get you a site.

There shouldn't be any RIM easements on this proposal. There may be a couple Prairie Bank Easements from the Eco/Water Resources part of the proposal.

The USFWS component is obviously a new element we added this year. I can explain that in more detail on Tues when we present to the entire Council.

Many thanks for all the time you've obviously spent going thru these proposals. It will make all of our presentations to the Council better.

gh

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Hoch, Greg (DNR) <Greg.Hoch@state.mn.us>
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Johnson Mark <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Pavelko Joe <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Smith Sandy <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Brazee Amanda <amanda.brazee@lsohc.leg.mn>; Anderson Bob <boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us>
Subject: LSOHC PRE01

Hello, Greg!

In addition to questions/comments already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please address the following:

Section 1

In §1-Page 12, what work is planned for Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA?

Section 3

Regarding §3-Other Parcels starting on page 16:

- I don't recall §3 being utilized in past phases. Why is it broken out now?
- Several of the parcels show specific work anticipated, such as "woody removal", "brome to natives conversion", "grove cutting", "tree removal", and others list generic work such as "enhancement", "restoration", or "conversions". Why isn't all of this included in §1-Restore/Enhance Parcels?
- Wasn't Gun Lake acquired under the PF/Sharptail program? Why aren't they doing the restoration?
- Douglas County parcel cites "local origin diversity plantings" - where, exactly, and what?
- Are some of these private? Some parcels appear to be RIM easements. Why aren't the owners doing the restoration & enhancement?

USFWS

The following USFW parcels don't specify what work is being contemplated, and are sufficient to comprise an entirely separate program - why not?

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>\$K</u>	
Detroit Lake	7500	240	
Big Stone NWR	7478	214	
Windom		8883	693
Agassiz NWR	9983	299	
Litchfield		9086	959
Fergus Falls	8180	534	
Glacial Ridge	4470	188	
Sherburne	8000	200	
<u>Morris</u>	<u>8460</u>	<u>455</u>	
TOTAL		72,040	3,782

Thanks for all your efforts!

-Jane

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 7:41 AM
To: Doug Hartke
Cc: Amanda Brazee; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson
Subject: Re: more on PA09

Very good!
 Thank you!

On Aug 19, 2016, at 6:07 AM, Doug Hartke <dhartke@frontiernet.net> wrote:

They are all Round outs and adds to existing WMA's

Here is my best guess for order of priority

David Crissinger 80	\$610,100
James Dick 40	\$242,000
Reed	\$190,000
Tenhassen Farms	\$720,700
Schultz	\$ 79,500
Striemer	\$167,500
 Total of	 \$2,009,800

Doug Hartke
 PO Box 455
 Sherburn, MN 56171
 507 236 1700 Cell
 507 764 4060 Office
 507 764 4065 Fax
 dhartke@frontiernet.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 1:10 PM
To: Doug Hartke <dhartke@frontiernet.net>
Cc: Rich Perrine <Richard.perrine@mn.nacdnet.net>
Subject: more on PA09

Thanks again, Doug -

In terms of these proposed acquisitions, will you please rank the 6 parcels from top to bottom, in order of best wildlife habitat value as explained under "Design & Scope of Work"?

Appreciate all you're doing!
 -JHK

On Aug 17, 2016, at 8:23 PM, Doug Hartke <dhartke@frontiernet.net> wrote:

Good evening Jane

I don't understand why this table is blank but here is my attempt to get you #'s

Rich Perrine is gone tonight but based on my #'s per parcel here is my best shot breakdown to get the PILT \$ per parcel costs I cc'd Rich who will be back tomorrow night and if his #'s are different we will respond back on Friday

David Crissinger 80	\$610,100
James Dick 40	\$242,000
Reed	\$190,000
Schultz	\$ 79,500
Strierner	\$167,500
Tenhassen Farms	\$720,700
Total of	\$2,009,800

If you have any other questions please let me know

Doug

Doug Hartke
Grant Coordinator/Board Member
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.
PO Box 455
Sherburn, MN 56171
507 236 1700 Cell
507 764 4060 Office
507 764 4065 Fax
dhartke@frontiernet.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 9:51 PM

To: dhartke@frontiernet.net

Cc: Pavelko Joe <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Smith Sandy <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Brazee Amanda <amanda.brazee@lsohc.leg.mn>; Johnson Mark <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>

Subject: LSOHC PA09

Hello, Doug,

Since the parcel list on Page 8, Section 2 lists zero (0) estimated costs for parcels, where does your Protect in Fee estimates come from?

Thanks for all your efforts,
Jane=

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 5:03 PM
To: Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson; Amanda Brazee
Subject: LSOHC WA02

From: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>
Subject: RE: LSOHC WA02
Date: August 16, 2016 at 6:48:22 PM CDT
To: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>

Thanks again, Jane. As discussed, this program is to buy and restore prairie and small wetlands primarily as breeding habitat for nesting ducks and other prairie wildlife. Secondly, these restored lands will buffer shallow lakes and existing large wetlands on state WMAs to minimize the agriculture runoff flowing into them.

Attached is one of my favorite map images of land on Tyler WMA that we hope to purchase with ML2017 OHF funds down in SW MN, where DNR owns just a thin ribbon of land around the large wetlands and shallow lakes that were too deep to drain years ago when the prairie was first plowed. Now, with state OHF funding, we are trying to put the pieces of the puzzle back together around the existing postage stamp of state WMA habitat to buffer those existing DNR basins and provide some nesting habitat too. Note all the small restorable wetlands on the parcel for sale, all of which drains east thru tile into Tyler WMA now.

For outcomes, we can measure water retention and improvements in the water quality running off that land into the WMA after we restore it, but it is really the breeding duck (and pheasant and grasshopper sparrow and bobolink) habitat outcomes that we are after. However, as discussed, it is very hard to document those ducklings produced without conducting an intensive, multi-year site-specific assessment or landscape-wide research project due to the complexity of duck nesting ecology and variability (recall our discussion about blue-winged teal numbers this year). Same for other game and non-game grassland bird species too!

Rather, we rely on good science to guide our work, which suggests that large patches of grass and small wetlands are the habitat factors limiting duck production in the Prairie Pothole Region, and more grass and wetland restorations are needed. Specifically, we rely on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Habitat & Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) annual 4-square mile monitoring and models to guide where we work and how much habitat is needed.

In the case of Tyler WMA, it will take more habitat adjacent to and in the landscape around Tyler WMA (via RIM easements, etc) to make it a duck nesting hot-spot – but, we must start somewhere and we can't ignore the opportunity to acquire/restore this parcel that is for sale now and available to restore (easement not an option). Over time, restoring more land there will help restore the functions of it as a prairie-wetland complex that will grow more ducks as size increases.

Meanwhile, we don't ignore purchasing land for sale in existing hot-spots for ducks, such as the 40 acres we are buying Altona WMA via ML2016 just a few miles west near Lake Benton (see attached maps). Here, the USFWS estimates duck breeding pairs range from 21-40 pairs per square mile in spring, indicating strong landscape attractiveness and breeding effort in most years. This land includes both native prairie and wetlands both, which is always high priority to protect. However, these jewels are not often available, and thus restoration of sites with drained basins such as on Tyler WMA become important to acquire/restore too.

I hope this helps, please let me know if you have any other questions or suggestions for how we can better communicate our work. Cheers! Jon

JON SCHNEIDER
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Manager - Minnesota Conservation Programs
Office: 320.762.9916 / Cell: 320.815.0327

From: Jane Kingston [<mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:43 PM
To: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>
Subject: LSOHC WA02

Same question on this one....thanks again!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Subject: LSOHC WRE02
Date: August 16, 2016 at 4:37:41 PM CDT
To: Schneider Jon <jschneider@ducks.org>

Hi, Jon!

I've got a question - what specific parameters and measurements will be used for Outcomes?

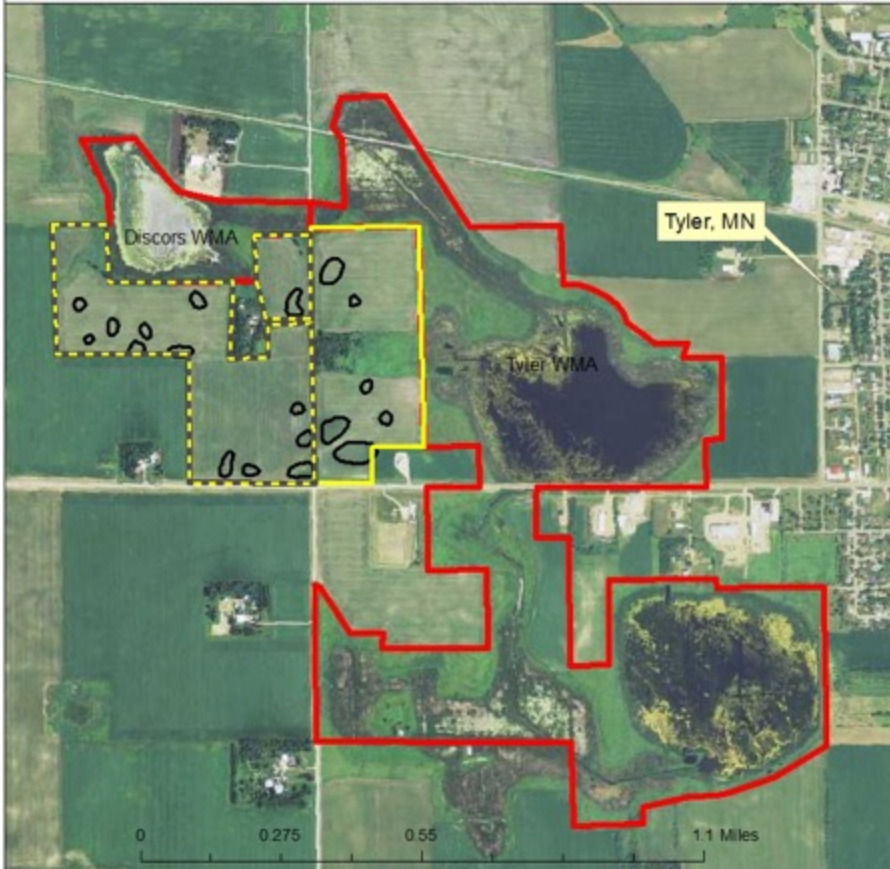
Thanks very much!

