



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Laws of Minnesota 2014 Final Report

General Information

Date: 12/29/2023

Project Title: Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation

Funds Recommended: \$2,440,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(e)

Appropriation Language: \$2,440,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District to acquire land in fee and to restore natural systems associated with the Mustinka River located within the Bois de Sioux Watershed. Lands acquired with this appropriation may not be used for emergency haying and grazing in response to federal or state disaster declarations. Conservation grazing under a management plan that is already being implemented may continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jon Roeschlein

Title:

Organization: Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Address: 704 Highway 75 South

City: Wheaton, MN 56296

Email: bdswd@frontiernet.net

Office Number: 320-563-4185

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website: www.bdswd.com

Location Information

County Location(s): Traverse.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

We successfully created 2.1 miles of a new, meandered stream channel within a 68-acre fish and wildlife habitat corridor composed of riparian wetlands and grasslands.

Process & Methods

This project was publicly bid; bids were opened March 2, 2023. Construction by John Riley Construction, Inc. began May 30, 2023.

Our Lessard Sams grant award was used to pay the project contractor for grant-eligible activities. Construction administration and oversight was provided by Moore Engineering, Inc. staff.

This grant was used for the first phase of a new stream corridor was created north of the current Judicial Ditch #14/Mustinka River channel. This new stream corridor will ultimately provide the Mustinka River with a more functional 7 mile long meandering channel within a 300' wide, 260-acre floodplain corridor. Design of the new stream channel is based on the principles of natural channel design, reflecting an understanding of the hydrology and fluvial geomorphology at the site. The enhanced stream and associated riparian wetland habitats provide seasonal spawning and nursery habitat to a variety of fish species including northern pike and walleye and some of the other 30+ fish species that are found in the Lake Traverse watershed. The remainder of the meandering channel and floodway will be constructed in 2024 with other funding sources.

In addition to the fish habitat directly provided in the 7 mile stream channel, the associated floodplain grassland and wetland habitat elements in the restored and protected 260 acre river corridor will provide year-round wildlife habitat.

The watershed district was responsible for final design, engineering, and permitting of the project. These tasks were completed successful prior to commencement of construction.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

For this phase of the project, funding partners included the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

Challenges: this project (and the related Redpath Flood Impoundment) required many years of development in order to successfully acquire local, state, and federal permits. Changes requested by one permit authority could trigger re-reviews by other permit authorities. Secondly, a project of this size is funding - no single program in Minnesota is, at this time, will provide sufficient funds to cover the full cost of the project, and pre-construction/development fund opportunities are extremely limited/practically non-existent. Acre difference of the 136 to 260 - This project bid had higher excavation costs than was estimated originally. The remaining acres will be restored; we will continue the work with other funding agreements. Opportunities: The project's construction pace was greatly impacted by favorable weather. Drought conditions allowed a nearly uninterrupted construction season. Surveying was frequently employed to monitor construction to verify accuracy of contractor pay.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

- Clean Water Fund
- Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund

How were the funds used to advance the program?

LCCMR and Clean Water grant funds will be used in future phases to continue to lengthen the new channel upstream reach.

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

This project will be operated and maintained by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, a local governmental unit with its own taxing authority. The associated Redpath Flood Impoundment will continue to lease agricultural lands to derive maintenance and operation funds.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2024	District	Annual Inspection & Maintenance Orders	Weed/Mowing Maintenance	Pre- and Post-Flood Inspection & Maintenance Orders

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	\$1,920,000	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	\$1,192,300	-	District & RRWMB	\$3,112,300	\$2,440,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$520,000	-	-	\$780,000	\$1,004,100	District & RRWMB	\$1,300,000	\$1,004,100
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	\$118,600	\$226,100	District & RRWMB	\$118,600	\$226,100
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	\$2,090,900	\$1,230,200	-	\$4,530,900	\$3,670,200

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

The budget on my reimbursement forms had \$2,440,000 under "contracts" - so that is how the funds were used. The last piece of land needed for the channel project was acquired May 2020. No Lessard Sams funds were used to purchase land. Permitting could not be complete until all lands were acquired. Eminent domain was not employed.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

- E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	99	260	99
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	99	260	99
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	520	198	520	198

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,920,000	\$2,440,000	\$1,920,000	\$2,440,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$520,000	-	\$520,000	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	99	0	0	260	99
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	99	0	0	260	99
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	520	198	0	0	520	198

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,920,000	\$2,440,000	-	-	\$1,920,000	\$2,440,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$520,000	-	-	-	\$520,000	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	-	-	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2.1

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

All acres proposed in the grant application will be constructed in 2023 and 2024. This grant was used to construct the 2023 portion of this project. Only the 2023 portion completed by this grant are reported which is why it appears as a shortage. The acre difference of 198 to 260. The acres restore include 68 acres of river channel and wetlands. This project was publicly bid; the lowest bid was accepted, but that low bid had higher excavation costs than was estimated originally. The remaining acres will be restored; we will continue the work with other funding agreements.

