



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3

Laws of Minnesota 2019 Final Report

General Information

Date: 04/21/2025

Project Title: Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$3,650,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 2(f)

Appropriation Language: \$3,650,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore and enhance strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat in Martin County for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. Of this amount, \$3,002,000 is to Fox Lake Conservation League Inc., \$554,000 is to Ducks Unlimited, and \$94,000 is to The Conservation Fund. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

Title: Grant Coordinator/Board Member

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Location Information

County Location(s): Martin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Two strategically identified parcels were purchased and restored totaling 463 acres. Four Corners WMA tract 11 (Kittleson tract) restored 55 acres of wetlands and 163 acres of diverse native prairie. With the recent addition of a private RIM easement on adjacent lands, a large wetland basin which crosses property lines will be restored soon via tile removal from that project. All work from this program is completed on this tract.

Caron WMA tract 11 (Swanson Tract) protected an additional 140 acres (40 acres was already permanently protected by easement) and restoration work completed 26 acres wetland and 134 acres prairie.

Process & Methods

Fox Lake Conservation League and The Conservation Fund worked together to identify these key parcels with willing sellers. TCF used utilized their expertise to navigate the real estate processes while Fox Lake worked with MN DNR to submit and approve WAIF and IDP. FLCL held and monitored each parcel while Ducks Unlimited developed restoration plans and hired contractors to implement restoration dirt work, tree removal, and prairie seeding.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

These projects will protected and restored threatened habitats in Martin County. Native prairie was protected and high quality wetlands and prairie were restored and existing habitats expanded upon. Restoration provided the opportunity to expand populations of at-risk and threatened plant species that the Martin SWCD had propagated for introduction to permanently protected sites. Threatened species include, Eared gerardia (*Agalinis auriculata*); Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*); and Tuberous Indian plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*). Other locally rare or Special Concern species include: Small white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). We included local ecotype native plant materials in the establishment of a highly diverse prairie landscape, which provides habitat to support native pollinators, including several species of milkweed to support the federally threatened Monarch butterfly.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

Our Martin County Conservation Planning Group includes wildlife group representatives, local government, and state agencies. There is a wide range of knowledge and interest within the group. Historic Information, the MN County Biological Survey and local knowledge helped identify areas where habitat restoration were most beneficial for multiple reasons. Expanding habitat adjacent to existing high quality native habitat and habitat already protected by public ownership or perpetual conservation easements were targeted. Sites with threatened, endangered and species in decline are good targets to build upon, especially when expansions can link sites to help expand corridors, especially along water courses and lake chains.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

Partners of this program, outside of FLCL, TCF, and DU are MN DNR, Martin SWCD, Martin County Pheasants Forever, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and several local agricultural producers who helped maintain the land and prepare for restoration after acquisition. There was no significant opposition on these projects in the community.

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

The main unforeseen challenge is the extensive coverage of private drainage systems from the 1940's, 50's and 60's which legally obligate landowners to fund drainage repairs and maintenance. These are problematic for DNR and either prevent acquisition or create an extra step to have all parties amend the agreement to exclude our parcels from financial obligations. These are unique to southern and western MN where extensive drainage has occurred in the prairie pothole region of the state.

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

Other : NAWCA

How were the funds used to advance the program?

Used to help pay for restoration costs.

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

Maintaining and improving upon this work will be the responsibility of the MN DNR with support from project partners when appropriate. Local partners will continue to install additional local source native plant species to enhance habitat to support more species, including pollinators. Local partner monitoring will assist with identifying invasive species threats and provide assistance with eradication or control if necessary.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025 & ongoing	DNR internal	DNR to manage as WMAs	-	-