-Jane



Tyler/Discors WMA

Lincoln County, MN
109-44-4&5
Goehle Tracts: 155 acres combined



LIVING LAKES

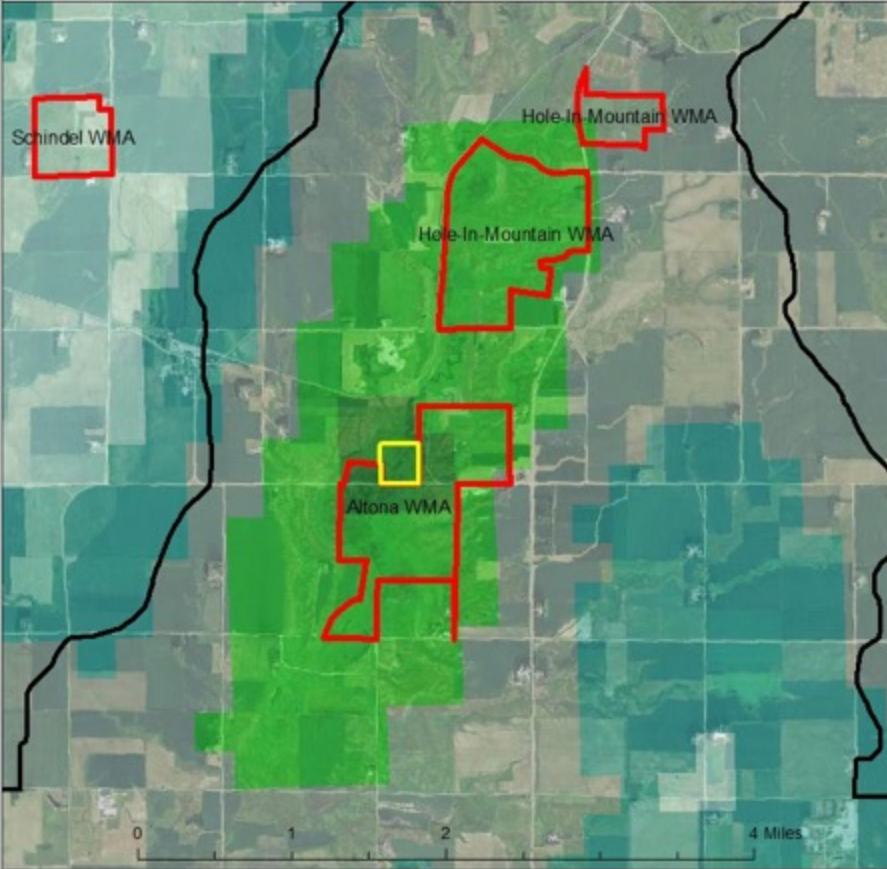


-  Goehle Tract - Discors WMA
-  Goehle Tract - Tyler WMA
-  Restorable Wetlands
-  WMA Boundaries



Altona WMA - Tract 7

Lincoln County, MN
109-46-36 Total acres: 40
Wetland acres: 6 Upland acres: 34



LIVING LAKES



- Prairie Plan Core Area
- Altona - Tract 7
- WMA Boundaries

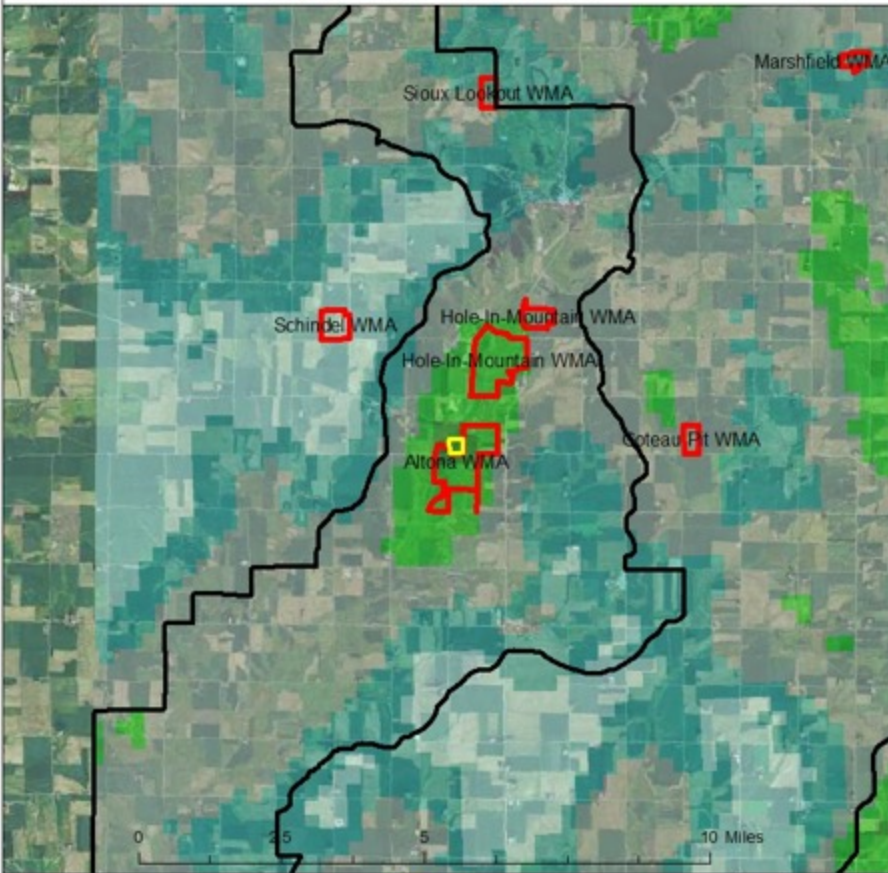
USFWS Predicted Duck Pairs/Sq. Mile

- 0-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40



Altona WMA - Tract 7

Lincoln County, MN
109-46-36 Total acres: 40
Wetland acres: 6 Upland acres: 34



LIVING LAKES



- Prairie Plan Core Area
- Altona - Tract 7
- WMA Boundaries

USFWS Predicted Duck Pairs/Sq. Mile

- 0-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40



Amanda Brazee

From: Penning, Bill (BWSR) <Bill.Penning@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 10:19 AM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson; Koehler, Tim (BWSR); Rickert, Dave (BWSR)
Subject: RE: LSOHC WA03

Hi Jane,

We've been through these issues a couple of times in the early days but I expect that was before you were on the council. Again to reiterate what Dave said the feeling is that if we showed both protect acres and restore acres it would give the appearance of double counting because we are both protecting and restoring on the same acres. This decision was made by LSOHC staff a number of years ago after discussions with affected partners. We were directed to not show restoration acres and have been following that guidance ever since. The budget and tables treat protection and restoration as if they were entirely different things occurring on different acres.

The RIM program, by statute, is required to acquire marginal lands in easement AND restore them when needed. The original legislative intent of the program was to get poor land out of agricultural production and put it back into conservation. The statute is also clear that we are supposed to pay landowners for restorations. We pay actual costs with not to exceed caps. The landowners are not double dipping. They are getting paid for the value of their land and receive no profit from the restoration. The restoration costs are borne by the state because it's for a public purpose (wildlife habitat, water quality and soil health benefits). I am not aware of any easement program, either state or federal, that takes agricultural land permanently out of production and requires the landowner to pay for the restoration.

More recently we've branched out a bit into parcels that just need protection (Wild Rice, ACUB, etc). In these cases the land is already in good condition and we don't budget for restoration nor does the landowner receive any payment for such things.

Bill

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 8:26 PM
To: Rickert, Dave (BWSR) <Dave.Rickert@state.mn.us>
Cc: Smith Sandy <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Pavelko Joe <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Brazee Amanda <amanda.brazee@lsohc.leg.mn>; Johnson Mark <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Penning, Bill (BWSR) <Bill.Penning@state.mn.us>; Koehler, Tim (BWSR) <Tim.Koehler@state.mn.us>
Subject: Re: LSOHC WA03

Alrighty then!

Is it possible that this has already been explained to Council? Possibly, and equally possible that if so, it escaped me!

I note that FY14 RIM-WMA was both Protect & Restore, FY15 was Protect only, FY16 N/A, and FY17 was Protect only.

So I feel a little better, in that this years proposal is different than last year's.....maybe this is the first I've been made aware.

I guess I'm left wondering why we're paying to do restorations on private holdings.....even though I understand the "overlap" concern of double counting acreages, they are distinctly different activities, so I am unsure it's justified that double-counting acreage concerns should override the concern about paying for restorations on private easements, which I believe should be borne by the property owner, should it not?

There's a double, overlapping concern here, too — one of payment — in that property/easement owner gets paid, and doesn't have to perform restoration to boot. That's kind of a double dip, too, isn't it?

Shouldn't this sort of decision be made by Council?

Thanks for the discussion.....

-Jane

On Aug 17, 2016, at 2:37 PM, Rickert, Dave (BWSR) <Dave.Rickert@state.mn.us> wrote:

Jane, Thank you for your question.

The restoration costs are built into the easement acquisition budget line (shown as \$22,035,700). In the budget table, there is no separate line item for restoration costs.

The "Restore" activity type has been selected to clarify our intent to restore easement sites secured through this same Phase. There were some earlier funded LSOHC proposals where "Protect in easement" was selected, but "Restore" was not additionally selected. A question was then raised of if BWSR had the authority to restore the easements we acquired. It was agreed between LSOHC Staff & BWSR Staff to select "Restore" to clarify our restoration intent on proposals, moving forward.

No "Restore" acres are shown in the output tables intentionally. We intend to acquire 10,000 easement acres, and then pursue restoration on these easement acres. We believe this was the clearest way to describe our expected outcomes on the output table and it highlights the easement acres being 1. Acquired, then 2. Restored. We also do not want to run the risk of appearing to double count acreage accomplishments.

Please let me know if you have any further questions as you consider this proposal.

Sincerely,
Dave Rickert

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [<mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:41 PM

To: Rickert, Dave (BWSR) <Dave.Rickert@state.mn.us>

Cc: Smith Sandy <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Pavelko Joe <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Brazee Amanda <amanda.brazee@lsohc.leg.mn>; Johnson Mark <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>

Subject: LSOHC WA03

Hello, Dave,

Page 1 of your proposal cites "Restore" and protect and "restore 10,000 acres" - but I don't see any restoration \$\$ or acres in Table 1a.

Is it a typo, or omission?

Thanks for your time & efforts,
Jane

Amanda Brazee

From: Mark Johnson
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 6:19 AM
To: Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee
Subject: FW: LSOHC proposal WRE 01
Attachments: Ricky Lien.vcf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI

From: Lien, Ricky (DNR) [mailto:Ricky.Lien@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:32 PM
To: Julie A. Blackburn <Julie.Blackburn@respec.com>
Cc: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: RE: LSOHC proposal WRE 01

Ms. Blackburn,

Thank you for the chance to correct and clarify our Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. I'll be the first to admit that I erred when I submitted the proposal without completing a section. That was simply a case of jumping around in the proposal process to fill out different sections and simply overlooking the fact that I missed one. It wasn't until we got comments from LSOHC members commenting on the oversight that I realized what had happened.

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

I'll touch on wetlands in general, then shallow lakes.

Minnesota has lost almost half of its original presettlement wetlands, with some regions of the state having lost more than 90% of their original wetlands. A statewide review of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) found that wetlands are one of the three habitat types (along with prairies and rivers) most used by these species. This request includes wetland management actions identified to support SGCN: prevention of wetland degradation, wetland restoration, and control of invasives.

Nationwide, 43% of threatened or endangered plants and animals live in or depend on wetlands.

As noted in Minnesota's Shallow Lakes Plan, Minnesota's shallow lakes are key components to this vision of a productive landscape for waterfowl. No other state has the diversity or quantity of shallow lake resources that Minnesota can provide. From the large prairie lakes to wild rice bays bordered by forest, the state has a unique resource that has been taken for granted and abused. These lakes provide habitat for many species of wildlife including waterfowl, other water birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish. The Long Range Duck Recovery Plan (LRDRP) suggests that at least 1,800 shallow lakes, almost half of the total resource, will have to be protected and managed if the state is going to achieve the targets set for recovery of duck populations. These lakes are important migration habitats as well as breeding habitats for over-nesting species of waterfowl. This valuable breeding habitat has decreased with higher water levels in lakes and wetlands over the last two decades.