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~
- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected ~
- Other ~
- Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~
- Increased wildlife productivity ~
- Restored and enhanced upland habitats ~
- Water is kept on the land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat ~

Parcels

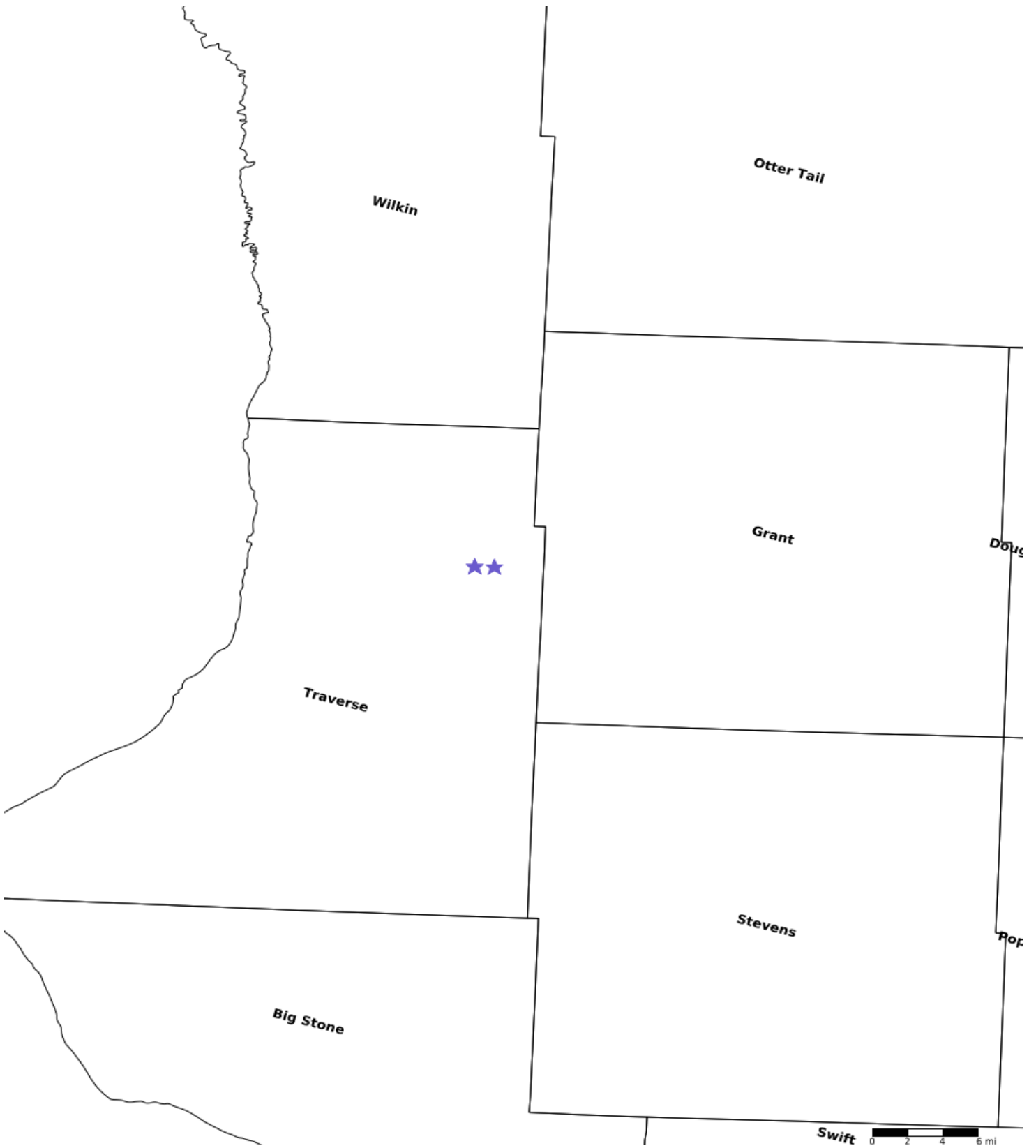
Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Parcel 2	Traverse	12845216	12	\$295,758	Yes
Parcel 1	Traverse	12845216	23	\$566,868	Yes
Parcel 3	Traverse	12845216	24	\$591,515	Yes
Parcel 4	Traverse	12845215	23	\$566,869	Yes
Parcel 5	Traverse	12845215	17	\$418,990	Yes

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✦ Enhance
- ✚ Other