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$113,000	\$113,000	\$54,300	-	\$41,000	NAWCA	\$113,000	\$95,300
Contracts	\$264,000	\$347,000	\$336,900	-	\$95,000	NAWCA	\$264,000	\$431,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,810,000	\$2,780,000	\$2,736,300	-	-	-	\$2,810,000	\$2,736,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$2,200	-	-	-	\$6,000	\$2,200
Professional Services	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$3,300	-	-	-	\$50,000	\$3,300
Direct Support Services	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$200	-	-	-	\$6,000	\$200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$60,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
DNR IDP	\$281,000	\$228,000	\$202,900	-	-	-	\$281,000	\$202,900
Grand Total	\$3,650,000	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100	-	\$136,000	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,472,100

Partner: DU

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$52,800	-	\$41,000	NAWCA	\$48,000	\$93,800
Contracts	\$243,000	\$296,000	\$294,800	-	\$95,000	NAWCA	\$243,000	\$389,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,200	-	-	-	\$2,000	\$2,200
Professional Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	-	-	-	\$5,000	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$256,000	\$203,000	\$202,900	-	-	-	\$256,000	\$202,900
Grand Total	\$554,000	\$554,000	\$552,700	-	\$136,000	-	\$554,000	\$688,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologists and Engineers	0.33	3.0	\$52,800	\$41,000	NAWCA	\$93,800

Partner: Fox Lake Conservation League

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
Contracts	\$21,000	\$51,000	\$42,100	-	-	-	\$21,000	\$42,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,810,000	\$2,780,000	\$2,736,300	-	-	-	\$2,810,000	\$2,736,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,000	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$60,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
DNR IDP	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
Grand Total	\$3,002,000	\$3,002,000	\$2,778,400	-	-	-	\$3,002,000	\$2,778,400

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.25	3.0	-	-	-	-

Partner: TCF

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$1,500	-	-	-	\$40,000	\$1,500
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$3,000	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	\$3,000	-
Professional Services	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$3,300	-	-	-	\$45,000	\$3,300
Direct Support Services	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$200	-	-	-	\$6,000	\$200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$5,000	-	-	-	\$94,000	\$5,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN Representative	0.2	2.0	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

TCF -Our real estate support staff keeps hourly time sheets to track direct time spent on projects by grant source. We have used those past metrics to estimate the costs for this grant.

DU - Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional

offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent

expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

One large challenge was the amount of inflation during the duration of this grant period. A delay in restoration until 2024 put some stress on restoration budgets developed in 2018, especially personnel and contracts. Additional funds were sought for leverage via NAWCA which helped alleviate the problem.

Total Revenue: \$148,485

Revenue Spent: \$127,365

Revenue Balance: \$21,120

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

- A. This revenue, or a portion of it, was used according to the appropriation purposes approved in the AP Forest.
- C. This revenue, or a portion of it, was transferred back to the OHF.

Itemize out how the revenues were spent:

Total revenue of \$148,145 went back into the program to pay for all of Fox Lake Conservation League expenditures including property taxes and contracts listed above, leave a balance of \$21,120.00 that will be reimbursed to LSOHC.

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	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	30	81	471	382	0	0	0	0	501	463
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	30	81	471	382	0	0	0	0	501	463

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

Type	Native Prairie (AP)	Native Prairie (Final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	10	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	10	0

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$225,000	\$583,600	\$3,425,000	\$2,752,500	-	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$225,000	\$583,600	\$3,425,000	\$2,752,500	-	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100

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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	501	463	0	0	501	463
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	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	501	463	0	0	501	463

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100	-	-	\$3,650,000	\$3,336,100

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

The Kittleson parcel removed acres from the final configuration, after negotiations with the landowner.