Shallow lakes are important habitats for many species of wildlife beyond waterfowl. Many have large numbers for colonial nesting water birds (key example lakes are Thief, Marsh, and Christina). These lakes provide important habitat to many environmentally sensitive species and species listed as having the “Greatest Conservation Need” by the MnDNR in Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare (THWR). Over 20 species listed as a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) utilize shallow lake habitats (MnDNR 2006). Over a dozen Species of Greatest Conservation Need have been documented on shallow lakes that are being actively managed for wildlife. Specific examples include Ash Lake and Smith Lake projects which attracted a lot of attention from the birding community. Drawdowns on shallow lakes often increase emergent cover which is beneficial to several SGCN including Horned, Red-necked and Eared grebes. Many other SGCN benefit from increased aquatic vegetation, increased invertebrates and increased water quality that result from shallow lake management projects. N. Hansel-Welch, personal communication).

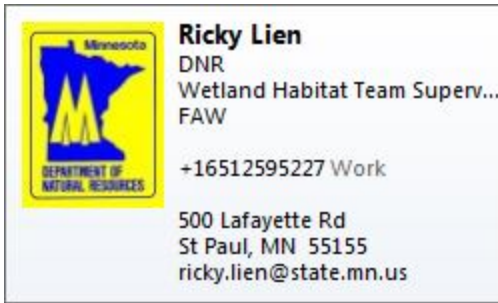
Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The Minnesota Long Range Duck Recovery Plan (LRDRP) includes as a primary strategy the restoration and protection of 2 million additional acres (30% wetland, 70% grassland) habitat in wetland/grassland habitat complexes. While restoration and acquisition are critical, they go hand in hand with ongoing maintenance and active management of existing habitat. While the need to restore and acquire habitat is critical, there are potentially dramatic shifts on the horizon that will further impact shallow lakes and their watersheds. These possible impacts include: changes in population demographics, land use changes, increased water demands, climate change, and invasive species. Because of these and a myriad of other issues, waterfowl and wetland managers are beginning to recognize that land protection through acquisition or easements is not enough to provide quality habitat or maintain water quality. The implications of these multiple impacts necessitate the need for active management of aquatic habitats and watersheds for wildlife and waterfowl (Baldassarre and Bolen, 2006). Active management may include drawdowns, rotenone treatments, herbicide treatments or other manipulations of fish communities and managing run-off through wetland and grassland restoration. Likewise, in order for the state to have quality waterfowl habitat, active management and further protection of shallow lakes are necessary along with the strategies outlined in the State’s LRDRP. Management and maintenance resulting from implementation of this proposal will maintain and improve existing wetland habitat.

In the Minnesota County Biological Survey description of the marsh community, special attention is given to two issues faced in Minnesota marshes - stable high water levels that reduce species diversity, often to a point at which a monotypic system evolves, and the "invasion of marshes by the non-native species narrow-leaved cattail" and its hybrids. Both of these issues will be addressed by projects named within this proposal.

Thank you for the chance to respond and please let me know if you have any further questions. I find this very helpful to be able to hear from Council members about their questions and concerns. I’ll probably struggle to come up with a good answer, but my wetland team and shallow lakes staff are absolutely awesome and I can depend on them to help me out!

Ricky



From: Julie A. Blackburn [<mailto:Julie.Blackburn@respec.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 8:02 PM

To: Lien, Ricky (DNR)

Cc: Mark Johnson

Subject: LSOHC proposal WRE 01

Hello Mr. Lien:

In reviewing the rankings for submitted proposals, this one unfortunately was quite low. I outlined below two reasons that I think this may have happened, and I am submitting this to you for your review and hopes that when you come to the hearing you will provide greater details. You could also submit details in advance of the meeting if you choose.

Below are two questions from the proposal. The first one needs to be answered. I shouldn't have even scored this proposal based on not providing an answer, but I gave you the benefit of the doubt. The answer to the second question should be more detailed. It's not an adequate description.

I encourage you to critique your own proposal and compare it with others that are very complete and provide a handout that more fully explains the project. I'm a strong advocate for shallow lakes management. Minnesota is a leader in shallow lakes management and we can't fall behind.

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Not Listed

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Shallow lakes in Minnesota are monitored and evaluated by area wildlife staff and dedicated shallow lake specialists who both identify shallow lakes needing management action and monitors the lakes post-management to assess effectiveness. The projects in this proposal were proposed by area wildlife and reviewed by regional and program specialists

Julie Blackburn

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Amanda Brazee

From: Lien, Ricky (DNR) <Ricky.Lien@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 12:48 PM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR); Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson; Sandy Smith
Subject: RE: LSOHC WRE01
Attachments: 1463416399-Duck Plan Highlights B.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning, Ms. Kingston.

Thanks for sending these questions my way and giving me a chance to respond. Besides the opportunity to clarify our current proposal, questions like this will help me improve future proposals. In the name of getting you a quick response and making it readable, I'm going to insert my comments/answers in **red font** within your message below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [<mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com>]
 Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 10:16 PM
 To: Lien, Ricky (DNR)
 Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR); Pavelko Joe; Brazee Amanda; Johnson Mark; Smith Sandy
 Subject: LSOHC WRE01

Hello, Ricky,

In addition to issues already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please address these concerns ASAP, or during your presentation next week:

How will the eleven monotypic cattail stands be managed?

All stands are proposed for treatment with herbicide. The type of herbicide and the method of application (aerial vs. Marshmaster boom sprayer) is selected by the property manager to best suit the situation. This request was prepared before we knew if we would have approval to use OHF funding from a previous grant to purchase an aerial spray unit to mount on a DNR helicopter. Since we subsequently got permission to make that purchase, our managers have been notified that future use of this new equipment should be considered as an option due to the cost savings it will provide us.

What is the estimated lifespan on the infrastructure replacements, and what are they?

Good question. For 20+ years I've told people that anytime we can get more than 30 years out of a structure or dike it's a bonus. More recently DNR engineers have put some work into estimated lifespans of wetland habitat infrastructure, which will also give you an idea of what we're talking about when we say infrastructure. Their estimates were...

- *Corrugated steel (CMP) – ½ round riser WCS, culvert, etc. – 15 year life span*

- *Concrete box structure/drop structure type – 30-40 year life span*
- *Lined earthen embankments, dikes, etc. – 20-30 year life span – in this case we are usually not replacing a structure but making repairs to an existing structure as we are generally not making new impoundments*

And I'd add fish control structures to the above list.

Finally, I'd make two very important points when we talk about infrastructure.

1. A few years ago the Department attempted to do a census of all the water control structures we manage. The final tally was that **we had 700 water control structures and that 30% of them were more than 30 years old!** In other words, we have at least 210 structures that have met or exceeded their life expectancy.
2. Reaching or exceeding the life expectancy of our infrastructure means a lot of maintenance work and this is one role that our Roving Habitat Crews can fill.

Which 2222-acre shallow lake is getting fish control device? Map would be great.

This is an exciting opportunity – Freeborn Lake. There's always been a hope to do something at Freeborn Lake, but given the scope of the project it's been on a backburner. That fact that it's now moving forward is in no small part due to other shallow lake projects undertaken by Area Manager Jeanine Vorland (State Line Lake, Bear Lake, Geneva) and the impressive results that she's gotten. Ducks Unlimited has stepped forward and will be engineering and installing the needed infrastructure for this project, but Jeanine wanted the ability to do a rotenone treatment as well and DU was not able to include that expense in their budget, so we are asking for OHF money in this proposal.

Here are two maps of Freeborn Lake. One of the maps shows the findings of a survey done by our Shallow Lakes Program. Note that they found zero vegetation.

Exhibit B

Freeborn County CSAH29

33

Cobb River

Fish Barrier Site

Freeborn County CSAH27

4

3



Please describe the moist soil project in greater detail.

Moose River Moist Soil Unit is located in the Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area. The project entails the creation of a 12-acre moist soil unit. Engineering for the project was funded by a previous OHF grant (no acres were claimed since it was just design work). Since design work was funded by OHF, we feel the need to offer the Council the opportunity to fund construction of the project. That being said, moist soil unit projects are expensive to build and can be costly to maintain, though they can be extremely productive in terms of waterfowl value. When the project was designed, moist soil projects were a higher Department priority. We have few, if any, moist soil projects that we are considering at this time, but Moose River is still on our backlog of projects that have been designed and is awaiting funding for construction.

There's no response to the question asking for how project will produce/demonstrate permanent conservation legacy (bottom Page 2).

My apologies for missing this question. I simply overlooked putting in a response and wasn't aware of the oversight until seeing your comments.

I'll touch on wetlands in general, then shallow lakes.

Minnesota has lost almost half of its original presettlement wetlands, with some regions of the state having lost more than 90% of their original wetlands. A statewide review of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) found that wetlands are one of the three habitat types (along with prairies and rivers) most used by these species. This request includes wetland management actions identified to support SGCN: prevention of wetland degradation, wetland restoration, and control of invasives.

Nationwide, 43% of threatened or endangered plants and animals live in or depend on wetlands.

As noted in Minnesota's Shallow Lakes Plan, Minnesota's shallow lakes are key components to this vision of a productive landscape for waterfowl. No other state has the diversity or quantity of shallow lake resources that Minnesota can provide. From the large prairie lakes to wild rice bays bordered by forest, the state has a unique resource that has been taken for granted and abused. These lakes provide habitat for many species of wildlife including waterfowl, other water birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish. The Long Range Duck Recovery Plan (LRDRP) suggests that at least 1,800 shallow lakes, almost half of the total resource, will have to be protected and managed if the state is going to achieve the targets set for recovery of duck populations. These lakes are important migration habitats as well as breeding habitats for over-nesting species of waterfowl. This valuable breeding habitat has decreased with higher water levels in lakes and wetlands over the last two decades.

Shallow lakes are important habitats for many species of wildlife beyond waterfowl. Many have large numbers for colonial nesting water birds (key example lakes are Thief, Marsh, and Christina). These lakes provide important habitat to many environmentally sensitive species and species listed as having the "Greatest Conservation Need" by the MnDNR in Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare (THWR). Over 20 species listed as a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) utilize shallow lake habitats (MnDNR 2006). Over a dozen Species of Greatest Conservation Need have been documented on shallow lakes that are being actively managed for wildlife. Specific examples include Ash Lake and Smith Lake projects which attracted a lot of attention from the birding community. Drawdowns on shallow lakes often increase emergent cover which is beneficial to several SGCN including Horned, Red-necked and Eared grebes. Many other SGCN benefit from increased aquatic vegetation, increased invertebrates and increased water quality that result from shallow lake management projects. N. Hansel-Welch, personal communication).

Add a reference to the Shallow Lakes program (website even), or insert more detailed description/verbiage on the science-based aspect.

The DNR's Shallow Lakes Program is the biggest and best in the nation. And that's not only my admittedly biased opinion, individuals within the program have won state and national awards for the work they are doing. Nicole Hansel-Welch, the head of the Shallow Lakes Program, has recently been awarded both a national award from the USFWS and the highest state award from The Wildlife Society, besides being an invited speaker at national and regional conferences. Other programs in the Department have expressed envy of this program that effectively meshes (1) science-based assessments, (2) proven management techniques, and (3) cooperation with others to accomplish meaningful research.

That being said, here's a link to their webpages: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/shallowlakes/index.html>

A bit more on the science-based aspect. The Minnesota Long Range Duck Recovery Plan (LRDRP) includes as a primary strategy the restoration and protection of 2 million additional acres (30% wetland, 70% grassland) habitat in wetland/grassland habitat complexes. While restoration and acquisition are critical, they go hand in hand with ongoing maintenance and active management of existing habitat. While the need to restore and acquire habitat is critical, there are potentially dramatic shifts on the horizon that will further impact shallow lakes and their watersheds. These possible impacts include: changes in population demographics, land use changes, increased water demands, climate change, and invasive species. Because of these and a myriad of other issues, waterfowl and wetland managers are beginning to recognize that land protection through acquisition or easements is not enough to provide quality habitat or maintain water quality. The implications of these multiple impacts necessitate the need for active management of aquatic habitats and watersheds for wildlife and waterfowl (Baldassarre and Bolen, 2006). Active management may include drawdowns, rotenone treatments, herbicide treatments or other manipulations of fish communities and managing run-off through wetland and grassland restoration. Likewise, in order for the state to have quality waterfowl habitat, active management and further protection of shallow lakes are necessary along with the strategies outlined in the State's LRDRP. Management and maintenance resulting from implementation of this proposal will maintain and improve existing wetland habitat.

In the Minnesota County Biological Survey description of the marsh community, special attention is given to two issues faced in Minnesota marshes - stable high water levels that reduce species diversity, often to a point at which a monotypic system evolves, and the "invasion of marshes by the non-native species narrow-leaved cattail" and its hybrids. Both of these issues will be addressed by projects named within this proposal.

Please add more detail to the section on which wildlife SGCN, threatened/endangered species are being targeted, and name which are targets.

As noted above, shallow lakes are important habitats for many species of wildlife beyond waterfowl. Many have large numbers for colonial nesting water birds (key example lakes are Thief, Marsh, and Christina). These lakes provide important habitat to many environmentally sensitive species and species listed as having the "Greatest Conservation Need" by the MnDNR in Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare (THWR). Over 20 species listed as a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) utilize shallow lake habitats (MnDNR 2006). Over a dozen Species of Greatest Conservation Need have been documented on shallow lakes that are being actively managed for wildlife. Specific examples include Ash Lake and Smith Lake projects which attracted a lot of attention from the birding community. Drawdowns on shallow lakes often increase emergent cover which is beneficial to several SGCN including Horned, Red-necked and Eared grebes. Many other SGCN benefit from increased aquatic vegetation, increased invertebrates and increased water quality that result from shallow lake management projects. N. Hansel-Welch, personal communication).

Forty-three percent of threatened or endangered species in the U.S. live in or depend on wetlands. This includes plants and animals.

Under indicator species, I'm guessing there's a typo where it says "one add'l trumpeter swan supported by each 50 acres....should be 150, right (at least that's what all the other applicants claim).

One trumpeter swan pair would be supported by each 150 acres. It was a typo. (Everyone else got their information from me, so I should have gotten this one right!)

For outcomes, what parameters will be measured?

Shallow lake projects are assessed by Shallow Lake Program specialists both pre-management and post-management. Assessments are standardized to provide measures of vegetation, water clarity, waterfowl use, and water quality. Projects are also inspected by DNR Wildlife Management property managers to determine management effectiveness. Projects engineered and having construction overseen by DNR engineers are subject to post-construction inspections by DNR engineers to determine if construction work meets established criteria.

Although several different funding sources are cited in order to sustain/maintain the program, there's no leverage mentioned - what is status on such applications to other fund sources?

A backlog of wetland work waits for funding. Clean Water Funding was recently sought through two proposals, one to expand the Shallow Lakes Program to increase work in southwest Minnesota and a second to initiate a program to address issues that are causing poor quality small wetlands in the prairie portion of Minnesota. While both proposals were viewed favorably by Clean Water Fund committees, neither was selected for funding at least in part because they were seen as wildlife projects, not clean water projects. Bonding has been sought to address the backlog of aging water control structures. Bonding is subject to legislative action and competing Department needs. Bonding has been used for wetland projects, but it is not possible to determine how much will be available or for which projects it might be used. Waterfowl stamp funding in the amount of \$600,000 annually is available for waterfowl habitat and management work. Requests for this funding exceed how much is available.

Please describe and detail capital equipment and supplies/materials.

Capital equipment - \$160,000 for the purchase of a MarshTracker. This is an amphibious tracked vehicle that is extremely valuable for a variety of wetland/shallow lake work. Roving Habitat Crews in some parts of the state have access to them, but the Region 3 Roving Habitat Crew does not. Uses of a MarshTracker include spraying cattails, establishing firebreaks, watercontrol structure and outlet maintenance, and a variety of other activities. Here is a YouTube video of a MarshTracker that shows some of its capabilities - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjRZRSHPeEs>.

Supplies – Supply funding is sought for:

- Region 3 Roving Habitat Crew – tools, personal protective equipment, beaver control supplies, etc.
- Shallow lakes staff/interns – tools, lab supplies, personal protective equipment, etc.
- Specific projects – herbicide, tools, construction items, water control structure or fish barrier repair items, etc.

The color, double-sided attachment doesn't fit on the page - please replace.

I'm not sure why it doesn't fit. I don't think I can go in and replace anything in the submitted proposal at this time, but I'll look to see what I can do. I'll also bring along a supply to the Council meeting next week.

All this will really be helpful - thanks for all your efforts!

-Jane

MEMORANDUM:

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Minnesota Land Trust

Date: July 27, 2016

Re: Questions on Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor Project (FA01)

Below please find responses to a number of questions which have been raised by LSOHC members regarding the Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor Project (FA01). The Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County appreciate an opportunity to respond to these questions and would welcome any other questions or comments you may have. Because of the great importance of this habitat complex to the Metro area, we want to ensure our design for the project addresses the Council's concerns from the onset, is fully transparent and has the support of all the parties involved. The responses below are as we understand the project today; please note however that a final easement has yet to be negotiated.

1. What area will actually be covered by this phase and what will subsequent phases cover (e.g.: what is the scope of the overall project)?

Washington County has identified the Carnelian Creek Corridor as one of its top conservation priorities due its uniquely large and intact blocks of wildlife habitat. This phase anticipates protecting 735 acres at the juncture of the Tanglewood and Carnelian Creek Corridor priority areas (see attached map). The overall extent of wildlife habitat (primarily forests, lakes/wetlands and grasslands) within the corridor is approximately 3500 acres. Subsequent phases will depend on landowner readiness and available funding. Due to the large scale of the project, the map of the easement area provided in the proposal is a generalization of the area to be covered by the easement. We will provide a refined map showing more detailed boundaries if we are selected for a hearing.

2. Who will own the land and who will hold the easement?

Warner Nature Center will own the property subject to a perpetual conservation easement co-held between the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County who have a long history of co-holding easements within the county. The Minnesota Land Trust will be responsible for annual monitoring of the easement.

3. What is the quality of the habitat and the quality of the lakes which will be protected?

As seen in the proposal, both the extent and quality of the wildlife habitat is exceptional, especially for the Twin Cities Metro area. The mesic oak-maple forest which covers the property is characterized as “high-quality” by the MN DNR for its biodiversity. Three significant plant communities and three rare animal species have been identified on the property and are recorded in the MNDNR’s Natural Heritage Database. This project has the unprecedented opportunity to protect more than 10 miles of shoreline habitat on three different lakes. These lakes are clear, high-quality (ranked A-quality by the Met Council), and invasive-free lakes, making them a very unique fishery resource in the region.

4. What uses will be allowed and/or prohibited by the easement?

While the easement will be drafted once funding decisions are known, the Land Trust and County will approach the easement terms with the following goals:

USES: The goal will be to prohibit industrial, residential or commercial uses of the property and to prohibit subdivision of the property for any of these purposes. The easement would allow low impact nature education activities to continue.

BUILDINGS: The Land Trust and County’s approach to this project will be to exclude as much infrastructure (buildings, roads, etc.) from the easement area as possible. Both the Nature Center headquarters on the west side and the old Concordia Language Village on the east will be excluded from the easement area. A small number of buildings that are difficult to exclude from the easement area due to location (such as remote maintenance sheds, etc.) will likely remain in the easement area; expansion of these structures will be restricted by the terms of the easement. New buildings will also be restricted by the terms of the easement.

ROADS AND PARKING: The easement area contains only two principal driveways within the easement area, one that connects from the County Highway on the west perimeter of the property to Warner Nature Center (with a modestly-used extension eastward to a boat house and docks on the lakes), and a driveway to the May farmsite on the east edge of the property. The goal will be to restrict any new roads or rights of way from crossing the easement area in the future. Existing parking areas will be excluded from the easement and the easement will prohibit any future parking lots.

TRAILS: The easement area does not include the Gateway Trail. A network of unpaved forest paths used for nature education and property management exists on the property (see attached map). These existing trails are low-maintenance, natural surface trails which are compatible with the habitat conservation goals of the property.

LAND MANAGEMENT: Land management will be the responsibility of Warner Nature Center. The property will be required to be managed in accordance with a

habitat management plan approved by the easement holders. The plan will include goals for maintaining and enhancing the high quality habitat which exists today.

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE: Other infrastructure related to the nature center uses include a small board walk and small docks. These will be limited in number and location by the easement.

5. What are the extent and character of existing trails on the property?

As described above, the existing trails are used for nature education, observation and management. They are generally natural surface, low impact forest trails which are compatible with the goals of wildlife conservation. There are approximately 11 miles of trails which traverse the easement area. These trails will aid in the monitoring of the easement and in the management of the habitat. Higher impact trails such as the Gateway Trail are excluded from the easement area.