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *We protected 463 acres through fee-title purchase and restored all cropland acres back to prairie grasslands and wetlands and enhanced the existing habitats on these parcels. Ducks Unlimited wildlife biologists and MN DNR staff worked together to evaluate habitat goals, restoration plans, and will continue to monitor and evaluate restoration success and need for maintenance in the future.*

Parcels

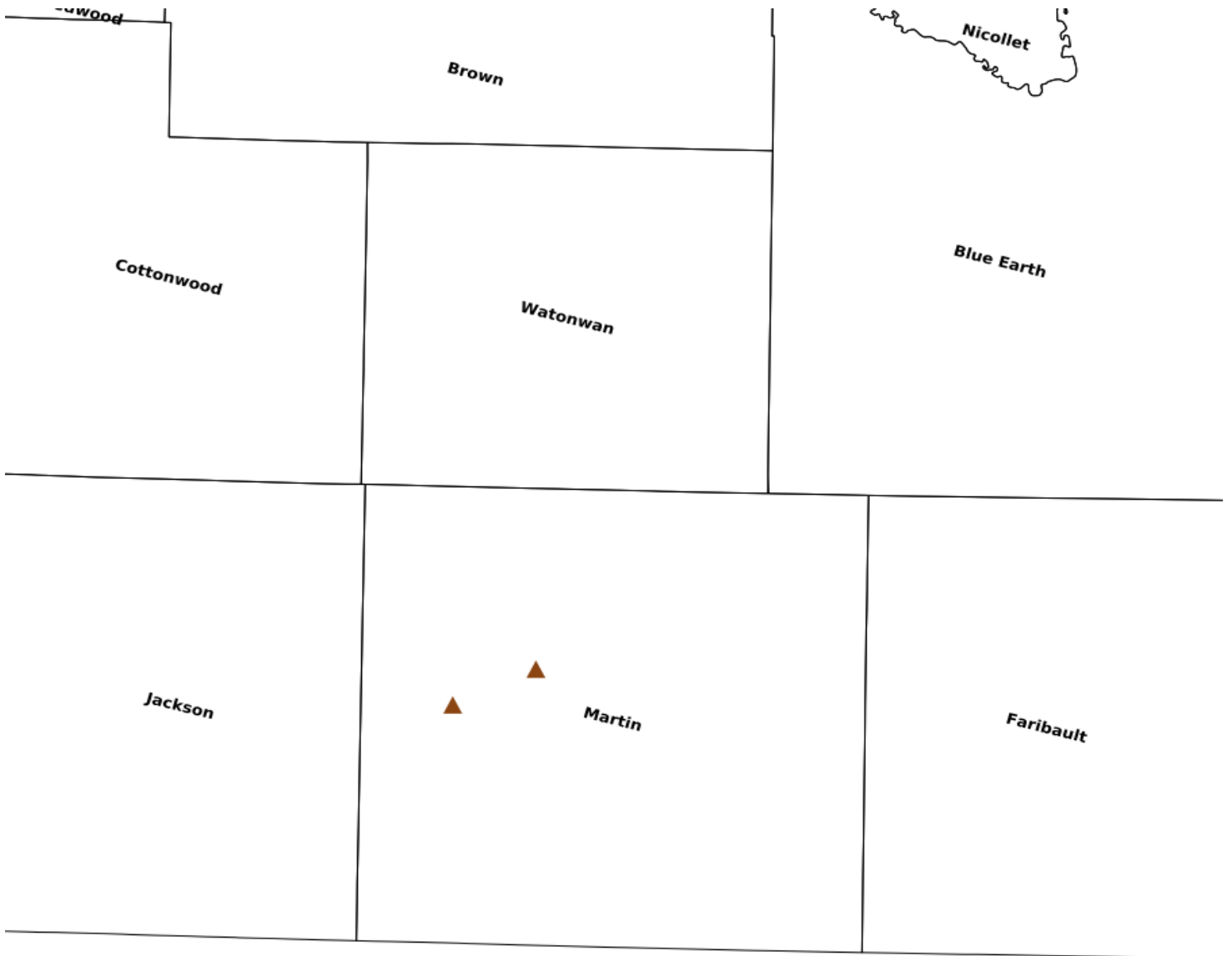
Sign-up Criteria?

No

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Caron WMA Swanson Parcel Tract 11	Martin	10332223	160	\$1,200,000	Yes
Kittleson Parcel Tract #11	Martin	10333236	303	\$2,000,000	No

Parcel Map



0 3 6 9 mi

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