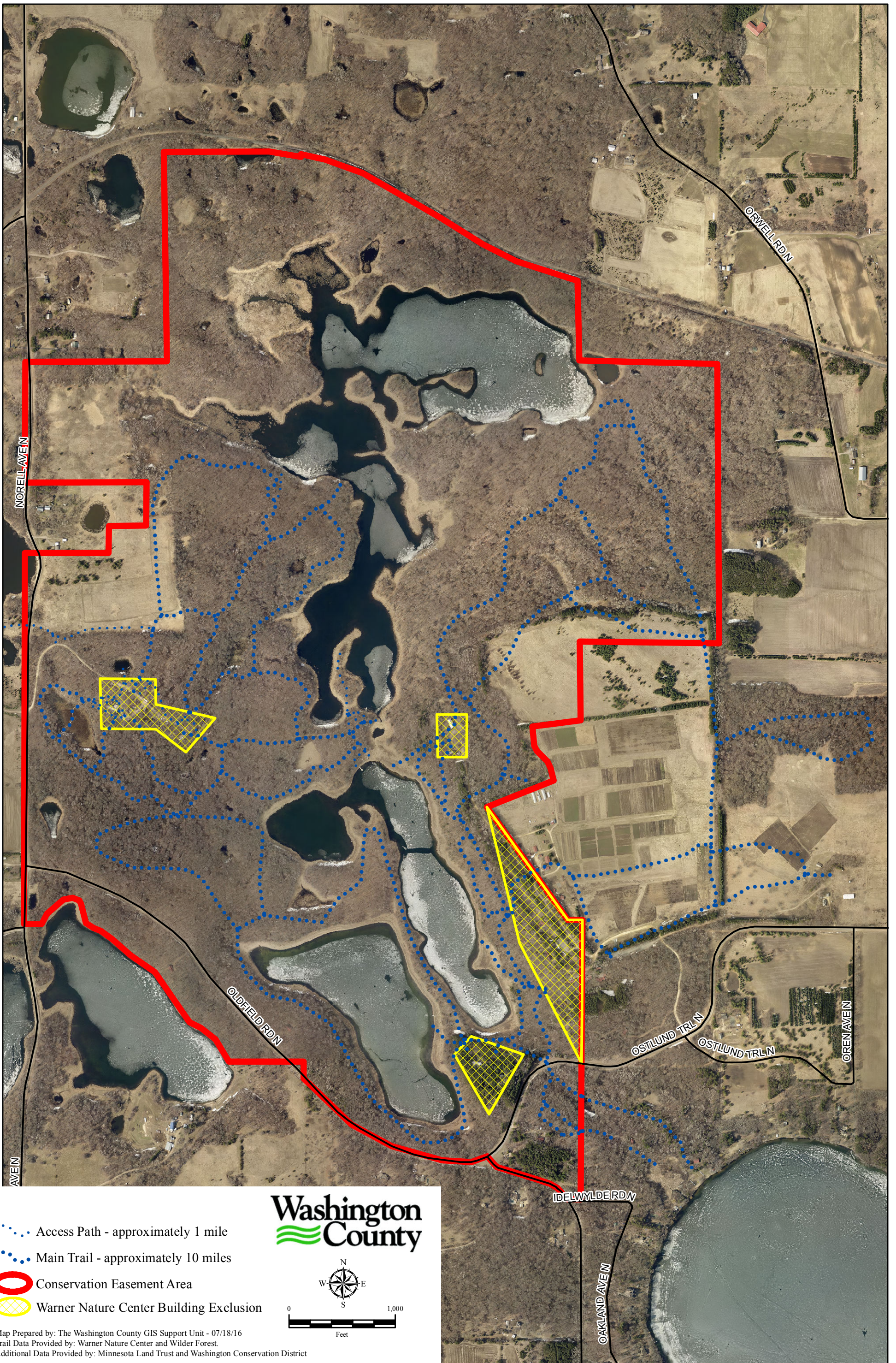
6. Are there any existing legal restrictions on the property?

There are no existing legal restrictions on the area proposed to be subject to the conservation easement. As such, the property could currently be sold, subdivided, logged or farmed according to local zoning. Moreover, this property is highly desirable for residential development due to its extensive lakeshore. An existing conservation easement held by Washington County and the State of Minnesota is located on 40 acres of Warner Nature Center land which is adjacent to the area which will be subject to the new easement.

7. How will the permanency of the easement be ensured?

As with all easements held by the Minnesota Land Trust, the easement will be monitored annually according to national Land Trust Accreditation Standards to ensure compliance with the easement. In the unlikely event of a violation, the Land Trust and County will jointly enforce the terms of the easement.

Proposed Wilder Forest/Warner Nature Center Conservation Easement Area



- Access Path - approximately 1 mile
- Main Trail - approximately 10 miles

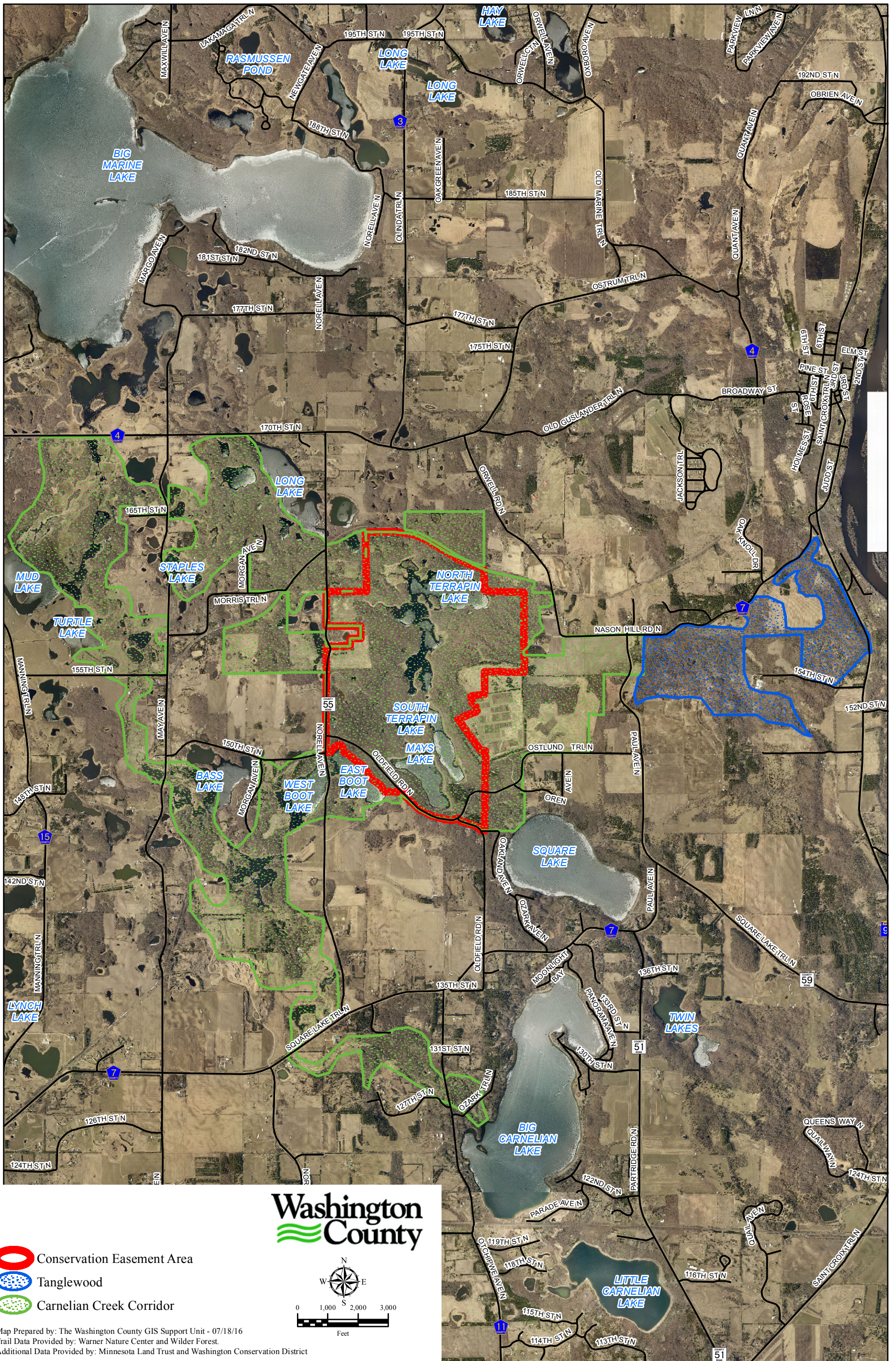
- Conservation Easement Area
- Warner Nature Center Building Exclusion

**Washington
County**




0 1,000
Feet

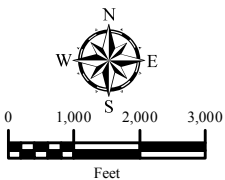
Map Prepared by: The Washington County GIS Support Unit - 07/18/16
 Trail Data Provided by: Warner Nature Center and Wilder Forest.
 Additional Data Provided by: Minnesota Land Trust and Washington Conservation District

Proposed Wilder Forest/Warner Nature Center Conservation Easement Area



Washington County

-  Conservation Easement Area
-  Tanglewood
-  Carnelian Creek Corridor



Map Prepared by: The Washington County GIS Support Unit - 07/18/16
 Trail Data Provided by: Warner Nature Center and Wilder Forest.
 Additional Data Provided by: Minnesota Land Trust and Washington Conservation District

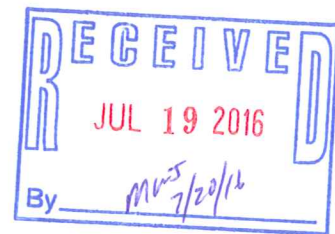


Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

Scandia Plaza II + 21150 Ozark Avenue + P.O. Box 188 + Scandia, MN 55073 + Tel 651.433.2150

July 14, 2016

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Attn: Mark Johnson, Executive Director
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District enthusiastically supports the proposal by Washington County to place easements upon property in the Carnelian Creek Corridor, more specifically those properties now owned by the Manitou Fund, Warner Nature Center and the Wilder Foundation.

Potential development to these properties has been a concern for the District since a merger with another Water Management Organization brought them into our jurisdiction in 2007. Since 2008 the District has discussed the eventual disposition of the properties and has worked with Washington County to insure that they had a high priority for their land preservation efforts.

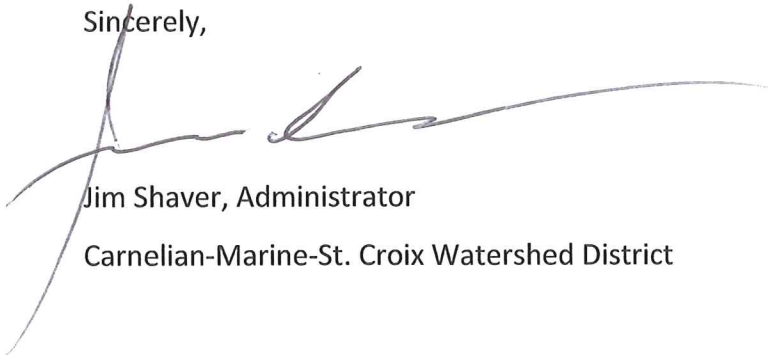
We consider Mays, Clear, and Terrapin Lakes to be benchmark shallow lakes for our area and their high water quality, diverse plant communities, and pristine habitat deserve extraordinary preservation efforts. Our recent assessment of the macrophyte community within these lakes demonstrates how little impact they have had from

outside development. I attach a memo from our Engineering firm summarizing their recent findings.

At our meeting on July 13, the Managers of Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District voted unanimously to support Washington County's proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for funding to facilitate the purchase of conservation easements to help protect these valuable water resources in our area.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Shaver', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Shaver, Administrator
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

enc.

Project Name | Terrapin, Mays and Clear Lakes Diagnostic Study **Date** | 7-11-2016
To / Contact info | CMSCWD Board of Managers
Cc / Contact info | Jim Shaver, District Administrator
From / Contact info | Meghan Funke, PhD, Joe Pallardy, Mike Majeski, Carl Almer
Regarding | Project Update: 2016 Aquatic Plant Survey Results

A point-intercept aquatic plant survey was completed in June of 2016 on Mays, Terrapin, and Clear Lake as part of the 2016 diagnostic study for these three lakes. The point-intercept method is considered the standard protocol for sampling by the MnDNR because it offers a methodology that is quantitative (e.g., frequency of occurrence), repeatable (can be used to track trends in aquatic plant communities over time), and georeferenced (can be used to compare plant communities within different areas of a lake). From this data, a Floristic Quality Index (FQI) was calculated that measures the diversity and health of the aquatic plant community.

The FQI calculation is based on both the quantity of species observed (species richness) as well as the quality of each individual species. Every aquatic plant in the state of Minnesota has been assigned a coefficient of conservatism value (c-value) ranging from 0 to 10. The c-value of all aquatic plants sampled from a lake is used to determine the FQI for a given lake. Species with a c-value of 0 include species like curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) because this species is non-native and indicative of a highly disturbed environment. In comparison, a species like Oakes pondweed (*Potamogeton oakesainus*) has a c-value of 10 because this species is extremely rare and only found in undisturbed, pristine settings.

The average FQI score for Minnesota Lakes in the North Central Hardwood Forest (NCHF) ecoregion is 23.7 ± 8 with a median of 22.5 (Radomski and Perleberg, 2012). Each of the three lakes sampled had FQI scores that were greater than the average for the lakes in the NCHF (Tables 1-3). A separate study of 41 Minnesota lakes across the state surveyed as part of the EPA's National Lakes Assessment Project yielded a maximum FQI score of 30. The FQI score of 32 for Terrapin Lake was higher than all 41 waterbodies, including many pristine waterbodies in Northern Minnesota. The FQI scores are reflective of the high quality, undisturbed nature of the aquatic plant community found in Terrapin, Mays and Clear Lakes. The Minnesota DNR recently conducted a review of plant surveys conducted on 3,254 lakes across the state, two species, White-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*) and water marigold (*Bidens beckii*) were identified as good indicators of a highly diverse aquatic plant community. White-stem pondweed was found in all three lakes, with water marigold also found in Terrapin Lake. In at least 90% of the surveys in which these species were detected, there were at least 13 other aquatic plant species detected (Radomski and Perleberg, 2012). Nineteen aquatic plant species were observed in Clear Lake, 24 in Mays, and 35 in Terrapin.

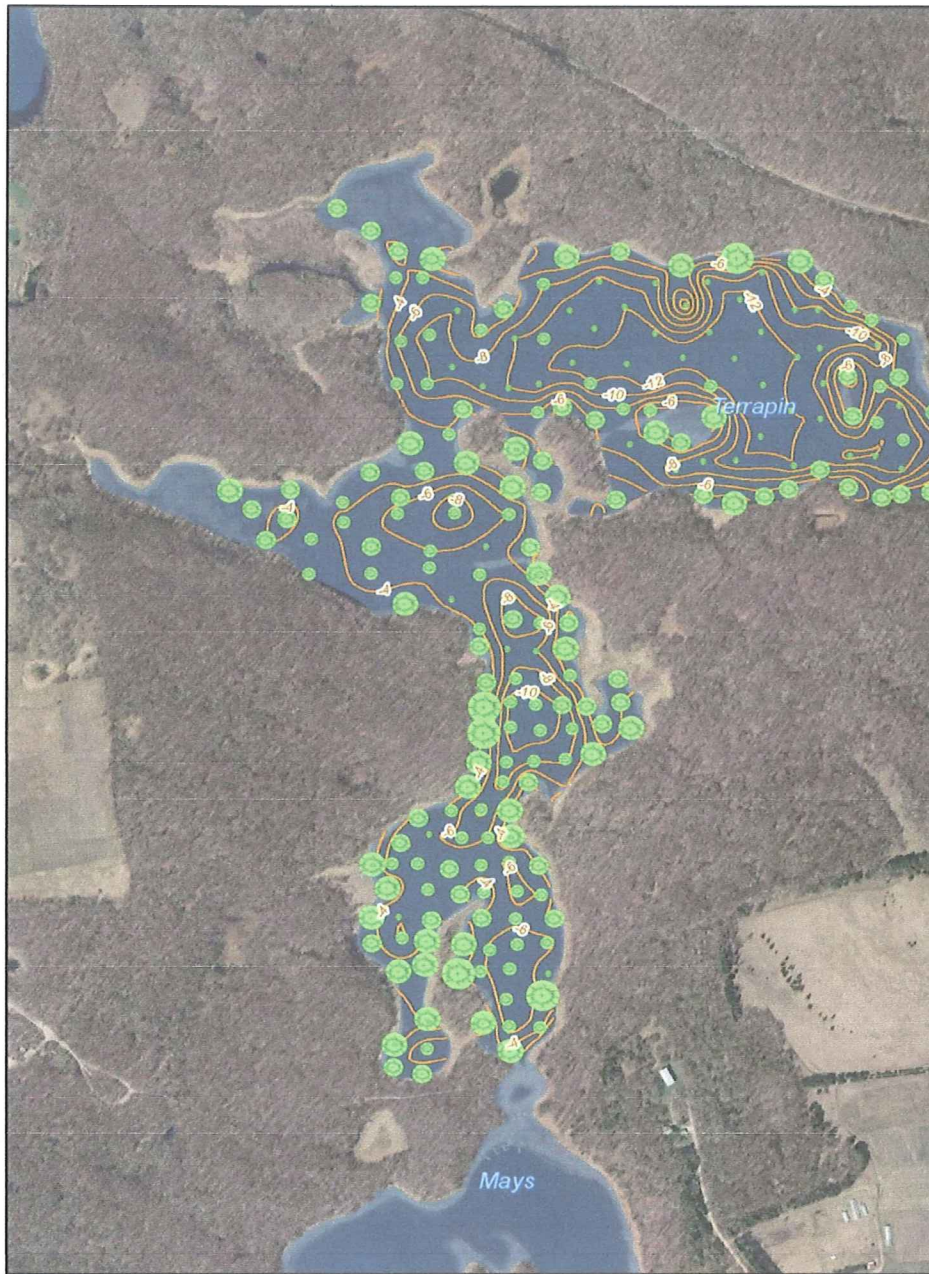
All three lakes had exceptionally high aquatic plant species diversity, distribution, and quality. Based on these findings, all three waterbodies are likely eligible for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's List of Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance. Additionally, Terrapin Lake could be used as a reference lake to describe pre-settlement conditions.

Table 2. Aquatic plants sampled in Mays Lake, associated coefficient of conservatism (c-value) and frequency of occurrence.

Common Name	Scientific Name	C-Value	Frequency of Occurrence
Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	2	43.5%
American white waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	39.1%
Fern-Leaf (Robbins') Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	35.7%
Large Leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	29.6%
Flatstem Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	28.7%
Common (Northern) water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum exalbescens</i>	7	27.0%
Chara (muskgrass)	<i>Chara sp.</i>	7	19.1%
Canada Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	4	18.3%
Water Smartweed	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	4	11.3%
Common bladderwort	<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>	5	9.6%
White Stem Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	7	8.7%
Small (Narrow-leaf) pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	7	7.8%
Water Celery	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	6.1%
Northern Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	4	6.1%
Yellow Pond Lily	<i>Nuphar lutea ssp. pumila</i>	9	4.3%
Illinois pondweed	<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	6	4.3%
Narrow-Leaf/Hybrid Cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia/ 'Typha X glauca</i>	0	4.3%
Floating Leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	2.6%
Softstem Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	4	2.6%
Unidentified water moss	<i>Drepanocladus spp.</i>	NA	1.7%
Southern naiad	<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	8	1.7%
Lesser Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>	5	1.7%
Greater duckweed	<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i>	5	0.9%
Clasping-Leaf (Richardsons') Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	0.9%
Sago Pondweed	<i>Stuckenia pectinatus</i>	3	0.9%
Summary Table	Average C-Value	5.42	
FQI = C*√S	Number of species	24	
C= Mean coefficient of conservatism value	FQI	27	
S= Number of species in sample			

Common Name	Scientific Name	C-Value	Frequency of Occurrence
Pondweed Species	NA	NA	0.4%
Water Marigold	<i>Bidens beckii</i>	8	0.4%
Sago Pondweed	<i>Stuckenia pectinatus</i>	3	0.4%
Summary Table		Average C-Value	5.40
FQI = $C \cdot \sqrt{S}$		Number of species	35
C= Mean coefficient of conservatism value		FQI	32
S= Number of species in sample			

Date: 6/22/2016 Time: 4:24:30 PM Author: ejensen
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Water Marigold



Northern Blue Flag



Giant Bur-Reed



Broad Leaf Cattail



Hardstem Bulrush



Legend

- 2ft Bathymetry Contour
- Number of Species found at site
 - 1 - 3
 - 4 - 6
 - 7 - 9
 - 10 - 12
 - 13 - 15

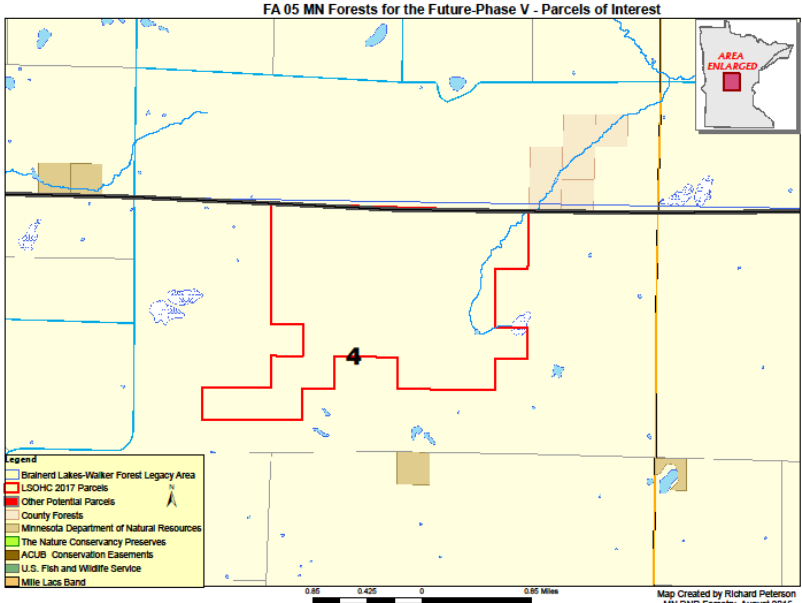


**Terrapin Lake
Species Count per
Field Survey
Site Collection**

0 Feet 500

Figure 2. Terrapin Lake Aquatic Plant Species Distribution, June 2016

FA 05 Minnesota Forests for the Future - Phase V: Response to member comments-Richard Peterson, MNDNR Forest Legacy Coordinator

Member comment	Response
<p>Please clarify parcel 4 prioritization regarding proximity to other conservation areas.</p>	<p>Parcel 4 is located adjacent to county land to the northeast and in close proximity to state parcels.</p> 
<p>Why would public benefit be more important than ecological benefit?</p>	<p>Our primary goal is the protection of large, intact forest habitat blocks with proximity to other protected parcels. Ecological and habitat benefits include habitat diversity for both game and non-game species, increased landscape connectivity, forest health and resilience of Minnesota’s lands and waters.</p>
<p>Any funding awarded should be contingent on "no new recreational trails"</p>	<p>One parcel (parcel 2) contains a Grant-in-Aid snowmobile trail. There are no additional recreational trails located on or planned for the subject parcels.</p>
<p>711/acre Leverage: 25%</p>	<p>Easements values are determined by fair market appraisals. Leverage is from the Nature Conservancy (secured) and the U.S. Forest Service (applied for FFY2018 funding).</p>
<p>Very low easement cost. Narrative says open to hunting, but parcel list says not open to hunting.</p>	<p>Easements values are determined by fair market appraisals. No parcels are open for public hunting or fishing. One parcel (parcel 2) contains a grant-in-aid snowmobile trail that is open to public snowmobiling.</p>

Amanda Brazee

From: Kirk Titus <kirk.titus@co.cass.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:21 AM
To: 'Jane Kingston'
Cc: josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us; Amanda Brazee; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson; 'Anderson Bob'; 'Bob Anderson'
Subject: RE: ML17/FY18 FA06
Attachments: Kingston Inquiry 081616.pdf

Hello Jane
Per your request, please see attached.

Kirk Titus
Land Commissioner
Cass County Land Department
218 Washburn Ave E.
P.O. Box 25
Backus MN 56435
218-947-7501 Office
kirk.titus@co.cass.mn.us

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 1:01 PM
To: Kirk Titus
Cc: josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us; Brazee Amanda; Smith Sandy; Pavelko Joe; Johnson Mark; Anderson Bob; Bob Anderson
Subject: Re: ML17/FY18 FA06

Typo correction - TOTAL AP acres should be 2544

On Aug 16, 2016, at 10:37 AM, Kirk Titus <kirk.titus@co.cass.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Jane,

I have been working on something very similar in preparation for our discussion next week. I will have the data compiled in the next day or so. Thanks

Kirk Titus
Land Commissioner
Cass County Land Department
218 Washburn Ave E.
P.O. Box 25
Backus MN 56435
218-947-7501 Office
kirk.titus@co.cass.mn.us

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 9:52 AM

To: kirk.titus@co.cass.mn.us

Cc: josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us; Brazee Amanda; Smith Sandy; Pavelko Joe; Johnson Mark; Anderson Bob; Anderson Bob (boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us)

Subject: ML17/FY18 FA06

Hello, Kirk,

Having the following chart completed for inclusion in your LSOHC presentation next Wednesday the 24th (or better yet, before then) is important and would be appreciated.

It represents annual OHF awarded, Actual \$K Spent, acres included in Accomplishment Plan (AP), Actual acres secured, and cumulative acreage of ALL County-owned & managed forest lands year by year.

Some of these figures have probably been included in past reports to Staff.

During last year's hearing, Cass County reported a total of 1492 acres have been acquired with OHF dollars. (I expect that total County-owned/managed forest acres will have increased.)

ML	FY	\$K Awarded	\$K Spent	acres	AP acres	Actual Total County Forest Acres
10	11	594	_____	400		_____
11	12	604	_____	431		_____
12	13	480	_____	221		_____
13	14	500	_____	329		_____
14	15	880	_____	505		_____
15	16	442	_____	281		_____
16	17	500	_____	377		_____
TOTAL		4000	_____ 254		1492	

Requested:

17 18 1.4 897 _____

Over its seven (7) phases, Cass County has received an average 47% of its initial requests — which is pretty good compared to other Forest-based proposals.

Now that there are competing proposals for Cass County projects, and different scoring criteria, it's critical to establish how and why Cass County continues to be a superior potential funding recipient for Council's consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, let me know ASAP — thanks very much.

-Jane

**Cass County 8-18-16
ML17/FY18 FA06**

ML Year	FY	OHF Awarded (\$K)	Actual Spend (\$K)	Acres in Accomplishment Plan	Actual Acres Secured.	Cumulative acreage of all county owned and managed forest lands	Comments
10	11	594	557	400	400	254019	Closed
11	12	604	604	379	431	254410	Closed
12	13	480	480	255	221	254088	Closed
13	14	500	500	326	329	254213	Closed
14	15	880	880	635	585	254376	Closed
15	16	442	112	281	80	254342	Open
16	17	500		377		254133	Approved 8-4-16
TOTAL		4000	3133	2653	2046		

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 7:46 PM
To: Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee; Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson
Subject: Fwd: LSOHC FA08

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wayne Ostlie <wayneostlie@minnesotalandtrust.org>
Subject: Re: LSOHC FA08
Date: August 17, 2016 at 10:28:45 AM CDT
To: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>

Jane:

As I thought, each of the parcels on the parcel list showing \$0 cost is a proposed donation.

The approximate leveraged value of these donations across the proposal is estimated at \$700,000. This is shown as anticipated leverage for easement acquisition in the Budget Spreadsheet on Page 6 of the proposal.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Wayne

> On Aug 16, 2016, at 9:25 PM, Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Hi, Wayne,
>
> Why are there no estimated costs listed for several parcels in Section 2, page 10?
>
> Thanks for all your efforts,
> Jane

From: [Amanda Brazee](#)
Cc: [Steve Hobbs](#)
Subject: FW: FA-09 & HA-05
Date: Monday, August 01, 2016 3:27:07 PM
Attachments: [Bushmen LakeTrail map.pdf](#)

Dear Members:

Attached and below is additional information regarding FY 2018 proposals HA 05, Wildlife and Rare Species Habitat and FA09, Bushmen Lake. 3-hole punched hard copies will be provided at this Thursday's meeting for your binders.

Sincerely,
Amanda

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hobbs, Steve" <shobbs@conservationfund.org>
Subject: Re: LSOHC
Date: August 1, 2016 at 11:00:01 AM CDT
To: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>

Hi Jane,

You had a few questions regarding our proposals so here are my answers:

For HA05 Wildlife and Rare Species Habitat, there is a structure on one of the proposed parcels that would be torn down, which is done at the seller's expense. That is often the case and we've done it before.

To pick these sites in HA05, we sat down with DU, PF, TNC & DNR to go through everyone's lists. Because our organization doesn't focus on a particular species or interest, we are free to simply work on DNR's highest rated sites. The sites in our proposal represent most of the highest rated sites by DNR's rating system. They are also the most cost-effective (i.e. not expensive, not productive ag land) sites of the hundreds on DNR's list. This is our first proposal that we would manage in this landscape and the first time someone has approached the problem this way. We are basing success on the efficacy of delivering conservation outcomes, and not just acres protected. I'm not sure this all came across in our written proposal so I apologize if that is not the case. The sites we purchase would be mostly owned by DNR, but there may also be some USFWS ownership, depending on what makes sense.

We are actively working with some of these landowners now, in advance of even getting the funding (which is not the norm because it entails using resources that won't be reimbursed) to get land under option and close in July 2017. Our goal would be to have all the money spent within months of getting it. That saves everyone money.

For FA-09 Bushmen Lake, attached is a map that shows the one trail that is the old railroad grade from long ago (tracks are all gone). From there is a spur trail that goes south to

Bushmen Lake, that is the only trail to Bushmen Lake and is only passible by foot for more than half its length. There is also a short loop trail that is just suitable for foot traffic. The land is always gated with no trespassing allowed by Potlatch. This is the crown jewel in their portfolio in MN and one of their most prized positions in the country.

Feel free to share with LSOHC staff and other council members if you think that this information would be beneficial. Thanks for your help and let me know if you have any questions.

Steve Hobbs

Minnesota State Director

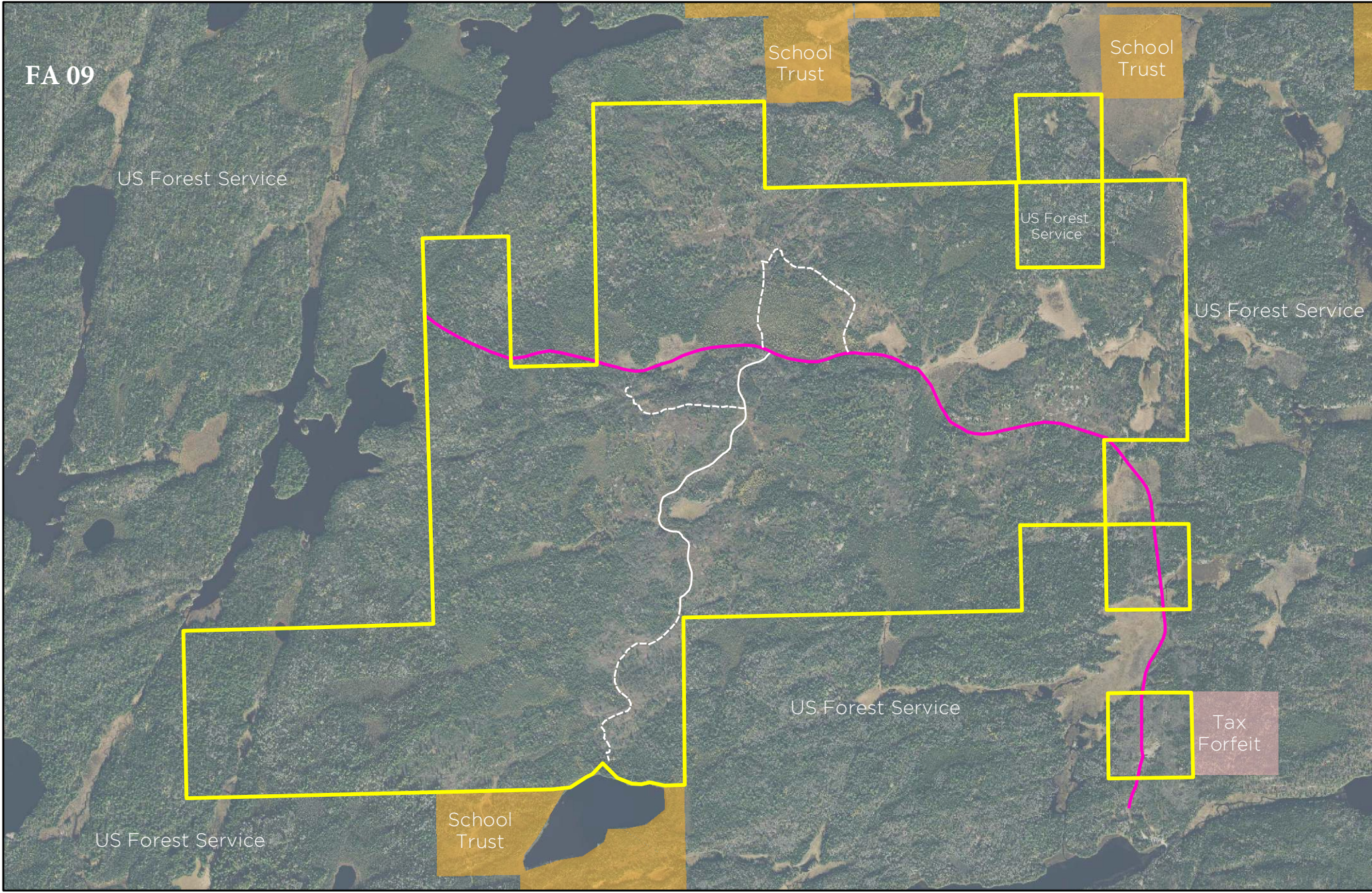
The Conservation Fund

952-456-8975

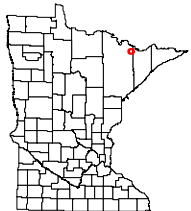
www.conservationfund.org





“Conservation Working for America”

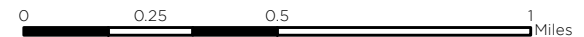
FA 09



Bushmen Lake



	Subject Property (2,250-acres)		Two Track
	Foot Trail		Old Railroad Bed (Two Track)



Da

Amanda Brazee

From: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Jennings Martin (DNR)
Cc: Wilson Grant; Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson
Subject: Re: LSOHC HA01

OK, that helps; sounds like a semantics thing more than a systemic change (my primary concern); also, "CCM" is a statutory (legislated) requirement, not originated by Council.
Thank you very much for tolerating and responding to my digging!

On Aug 18, 2016, at 4:42 PM, Jennings, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Jennings@state.mn.us> wrote:

Jane,
I've embedded responses to your questions below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:24 AM
To: Jennings, Martin (DNR)
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR); Pavelko Joe; Smith Sandy; Brazee Amanda; Johnson Mark
Subject: Re: LSOHC HA01

Thanks, Martin,

(I would hope you give me enough credit for understanding all the necessary steps of a work plan. That's not my question. Please understand — I'm not trying to be clever, or antagonistic here.....just trying to understand these program nuances.)

Response: The purpose of outlining the steps was to clarify how we see this working. We see the assessments as directly tied to the enhancement work, not as research.

If I'm understanding you correctly, you're saying assessments have been recommended and funded in past rounds.
Response: Yes, that is correct, in the appropriation cited in my previous note below.

My stance on past funding is that it doesn't necessarily compel and guarantee future funding, and that precedents may change as our process evolves, particularly if and when additional information and knowledge is acquired and made clear through our collective experience.

Response: I understand that and respect your role in the process. I hope that discussion of how this is working remains relevant to decisions affecting the future of this work.

Are you saying assessments on non-AMA proposals have been done with external contracts, but DNR staff is hired to do AMA (enhancement?) proposals?

Response: There have been projects with an engineering/design phase that is done with external contracts, and then a separate phase to complete the work using the design. I am saying that having the AMA assessment crews work on management guidance/plans that form the basis of contracted work is analogous. I am not making a blanket statement about all work done on AMA's, or about all work done on projects that are not AMA's. My point is that precedent exists for having planning/design work and implementation done by different entities.

Are you also saying prior to OHF, assessments were done via external contracts on all DNR work, including AMA enhancement? Does this apply only to Fisheries?

Response: No. Some assessments were done, but fewer. They were not necessarily done as well because the staff did not have the same expertise that our assessment crews have. OHF funding has accelerated our ability to develop guidance or plans for enhancement work, we have a much better idea of what needs to be done and are catching up with a backlog of projects. Projects that were completed in the past with other funding (we still continue to use other funding in addition to OHF to address issues on AMA's) could be contracted, or could use DNR staff.

Does this mean Fisheries never did assessments internally - that they were always by contractors?

Response: No. Assessments were done by Area staff as time permitted, but time for this work was limited, and in some places the expertise for land management was very limited.

What is CCM?

Response: Conservation Corps Minnesota. We use CCM crews to implement a wide range of projects, such as invasive species removal, tree removal on prairie parcels, planting, etc. We have complied with the Council's requirement that we notify CCM of funding for enhancement projects that may make use of their service.

I'm more comfortable with "Engineering, Planning, and Design" as opposed to "Assessment" - "Assessment" sounds more like "Research" or "Study", which Council has pretty much taken a hard stance on NOT funding.

That's really my core concern. But maybe this is all just semantics!!

Response: I understand your concern, and can assure you that this is about improving our stewardship, not about research, or just monitoring for the sake of monitoring. It exists for the purpose of enhancing habitat on AMA's. The use of "assessment" started as a way to distinguish the roles of the Fisheries crews from that of the DNR Wildlife Roving Crews, which conduct enhancement work-planting, burning, etc. Whether Wildlife roving crews or contractors do work on AMA's, we still need to figure out what needs to be done. I'd be completely on board with finding a different term.

I know this is extremely nitty-gritty - and I appreciate your effort in helping me gain a thorough understanding.

Having this sort of conversation involving complex issues via email is far from ideal - I hope you get what I'm driving at.

Response: I do, and again thank you for the opportunity to provide clarification.

Call me if you have anything additional to discuss!

Thanks again,
Jane

On Aug 17, 2016, at 11:54 PM, Jennings, Martin (DNR) <Martin.Jennings@state.mn.us> wrote:

Jane,
Thanks for your question, I appreciate the opportunity to clarify issues before the presentation next week. I'll try to keep this brief.

The funding we are requesting is intended to cover all aspects of the enhancement projects, including contracts for implementation, and each piece is essential to get the work done. The enhancement needs are identified and prioritized, the work is planned, and then on the ground work is implemented. In some proposals, there is a distinct planning or engineering design phase for restoration/enhancement projects, and including funding for this type of planning and assessment has been accepted by the Council as a reasonable step. The work to conduct AMA enhancements has a similar split between the assessment/planning component and implementation, but differs in that we have DNR crews do the assessments and planning rather than using external contracts.

Base staffing in the Fisheries program includes staff in Area offices that carry on many traditional fisheries duties, but does not include staff with specialized expertise in land management. The specialized training of the assessment crews supplements the Fisheries program; these positions evaluate habitat condition, identify management (enhancement) needs, develop management guidance for the site, and prioritize competing projects. The implementation part is completed with CCM or private contractors, or occasionally Wildlife roving crews; Fisheries does not have staff to carry out these duties. The use of a prioritized list with an existing plan allows us to use the enhancement funds more efficiently, targeting the highest needs first. Contracting is more efficient because we know exactly what needs to be done. The enhancement parcel list in this proposal is the result of work done by the current assessment crews, funded by an earlier LSOHC appropriation (FY2014 - M.L. 2013 Subd. 5. Habitat (a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase V). The accomplishment plan included management guidance for 100 AMA's. To date, assessments have been conducted on 141 AMA's.

The main points here are that the assessments are a necessary part of the process to get good, targeted enhancement work done; they are supplemental, providing a type of expertise that we do not have in our Area field offices; and these components are working well together. With OHF funding, we have enhanced >1400 acres on AMA's. To clarify the level of staffing, we have 2 crew leaders, 2 seasonal technicians, and 0.5 FTE to coordinate contracting; all of these are continuing positions funded by previous LSOHC appropriations. This funding has allowed a systematic approach to managing our AMA's that is drastically improving our stewardship.

Please let me know if any of this requires clarification or follow up.

Martin

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Kingston [mailto:janehkingston@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Jennings, Martin (DNR); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Pavelko Joe; Smith Sandy; Brazee Amanda; Johnson Mark
Subject: LSOHC HA01

Hello, Martin & Grant,

I have problems with OHF financing habitat assessments.
How does that meet our constitutional mandate, and how is that not substitution?

Thanks for all your efforts!

-Jane

HA 04



**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
190 6th Sail Star Dr. NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633**

5/25/2016

Mr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155



Re: Letter of Support – Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in North Central Minnesota

Dear Mr. Mark Johnson:

On behalf of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, I would like to express our full support for the “Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in North Central Minnesota” project. We hope the we are all successful in the preservation of our waters for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Richard Robinson Jr.' The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Robinson Jr., Director
Division of Resource Management
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

From: [Amanda Brazee](#)
Cc: [Steve Hobbs](#)
Subject: FW: FA-09 & HA-05
Date: Monday, August 01, 2016 3:27:07 PM
Attachments: [Bushmen LakeTrail map.pdf](#)

Dear Members:

Attached and below is additional information regarding FY 2018 proposals HA 05, Wildlife and Rare Species Habitat and FA09, Bushmen Lake. 3-hole punched hard copies will be provided at this Thursday's meeting for your binders.

Sincerely,
Amanda

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From: "Hobbs, Steve" <shobbs@conservationfund.org>
Subject: Re: LSOHC
Date: August 1, 2016 at 11:00:01 AM CDT
To: Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com>

Hi Jane,

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Feel free to share with LSOHC staff and other council members if you think that this information would be beneficial. Thanks for your help and let me know if you have any questions.

Steve Hobbs

Minnesota State Director

The Conservation Fund

952-456-8975

www.conservationfund.org

“Conservation Working for America”

Amanda Brazee

From: Kevin Ruud <Kevin@wildricewatershed.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:23 PM
To: Jane Kingston
Cc: Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee; Mark Johnson
Subject: Re: LSOHC HA06 Proposal

Thanks, we will try to have answers for your questions.

Kevin

Kevin Ruud
Wild Rice Watershed District
11 Fifth Ave E
Ada MN 56510
Phone 218-784-5501

On Aug 16, 2016, at 4:20 PM, Jane Kingston <janehkingston@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Ruud,

In addition to questions/comments already registered on the LSOHC website forms, please be prepared during your presentation next week to address the following:

Please provide more detail in your response as to how your project addresses habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and list targeted species, etc. (37 SGCN is mentioned.)

Is the lake sediment-impacted, as well as the outlet channel? Will dredging be necessary? Will lake be lowered by gravity?

How motivated are the listed sellers?

Is the lake fished at all? Is it managed as a fishery or for waterfowl?

Thanks for your efforts!

-Jane Kingston
Vice-Chair, LSOHC

From: [Jane Kingston](#)
To: [Amanda Brazee](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Mark Johnson](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASP5 Proposal
Date: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 2:40:12 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wiley Buck <wbuck@greatrivergreening.org>
Subject: ASP5 Proposal
Date: August 2, 2016 at 2:17:57 PM CDT
To: "janehkingston@gmail.com" <janehkingston@gmail.com>, "ron@mnbound.com" <ron@mnbound.com>

Councilmembers Schara and Kingston:

Thank you for your specific comments about our ASP5 proposal. We understand that there are concerns with restoration/enhancement on Parks raised by both of you as well as other Councilmembers, as well as work on Prison grounds (Schara and perhaps others) , and private lands (Kingston and perhaps others). In summary, this would be the following projects:

Parks

- George Friedrich Park (Great River Greening)
- Anderson County Park (Isanti Co.)

Prison

- St. Cloud Reformatory (Great River Greening)

Private Lands

- Mickelson Floodplain/Shoreline (Great River Greening)
- Rum River Revetments (Anoka Conservation District)

Today we are asking for your backing for a full hearing on the ASP5 project, **to allow for a dialogue** with you and your colleagues and best address your concerns at the Aug23-25 Hearings and anytime in between at your discretion. While we stand behind the habitat value of these 5 projects, we understand there are questions and perhaps alternative funding opportunities and may not be able to fully address your concerns in short order. Pragmatically, we are prepared to drop the Parks and Prison projects for this round; the Private Lands projects we ask for further consideration as both of these improve the Rum River public waterway.

Again, thank you for your specific comments on the ASP5 proposal. We find them very constructive and appreciate the effort you put into the proposal review.

Regards,

Wiley Buck